



GUMNUTS

Early Learning Centre

NEWSLETTER MARCH/APRIL 2018

News from the Director

Can you believe Term 1 has been and gone, a big congratulations to all of our Easter raffle winners I am sure the treats were enjoyed by all. Also a huge thanks to all of our amazing families who continue to donate such great prizes.

Gumnuts is excited to have begun operating a before and after school program from the Maffra primary school at the beginning of this term. We are sure that this service will benefit the Maffra community as much as it has the community here in Sale. Please let any family or friends know and invite them to pop in and say hello to Kristy and Liz. The program runs from the hall at the Primary school.

Last week we held our ANZAC service and we were grateful to have Dave from the Sale pip band and Warren from the RAAF participate in the service. This is a great opportunity for us to educate our children of the significance of the day and what it means to us all.

During March we held our AGM, I would like to thank all our previous members for their dedication and hard work over their term and look forward to another successful year with the newly appointed committee.

Until next month,

Brendon

Educational Leader-

Educators at Gumnuts teach through practices and principles that 'emphasis on children's independence, freedom with limits, and respect for children's natural psychological, physical & social development'.

Maria Montessori child theorist believes

"We must help the child to act for himself, will for himself, think for himself this is the art of those who aspire to serve the spirit."

News From The WOMBATS ROOM

Wombats News

Easter saw the end of term 1. The children helped to make biscuits for Easter. We hope you all enjoyed them.



Term 2 has now begun along with the cooler, damp mornings. Please ensure that your child has a warm jumper and a change of clothes as they will get damp playing outside.

Gumnuts held a small ANZAC day service. Mackenzie laid the wreath for the Wombat's room.



Our shed is now fully completed and in use. We can now store the toys not being used out of the way. The garden has been re-done, creating a much more friendly and welcoming space.



Mackenzie, Ned and Layla will be moving up to the Possum's Room in the next couple of weeks and we will be welcoming a number of new families.

The children's scrapbooks which contain photos of the children's learning, are kept above the children's lockers. Feel free to look at your child's book at anytime.

Shirley and Emily

News from the POSSUMS ROOM

Dear Families and Friends

This month we have had several families begin in the Possums room; all the children have been settling in well and have been busy making friends with their peers and educators.

This month have celebrated ANZAC Day on the 24th at 10.00 am, with families joining in our ceremony.

We will be having a Mother's Day morning tea and we are planning on going on an excursion to the library in term two.. More details will be available closer to the day.

We have set up an E-mail account just for Possums families, if you haven't received an Email from us please come and see one of the Possums educators and we can check to see if we have your correct details.

Please remember to pack a **fitted bottom** sheet and a **flat top** sheet for your child for sleep time, some families are bringing sleeping bags which is great but please still bring a fitted bottom sheet as your child's head is still resting on the bed. All sheets need to fit into a **reusable bag** to prevent spreading of germs when we pack them up after sleep time.

We have spare blankets to give to your child if the day is cold so no need to pack extra blankets when the weather gets colder.

We will celebrate Mothers Day with a morning tea on Friday 11th May @ 10am in the Possums room. All families welcome to come.



From the Possums Educators.

Families input and contributions to their children's development and education is valued at Gumnuts. Anyway (time) or anything (items) , your contribution is so very appreciated.

News from the WALLABIES ROOM

April has been such a busy month for the wallabies room as we have welcomed many new families into the room. We have also said goodbye to Ryan and Abigail as they transitioned into the Koala's room.

This month we began focusing on healthy eating through cooking experiences of smoothies, quiches and discussing our Smiles for Miles achievement program for healthy lifestyles. Our construction area has also been a big hit in the wallabies room and we plan to extend on the children's interests through box construction. We ask that if you have any unused items such as cereal boxes, muesli bars boxes, plastic containers, paper towel rolls etc if you could please save them and bring them into the room for us to enjoy. ANZAC day within our centre was a huge success

We would also like to remind families to start packing spare clothes, jackets, beanies and appropriate footwear so we are able to still enjoy our outside play as the days begin to get colder.

It is both a sad and exciting time as we are getting ready to farewell Nadine. Nadine will be commencing her maternity leave on the 24th of May and we wish her all the best in welcoming her new baby! Paige will be continuing on as room leader and we congratulate her for stepping up to the role.

Kind Regards The Wallabies Room.

Important Reminders:

New Committee Members

President- *Courtney Mraz*

Vice President- *Melissa Wingate*

Secretary- *Annie McAdam*

Treasurer- *Jess Lamb*

General member- *Pauline Glover*

General member- *Bree Henderson*

General member- *Liz Shatter*

Vacancies

Wombats (babies)- Monday

Possums (toddlers)- Monday & Tuesday

Wallabies (2-3yrs)- Thursday & Friday

Koalas (3-5yrs)- Monday & Tuesday

Emails

To improve upon sustainable practices we like to email, newsletters, children observations etc. Please make sure you have provided your email address so your not missing any information.

Mothers Day Celebrations

Come and share Mothers day with your child at Gumnuts. Check in your child's room for times and dates to celebrate motherhood.

Hope to see you all there!

