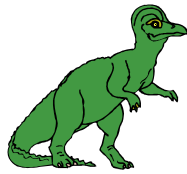


# Kindergarten Program

## Newsletter

### December

2011



Over the past month we have had discussions about dinosaurs. I explained to the children that we can't see dinosaurs now because they are not alive but they used to live here, on Earth, a long time ago. Even though we can't see the dinosaurs now we know that they used to live here because people called palaeontologists have dug up their bones. I explained to the children that the bones are called fossils.

We talked about the different types of dinosaurs and the different features that they have, such as plates on their backs, horns on their heads, long necks or big sharp teeth. We also talked about dinosaurs who eat meat and dinosaurs who eat plants. I explained to the children that dinosaurs that eat meat are called "carnivores" and dinosaurs that eat plants are called "herbivores."

We have also been having lots of school preparation conversations. We have talked about what school will be like and some of the differences and similarities between school and kinder. I explained to the children that at school you will have a uniform and that different schools have different uniforms which are different colours, you will need to take your lunch in a lunch box to school, you will have to say Mr/Mrs/Miss when you call the teachers name and you must always put your hand up and wait for the teacher to call your name before you speak. We also talked about school toilets which are different because at school they have separate boys and girls toilets and also because the toilets have doors on them. We also talked about the drink fountains and I explained to the children that they need to just sip at the water and not to put their mouths on the fountains as the fountains might have germs on them.

To support our school transition conversations the children brought their lunch boxes to kinder. The children excitedly showed each other their lunch boxes and talked about what food they had inside their lunch boxes. At each session we sat together and ate our snacks. Well done to all the kinder families for packing great healthy snacks. The children enjoyed this activity but it was also an important activity as it highlighted a difference between kinder and school. At school you take a lunch box and you only eat what is inside your lunch box. It's different at kinder/child care because here the teachers cut the fruit up and you share it with the other children. It was also a good opportunity for the children to practice skills such as opening lunch boxes, unwrapping food, remembering to push the cap down on their drink bottles and peeling banana's, etc.



We have also talked about posting letters. The children learnt that first letters must be put into an envelope and that the address must be put on the front. They learnt that different areas have

different postcodes and that East Geelong's postcode is 3219. The post codes help the Postie know where to deliver the letter and the post code goes in the small squares in the bottom left hand side of the envelope.

We also talked about putting a stamp on the envelope before putting it into a red Australia Post office box. The children learnt the letter goes to the sorting station and is eventually delivered into our home letter boxes by the Postie. The children are in the process of writing a letter to themselves so it can be sent to their home.



We have enjoyed playing "I Spy." We used colours instead of letters of the alphabet so this was a great colour recognition activity. This game was also lots of fun and great for developing observation skills.

We talked about some time concepts. We looked at a clock and noticed that a clock has the numbers 1-12 on it. We then talked about how the sticks on the clock are called the "hands." We then noticed that the clock had a big hand and a little hand. The little hand tells us the hour time (eg:1 or 2 o'clock, etc) and the big hand tells us the minute time (eg:5 or 10 minutes, etc) The last hand is the second time.

We participated in another experiment. We put a raw egg into a jar of water and we noticed that the egg sank down to the bottom of the water. Then we took the egg out and mixed some salt into the water. I then asked the children what might happen to the egg if I put it back in the water. Lots of children thought it might sink, crack or explode but it didn't. This time the egg didn't sink, this time the egg floated!!!

We also grew a "Magic Tree." This was a little paper tree with a little tray under it. We put a special liquid in the tray at the bottom and after a few minutes the tree started to "absorb" the liquid and the paper began to get wet. Then as the hours went by the tree grew more and more blossoms on it.



We have a new sea monkey set. As the year comes to an end we will be watching the sea monkeys grow and develop. We have been following the instructions as to how to grow sea monkeys and so far we have added the special purifier to the water and added the sea monkey eggs. It has now been five days and the sea monkeys have come out of their eggs and they look like tiny tiny tadpoles. They flit and dart through the water but are still so tiny and very hard to see. We will now be feeding them every second day so over the coming weeks they will grow larger and we will be able to better see them. Ariel sourced some information for us about sea monkeys and taught us that sea monkeys come out of tiny eggs but they don't look like monkeys. They actually originally come from a sea creature called "shrimp."



