



Welcome to
Term 2 at OAK

IMPORTANT DATES

26 May – Working Bee, 10am-1pm

3 June – Bayside Council to email
2020 kindergarten offers
during this week.

28 June – Last day of Term 2

15 July – First day of Term 3

25 Aug – Working Bee, 10am-1pm

OAK CONTACTS

Committee Email

olympic.ave.committee@kindergarten.vic.gov.au

Teachers' Email

olympic.ave.teachers@kindergarten.vic.gov.au

Enrolments Email

enrolmentsolympicave@gmail.com

Compliance/Fees Email

officeolympicave@gmail.com

OUR STAFF

Nominated Supervisor: Kathryn McInnes

Educational Leader: Denise Batchelor

Red Group: Kathryn & Liz

Blue Group: Nicole & Shelley

Purple Group: Mary-Ellen & Cynthia

Yellow Group: Jenny & Vanessa

Orange Group: Debbie & Vanessa

Extended Care: Vanessa & Nina

From the President



We hope everyone settled in and enjoyed Term 1 at OAK and had a wonderful Easter holiday! It was a busy start to the year with our Welcome BBQ, the first Working Bee, the Open Day, Bunnings Sausage Sizzle, Hot Cross Bun Fundraiser, Easter Egg Hunts and lots of group catch ups at Pennydale Park.

An enormous thank you to the parents who volunteered their time our events, and to the hard working committee and sub-committee members who made all the events possible, particularly Bronwyn Wilcox, Fundraising and Events Coordinator, Juliet White, Social Coordinator and Mel Kennedy, Marketing/PR Officer. Thank you also to our wonderful teachers who gave up their Saturday to attend the Open Day.

Parent participation is a very important part of running the kinder, but it's also a great way to meet other OAK families and become part of the local community. It was lovely to receive feedback from prospective families at the Open Day that they felt the kinder had a real community feel to it, and they loved the warm welcome they received from teachers and parent volunteers on the day. If you haven't volunteered yet, we have our second Working Bee on Sunday 26 May and we would love your assistance!

In Term 1 we welcomed two new committee members, who you may already have heard from. Thank you to Kim Martin and Claire Sell for taking on the Enrolments Officer role, and for all your work so far in finalising the enrolment process and policy for 2020. Kim will be looking after 3yo enrolments and Claire will be handling 4yo enrolments. Offers for 2020 places at OAK will be emailed to families by Bayside Council in the first week of June, so keep an eye on your inbox.

The end of Term 1 saw our OAK Care Co-Educator, Vanessa Thornton (Ness), leave us to take up a full-time position. We appreciate the wonderful job Ness did assisting Vanessa Fitzmaurice to establish the OAK Care program and we wish her all the best in her new role. We're very pleased to welcome Nina Wright to the OAK Care Co-Educator position in Term 2. We hope you enjoy your time at OAK Nina!

We are looking forward to an exciting Term 2 at OAK, with lots of activities already planned, starting with our Mother's Day Stall this week.

Term 2 will also see the introduction of the Educa App to OAK, so you will likely be reading next term's newsletter on the app. We are really excited about introducing Educa into OAK and we feel it is a great step forward to ensure we better connect with OAK families. If you haven't already, please read the email we have sent out about Educa, as it contains important information about the introduction of the app. Thank you to Vice-President, Zoe Engel and Yellow Group Educator, Jenny Robison who have done an enormous amount of work to get the app up and running at OAK.

Finally, if you have any questions, suggestions or complaints, feel free to contact me at presidentolympicave@gmail.com.

Enjoy Term 2 at OAK!

Carly Kohler



Enrolment News

Keep an eye on your inbox in the first week of June for your offer of a Kinder place for 2020. Follow the links in the email to accept your offer with Bayside Council. Once you have accepted your offer, you will be directed to the OAK website where you will find the 2020 Finalisation of Enrolment form for completion (this form includes group preferences) and return to OAK along with a copy of your child's birth certificate and current immunisation statement. Instructions for the return of the form and documents will be on the form.

