



Belford Oaks

Term 2 Newsletter

Belford Oaks Community Children's Centre

3 Belford Road, Kew, 3101

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www.belfordoaks.org.au

A message from our directors

Dear Families,

We would like to begin this newsletter by welcoming Jason, Yugu and Janet to the Belford Oaks team. They have all settled in extremely well and feel like part of the furniture already! You will see Yugu and Jason in the babies room and Janet floating across the centre as an everywhere educator.

Thank you to everyone who attended our first fundraising event for the year, the trivia night. It was a great evening with lots of friendly competition and some great items auctioned off with all the moneys raised helping Belford oaks provide new equipment, resources, programs etc. Thank you to the committee members who tirelessly organized this event. We hope you all enjoyed yourselves and are looking forward to our next event.

On that note... please save the date for The Belford Oaks annual art & wine show. Friday the 9th of August. Official invites to come.

Another thank you to all of the families and extended family members who attended our 'Special Friends Breakfast'. We really appreciated having such a dedicated community around us.

Fees- Please ensure that your fees always remain up to date and 2 weeks in advance. Statements are emailed out weekly on a Friday. If you have any questions, please come, and see us.

As always, a BIG thank you to the team at Belford Oaks and the committee of management for all of their hard work and time put into making Belford Oaks a great place to be for both children, families and educators.

Please let us know if you have any question, feedback, or concerns.

Kind Regards,

*Suzie and Holly
Co-Directors*

UPCOMING EVENTS

August

Friday 4th – National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander children's day.

Friday 9th – Belford Oaks Art & Wine show.

Saturday 10th – Sunday 18th – National Science Week.

Saturday 17th – Friday 23rd – Children's Book Week.
Theme: Reading is magic.....

September

Sunday 1st – Father's Day

Wednesday 4th – Early Childhood Educators Day.

Thursday 5th – Thursday 12th – Child protection week.

Sunday 8th – International Literacy Day.

Monday 9th – Educator Professional Development.

CENTRE CLOSED

Monday 16th – Sunday 22nd – National Recycling Week.

Thursday 26th – Footy Day.

Friday 27th – AFL Grand final Public Holiday –

CENTRE CLOSED



Centre information

Illness

With winter upon us we have seen an increase in illnesses and runny noses. Please keep your children home if they are unwell. If your children have experienced a temperature of 38 or above, they can return to the service after 24 hours without a temperature and without medication to reduce temperature. Please also keep in mind that although your child may not be experiencing a temperature, they should still stay home if not well. We understand this is difficult at times but bringing your children in unwell compromises the health and safety of other children and educators. We need our educators at full health to be able to provide quality care and education to your children. Please be assured we are doing everything within our control to reduce the risk of minor illnesses such as the common cold.

Weekly incursions

Kelly Sports and Hey Dee Hi will continue to run throughout term 3 with a change in days to ensure all children have the opportunity to participate across the year. As of the week of 15th of July Kelly Sports will run on Monday mornings and Hey Dee will be Friday afternoons.

Outdoor play in winter

As we place great importance on exploring the natural environment and the benefits this has on children's development, we continue to engage in our outdoor programs throughout the winter months, so it is important the children have appropriate clothing available to them. Please ensure your children have coats and beanies to wear when they are exploring the outdoors. Feel free to also pack gumboots to be worn in the mud patch if you wish. We have waterproof pants available for the younger children not yet walking or a little wobbly on their feet.

Places in 2025

In recent weeks you will have received your preference paperwork for next year, 2025. If you have not already returned this to us, please do so ASAP. It is vital that we have these forms to be able to place all children for next year. This proved quite a challenge last year, so we appreciate everyone returning their forms promptly. Thank you to those who have returned them!

Belford Oaks values

During a staff meeting earlier in the year the Belford Oaks team developed a list of 5 values that we believe reflect the Belford oaks community.

UPCOMING EVENTS CONT...

October

Friday 4th – Thursday 10th –
World Space Week.

Wednesday 30th – Belford Oaks
Annual General Meeting
(online).

Thursday 31st – Diwali

November

Tuesday 5th – Melbourne Cup
Public Holiday. CENTRE CLOSED

Wednesday 20th – World
Children's Day.

