

St Peter's ELC acknowledges Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, the traditional custodians of lands, waterways and skies across Australia. We thank you for sharing and caring for the land we learn and play on. We pay our respects to elders and we share our friendship and kindness.

From the Head of ELC – Kathleen Brohier

At our orientation day, prior to starting Term 1, the rain clouds didn't dampen our mood or sense of excitement for the year ahead. Neither did the masks, the snap lockdown, changes to drop off, numbers inside the building and 'reimagined' events (*did you watch the Information Evening Presentations?!*). What we did this term, as we do in the early childhood sector, was remain positive, adaptable and kept going.

We were pleased to fall in to a 'normal' rhythm as the term went on, and finally welcome parents back in to the space for our Body Safety Australia Parent Workshop. It was lovely to see so many parents join us. It continues to be a topic of conversation in the community and more importantly, we are setting our younger children up with the tools and understanding to speak up for themselves and others confidently. Working in partnership with our parents, with same page thinking allows for continuity of learning for the children.

Over the following two weeks, the children engaged in their workshops. Through a developmentally appropriate level the children learnt to label their own body parts and know which were private, public and personal. Giving the children the confidence to know that their body is there's and they don't have to look or hear anything that might make their warning signs go off.

The children learnt that they each have their own, and sometimes different warning signs, like butterflies in their tummy, sweaty palms, beating heart, wees or wanting to run away – they are all signs that something is not right. The children learnt that it's okay to freeze and be scared, it's okay to run away, it's okay to say STOP. When their warning signs go off, the children learnt that they have safe adults they can turn to. These were marked on finger puppets to remind them all they are safe and have people who care for them. Their safe grown-ups are there to listen, to care about their feelings, try and help and to keep the children safe.

Sometimes our feelings and mental health are not recognised in the same way as our physical health. As we continue to assist the children in understanding themselves and labelling their feelings, it's important as adults that we do the same – and listen to ourselves and those around us. Postponed from 2020, I attended a Mental Health First Aid course in the latter stage of the term. There were so many strengths I could recognise in what we do with the children, however, the stigma that continues to cloud mental health was still so evident with adults. It's important that the warning signs we focus on with the children are also recognised in adults for anxiety and depression. Normalising the stigma and ensuring we look after our own mental health and those around us is vital.

This term the children have settled in to their learning environment so beautifully, showing a sense of belonging here at St Peter's ELC. Our educators are planning ahead, *and all going well*, hope to venture out to further extend the children's' learning through excursions and welcome our parents in for our Fruit Shop programs and incursions. If you haven't already done so, please ensure you get your Working With Children Check, and pass the details on to me. I wish you all a very Happy Easter, and a restful and relaxing break – with good food, good company and a lot of laughs.



"We value space, to create a handsome environment and its potential to inspire social, affective and cognitive learning. The space is an aquarium that mirrors the ideas and values of the people who live in it."

Loris Malaguzzi



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A partnership between St Peter's Parish and St Kevin's College, Toorak.

ABN: 39 926 673 059

Lent & Easter

Thank you to all our parents, for assisting the children in bringing in a toy or book as part of their learning of Lent. We also thank you for your generous donations of Easter Eggs. After a discussion with Fr Brendan, he suggested the parish of St Joseph's, South Yarra would very much welcome them for their needy families. The families will be very grateful.

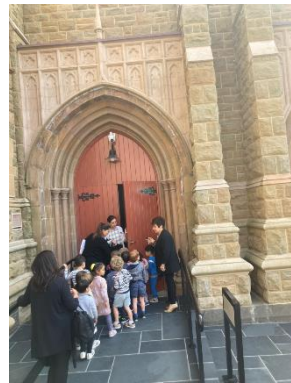


Easter is Really for Jesus

Easter is not just for the Bunny
With goodies and treats that he brings.
Easter is when we must celebrate
And alleluia is the song that we sing!