Working Bees

We had a fantastic group of parents and children help out at our first working bee on Sunday 17 March. We managed to get through many of the tasks on our list, the kinder looked great at the end of the day, and we even managed a quick break to enjoy a chat and hot cross buns! Thanks to all the families who attended. Your help was much appreciated. Special thanks to Leigh Johnston who stayed for an extra few hours to help stain the decks.



Our next Working Bee is on **Sunday 26 May from 10am – 1pm**. We will have a sign-up sheet in the foyer next week, so if you are able to attend, please put your name on the list and also let us know if you have any trade skills (e.g. painting, landscaping, carpentry). All groups can attend and kids are welcome too. The Working Bee will count as activity towards earning your Parent Participation Rebate. Hope to see you on 26 May.

Bart Kohler - Working Bee Coordinator

Social News

The Social Team had a great first term with the welcome BBQ being a huge success, group play dates before and after kinder, as well as the much enjoyed Easter egg hunts.



We look forward to a fun-filled second term with parent social dinners as well as a few play dates. Your group's social coordinator will advise more information concerning these.

Social Coordinator - Juliet White

Yellow Group - Juliet White
Orange Group - Meabh Cullinane
Red Group - Jennifer Grant
Purple Group - Becky Marshall
Blue Group - Denise Radja



Fundraising News

The OAK Open Day took place on Saturday 30th March and despite the cold weather, we were delighted to welcome 43 families to the kinder. We had a face painter for the children and provided a goody bag to prospective families which contained two gifts for children and the OAK Parent Information Booklet. The teachers did a fantastic job showcasing our kinder with activities set up in each room, and talking to all the families to explain our set up and philosophy. A big thank you to the teachers, committee and volunteers who all gave up their time to ensure the Open Day was a complete success.

Our Bunnings BBQ Fundraising was held on Sunday 31st March and with a host of wonderful volunteers we prepared all the food, cooked it to perfection and ensured it was served as quickly as possible. Despite the rain, there were queues waiting to buy a sausage in bread, onions under! We raised over \$2,000 and look forward to investing this back in the kinder.



Thank you to all the families who bought Hot Cross Buns for the Easter Holidays, we hope you all enjoyed them, but not too much!

Please see the flyer at the end of the Newsletter with information about another wonderful fundraising opportunity at OAK.

Bronwyn Wilcox – Fundraising and Events Coordinator

Educational Leader Report

My name is Denise Batchelor and I am the kindergarten's Educational Leader. My role is to support the Educators in their program development and in any other way they may need support. At times I join the groups so that I can understand the group's needs and how best to support them. You may also meet me if you have a child in Purple Group as I work with them each day while the Educators have their lunch.

This year we have been working to develop a consistent program plan across the whole service which ensures that the cycle of programming meets the Victorian Early Years Learning and Development Framework. All of the Educators work very hard in making sure the program meets the needs of every child in the group and is responsive to the children's interests.

We have also been working with the Committee and Educators to ensure that the kindergarten meets the Child Safe Standards. Part of this is making sure that everyone in the OAK community is aware of their responsibilities under the Reportable Conduct Scheme, which you will have received information about previously.

Please feel free to contact me on oakeleader@gmail.com if you have any questions about the program or my role.



Yellow Group News

Welcome back to term 2! The children returned in great spirits last week and settled in extremely well.

Term 1 saw the children begin to become familiar with the routines of Kindergarten, become familiar with their classmates and teachers and begin to feel at ease. The highlights of term 1 included cooking with play dough, block building, collage and box construction, easel painting, sensory play with shaving cream, water and kinetic sand, sand play, learning new songs, fairy stones and sliding down the zoom chute. These activities gave the children the opportunity to collaborate, problem solve, risk take, be creative and most importantly begin to socialise and take turns.



Our routines have also introduced the children to the tickle stick, the bell and the quiet candle. The children take it in turns to be responsible for these tasks and while they help with transitions they are most importantly a great way to foster a sense of belonging to the Kindergarten class.



Work has begun on some very special presents for Mother's day. The children are looking forward to celebrating with their Mum's on Monday 13th May. This will be an opportunity for the children to show you the activities they love at Kindergarten, share some treats and of course their much laboured presents.



