

St Peter's ELC acknowledges Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, the traditional custodians of lands, waterways and skies across Australia. We thank you for sharing and caring for the land we learn and play on. We pay our respects to elders and we share our friendship and kindness.

From the Head of ELC – Kathleen Brohier

Can you believe we are already half way through the year? A sense of connectedness and happiness is so evident within the ELC as we finish up the term. The children and educators have enjoyed a wonderful term together, as our educators extended the children's interests as well as scaffold their learning to reach developmental milestones. The Kinder and Pre Prep children are truly displaying a sense of belonging to their learning environment. We are all so fortunate to have been able to stay on site and learn with the children each day.

Looking back to the start of the year, or even start of Term 2, as the children began their learning journey, so much growth and independence has occurred. As early childhood educators, we all love to assist the children, but find greater joy in seeing the children achieve tasks on their own. This could be as simple as getting their own lunch box and drink bottle from their locker or putting on a shoe or sock.

Over this extended three-week school holiday break, we hope that you too can take some time to watch your children achieve these self-care or independence milestones. Self-care skills are the everyday tasks undertaken so children are ready to participate in life activities (including dressing, eating, cleaning teeth). While these are typically supported by adults in young children, it is expected that children develop independence in these as they mature. Self-care skills are one of the first ways that children develop the ability to plan and sequence task performance, to organise the necessary materials and to develop the refined physical control required to carry out daily tasks (e.g. opening lunch boxes, drawing or standing to pull up pants). Self-care skills act as precursors for many school related tasks as well as life skills. The term 'self-care' suggests that these skills are expected to be done independently and in many cases it becomes inappropriate for others to assist for such tasks (age dependent of course).

What are the building blocks necessary to develop self-care skills?

Hand and finger strength: An ability to exert force against resistance using the hands and fingers for utensil use.

Hand control: The ability to move and use the hands in a controlled manner such as cutlery use for eating.

Sensory processing: Accurate registration, interpretation and response to sensory stimulation in the environment and one's own body.

Object manipulation: The ability to skilfully manipulate tools, including the ability to hold and move pencils and scissors with control, controlled use of everyday tools such as a toothbrush, hairbrush, and cutlery.



Expressive language (using language): The use of language through speech, sign or alternative forms of communication to communicate wants, needs, thoughts and ideas.

Planning and sequencing: The sequential multi-step task/activity performance to achieve a well-defined result (e.g. dressing and teeth cleaning).

Receptive language (understanding): Comprehension of language.

Compliance: Ability to follow simple adult-directed routines (i.e. doesn't demonstrate avoidance behaviours where the child simply doesn't want to do it because an adult is telling them to do it and interrupting what they were doing).



What can be done to improve self-care skills?

Visual schedule of the steps involved.

Small steps: Breaking down self-care skills into smaller steps and supporting the child through each step so that, in time, they can do more for themselves.

Routine: Use the *same* routine or strategy each time you complete the same task to help them learn it faster.

~ *We recommend returning to a regular sleep routine prior to the start of term again to ensure a smooth start back*

Consistency: Be consistent with the words and signs used to assist the child, and keep instructions short and simple.

Allow enough time: Ensure that there is enough time available for the child to participate in self-care activities without feeling rushed

What activities can help improve self-care skills?

Small parts of activities: Practice doing a small part of a task each day as it is easier to learn new skills in smaller sections.

Observation: Have your child observe other family members performing everyday self-care skills.

Role play self-care tasks such as eating, dressing or brushing teeth.

Timers to indicate how long they must tolerate an activity they may not enjoy, such as teeth cleaning.

VEYLDF ~ Victorian Early Years Learning Development Framework

Identity - Children develop their emerging autonomy, inter-dependence, resilience and sense of agency

Wellbeing - Children take increasing responsibility for their own health and physical wellbeing

Learning - Children are confident and involved learners



Anneliese - I can pack my bag

Fundamental Principles of the Reggio Emilia Educational Project

The Reggio Emilia Educational Project was developed to provide a unique approach to early childhood learning and education. First originating in Reggio Emilia, Italy, this way of teaching has been adopted throughout schools all over the world. It is called a 'project' as it is continued research over time – by both educators and the children and families. Typically applied to preschools and early childhood settings, the basic principles can be implemented in the home as well.

Children can construct their learning. Children are driven primarily by their interests and utilizing these, we can help them understand and know even more in a way that is catered specifically to each individual.

Children learn their place in the world through interactions. The Reggio Emilia model focuses heavily on social collaboration, encouraging children to work in groups and develop knowledge through communicating with others.

