

ATHOL ROAD PRIMARY SCHOOL KINDERGARTEN

OUR PURPOSE: Engage with children, families and educators through knowledge understanding and respect

The kindergarten staff would like to welcome all the children and families to the Early Learning Centre (ELC). It has been a great start to the year as children have transitioned well into the kindergarten. They have been familiarising themselves with the room, the educators and the daily routines. It has been a great term with a lot happening with all the children being involved with the environment around them. This is a quick look at some of the things that children have been doing in the kindergarten.



In the ELC, children develop their language and literacy skills in various way through games, routines, singing songs, reading stories, art projects and dramatic play. This term there has been a SHOP, HAIR SALON and CAFE set up in the kinder. Children have enjoyed negotiating and exploring different roles with others. These experiences not only promote language and literacy skills but also provide great opportunities for children to build self-esteem and develop social skills and learn about the world around them.



A visit from Springvale CFA Firefighters

This month there was a special visit from Springvale South Firefighters, Chris and Andrew, on Tuesday, 12th March. This visit provided children with opportunities to develop a basic understanding of fire safety and to view firefighters as community helpers. The firefighters showed the children their safety uniforms. They talked about the number to phone for emergency help – 000 and a safe meeting place outside the house where the letter box is. The children also put some words into actions through opportunities to practise “stop, drop, roll” if their clothes were on fire and they also got to practise crawling down low when evacuating a smoke-filled room. The most exciting part of the day was having a close look at the fire truck!



Outside most of the kinder children have been enjoying the challenges associated with gross motor skills. They repeated the obstacle course, trampoline time and, with this repetition, the staff were observing a steady increase in confidence and ability. The children have also enjoyed watering the plants, as they have often been asking for the watering cans. Staff have been using these opportunities to discuss with the children the growth that has occurred along with how to care for our flower garden.



Delicious! Celebrating Culture through Food!

To celebrate Cultural Diversity Week, the staff wanted to introduce children to some new food. Children were encouraged to participate in some cooking experiences – making Damper, rice paper rolls and Gnocchi. The children were involved in all of the processes. They firstly talked about the ingredients, then assisted with measuring, pouring, mixing and rolling. There were lots of little master chefs who were eager to explore all aspects of preparing the food. The kinder enjoyed sampling all our hard work as they tried them all during meal time. The food was absolutely yummy!



Message from the Principal: Mrs Toombs

Athol Road Primary School Kindergarten is very lucky to have such an amazing staff delivering a high quality learning program to our 3 and 4 year old children. Each staff member brings a wealth of knowledge and experience which they share in a highly collaborative environment for the benefit of the children in their care.

The kindergarten is involved in 2 Department of Education initiatives in 2019:

1. School Readiness where the kindergarten has access to the services of a Speech Therapist and Occupational Therapist to work with STAFF to develop their skill set in working with children who may have special needs in these areas. Unfortunately the therapists are not permitted, under this program, to work with individual children. Hence the school has employed a full-time Speech Therapist to service Foundation and Kindergarten to give our young students the best start to their school life.
2. Learning Languages and Loving it is a languages program where our 4 year old kindergarten children are exposed to the Mandarin language, delivered through a play-based model. Cora Hong has been employed to deliver this program to both 4 year old groups and is looking forward to commencing delivery of the kindergarten Mandarin program in Term 2 where she will work for 3 hours in both groups. Cora will work another 12 hours in the 3 day group to support the kindergarten's indoor/outdoor program.

IMPROVEMENTS TO THE KINDERGARTEN:

1. Later this week a new red shade sail will be installed between the 2 shade sails which already cover the play space. This shade sail will provide extra cover during sunny days.
2. During the Term 1 holidays a new set of climbing equipment which supports the children to further develop their skills will be installed. I know that, when the children, return after the holidays they will be extremely excited about this new play equipment as most children love to climb. The staff are excited about how this equipment will enhance their outdoor program.

TERM 2 FEES

Reminder that these fees should be paid by Wednesday of the last week of term. The last 2 days of school are very busy and, particularly so, as the administration area is being painted during the holidays and the offices have to be packed up – so please, if you have not paid your Term 2 fees yet, please do so as a matter of priority. Also if you have received a NEW Health Care Card since the beginning of the year, you need to bring it to the office or you will be required to pay fees!