This week we introduced the children to some mindfulness. The children did very well for their first attempt, quietly sitting on their yoga mats and making a picture with the different materials while listening to music. We will slowly introduce some yoga activities to the children over the term.



With cold weather upon us please remember to pack a warm coat for your child. Later in the term we will keep warm by celebrating a Pyjama day, stay tuned for more details!

Upcoming Dates

Mother's Day Celebration – Monday 13th May, 12.15 – 1.00pm



Orange Group News

Orange Group has had an adventurous start to the year. Our staggered sessions helped children settle in and enable Vanessa and I to get to know the children and to start building a relationship with them. It is also less overwhelming for the children to start in smaller groups. The children all coped amazingly when the groups merged into one.

During the first term we focus on getting to know each other and provided fun opportunities to learn each other's names. There are also many new routines at kindergarten and we spent time setting up routines and familiarising children with them.

During a lunch time we discussed our worm farm and that we feed fruit scraps to the worms instead of putting them in the rubbish bin. Children were fascinated by the concept, however we discovered there were no worms in the worm farm. Children were very excited to re-establish the worm farm. The worms have remained popular and children are always keen to open up the farm and observe the worms. Some children enjoy holding the worms, while others are happy to observe from a distance.



On Friday's after lunch children have a short rest period to calm their bodies. We have introduced meditation and have been doing a short minute meditation session focusing on breathing and relaxing. Vanessa and I have found it allows children to calm down and focus for the afternoon session when many of the children are tired.

At the end of Term 1 we said goodbye to two of our Orange Group members, Keigo and Ava. We are very excited to welcome Charlie Kohler to our group.

We look forward to another exciting term with Orange Group.





Red, Blue & Purple Group News

SEAWEED SALLY INCURSION

In the last week of Term 1, Seaweed Sally came to visit our kinder. Seaweed Sally knows a lot about sea creatures and their environment. We were able to explore, and feel all of the preserved specimens on display.

What we saw and touched with Seaweed Sally:

Preserved Animals – Baleen (whale's teeth), Shark Teeth, Octopus, Porcupine Fish, Seahorse, Shark Egg, Whale Bone, Turtle Shell.

Afterwards, we went to the live animal tank and had an opportunity to handle each of the different animals. There were sea stars, sea urchins, elephant snails, crabs, sea squirts etc. The children learnt why the animals need to be left at the beach and how best to care for them, along with how the animals move, eat, protect themselves etc.

Seaweed Sally reminded us that we can go and look for these sea creatures in the rock pools in the bay. With such beautiful weather over the Term 1 break, many of the children went to the beach and have been eagerly sharing their experiences with us, in both small and large group discussions.



During Term 1, many of the children have been on holidays to various parts of the world and we have enjoyed sharing photos of their adventures as well as expanding our knowledge of the world by finding those places on a world map. We will continue to explore our knowledge of the world, by locating where our extended families live in relation to where we live.



As the cooler weather sets in, we will continue to encourage the children to play outdoors, recognising the enormous health benefits that come with connecting with their natural environment. When children play outdoors they have a greater opportunity to improve their motor skills, balance and co-ordination, as well as strengthening their muscles and bones. Climbing over natural, uneven surfaces, up and down boards and climbing frames, under and over equipment is fun and provides an element of risk, encouraging the children to make decisions and to problem solve.

The variety of sounds, sights and textures found in different outdoor settings provides opportunities for all senses to be used together and, with the unpredictability that comes from being outside, encourages creative play, exploration and problem solving.



We are lucky to have Pennydale Park right alongside our kinder and we hope to access the park at least once per week, using the natural elements to inspire our play.



YOGA with Jen

During the last week of Term 1, our 3 year old Teacher, Jen Robison, ran a Yoga session for each group. Jen's Yoga session was focused on helping the children to tune into their senses and to develop skills in focus, attention, emotional intelligence and regulation of their body and emotions. We all enjoyed this session and look forward to more next term. We thank the OAK Committee for funding these sessions.





OLYMPIC AVENUE KINDERGARTEN

Newsletter – May 2019



We are attempting to have an area in the room for children to be involved in tinkering - this allows children to use real tools and take apart appliances that no longer work. We are relying on donations so if any families have old phones, keyboards - any donations would be appreciated.

