

# JJ McMahon Memorial Kindergarten *Newsletter*

Volume I : 2022



## Dates to remember

-Working Bee & BBQ

Sunday 22nd May

9am-12pm

-Open Day

Saturday 28th May

11am - 1pm



## Like our Facebook page

@jjmcmahonkindergarten



## Presidents Report

Dear Families,

Welcome back to Term 2!

A big thank you to our teachers, educators & staff for an incredible Term 1, especially over the final couple of weeks as we experienced our first round of positive cases at the Kinder. We hope everyone is recovering well and looking forward to seeing you back.

We really appreciate the prompt notifications from families as and when cases arise, which really help manage as effectively as possible.

We're looking forward to showing new families through the Kinder at our Open Day on Saturday 28 May! To get ready for it, our Working Bee + BBQ will be held on Sunday 22 May (9-12pm) and if it's anything like Term 1's working bee, it will be a fantastic morning! Bring the kids along to help gather all the Autumn leaves under the Oak Tree.

Keep well everyone and looking forward to a great term ahead.

Best,  
Ali

# Yellow Group Update

*What's been happening in Yellow Group?*



We offer the children a variety of different activities and play spaces outdoors, including large areas and experiences for active and creative play, as well as smaller areas for quiet and reflective play. Yellow group love sorting and classifying, and they did this as they made patterns with the coloured stones on the surface of the mirror as they observed their reflection and noticed what they could see in the trees above them as they looked down.



Yellow group love construction of all kinds, including with our large outdoor blocks. The children have been working together to building houses, castles and buses as well as a dinosaur shop! Our dinosaurs from our sensory trough were lined up inside the shop and friends were invited to bring their money (tanbark) to come and buy dinosaurs. When the dinosaurs had all been bought, one of the shop owners declared they were "out of stock, and so we'll have to sell cakes now".



One of the many small group activities we do in yellow group is with our floorbook. The children love coming together to draw their thoughts and ideas and have an Educator write down their words for them. This gives the children knowledge that their contributions are valued, and it is one of the ways that their interests and input into the planning and programming are recorded. Sometimes there is a common theme on the pages of our floorbooks and sometimes everyone has something different to draw or talk about. Either way, the words that are written are the words of the children themselves.

Art and craft activities are always popular with yellow group, and the children love experimenting with the different materials provided. Their problem solving and thinking skills are used as they plan what they will make and what they will need to make it. Their fine motor skills are used as they use glue, masking tape and scissors, and of course they is no limit to their imagination as they make and create. On this day monsters, robots and dinosaurs were very popular at our art and craft table.





# Green Group Update

*What's been happening in Green Group?*

Treasure comes in all shapes and sizes, and green group love looking for it in our backyard. The children are often seen carrying buckets to collect rocks, acorns, feathers, leaves and the occasional sequin or other craft material that has blown away from an art activity. When they proudly bring their treasure to us we take the time to look through it together, talking about where the treasure came and sorting it into different groups.



Green group are very creative with the magnatiles, and have been making many wonderful patterns with them. Whilst playing with them the children are identifying different shapes and are experimenting with how they fit together. They also discovered that you can use them to make houses, pizzas, and even attach them to the metal railings in our front yard.

Waterplay! Green group love waterplay, and it is wonderful for so many reasons. As well as sharing space and utensils, the children are learning about measurement as they fill and empty different sized and shaped containers, pouring them from one to another. On this day we started with blue water on one side of the trough and red on the other, so the children were also able to discover that mixing the two colours together made purple.



At kinder we do many small group activities with the children where we model language and conversation as well as sharing and turn taking. The children love making playdough together, where they take it in turns to measure and pour the ingredients into a bowl, mix them together and then knead colour through the dough once it is cool enough. The children love that they have made playdough for everyone to play with and enjoy together.



# Blue Group Update

*What's been happening in Blue Group?*

Blue group have settled amazingly well, they are a considerate group of super enquiring minds and we enjoy discovering the world together.