AT  **Belford Oaks**
WE ARE COMMITTED TO:

-  **RESPECT**
- KINDNESS** 
-  **ACCOUNTABILITY**
- COLLABORATION** 
-  **FAIRNESS**



Babies room news

Welcome to the babies room newsletter!

We would firstly like to begin by welcoming Yugu and Jason to the babies room! The children have been getting to know them over the last month or two and are developing some beautiful bonds with them.

Over the last term the children have been very busy exploring the inquiry-based curriculum, developing their trusting bonds with each other and the educators and growing their language.

Some highlights of the last term include:

Mothers Day –

The children worked very hard to create their Mother's Day gifts this year as always. It was a two-step process involving the children decorating pots and then planting succulents in the pots. The children chose the colours of paint they wanted to decorate their pots with and applied the paint using a brush and their hands. Once the pots had completely dried the children engaged with Jana as they filled the pot with soil, planted the succulent and lastly watered the plant in.

Reconciliation week –

A celebration of the Indigenous Australian and Torres Strait Islander cultures the children engaged in a range of experiences across the week (Monday 27th May – Monday 3rd June). They read books such as "At the billabong" an Indigenous first discovery book using symbols to tell a story of animals drinking from the billabong on a hot day. They listened to music, loving songs like "Taba Naba" and "Inanay" using clap sticks as they listened to the music while also dancing along.

Art & craft –

Across the last term a drawing table has been introduced to the space. The children have really enjoyed this addition and often engage, using the pencils and crayons to make mark on paper. Through this rich and meaningful experience, the children are simultaneously developing their colour recognition, their fine and gross motor movement skills, their creativity and imagination.

Colours –

Learning about colours has tied in with the children exploration of art and craft, in particular painting. Working with colours extended from the children's interest in the magnetic tiles. Jana intentionally engaged with the children to sort the tiles into colours, supporting their ability to recognise different colours as the children also had an interest in this area. Jana created an activity where the children could continuously revisit, fostering and scaffolding their own learning. This was then extended on by tying painting into the learning.

NAIDOC week –

Tying the children's love for painting and colours together into the one experience we used the colours of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags to create art using their hands. You can see these beautiful pieces of art displayed in the babies room.



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Outdoor environment –

The children absolutely love exploring the outdoor environment, quite often preferring to be outside. The climbing equipment is a BIG drawing card, they love navigating the space using their gross motor movement and balance to achieve complex patterns of activity. The cubby house has recently been made into a quiet nook for the children to read books, relax or play with quiet activities such as bead frames. This offers the children the opportunity for some quiet space while still within the outdoor environment.

Myuna Farm -

We recently had a visit from Myuna Farm, giving the children first-hand experience with a range of farm animals such as goats, ducks, geese, rabbits, chickens etc. This incursion supported the children to extend on their knowledge of the world and explore relationships with other living things. The children thoroughly enjoyed being around the animals and patting them gently.

Thank you for reading.....

Jana, Yugu & Jason



Toddler room news

Welcome families!

One of our main focuses throughout term 2, was ensuring that the children's interest and voice were being reflected throughout all aspects on the room. To display the children's emerging interests, we created a children's choice wall, where the children are encouraged to visit and reflect on what they are enjoyed doing so far this term.

Our inquiry-focus for term 2 was colours. Throughout discussions and observations from the children, we were able to identify that a shared interest and goal for the group was working on and expanding on their colour recognition. Working together as a group, we created our own colour wheel. Using paints, and various colour cut outs, the children each had the opportunity to demonstrate her understanding on identifying the colours and being able to match the cut outs onto the correct section on the wheel. Using arts and crafts, playdough, and puzzles, the children were able to freely extend and explore off their colour development during their own time.

To encourage children's choice in the set ups, we asked the children what different dramatic play animal areas that wanted throughout term 2. The children decided on farm animals and ocean animals. Using one of their favourite songs, "Old MacDonald Had a Farm", we were able to explore the different animals that we see when we go to a farm and the different sounds each of the animals makes. To conclude the focus on farm animals, the children had a visit from Myuna farm.

