



Essex Heights Juniors
Early Learning Centre & Kindergarten



WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND JUNIORS?

OLYMPICS EVENTS

Friday 23 July– Friday 6 August

BOOK WEEK–DRESS UP DAY

Thursday 26th August

END OF YEAR CONCERT (KINDER & PRESCHOOL)

Rehearsal– Wednesday 1st December

Concert night– Friday 3rd December

CHILD CARE END OF YEAR PARTY

Friday 10th December

ISSUE 3– JULY 2021

How time flies when you are having fun! We cannot believe we are already halfway through the year.

As we have entered another lockdown in Victoria, our thoughts are with our families that may be going through difficult times.

Everyone has been amazing and our educators who may be facing their own challenges continue to work together to support our community.

We hope that we contain the virus soon and we can look forward to an exciting and busy second half of the year!

FAMILIES FINISHING 2021

A reminder to families who are leaving us at the end of this year, that your child's last day will be Friday 31st December 2021 as all children move to their new rooms from Monday 3rd January 2022. Therefore if you still require care over January 2022, please start thinking about alternative arrangements.

RE-ENROLMENTS FOR 2022

We will be commencing our re-enrolment process for 2022 in late August.

This means that we will send each family a form to complete that requires parents to request particular days for next year. Once families have returned these forms we will fill other positions from our waiting list. If you require additional days this will depend on availability.

KINDER ENROLMENTS 2022

The Victorian Government has introduced funded Three Year Old Kindergarten for Victoria where services who do provide a Three Year Old Kindergarten program are able to deliver a program for at least 5 hours per week.

Families with children who attend long day care centres will benefit as the funding will be used to employ teachers in their 3 year old rooms. At Essex Heights Juniors, we boast a number of Early Childhood Teachers planning and delivering quality educational programs. Out of the ten Early Childhood Teachers at our service, three of our teachers are part of the 3 year old kindergarten team.

Therefore, to ensure that every child has the opportunity to attend a 3 year old funded kindergarten program, we will be commencing enrolments early August and ask for an additional bond to hold these popular positions. More information to follow.



Kinder children enjoying a Dreamtime story in the Indigenous garden.



Preschool children preparing for their Aquarium excursion by having a discussion about what lives in the ocean.

PRESCHOOL ENROLMENTS 2022

As our 3 year old kindergarten room allows for 29 children per day and our 4 year old Preschool room caters for 22 children per day, we will be commencing 4 year old Preschool enrolments for 2022 in August this year to provide an opportunity for families to secure positions early or make adjustments to their child's care as required.

Reminding all families, that children who are nominating Essex Heights Juniors as their 4 year old funded kindergarten program, will receive priority in the enrolment process. Other children attending sessional kinders will be allocated enrolments if there are any positions available once priority positions have been allocated.

There will be a preschool enrolment levy, so that we can guarantee the positions are secured as families have been known to book two places then release one once they have had offers to private schools etc.

To secure your child's 4 year old preschool position, you will be required to pay a Preschool levy of \$200, which will be refunded back to you at the end of February 2022. If you have any questions, please contact Paula or Jane.

REMINDERS

Please label your **children's clothing** as it is difficult to remember each child's personal belongings without them being named.

Ensure your child has a **good breakfast**, before attending Juniors as Morning Tea may often be something light, such as fruit and not enough to sustain them until lunch time. It is important to establish a breakfast routine from home as we know this is regarded as the most important meal of the day.

Please ensure your child arrives at Juniors, if possible by **9.30am**, so they can appreciate the planned **educational programs** offered to them, form relationships and maximizing their time at EHJ. Otherwise your child is arriving closer to lunchtime which would mean that they would be eating and then sleeping/ resting soon after arrival.



Having fun in our weekly music and movement class with Cheryl.

Learning various physical skills whilst participating in the weekly Lukomotion session.



MID YEAR DEVELOPMENTAL SUMMARIES

All educators are now finalising each child's mid year developmental summary. This evaluation of your child's progress has been completed by your child's educators highlighting their strengths and areas that need further improvement or skill development. These will be sent out later in the week and will require your evaluation or feedback on your child's progress so that together we can work on achieving these goals.

Preschool children will not be receiving one, as educators will be collating documentation for their Transition Statements required by the primary schools in readiness for next year.

Essex Heights Juniors Preschool Child Developmental Summary	
INDIVIDUAL CHILD DEVELOPMENTAL SUMMARY	
MID YEAR 2021	
Our philosophy is to provide a quality early childhood service that supports and complements the family's child-rearing role, and helps to nurture the child's development and wellbeing through play-based learning experiences.	
Child: [redacted]	Date written: 10/06/2021
Learning Outcome:	Reflection of Child's Progress:
Outcome 1: Children have a strong sense of identity	[redacted] has a sense of belonging to the preschool as he is always confident and happy to get involved in experiences. He has built secure attachments with his educators, he has established and maintained respectful and trusting relationships with his peers as he actively play with by sharing toys and enjoying group play experiences.
Outcome 2: Children are connected to & contribute to their world	[redacted] connects to his environment and the world by establishing strong relationships with his educators and peers. He is confident and happy to participate in experiences, he demonstrates a sense of belonging and comfort in his environment by exploring it confidently and freely.
Outcome 3: Children have a strong sense of wellbeing	[redacted] demonstrates trust and confidence in the preschool. He is excited to play with peers, enabling him to become strong in his social and emotional wellbeing. He enjoys moments of culture but also enjoys participating in play with his peers.
Outcome 4: Children are confident and independent	[redacted] has begun to explore various learning spaces in the preschool. He expresses wonder in his environment using appropriate language and ideas and asks of things resources provided. He has begun to explore his own ideas by engaging with technology such as the light table within class.
Outcome 5: Children are effective communicators	[redacted] plays with his peers using non-verbal communication by offering ideas to his peers or educators and enjoying some solitary play on his own. He communicates through gestures and facial expressions to convey his wants, needs and ideas frequently.
General comments and any areas of wellbeing/development:	[redacted] has formed meaningful bonds with his educators and peers and he is confident to have fun as he is always willing to explore different play experiences. Throughout term 1, educators will continue developing [redacted] help skills to enhance his ability to become independent during routines.
Parent evaluations/ comments/ suggestions:	
Educator/teacher completing this report:	[redacted]