Many thanks to all of our families for all your support during this term, through Parent Duty, Laundry Roster, our Working Bee, Open Day and Bunnings BBQ fundraising. Thank you for taking the time to bring your skills and interests into the kinder, encouraging the children to work alongside you.





STEM

During term one, we have used the children's natural interest in active play to explore their natural world, encouraging them to be creative, to problem solve and to communicate their thoughts and predictions. We have supported them to notice STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) concepts whilst they are playing, for example, building towers with blocks or collecting seed pods and leaves.

Our focus in Term one has been on exploring 'Patterns and Relationships'. During Term 2, we will be introducing the children to the Technology component of STEM, with the children having a chance to represent their ideas about Patterns and Relationships on an App. Through educational games, we will encourage them to create colourful patterns and sort healthy food by shape, size or other attributes. These app activities are designed for the children to play together and communicate with each other. Following the App activities, children will be able to apply what they have learned with more hands-on activities, finding new ways to express ideas and be inspired to do things differently with the ideas they have developed.

In Term 2, we will also introduce the Second component of our STEM program, 'Location and Arrangement', where we will explore Spatial Relationships.

It is important to remember, that the 'App' component of STEM is minimal, with children having 5 minute turns. Our emphasis is on children 'experiencing' and then 'applying' the learning gained through representing their learning on the 'App'.



OAK Care News

The Extended care program is a relaxed program following the children's interests and extending on what they have experienced during their kinder session. Combining the red and blue groups together gives the children a chance to communicate to their friends in the other group and share what they have learnt and experienced during the day, which helps further their learning and development. With a creative atmosphere and lots of different crafts and sensory experiences for the children to discover, it breaks up their afternoon and gives the children a chance to engage in some calm, quiet activities while being creative and using their imagination in a safe, supportive and friendly environment.



It has been a crafty term! The children have been using coloured clay to make beads and have been using the beads to make bracelets, necklaces, threading and in other craft activities. We have been decorating sticks and hanging them in our fairy tree, making pet rocks and homes for our pets out of recycled materials.

Imagination and roll play games have been a big part of Term 1 too. The children had a doctors surgery, hair salon, pony club and have been playing mums and dads in the fort. Sensory play has been prominent with kinetic sand, playdough and water play.

All children have settled in to the program and have been playing together nicely.





Helpful information

Parking

Please consider our neighbours and do not park across their driveways. Don't forget you can park in Wembley Avenue or Paul Street and walk through the park.

Sign in book

Remember to sign in and out of the session and let us know with who will collect your child. If you are helping on parent duty, please remember to sign the volunteer book in the foyer.

If your child is unwell!

If your child is showing signs of ill-health, please consider the wellbeing of all children and staff at our kinder. In addition, there are some children at our kinder whose health is severely compromised should they become ill so please do not send your child to kinder if they are unwell.

Allergies & anaphylaxis

Just a reminder that we have children attending OAK this year who suffer from severe allergic reaction to tree nuts, cashews, pistachios and coconut, including coconut milk/water/oil. We ask parents not to pack any of these foods in your child's snacks or lunches or bring these foods into the kinder. This includes peanut butter and Nutella sandwiches.

Partnerships with families

Collaboration between teachers and families is highly valued at OAK. When families and teachers work well together it helps to create a positive sense of community, which supports children's mental health and wellbeing. Research has shown that when families and staff within early childhood services work together it helps to improve outcomes for young children. For example, studies have shown that greater family involvement can have a positive impact in areas such as children's early learning skills and behaviour. Family involvement shows children that Kindergarten is highly valued, a safe place to be and promotes feelings of belonging and connectedness. Both families and staff have valuable information about the child and sharing this information helps to make sure children's needs are met effectively. We encourage families to:

- Make time to talk regularly with teachers and ask questions about your child's day.
- Share ideas and information that could help teachers to plan appropriately for your child and help connect your child to kinder.
- Talk to your child's teachers about events and celebrations and share information about your family values and culture.



OLYMPIC AVENUE KINDERGARTEN

Newsletter – May 2019

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