



Dear Families,

Welcome to all the new families that have started this year at Belford Oaks. Everyone has settled in well to the new year and we have been extremely busy.

We have had two incursions to the centre- African drumming and farm animals. During the drumming session both children and their educators had the opportunity to play and explore different African drums and instruments. When the farm animals came we got to see goats, chickens, geese, guinea pigs, rabbits and a piglet.

In term 2 we will be continuing our regular incursions of Hey Dee Ho, Italian and Kelly Sports. Our incursions will be on the following days-

Tuesday- Hey Dee Ho- for all rooms,

Wednesday- Italian- Kinder room

Thursday & Friday Kelly Sports- Toddlers & Kinder rooms

Coach Luke has decided to finish up with Kelly sports in the next couple of weeks and he will be replaced by Coach Ollie, who has been attending the centre regularly during last term in preparation for taking over.

Over the past couple of weeks we have been reviewing our winter menu and making some minor changes to include different products and removing some of the products we currently use We are currently implementing our new winter menu and seeing if we need to make any further changes. Please if you do take a look at the menu on the website and you have any questions please come and see us, as this is the time to do so.

We are currently looking into getting a Healthy eating speaker that specialises in meals for children. If this goes ahead we will encourage everyone to attend this includes parents, educators and grandparents. This way all people involved in the Belford oaks community will be on the same page. If we are able to organise this we will give families as much notice as possible.

Just a reminder all families MUST sign their children in and out when dropping and off and picking up your children. This is vital in case of an emergency and a requirement of the children attending the centre.

This is a big year for weddings. Both Connie and Suzie will be tying the not. Connie's wedding is in July and Suzie's is in November.

Just a reminder that Belford Oaks will be having another Ball and Art Show this year on Saturday the 17<sup>th</sup> of August. Tickets will be on sale in May for you to purchase.

Thank you  
Barbara

### Upcoming Events

MAY	WEDNESDAY 15 <sup>TH</sup> - SPECIAL FRIEND DAY- BREAKFAST SUNDAY 26 <sup>TH</sup> - NATIONAL DAY OF HEALING (NATIONAL SORRY DAY) MONDAY 27 <sup>TH</sup> -3 <sup>RD</sup> JUNE- RECONCILIATION WEEK WEDNESDAY- 29 <sup>TH</sup> - BOC COMMITTEE MEETING 7:30PM
JUNE	SATURDAY 1 <sup>ST</sup> - INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S DAY WEDNESDAY 5 <sup>TH</sup> - WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY MONDAY 10 <sup>TH</sup> - QUEENS BIRTHDAY- CENTRE CLOSED WEDNESDAY- 26 <sup>TH</sup> - BOC COMMITTEE MEETING 7:30PM FRIDAY 28 <sup>TH</sup> - RED NOSE DAY

## **SICK OR INJURED CHILDREN**

If a child becomes sick or injured while at Belford Oaks the parent or guardian will be notified immediately. They will be asked to collect their child or make arrangements for a family member to collect their child within the hour. If the parents cannot be contacted the emergency contact on the enrolment papers will then be contacted.

## **ILLNESS AND EXCLUSION**

When in childcare there is very little that can be done to avoid minor illnesses such as cold and flu. We do our bit by keeping the rooms clean and sanitised and this is why we strongly urge you to keep your children home if they are unwell, to minimise the spread of infection. It is important when considering childcare that you recognise your children will go through periods of illness, especially when new to this kind of environment. There will need to be someone (parents, grandparents, friends etc) close by to collect your child if they fall ill when at the centre. Parents have the most important role in minimising the spread of infection by making the decision to keep their child home. We understand that due to work commitments it may be difficult to keep your child home but we are unable to care for sick children and it is not fair to spread the germs to the other children and the educators. With your understanding and help combined with our hygiene practices and procedures we can work together to create a relatively germ free environment.