We have also talked about different countries and languages. We learnt several new songs in different languages and I explained that in Australia most people speak English just like we do at kinder. I explained to the children that some people can speak more than one language and I asked the children if anyone in our kinder group could speak another language. I also explained that in other countries people might speak a language which is different to the English which we speak in Australia. For example in Italy people speak Italian and in Japan people speak Japanese. We also talked about how some people in other countries wear different types of clothes and eat different types of food to the clothes we wear and food we eat in Australia. We practised counting and saying “hello” in French, Italian and Spanish.

Ariel also brought her special interactive Leap Frog globe to kinder. We used the special pen to touch different countries on the globe and then it told us about those countries. We learnt lots of things like the names of countries, where they are, population, currency, music and the capital city.



We enjoyed singing Ciao Bonjourno and Frère Jacques. Ciao Bonjourno is an Italian song so we talked about what the song meant in English and sang the Italian version and the translated English version. We have also learnt a new dancing song called The Scoo Be Doo Song. This is a Jazz type sounding song and as a group we made up some actions that we can do when we dance to this song.

We have also been practising another song. We have been learnt the words to Heads and Shoulders, Knees and Toes in Japanese. Atama - Heads, Kata - Shoulders, Hisa - Knees, Ashi – toes. It’s important for the children to learn that the world has different languages. Teaching the children with a song that is familiar to them in English is important as the children can relate the words to the English version.

We learnt a new game called Freddie the Frog. For this game the children sit together in a circle. There is a box placed in the middle of the circle and the children each take turns of throwing the bean bag into the box. Before each child has their turn we sing the Freddie song (See Below). This is a great game for developing the children coordination skills as they need to throw the bean bag into a target.



<p><u>Freddie the frog</u> Freddie the frog Jumped onto the log But whoops! He fell into the pond.</p>
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## **School Visits**

We were able to participate in a couple of visits to Tate Street Primary School. During our visits I reminded the children that we should be very quiet because the children in the classrooms were trying to think/concentrate and it’s very hard to think when it is noisy. We noticed that Tate Street Primary School had lots of classrooms and the school children were wearing uniforms.

On Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> November we visited Tate Street Primary School. Mr Scott, the principal, showed us the library and then we went to the school garden. Each of the classes has their own garden bed which they look after throughout the year. We looked at the different plants and ran around the special enclosed yard. We then went into the prep room and the prep teacher read us a story on the interactive white board. Then we did some activities in the prep room including colouring in, matching, pasting and playing with play dough. Then we stopped and had a drink at the drink fountains and used the toilets before we went back to the library and the prep children showed us what they were doing on the computers.

During our second visit to Tate Street Primary School on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> November we visited the hall where the children have school assembly. Each of the kinder children were given a ball which they could try to throw into the basket ball rings. We then went up onto the stage before the principal, Mr Scott took us through his offices playing follow the leader with us. We then went into the library and paired up with grade six students to do work on the computer. After we printed our work off on the printer we coloured it in. We played a group computer game on the interactive whiteboard, went back into the garden, had a drink at the drink fountains, went to the toilet and then returned to kinder.



### **Things to remember:**

- **Email** - The email address specifically for the kindergarten program is:  
[kinder@geelongchildrenscentre.com.au](mailto:kinder@geelongchildrenscentre.com.au)
- **Kinder Session Times** –

Monday – 8.45am – 11.45am	1pm - 4pm
Tuesday – 8.45am – 11.45am	1pm - 4pm
Wednesday – 8.45am – 11.45am	1pm – 4pm
Thursday – 8.45am – 11.45am	1pm – 3.30pm
- **Term Dates** - Our last kindergarten session for 2011 is Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> December 2011
- **Kindergarten Break Up Evening** – Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2011 – 6.45pm-7.15pm – Please bring along a folding chair
- **Kindergarten Survey** - You have received a Kindergarten survey in your parent pocket. We would really like your feedback regarding the kindergarten program. This survey is specifically about the 4 year old kindergarten program so please **only** complete this survey in regards to the **kindergarten** program. This will provide us with feedback about the kindergarten program which will assist us in our future planning. Please place your completed survey into the kinder letter box.

Until next time.

Ollie, Ariel and Deb