We introduced the green waste bin into the room, discussing and exploring the concept of composting and sustainability. Working together, we created a poster to be a visual aid for the children in knowing what foods they can and cannot put into the green bin. The introduction of this topic has provided the children with the responsibility and role in looking after the compost bin in the outdoor yard.

During term 3 we will be focusing on exploring and developing the children's understanding on different modes of transport. This is an extension on the children's interest in learning about planes.

We will continue to focus on encouraging the children to expand on their self-help skills, through serving their own foods and dressing and undressing.

Thank you

Kelsey, Rachel & Qin

Important announcements

Sadly, Friday the 26th of July will be Rachel's last day as an educator at Belford Oaks.

Rachel has been with us for 7 years working across both the babies and toddler rooms. Most recently as a valued team member in the toddler room for the last 4 years.

We wish Rachel all the best in her future endeavours!

Farewell Rachel ☺



Kindergarten news

Program

Ocean Inquiry Unit

This term we explored and investigated the Oceans and Seas through an inquiry project. This stemmed from the children's fascination in sea creatures, water play, conversations about going to the beach and their desires to want to learn more about the ocean. The children learnt about the 5 different oceans, 5 ocean zones, and they also learnt interesting facts about a range of different sea creatures from each ocean zone. The children enjoyed this unit very much, learning all the names of the ocean and interesting facts about the animals that live there. They also loved creating a large poster displaying the different ocean zones, which is now displayed in our room.

Transport Inquiry Unit

At the beginning of the year, we asked the children what they would like to learn about this year at kindergarten and many children expressed that they wanted to learn about trucks, trains, and cars. We therefore planned a transport topic. During May, we explored different modes of transport as well as different types of vehicles. We also educated the children about road safety to assist them in being and becoming safe and responsible road users.

Rainbows

The children have shown an interest in rainbows this year and they regularly incorporate rainbows in their drawings and paintings. We also often hear the children talking about how much they love rainbows, and times where they have seen them in the sky. Therefore, we decided to educate the children further about rainbows. In June we used a range of books, videos, and experiments to discover how rainbows are formed.

Feel Good Friday

Each term we choose a different day of the week to focus on Outcome 3 of the Victorian Early Years Learning and Development Framework, "Children have a strong sense of wellbeing". This term was "Feel Good Friday". During Feel Good Friday, the children engaged in activities and experiences that focused on developing their social and emotional wellbeing, as well as physical and mental wellbeing.

Numeracy and Literacy

The children have continued building on their literacy and numeracy skills through a variety of activities such as Number Bingo, Alphabet Soup, Alphabet Bingo, and counting games/puzzles. The 4-year-old kinders loved playing games such as Nutty Numbers, The Game of Ladybirds and Counting Mountain. We also introduced **Jolly Phonics** this term to support the children's literacy learning. Jolly Phonics is a comprehensive program, based on the proven, fun, and multi-sensory synthetic phonics method that gets children reading and writing from an early age. This means that we teach letter sounds as opposed to the alphabet. Each sound is introduced through a story, an action and then a song.

Reconciliation Week and NAIDOC Week

National Reconciliation Week and NAIDOC Week is opportunity for all Australians to learn about First Nations cultures and histories and participate in celebrations of the oldest, continuous living cultures on earth. During these two weeks the children explored and learnt more about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture. They discovered why it's important to acknowledge the land and country we are on, learn how the Indigenous people survived on Bush Tucker, how they shared their stories with each other through storytelling, artwork, song, and dance.



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The children engaged in cooking, using native ingredients like wattle seed and saltbush to make damper. They also explored symbols found in Aboriginal artwork and learnt to identify their meaning as well as create their own stories. The children explored country and practiced singing and dancing like the first Nation's people

Celebrations

Mother's Day

This year for Mother's Day, the children decorated love hearts and expressed what they love most about their mum. The children loved using glitter and stickers to make their love heart look beautiful. We then set up a little photo booth where we took photos of the children with props and their love hearts. We compiled the photos to create a photobooth strip, and we then made it into a fridge magnet.

Excursions

SeaLife Melbourne Aquarium

As part of our Ocean Inquiry, we organised an excursion to the aquarium to support and strengthen the children's learning regarding Ocean Life. The children participated in a 2-hour guided tour where they discovered the wonders of the sea. This 2-hour guided tour includes a hands-on rockpool experience and a closer look at the crocodile being washed and having a shower. Children explored the features and characteristics of marine life and how to care for our marine world.