The department of human services has a list of infectious diseases for which infected children must be excluded from the centre. It is Belford Oaks' policy to minimise the spread of infection by adopting the following practices a child should not attend the centre if they have:

- A temperature (of 38 or above)- Children are to be kept away from the centre for a minimum of 24 hours after the temperature has subsided.
- Diarrhoea – a child with watery stools should not return to the centre until they have been free of the diarrhoea for a minimum of 24 hours.
- Vomiting – a child vomiting should not return to the centre until the vomiting has ceased for at least 24 hours.
- Conjunctivitis – an infection of the eyes characterised by redness, watery eyes and yellow discharge which becomes crusty. This requires medical treatment and cannot return until the discharge has cleared completely.
- Impetigo (school sores) – a contagious infection characterised by crusted sores which usually appear first on the face and may spread to other parts of the body. This condition requires medical treatment and the child must stay home until the sores have healed or treatment has been undertaken for at least 24 hours and the sores are covered.
- Head lice – a child must be excluded until their hair has been treated; other members of the family will also need to be checked.
- Hand foot and mouth disease – a viral infection characterised by a rash and/or blisters mainly on the tongue, gums, mouth, hands, feet and buttocks. This is highly contagious; children must be excluded from the centre until they have fully recovered from the infection.
- Chicken pox – children cannot attend the centre until fully recovered or blisters have formed scabs.
- Glandular fever – exclusion is not necessary.
- Hepatitis B – exclusions not necessary
- Hepatitis C - exclusions not necessary
- HIV – exclusion is not necessary
- Measles – exclude for a minimum of 4 days from the appearance of the rash. \*Meningitis – Exclude until recovered.
- Mumps – Exclude for at least 9 days after onset of symptoms.
- Ringworm – Exclude until the day after treatment has commenced.
- Rubella – exclude until fully recovered or at least 4 days after the onset of the rash.
- Streptococcal – exclude until the person has received antibiotic treatment for at least 24 hours.
- Whooping cough – Exclude for 5 days after beginning antibiotic treatment.

\* This information can be found in our Parent Handbook on the centre website.

Dear Families,

With term 1 done and dusted the baby's room children and educators are travelling along amazingly. The children have spent a lot of time throughout the first term establishing new relationships with children and educators as well as further developing and extending on already established relationships. As we have had new children begin at Belford this year, some being younger than others the older children have definitely stepped up and developed a new sense of responsibility and care for not only the other children but their environment too.

Throughout term 1 there has been a strong emphasis on the creative arts. In an effort to encourage the children to engage in self-expression and create meaning the children have had the opportunity to engage in a variety of rich and meaningful art experiences. Drawing with pencils and pastels, painting with a variety of colours on paper, bark and branches and exploring clay are just some of the experiences the children have been taking part in and contributing to. You can view some of the children's artwork displayed on the wall inside the baby's room.

A project is underway in the baby's room regarding the clay. Upon reflection Suzie realised that not all of the children were engaging or didn't know how to engage with a material such as clay. In an effort to introduce clay to all of the children the clay was purposely placed directly on the floor on a mirrored surface. Since this addition to the environment each of the children have explored and engaged with the clay in one way or another. It is our hope that following our "Clay project" the children will create a piece for the art show this coming August.

With cultural diversity week running from the 16th to the 24th of March this was a focus in the baby's room, one which the children seemed to enjoy immensely. Each of the children had the opportunity to engage in experiences which showcased and shared aspects of different cultures, especially cultures of the children and educators within the baby's room. We focused on reading a variety of books and contributing to cooking experiences as ways of engaging with culture.

"We believe home and family are the child's primary educators and we foster collaborative partnerships for a holistic approach to learning and a high-quality meeting of needs". This is an insert from the Belford oaks philosophy and as educators we aim to work as collaboratively as possible with each of our families in order to learn as much as possible about the children and their home life to create a seamless transition from home to their care and education setting.

As always if you have any questions about the program or you would like to contribute to the program in any way please do not hesitate to chat with us in person or through our email [babiesbelfordoaks@gmail.com](mailto:babiesbelfordoaks@gmail.com).

Your baby's room educators  
Suzie, Maddi & Beth

Dear Families,

We have now reached the end of term one and it has been a busy few months in the toddler room.

We have been developing and extending on bonds with the children and fostering their relationships with their peers. Relationships between peers and relationships with their educators assist in developing the children's sense of belonging with in the Belford Oaks Environment, encourages them to explore social play and collaborative relationships.

Art has been a big interest with the children and they have been exploring many different mediums. The started with painting on paper which then extended into painting sticks and pine cones, exploring glitter, drawing with pencils and textas and extending into collage exploration. Through art experiences the children have the opportunity to develop and extend their ideas, explore possibilities, use problem solving skills, use trial and error and explore their creativeness.

One focus we have had has been exploring and learning out our garden. We started with preparing our veggie patch, then planting some veggies, looking after them by giving them water when it doesn't rain, looking at our compost bin and worm farm and then planting seeds in cups so that we can watch them grow. Through activities like this the children are developing an understanding of our environment, learning about how things grow and what they need to grow, looking at our sustainability practices and being involved in what is happening around them.