FAMILY PARTICIPATION

In the first half of the year, we have been able to host two family events in between the lockdowns and restrictions.

Lego Masters Challenge began from the interest of the Channel 9 show "Lego Masters" as well as the popularity of Lego within the kinder and preschool programs. Thirty family members accompanied their children on this evening that required a small team to create a scene using Lego.

Our MasterChef challenge was also inspired of the TV series and the children's love of cooking. We thank the six parents that donated their time that morning to share their family recipes with the children in the preschool.

We have created a book from each of these special events that can be seen in our front foyer.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

This term, in between lockdowns and restrictions, we have been able to connect with the community in a variety of different ways that continues to enhance our children's programs.

Ashwood School– We have continued to host Year 10 students from the school to assist them with completing their Duke of Edinburgh award. These students with special needs, thoroughly love coming to Juniors to develop their confidence and social skills with the children and educators.

Holy Family Primary School– The principal and Year 6 school captains, visited our preschoolers to promote their school and talk about what to expect when going to Primary School next year.

Jaeden Williams- visited us last Wednesday to conduct an Indigenous Smoking Ceremony with the children as well as teach them about his Boonwurrung culture. The children learnt body part names and learnt about the Dreamtime animals that are very important within the Aboriginal culture.



Attending a Regular Outing to Federal Reserve with the students from Ashwood School



Enjoying story time, read by the Year 6 students from Holy Family Primary School.



Participating in an Indigenous Smoking Ceremony with Jaeden Williams (Boonwurrung man)



All aboard the bus! Seat belts on, we're ready to go!

SCHOOL READINESS

Our extensive School Transition program is an integral part of the Preschool curriculum as we prepare children for primary school next year.

This includes incursions that we arrange to simulate entertainers that may be attending their schools next year as well as excursions.

The first of the two excursions planned for this year occurred last week at the Melbourne Aquarium. We were able to secure a position to visit the aquarium with no external visitors or the public which meant we had the place virtually to ourselves. Excursions assist the children to understand leaving the comforts of their school, travelling on a bus, as well as respecting public spaces and engaging with educators/ visitors from their community.

The children all had a wonderful time and the next group of pre-schoolers have been booked for another excursion to Kew Traffic School on Friday 29th October.



Simon our Melbourne Aquarium teacher, welcoming us!



Everything was so exciting and lots of fun. We learnt a lot about the sea life.

BEING ENVIRONMENTALLY RESPONSIBLE

Sustainability is more than gardening, worm farms or composting. As educators, we have to think beyond these green activities. Sustainability has shifted away from being just about environmental education to thinking about it as education for sustainability (Davis, 2010). Although both education threads are separate, they are certainly not isolated. Education for sustainability is about linking the 'about' with the 'doing'. - Yvonne Paujik Curriculum Lead Teacher Campus Kindergarten University of Queensland

Within our service children:

Connect with the natural world Children use their senses to explore their surroundings through free play and guided discovery.

Learn to care for the environment through Play and directed activities. This may be sorting items into their correct bins, caring for 'injured' wildlife, planting gardens, observing wildlife.

Observe sustainable practice through modelling from our educators and daily practice.

Being environmentally responsible is neither a subject nor an 'add on', it is a way of thinking, a way of practice. Education for sustainability is interdisciplinary and involves different members of the community with different expertise and knowledge collaborating together to tackle issues that affect sustainability.

We hope children think of sustainability as being broader than the environment, to thinking about how people and change can influence every living thing. Encourage and support your child and the next generation at home by being environmentally responsible in every possible way.

National Quality Framework | Quality Area 3:
Physical Environment Element 3.2.3 Environmentally responsible



Celebrating our wonderful mums, grandmothers, aunts and other significant women in our lives during the restrictions.



Supporting the Push for Better Foundation to raise awareness, engage and educate mental health and wellbeing.

COVID SUPPORT

We are feeling for all the families that are struggling in their personal life or through their businesses due to COVID-19.

It is important for all of us to support each other during this difficult time so that we can get through this hardship together.

Please feel free to come and see us at the office if we can assist you in anyway but we do want to remind you all that the Government is providing support in different areas.

Your family can apply for Additional Child Care Subsidy (ACCS) via—<https://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/individuals/services/centrelink/additional-child-care-subsidy>

So if you feel you qualify for any monetary support we encourage you to apply for financial assistance.

Thank you for all supporting each other