

# ATHOL ROAD PRIMARY SCHOOL KINDERGARTEN

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

It has been a busy start to Term 2. The four year old kindergarten children have started their journey of learning a new language - Chinese Mandarin. Kinder children are exposed to the language and culture through a variety of resources including games, singing, stories as well as a variety of ICT resources. Each term staff and students will cover a range of topics that will be incorporated into the kinder program. The children have learned the "hello" song in Chinese and are learning counting at the moment.



The kindergarten children are very excited to see Mr. Hunter, our Environmental Education teacher, every Friday. Mr. Hunter brought in some animals and different plants from the vegetable garden. So far students have met Redmond the parrot, Green Tree Frog, Bearded Dragon (lizard), Spiny Leaf Insect and Fresh Water Turtle. Mr. Hunter also talked to children about different animal coverings. The kindergarten children had the opportunity to feel a real fox's tail, a two metre long snake skin, wool from 3 different sheep and feathers from different birds.

Kindergarten children had their first transition session with Foundation on Tuesday, 7<sup>th</sup> May. The kindergarten and school work closely together to develop a continuous and seamless transition program. The program supports children to become more familiar and comfortable with the school environment, teachers, children and expectations (learning how to understand and follow instructions, taking turns, and stay with the group).



The foundation students and their teachers also came to the kindergarten to meet and get to know the kindergarten children. Each kindergarten child was paired up with a Foundation 'buddy'. The children concluded their time together by exploring our playground and playing together.

*Newsletter prepared by Cora Hong: Kindergarten Teacher*

At Kindergarten, learning is not just for the students, all staff at the Athol Road Primary School Kindergarten are actively involved in learning new things each term. It is important that, in order for them to provide the best learning opportunities for the children, in the early stages of their learning journey, that they, themselves, continue to grow and develop as learners. Just like the staff at the school, all of the kindergarten staff have a professional learning plan where they challenge their current practice so that they can be the best that they can be. I believe, as principal, that Athol Road Primary School Kindergarten has the best kindergarten team of staff in Victoria, maybe even Australia!!! Your children are so lucky to be attending the kindergarten where they work!

*Final comment by Mrs Toombs: Principal*