This term the children have engaged in Hey Dee Ho our music program on a Monday afternoon. The children spend time engaging with Ali and learning new songs as well as singing some of our favourites. The children explore different puppets, costumes and musical instruments each week.

Couch Luke this year has been a big hit with the group. They have learnt different ball skills, games and engaged in different group activities, enhancing their gross motor coordination and control.

At group times all the children sit with their educators and engage in a group learning experience. During group times we read stories which are related to our current projects like gardening or Easter, singing songs, learning Auslan (Australian Sign Language) and incorporating it into singing one of our favourite songs- 'I can sing a rainbow'. Through group times the children are able to engage with one another and their educators, share their ideas, make decisions and learn and investigate together.

In term 2 the toddler room will be going on an excursion to Victoria Park. We will be doing this over three days throughout May, so that all children have the opportunity to attend.

As Melbourne weather can go from being cold one day to hot the next, we ask that you provide a variety of clothing in your child's bag so that they can be changed should they require it.

Thank you  
Holly, Rachel and Marina

Dear Parents/Families

We have all settled in well to the start of Term 1 2019. Children and educators are very comfortable in their learning space. We have spent many happy and relaxed sessions together at kindergarten. We have also had many positive comments from children and parents about life in general in our group. The children have all been given lots of time to get to know the kindergarten environment, routines and other group members including educators. It has indeed been a very enjoyable experience getting to know each other on a deeper level.

We have used a number of experiences to help us feel a sense of belonging in our environment such as bringing in family photos and our All About Me page.

We have been busy creating “Kinder Room Agreements” as well as giving the children lots of time to talk about anything they wish to at group time. This has really helped us to get to know one another and help develop positive and caring relationships between all of us.

Our learning experiences are building on the children’s current interests as well as being inspired by the Reggio Emilia Philosophy and curriculum. The interests have been in dramatic and water play of all kinds, books, gardening, colour mixing, counting and cooking. The children have also enjoyed two incursions at Belford Oaks such as the African Drumming and the Farm Animals on the move, which were based on their interests of music and engaging with the toy farm animals. The children also enjoyed a morning out in their community at the local café Adeney where they indulged in a baby chino/hot chocolate. This was also a real authentic experience that also builds on the children’s knowledge of their community and what’s around them. It is important to our program getting out and exploring different spaces in their local community and natural environment.

This year we have also introduced project work, which enables the children to inquire and explore topics or questions of their interests. Project work also gives the opportunity to children to express and make meaning in a variety of rich meaningful through clay, sculpture, water colour, drawing, collage and storytelling. The question we explored was “why is the sun hot?” which was asked by Jacob. We continued this project throughout the term and children are still able to explore aspects of researching and exploring the sun and the solar system. In term 2 we will be introducing a new topic to explore, which will be fundraising money for the Sumatran Tigers.

Lastly, the children have been introduced to a variety of tasks in and outside the kinder room, which gives the children a sense of belonging, leadership and responsibility. Each week the children rotate their specific task. We also call this the wall of community helpers. The tasks consist of:

Support person, Pillow monitors, Waiter/waitress, Guinea pig monitor, Gardener & a Compost monitor.

Our educational program is based on the observed interests and developmental needs of all the children with educators and parent input included and considered. It is always displayed outside the kinder room please take the time and have a look at it.

### **What’s happening in Term 2?**

- Introducing our room mascot
- Excursion to the Kew Library
- The 5 cent Project: sponsoring the Sumatran Tigers

Thank you the Kinder Room Educators

Connie, Anna and Sebile.

Welcome,

We are currently in the process of transitioning from our summer menu into our winter menu which will run from now until around the end of October. Some of the children's favourite meals will remain on the menu with some new ones added as well as some soups with fresh home-made bread rolls. Once the winter menu is complete you will be able to find it on the centres website for your reference.

If you would like the recipe for any of the meals that are prepared at Belford Oaks please feel free to come and see me.

Thank you

Monique

### PUMPKIN SOUP

Prep time 45 mins | cooking time 1 ½ hrs. | serving 35

#### Ingredients

1 big pumpkin peeled and diced  
3 onions sliced  
4 sweet potatoes  
½ celery bunch  
1 bag of carrots  
1L chicken stock (salt reduced)  
1L water  
1.25 kg of red lentils

#### Method

Place everything into a pot and simmer on a low heat until soft.  
Once soft use a stick blender to puree the soup.  
Then serve & Enjoy

