

# LAVERTON COMMUNITY CHILDREN'S CENTRE

## MARCH NEWSLETTER 2023



### MESSAGE FROM THE OFFICE

Hello Families,

Welcome to Autumn. It has been a quick shift from Summer to Autumn bringing with it the rain and cold. Just a friendly reminder to pack your child's jackets and hats and please label them both. Also, please check the lost properties of all rooms for any missing items.

Special days:

This month the children enjoyed celebrating Holi and all the colors bought with it. They also celebrated Harmony day where they were able to discuss the importance of belonging and equality. A hint of green meant that we appreciated the Irish for St Patricks day, which was inclusive of harmony week and celebrating our origin.

Future days to remember:

**3rd – 6th of April:** Easter will be celebrated. Please remember we are closed for all public holidays.

**5th of April (Wednesday):** Final day of sessional 3 year old kindergarten for term 1 with 2 weeks holiday and returning on Wednesday the 26th of April.

**6th of April (Thursday):** Final day of sessional 4 year old kindergarten for term 1 with 2 weeks holidays and returning on the Thursday 27th of April.

**6th – 23rd of April:** Integrated kinder will be running a long day care program as the kinder teachers run to a Victorian school term. Integrated 4 year old will be returning to a new kinder teacher to be advised.

Good luck Jiayu:

The day has finally come that we say goodbye and see you soon to Jiayu. We wish her all the very best on the arrival of her first child and cannot wait for her to bring them in for a cuddle. We would like to thank Jiayu for all her hard work over the past few years, helping with the transition of our new integrated 4-year-olds into the program. She will be sadly missed and has been a vital part of our team.

Kitchen:

The new menus are up. There are 4 rotating weekly menus located on the wall outside of the kitchen. A green star is located to the left of the week we are currently on. There is also a sign with what they ate for lunch today below the weekly menus. Thank you for your contribution and the hard work from the kitchen team to implement the changes.



**Krystle  
Manager**



**Michelle  
Manager**



**Melanny  
Assistant  
Manager**

### Big yard equipment:

You will have noticed our new playground equipment in the big yard for rooms 3, 4 and 5. The children have had a lot of learning and limit testing surrounding the equipment however the learning that is occurring for children that have been in lockdown is detrimental for their development. These children have missed out on crucial gross motor development and the development of their physical risk-taking skills. This playground is the beginning of encouraged risk taking that has gone through a thorough risk assessment and will always have a minimum of 1 educator standing next to it at all times during outdoor play. I have attached a link explaining the importance of risk taking. I hope you enjoy it. Please approach Krystle or myself if you have any further concerns.

<https://natureplaysa.org.au/member-posts/our-relationship-to-risk-tedx-tahoe-city-judy-klein/>

Thanks  
Michelle, Krystle and Melanny

## MESSAGE FROM TINA

Hi everyone,

I hope everyone is doing well. We have been busy engaging with allied health, inclusion support agencies and other professionals to support children's development and well-being. Let's Count is also one of the programs that our educator attended.

### What is Let's Count?

Let's Count is an early mathematics program for children aged three to five, developed by The Smith Family and Professor Bob Perry from Charles Sturt University and Associate Professor Ann Gervasoni from Monash University. The program supports parents and early years educators to develop the children's maths skills in their care by noticing, exploring, and talking about numbers, counting, measurement and patterns in their daily lives.

<https://www.thesmithfamily.com.au/programs/numeracy/lets-count>

### How can parents help to promote children's numeracy development skills?

Make it relevant to them. Most importantly, encouraging maths and numeracy in young children relies on making it appealing and relevant to them. For example, when you take your child for a walk down the street, in the park or on the beach, bring their attention to the objects around them – houses, cars, trees, and signs. Talk about the shapes and sizes of the objects, talk about and look for similarities and differences (for example: find a taller tree or a heavier rock), count the number of cars parked in the street or how long it takes to reach the next corner. Discuss the temperature or the speed of your walking pace. Collect leaves or shells, make repeating patterns on the sand or grass, or play Mathematical I Spy (I spy with my little eye, something taller than mum).

It is never too soon to begin these activities. Babies only weeks old notice differences in shapes and the number of objects in their line of sight. So, from the earliest of ages, talk with your child about the world around them, being descriptive and using mathematical words. As they grow, they build on what they notice about shapes, numbers, and measures. This is how you teach them mathematics.



**Tina**  
Educational  
Leader

# BABIES (0-2 YEARS OLD)



**Sherry**  
Team Leader



**Inson**  
Co-Educator



**Christina**  
Co-Educator



**Deepa**  
Co-Educator



**Aki**  
Co-Educator  
(on Tuesday)

## ROOM 1 (12 – 24 Months)

In March, Room 1 had an amazing time exploring cultural diversity and developing an understanding of multicultural practices and celebrations. A highlight of this month was our participation in the Holi festival; the children enriched their senses with fun colours and lovely music, as well as recognising different beautiful traditional garb and language. They engaged in play and interacted with each other within the bounds of cultural activities such as (cooking, Holi colour playing), beginning to build an appreciation for the diverse facets of their social and cognitive well-being.





**Eti**  
Team Leader

## ROOM 2 (6 Weeks– 12 Months)

This month we add a sensory board for our little ones. They were so excited and happy to play with the sensory board. They touched and can feel the texture of the different objects we put it in the sensory board. Sensory board is a fun, hands-on activity for babies to help them touch, explore and learn about different objects all in one place. They have lots of developmental benefits too. Sensory board helps them to explore a range of textures and sensations and to stimulate their senses of sight, sound, smell and touch. Sensory board also encourage natural curiosity and investigative skills and help them to develop their fine motor skills as they coordinate their movements to feel the different materials.