Easter is really for Jesus
Who died and rose from the dead.
We must always remember the love Jesus showed
And all of the things that He said.

So, remember this Easter, when you go to Church,
And tell this message to everyone
That Easter is all about Jesus
And the Bunny and treats are just fun!



On Wednesday 31st, we gathered in the church for our Easter Liturgy. The children, in the past weeks in their programs have been learning of the story of Easter and the significance of Holy Week. After revisiting what the children had learnt, we paused for prayer and allowed the children the opportunity to ask questions.



On Easter Sunday, Living God, we are filled with joy as we celebrate the rising of your Son. Inspire us to make our world a better place for everyone as we look to the future with hope. Amen

Fr Brendan was unable to join us for the liturgy service, but dropped by in the afternoon. This conversation allowed a concrete understanding of what we had been learning about.



... the children did wake from their rest today with a surprise in our playground...!



Dates for your Diary ~

Please ensure you keep up to date with communications, as further dates may be added throughout the term

Term 2

Monday 19th – Staff return

Tuesday 20th – ELC Commence Term 2 – Children return

P&F-Thursday 22nd – Kinder Parent Cocktail Party – The Botanical 7pm

Tuesday 27th – Loreto Toorak 4Gold Buddies – Kinder

Wednesday 28th – Loreto Toorak 4Blue Buddies – Pre Prep

P&F-Friday 30th – Pre Prep Dad's Drinks – The Atrium Bar, The Smith 8pm

May

Sunday 2nd – St Peter's ELC Open Morning 11.00 -1.00pm (SKC Open Day 1.00-4.00pm)

P&F-Thursday 6th – Kinder Dad's Steak Night – venue tbc

Monday 10th – 8.30-9.30am Mother's Day Morning

P&F-Monday 10th – Pre Prep Mum's Coffee Catch up at Mammoth

P&F-Saturday 15th – Pre Prep Mother's Day High Tea – The Stables of Como 3pm

Monday 17th – Boori Monty Pryor – Aboriginal Storyteller

Tuesday 18th – 1.00 - 8.00pm Parent/Teacher Exchanges (ELC children finish at 12.00noon)

Wednesday 19th – SKC Buddies 5A – Pre Prep

Tuesday 25th – SKC Buddies 5B – Pre Prep

P&F-Friday 28th – Kinder Parents Coffee Morning, Hobba 9am

June

Wednesday 2nd – SKC Buddies 5C – Kinder

Friday 4th – **ELC CLOSED** – Staff Professional Development Day

P&F-Saturday 12th – Kinder Family Day at Bounce 10-11am

Monday 14th – **ELC CLOSED** – Queen's Birthday Public Holiday

Friday 18th – End Term 2 (**no aftercare**)

P&F-Friday 9th July – Pre Prep Holiday catch up – tbc

TERM 3 - July

Monday 12th – Staff Return

Tuesday 13th – ELC Commence Term 3 – Children return

P & F Committee

Thank you to all our volunteers. Our community is together again, and after an isolated year, it's lovely to see so many occasions organised and occurring. As you can see from the dates in the calendar (*marked in blue*), there are quite a few social events coming up next term, hopefully you can attend and connect.

Welcome

In the Kinder room, we welcome Leon Zhang from Term 2. We would like to warmly welcome the Zhang family to St Peter's ELC.



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Outside of School Hours Care

Before Care operates: 8:00am - 8:45am, Monday-Friday - \$10.00 - 8.00am – 8.45am or part thereof

After Care operates: 2:45pm - 5:00pm, Monday-Friday - \$15.00 3.00pm - 4.00pm or part thereof
\$25.00 3.00pm - 5.00pm

Please talk to your child in advance to prepare them for extra play time during After Care. This aids the transition time for the children helping them enjoy this special time with a small group of peers and teachers.
Please indicate your pick up time in the sign in/out book, by noting the time of pick up/drop off.
Please notify ELC educators of your intention to use the After Care service in the morning or, at the latest, at least half an hour before the session finishes, i.e. before 2:15pm. This enables educators to ease this transition time for children. If a child has not been collected by 3.00pm they will be entered into After Care and normal After Care fees will apply.