Glass Creek Wetlands

To celebrate National Reconciliation Week, we visited Glass Creek Wetlands in Kew, and the children loved exploring all that Country has to offer. The children loved climbing over rocks, walking through "the forest", crossing the riverbank, and searching for sticks and feathers, and observing local flora and fauna. The children showed great appreciation, respect and care for their natural environment and they deepened their understanding of acknowledging and respecting Wurundjeri Land

Kew Traffic School

On May 20th, we visited Kew Traffic School and the children engaged in the Road Safety Education Program. The children learnt road safety in a broad range of everyday scenarios by engaging in imaginative play. The children loved riding the bikes and scooters around Kew Traffic School, and they enjoyed obeying all the different road signs and traffic lights.

Farm Animals

On July 10th, Farm Animals visited as part of the Toddler Room Program. The kinder children were lucky to also get a chance to pat and feed the farm animals. There were geese, rabbits, hens, gunnie pigs, goats, a turtle and sheep.

NAIDOC Week Incursion (Bunjil Session)

Wurundjeri, Woi Wurrung woman Rebecca Axford came to visit us for our NAIDOC Week incursion. Our session with Rebecca was called **Bunjil (Eagle)**. This was a 1-hour long program which engaged children to experience a range of learning of the Wurundjeri People. Children learnt through storytelling, Dreamtime stories, language, song, and dance. They learnt how to greet and say hello in Woi Wurrung and introduced themselves in the circle. The children held and passed around possum skin, which was used to keep the people warm. Rebecca then read the children a story where children heard Woi Wurrung language for land, water, trees and different animals. We then engaged in some games and songs, such as 'Head Shoulders Knees and Toes (in Woi Wurrung), also Simon says using Woi Wurrung language for body parts and their version of hide and seek (hunters and animals). At the end she read two books to teach us numbers

Hey Dee Ho

This term Hey Dee Ho was held on a Tuesday. This music program is an educational music experience where children learn the



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concepts of beat, rhythm, tempo, pitch and dynamics in a play-based environment. Different educational themes are presented each week using props, puppets, costumes and percussion instruments to deliver a multi-sensory experience.

Kelly Sports

Kelly Sports was held on a Wednesday this term. The children further developed their gross motor skills, team building skills and hand-eye coordination through playing games and sports such as soccer, rugby, basketball, and football.

In Term 3 we will focus on:

Jolly Phonics Literacy Program

Numeracy

Wellbeing Wednesday

Science

Sustainability/Life Cycles

Thank you!

Nikita, Kimberley and Sebile

Kinder Team



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Kitchen news

Welcome to kitchen news.....

The kitchen has recently undergone its annual independent audit. This process involves all kitchen practices and documentation being scrutinized and put under the microscope (figuratively speaking). We passed with flying colours!

The kitchen has been working closely with Colette Wood in the development of the Belford Oaks recipe book. This recipe book is a collection of the recipes used regularly at Belford Oaks coupled with beautiful images of the food and many children. If you would like your child/ren featured in the book and haven't already given permission, please see Holly or Suzie.

We are well into our 4-week rotating winter menu, boasting menu items such as chicken noodle soup, lasagna, beef casserole, perfectly warming for the colder months. The menu can be found on display in the foyer or on our website www.belfordoaks.org.au

Recipe for term 2:

Oaty Weetbix slice (a favourite of the children's)

Prep time: 10 minutes

Cooking time: 15-20 minutes

Ingredients –

- 8 Weetbix crushed (I use the cranberry & coconut Weetbix)
- 1.5 cups of wholemeal, self-raising flour
- 1.5 cups of rolled oats
- 2 cups of desiccated coconut
- 200g of melted butter
- 1 cup brown sugar
- 1 cup of milk of your choice

Method –

- Pre heat oven to 180 degrees, fan forced.
- Grease and line baking tray
- Combine crushed Weetbix, flour, oats, coconut and brown sugar.
- Add melted butter and milk and mix
- Press into slice tray and bake for 15-20 minutes or until golden brown.

Thank you

Monique