Blue group began their floor book work on their first day. We recorded what makes each of us special



Above: Our master engineers work closely together directing our water flow  
Below: Encouraging creativity means our children are always developing innovative uses for equipment



Above: Learning to connect with friends is one of the most important things we can do, it rarely happens 'neatly'.

Below: We come together to share ideas about our world



We finished the term with Easter celebrations and shared egg dyeing with friends in red group



# Red Group Update

*What's been happening in Red Group?*

Red Group have had a lovely start to the year. All of the children have transitioned so well to four-year-old kinder, their confidence and resilience at transitioning from the front gate to the kindergarten each morning has been amazing. It has been so lovely to see old friendships continued and new friendships forming for another year of kindergarten.



The children have enjoyed lots of messy sensory play. Sensory play helps to develop fine motor skills, it builds connections in the brain as the children feel sensations on their hands and fingers and make sense of these in their mind, it supports language development as the children describe what they can see, and feel, and it is an extremely mindful activity that calms children and bring them into the present moment. It also encourages the children's curiosity and creativity.

The children had a meeting to discuss how they wanted to celebrate the end of term. Here they are enjoying their fancy dress party!



Stopping for a play at the local park allows us to explore trickier play equipment and extend on our gross motor and coordination skills as we climb up, over, explore height, balance, and motion.



Lots to explore on our first community walks - here we found water coming up from under the ground and discussed what it means to have a leaky pipe, what pipes are used for, and who will fix this leaky pipe which is on public property.





Dear JJ Families,

I hope you had a wonderful time over the term break.

You will have noticed boards at the front of our premises, Deepdene Primary School and at the corner of Harp and Normanby Roads, advertising our Open Day event, which will be held on Saturday 28th May 2022 11am-1pm.

Special thanks to Sharon and Teresa at Ray White Balwyn for providing the boards so promptly. Also many thanks to Tatiana and Kevin (from last year's blue group) and Deepdene Primary School for allowing us place the boards on their fences.

We all know how wonderful JJ is. And seeing is believing! If you know of any families looking for a sessional kindergarten with spacious premises and caring, tertiary-qualified teachers, please feel free to share our Open Day event details with them.

We are excited to welcome prospective families to our fantastic indoor/outdoor learning spaces and introduce them to the wonderful educators and kinder community.

Information packs will be available to take home.

Thank you in advance for your support.

Warm regards,  
Committee of Management

# JJ's Open Day

## Saturday 28 May

### 11am-1pm



**OPEN DAY 2022**  
**SATURDAY 28<sup>TH</sup> MAY**  
**11 AM - 1 PM**

SPACIOUS, INDOOR AND OUTDOOR AREAS  
STIMULATING, PLAY-BASED 3-YEAR-OLD AND 4-YEAR-OLD PROGRAMS  
ENTHUSIASTIC, TERTIARY-QUALIFIED TEACHING STAFF AND COMMUNITY

✉ [info@jjmcmahon.org.au](mailto:info@jjmcmahon.org.au) | ☎ 03 9817 3624



Application for 2023 Enrolment  
closes Friday 24th June 2022

Please lodge a 2023 enrolment application or make any change of preference by this date via the BKCES portal.

Warm regards,  
Enrolment Officer



# Fundraising + Socials Update

The social and fundraising committee started the year with a BBQ at Stradbroke Park to welcome both new and returning families to JJs. This was a fantastic opportunity to bring together kinder parents and children alike.



As term one was drawing to a close, our annual Easter Event took place with an Easter egg hunt, picnic and hamper raffle, generously donated by Xocolatl.



Restrictions permitting, class reps will be hosting a parent's morning tea this term. Details of this term's social event will be updated soon.





# Next Working Bee & BBQ Sunday 22 May 9am - 12pm





## Our Sponsors

# KAY & BURTON

The wonderful team at Kay and Burton signed up as our Gold Sponsor. Kay and Burton have been part of Kew / Hawthorn community for 10 years. We are so appreciative of their support and please ask anyone considering selling/buying or renting to go say 'hello' to their team.

<https://kayburton.com.au>

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