Billing for Term 1 will occur early Term 2, we apologise for the delay.

A visual look through Term 1 ...



Educational Programs

Kinder

In the Kinder Room this term we have been focusing on following our daily routine. It is important for children to have a consistent program throughout the week so that they know what is expected of them and what is coming up next. The length of time we spend on certain activities and group times may vary but the events throughout the day are predictable and well communicated with the children.



A visual of our daily routine has recently been created so that children can refer back to it and use it as a guide for what is coming up next. Their independence is expanding as they take part in routines like tidying up after themselves when the clean-up music plays, washing hands, collecting and putting away their lunch boxes for example.



We have been exploring colours and emotions in the Kinder room. We created some fun artwork by dipping marbles in two different primary colours and rolling them up and down and side to side along paper, watching them mix and change. The children have a colour mixing guide attached to our painting easel that they can use to help work out which colours can mix and change.

We have had group discussions and stories about emotions. Recently we have been looking at facial expressions and what they tell us about someone's feelings. Using photos of themselves and

their peers expressing themselves in different ways, we discussed why we thought one person was feeling happy, sad or confused for examples.



The children have been working on their confidence and clear speaking voices as they take on the special role of presenting Show and Tell. We are practicing taking turns in speaking and asking questions.



It has been a fantastic first term in the Kinder Room and such a pleasure to witness the children developing confidence and friendships.

We can't wait to see you all after the School Holidays, ready to learn, discover and play in Term Two!

Happy Easter!

Pre Prep

It has been a wonderful first Term in Pre Prep as we have seen the children embrace their new environment and demonstrate such a strong sense of agency and willingness to learn. This Term, our focus has been on exploring the children's identity. The children have been encouraged to think about what makes them special, which we have more recently explored through our 'What's in the Box?' program. The children have been highly engaged in this program and have particularly enjoyed having a turn of 'What's in the Box?', as well as learning about their peers. It has been wonderful to see how the children have really thought about the items they have chosen to bring in and also demonstrated the confidence to discuss these in front of the group.



Friendship has been another area for exploration with the children, as we strive to support the children to develop strong social emotional skills and to recognise not only what it means to be a friend but how to use our words and bodies in a safe manner. While we have had many discussions with the children about what friendship means, the children are frequently supported to develop their skills and abilities to negotiate roles, relationships and conflicts in play. The children have also created a testament to their friendships via their friendship drawings, which have been displayed on the aptly titled 'The Love Wall' (named by the children!).



We look forward to a wonderful Term ahead, with opportunities to explore a diverse range of children's interests and build on their skills and abilities through play.

Specialist

It has been another wonderful month engaging with the children in experiences in Specialist Time. Some key areas of Specialist Time relate to the benefits of physical movements, drama and songs, regularly explored in Music and Drama and Busy Bodies in enjoyable ways. There has been much research over the years which recognizes the vital importance of these areas in early childhood development.



One aspect of this research is the finding of the links between development of different parts of the brain and in children's participation in a series of safe and simple movements. It has been discovered that physical movements enhance the communication between the different parts of the brain which leads to further development of learning skills and also physical ability.

By participating in many different movements, development occurs in their posture, breathing and vision. The research demonstrates that as the children develop, neurological connections are made, hence the importance of active learning programs.

By engaging the children in a range of learning experiences, the research shows that better communication within the brain and different parts of the brain occurs, particularly between the right and left hemispheres of the brain.

For Kinder and Pre Prep children, it means further development in co-ordination, balance and focus as well as creativity, understanding and efficient learning when the left and right hemispheres of the brain are used together in simple and safe movements. While our experience is that the children love to participate in these varied activities, often smiling and laughing, their involvement means that they also receive lasting benefits.