A child's environment is also their teacher. A child learns just as much from the environment they are in as they do from their parents and teachers. Providing a creative, nurturing environment for a child to play and learn will only increase the amount of knowledge they take in.

The adult is their guide. The Reggio Emilia approach is very much child-led, and it is up to the adults in their lives to help guide them towards a path of learning and creativity.

Document your child's thoughts. Children are inspired to make their ideas visible in many different ways, from taking photographs to writing to painting. The Reggio model puts great focus on documenting these thought progressions as your child learns.

Children have many languages. Children utilize many different ways to communicate their thoughts and feelings and to express themselves. The Reggio Emilia approach focuses on encouraging children to explore all of these various aspects and learn how to communicate not only through speech but art and play as well.

QA 6 – *The service builds relationships and engages with its community*

We recently shared our focus on the National Quality Standards, and Quality Area 6 – Collaborative partnerships with families and community. We understand that COVID has provided a great deal of restrictions on how we connect, and thank you all for your continued adaptability.

With our positive mindset on, we hope to engage further with our families in the coming terms. We would love to see you join us, to be part of our programs, add some of your knowledge or interests and enjoy the time with the children in our learning environment. Please see your child's teacher to arrange a time to come in.

Some planned experiences are returning. Please note the updated calendar below, including Fruit Shop dates. Fruit Shop is a long running program at St Peter's ELC,



focusing on healthy nutrition, sustainable practice (*Our worm farm is back – and they need feeding!*) and trying something new! Closer to each date, further information will be provided, as well as sign-up sheets, to add your name to come in and assist.



Frazer - Soooo many worms! The worms eat the food, like banana peels.

If mum or dad could come in and visit and spend time with us, what would you like them to do?



Maya - Mum can do puzzles



Gigi - Play? Maybe they could come and play at the table with the bugs. I like to play there.

Reminder – St Peter's ELC is a nut aware centre – please avoid nuts and nut based products like Nutella and peanut butter in the children's lunches. We have children with allergies in the centre and also ask to avoid kiwi fruit.

Spare clothes – please ensure you have at the ELC in the children's locker, or in their bag - spare clothes. Please ensure the children come to the ELC in appropriate all weather clothes to engage in all aspects of the ELC program.

P & F Committee

SAVE THE DATE!

Friday 20 August 7pm – Parent Auction Night

Both the Kinder and Pre Prep children have been busy planning their collaborative pieces for our Auction Night. Given the ever changing restrictions in Melbourne, the venue will be confirmed next term, with tickets on sale at the start of Term 3.

If you have any items/experiences, you would like to donate to the Silent Auction – please let our P&F parents know:

Kinder – Sam (Anna Jane's mum), Alicia (Alexander's mum), Belinda (Leonardo's mum), Louise (Rafaele's mum)

Pre Prep – Tash (Asher's mum), Yan (Ryan's mum), Hilarin (Amelia's mum)

Thanks Lauchlan (Archie's Dad) – our auctioneer for the night!

Book Club – Hilarin Mendis (*Amelia's mum*)
Thank you for championing reading in your family!

The *31 Day Family Reading Challenge* was completed in May 2021. We are so grateful to all the families that took part – you understand how important family reading is, and its long-term value to your children's success in school and in life.



We trust your family enjoyed exploring a universe of wonderful stories together and were able to discover some new books from different authors and genres.

You play a big part in your children's future by supporting their reading and rocketing them into reading success. We hope, through the practice of regularly reading together all May, that you are inspired to explore new and exciting ways to continue the reading momentum, no matter what time of the year!



The Certificate of Achievement for the families who participated to download and share with their little ones can be accessed from Miss Kathleen – please let her know and she will send it through to you.

... ..

Amelia - *On the holidays I'm going to play with Mum and Dad and read my new books.*

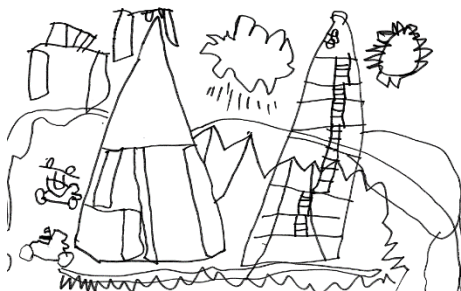
Enjoy a wonderful break, be it home or away. Travel safely, relax and enjoy the time together with the children - they will be missed!