Gumnut March/April Birthdays

We wish happy birthday to



Sophie, Millah, Arthur, Archer, Miah, Olivia, Beau, Rueben, Harlow, Kyle, Milla, Leo, Abigail, Willow, William, Ari, Laura, Kohen, Xia, Hayden,



Emily, Sam, Sophie, Ned, Luna, Ayden Lexi, Opal. Zack, Patrick, Chaise, Billy, Kristy, Megan, Amy.B, Michelle, Vanessa and Jess. S

News From Before School Care

Hello to all our before school care families! All the children have come so far and have been busy engaging in different activities and forming strong friendship groups with their peers. Just to name a few: Lots of craft activities from the girls, colouring in, drawing and creating a Anzac day wreath for our centre's Memorial ceremony. The children's skills with the new Lego are enhancing each day! With William, Luca, Lachlan, Eamon, Abigail and Asher constructing a motorised helicopter, car, robot and a satellite. They are now learning together how to program the system into the Ipad. Exploring all the play spaces in the Emu's room, with the doctor's area and construction area being very popular. Listening to the latest music and using the centre's Ipad. March has been an amazing month.

Kind regards Paige J

News from OSHC

What a busy couple of month's it has been down at OSHC, with lots of new faces to welcome and another fun and successful Vacation Care program. We kicked off March with a focus on 'Clean up Australia Day', where many of our students took part in creating posters to show the importance of recycling and doing our bit for the environment. We then swiftly moved onto our Easter celebrations, with many of our students counting down to the end of term. Over the period of three weeks and the use of six newspapers, several large bowls of glue and many hours of work we created three Easter themed piñata's. The April Vacation Care program was then upon us with the students getting to do a range of different activities and outings. Our first outing was to the Sale Cinema to see the very hilarious 'Peter Rabbit'. The following week saw the Vacation program head over the Maffra Gymnastics club, where students took part in everything from the trampolines to the very popular foam pit. The Thursday saw us heading out to the RAAF cinema to watch Ferdinand and as a very special treat and the hard work from one of our parents, we were lucky enough to take an escorted tour of the base, which the students thoroughly enjoyed seeing all the different aircrafts and roulettes close up. Big thanks to 'Animals of Oz' for being in an array of Australian animal for the students to see and learn about.

Kind Regards 545 OSHC Team

News from the KOALAS ROOM

Hello everyone.

Over the months of March and April we have enjoyed many group activities, getting to know our peers and forming strong friendship groups. The weather has been amazing (however, we are in desperate need of rain) The children have been enjoying the independence of choosing to play indoors and outdoors, with a majority of time spent out in our glorious sunshine. Our sun smart policy has been in full effect and the children have been very cooperative, independent and mindful of following the Sun smart rules, even asking to put sunscreen on and ensuring all peers and educators are wearing their hats.

A BIG thank you to all families who have been ensuring their child is sun screened up and ready to go in the morning this has been an enormous help to us and it helps keep your child safe from the harsh Australian UV. The latest information we have for being sun smart coming into the cooler months is to still be mindful and the children will be expected to follow our sun smart policy when the UV reaches 3 or above throughout the day.

Activities and highlights we have enjoyed over March and April are:

- *Easter activities and family fun day
- *Introduction to Gymnastics
- *Welcoming our new bunnies (*Paris and Winston*)
- *Commonwealth games activities
- *Cooking experiences
- *Wild Australian animal incursion with the Emus



News From The EMU'S ROOM

Welcome back to Term 2!

We hope that you enjoyed some relaxing time off over the Easter holidays either at home or away with your families or even at Gumnuts for the Holiday Program. We have enjoyed hearing all about what everyone has been up to through our group time sharing.

Term 2 sees the commencement of our Nature Kinder excursions to the Stead Street oval. These sessions run on a Tuesday and Friday. Important reminders for Nature Kinder include **appropriate clothing for all weather conditions** and **footwear**. Shoes must be completely enclosed if you want your child to be included. If a child arrives in thongs or sandals they will have to go into another room until we return. Wet weather clothing such as raincoats and gumboots are essential for the rainy days so we experience the benefits of exploring in the wet weather too! If you would like more information regarding our Nature Kinder policies please see Emu educators.

We are asking for all of all our families to come on board with using our **Flexi Buzz App**. It's a great way to stay in touch with our Emu's program, daily reflections, updates and special notices (including for Nature Kinder). This will ensure that anything important is relayed directly for you via your phone. We are hoping to use this as our main source of communication so feedback on how everyone finds it would be great!

In the room our learning has already seen us invite in incursions such as Raquel from the Wellington shire (Sustainability Officer) to help us plant veggies in our veggie patch where later on in the year Raquel will return to use these veggies in a cooking experience. We have also had Leanne from the Wellington Shire library teach us about borrowing books and special activities that are on offer to the general public such as "Leggo activities" and "Story time" so if you haven't been to the new library it's a great chance to share the love of reading with your child.



We had a very exciting visitor on Thursday 19th, Kara, who taught us all about reptiles in a very interactive 1 hour session which was amazing. The children were faced with many challenges which to their credit made incredible steps towards facing their own fear of getting close, holding or touching one of the many reptiles.

Well done.... We are loving everyone's interest in learning more about our community and the world we live in!



Thank you to those families who were able to come to our ANZAC service, those who donated to our garage sale and those who have been able to stay and help out at Kinder we are loving the involvement.

Don't forget to check out some of the School Open Days on at the moment. Let this also be a reminder that Kinder is helping to prepare your children for School, so we really want to ensure we are building them up to be responsible to do things such as pack and carry their own bags. We would love if you could all support us with this at home so the children are not coming in saying "My mum forgot my...." We want to ensure we educate your children to be confident and capable. We are looking forward to seeing how much more everyone grows throughout the year!