Take Time

*Take time to tickle,
To kiss and to hug;
Take time to giggle,
To talk and to love.
Perhaps there's a lot
That needs done today,
But take just a minute
To stop and to play.
They need you right now,
And soon they'll be grown.
Soak up the memories
While they're still at home.
Take time to show them
They're worth the time spent.
The amount of time shared
Should never be a regret.
Jenn Gigowski*



Leonardo - *At the holidays, we're going driving in the car to Nonna's house*



Eden - *I'm going to the playground*



2021 Calendar *Further dates to be added following the children's programs within the room*

Term 3

July

Monday 12th – Staff Return
Tuesday 13th – **ELC Commence** Term 3 – Children return
Tuesday 20th – SKC Buddies - 5D – Pre Prep
Thursday 22nd – P&F Kinder Coffee Morning – venue tbc
Friday 23rd – PJ Day ~ Asthma Foundation fundraiser
Friday 23rd – P&F Pre Prep Coffee Morning – venue tbc
Tuesday 27th – Fruit Shop
Wednesday 28th – SKC Buddies - 5E – Kinder

August

Tuesday 10th – 1.00 - 8.00pm Parent/Teacher Exchanges (**ELC children finish at 12.00noon**)
Friday 13th – P&F Kinder Mums lunch – 12.00 venue tbc
Friday 20th – 7.00pm Parent Auction Night (Sophie Gannon Gallery – Boyd Egan Hall – *Alternative if restricted by numbers per sqm*)
Tuesday 24th – ELC Photos – Pre Prep
Wednesday 25th – ELC Photos – Kinder
Friday 27th – **ELC Closed** St Kevin's College Staff Reflection Day

September

Friday 3rd – P&F Father's Dinner – tbc
Monday 6th – 8.30-9.30am Father's Day Morning
Wednesday 8th – Fruit Shop
Wednesday 15th – 8.30-10.30am ELC Grandparents and Special Friends Morning, followed by Morning Tea – KINDER
Thursday 16th – 8.30-10.30am ELC Grandparents and Special Friends Morning, followed by Morning Tea – PRE PREP
Friday 17th – End Term 3 (**no aftercare**)
Friday 17th – P&F End Term afternoon play at Union St Gardens

Term 4

October

Monday 4th – Staff Return
Tuesday 5th – **ELC Commence** Term 4 – Children return
Thursday 7th – P&F Pre Prep Mums evening – Abacus Bar Sth Yarra
Tuesday 12th – SKC Buddies 5D – Pre Prep
Wednesday 13th – 3.00-5.00pm - Parent/Teacher Exchanges (*Optional*)
Thursday 14th – Fruit Shop
Friday 15th – P&F Parents coffee morning Two Birds Sth Yarra
Saturday 16th – P&F Children's Activity - tbc
Tuesday 19th – SKC Buddies 5E – Kinder
Tuesday 19th – P&F Kinder Coffee Morning
Wednesday 20th – 3.00-5.00pm - Parent/Teacher Exchanges (*Optional*)

November

Monday 1st – **ELC CLOSED** Mid Term Break
Tuesday 2nd – **ELC CLOSED** Melbourne Cup Public Holiday
Thursday 11th – P&F Parent Christmas Dinner – venue tbc
Friday 19th – 5.00pm ELC End of Year Celebration (tbc)
Monday 22nd - 7.00-8.30pm 2022 Parent Information Evening
Tuesday 23rd – 2022 Kinder Orientation Afternoon 3.30-4.30pm
Wednesday 24th – Fruit Shop

December

Friday 3rd – End Term 4 **children finish at 12pm**
Wednesday 8th – Staff Finish



Holiday Clinic - for girls and boys.

I am Archie Waterfield's [Poppins/ Nanna] I run Futsal [indoor soccer] for children.

We are going to offer a program for the younger children who may be looking to have some fun in the holidays. This may lead to them joining a sport down the track.

This holiday clinic, would be based around younger children's age groups, so they can have fun. We will also be running other holiday programs for the older children as well.

I know how important it is to try and give children/parents the opportunity to try out new activities.



AUSTRALIAN FUTSAL ASSOCIATION
MELBOURNE

SCHOOL HOLIDAY CLINIC

Wednesday 30th June
9am - 12pm

Ashwood High School
Vannam Dr | Ashwood

**PROGRAM FOR GIRLS AND BOYS
4 - 5 YEARS OLD**

**HAVE FUN
MAKE NEW FRIENDS
DEVELOP AND LEARN NEW
FUTSAL SKILLS**

For more information contact Sally
PH: 0409 764 165
Email: sally@australianfutsal.com
Entries close 24th June

\$50
Per Session

(Image of children playing futsal)

Children in play do not play to develop and learn, but they do develop and learn when they play.

Michael Hall Larsen