**Aryani**  
Co-Educator



**Helene**  
Co-Educator



# TODDLERS (2-3 YEARS OLD)

## Room 3

Hello everyone.

During march room three had been focusing on outdoors, we have had numerous excursions being outside, exploring nature and being able to experience different environment. Outdoor play is enjoyable for children and important for their growth and development. This would let the children run, skip, jump, climb, throw, hop and catch and use their outside voices, which provides a healthy break from being inside. Being outside gives our children the opportunity to stretch their muscles, breathe fresh air and enjoy the freedom of space.

Being outdoors provides an endless amount of opportunities for our children to explore and discover. The children love to be outdoors and are always excited to see a new environment. All of our children when outdoors love to observe what's around them for example pointing out cars, colours, busses, animals etc.



**Ann**  
Room Leader



**Djamella**  
Co-Educator



**Shreya**  
Co-Educator



**Rahana**  
Co-Educator



## Room 4

This month was packed with activities. We had lots of enjoyable, interesting, and learning activities to celebrate Crazy Hair Day, Holi, and Harmony Week. During Holi celebration, the children were occupied with Holi activities like colour play, Henna tattoos, dance parties, and cooking lessons. During the celebration of Harmony Week, Children also learn to promote acceptance and understanding of different cultures. It helps children recognize and value the differences between people. Throughout the course of the week, children participated in hand painting, learned about the flags, clothing and traditions of several countries, and prepared a variety of cultural foods. It encourages children to recognise and appreciate the diversity among us. These activities help children to have fun while gaining knowledge about different cultures.

We also went on an excursion to the Bruce St. reserve. Children had a great time while exploring their neighbourhood. As Autumn season approached, we also building on children knowledge about the season through exploring nature and allow children firsthand experience to learn what autumn is all about. We will continue this learning with lots of fun experiences.



**Mamta**  
Diploma-qualified



**Sukanya**  
Co-Educator



**Jessica**  
Co-Educator



**Kate**  
Trainee



## INTEGRATED KINDER (3-YEARS OLD)



**Jen**  
Kindergarten Teacher



**Helen**  
Co-Educator



**Li Chen**  
Co-Educator



**Saraiah**  
Trainee

As we are approaching half-term, the children of room 5 celebrated the gains we have made so far. Outstandingly, children are finding ways to represent their own thinking and interest. We are focusing on the 'how' component of learning and not just what children are learning, setting up a variety of inquiry-based activities to encourage and prompt children to ask questions. Activities include making dumplings for Harmony week and creating, problem-solving how to make our own Kinder bridge in class.

On our first community excursion (how exciting!) We engaged our senses to facilitate our learning from asking 'how are flowers red' to listening out for birds chirping around us. At the playground, there were many risky play opportunities and discovered that the swings here are so big, we could have a few friends 'swing' together safely – great cooperative play opportunity shown here. Back at Kinder, we continued to ask 'how' by asking how do worms breath under the mud?



## INTEGRATED KINDER (4-YEARS OLD)



**Jiayu (Jay)**  
Kindergarten  
Teacher



**Jenny**  
Co-Educator



**Kerry**  
Co-Educator



**Linh**  
Trainee

March was a month full of celebration and joy for our integrated 4 year old kinder group children. We celebrated the Crazy Hair Day, Holi Festival, Harmony Week and St. Patrick Day with a range of activities such as color play, dress up in cultural costumes, cooking and arts. Celebrating cultural festivals with the kinder children provided an opportunity for children to develop respect for diverse values and beliefs as they learn about practices which are different to their own. Celebrations can be as diverse as each of the children in a child care service. When incorporated into kinder program appropriately, celebrations can be used to bring people together, to create a feeling of belonging and to develop a sense of community amongst families, educators and children.

We also started our Kinder Cook Book project and the home cooking show & tell in March. We listened to our kinder children's voice to decide what to cook every week and created our own cooking recipes. We put our weekly cooking photos and recipes into our Kinder Cook Book for children and families to read. As an extended activity, we started show & tell of home cooking which allowed the kinder children to bring the show & tell bag home and present their story about home cooking during group time. Show and tell helps foster public speaking skills and helps children feel comfortable with talking in front of a group of peers. When it is structured as a question-and-answer activity, show and tell encourages children to use descriptive words and full sentences.

Apart from above, we also focused on the project of growing veggies from kitchen scraps which fosters children's sense of sustainability and appreciation to food. Moreover, we have our exciting excursion back and visited the Curlew park, Laverton community hub and the local café with the kinder children during March.





## SESSIONAL KINDERGARTEN (3-YEARS OLD)

In March, sessional kinder 3's focuses are children's well-being and sense of belonging. As a part of the program, the educators and children explore emotions and learn to express their emotions through verbal communication. We acknowledge emotions are normal feelings that everyone has. We also explore three breathing techniques to support children to regulate their emotions.

We celebrate the Holi festival where the children explore the Holi powders, rub them in their arms and feel the texture. It was an opportunity for the children to learn about festivals from other cultures and respect differences and diversity. May the spirit of Holi bring you happiness and joy!

For Harmony Week, the educators and children dressed up in orange clothes, traditional costumes, or their special costumes. We all learn to recognise our diversity and bring together from all different backgrounds. It's about inclusiveness, respect, and a sense of belonging for everyone.



**Lily**  
**Kindergarten**  
**Teacher**



**Michelle S.**  
**Co-Educator**



**Narelle**  
**Nominated**  
**Supervisor**





**Cathy**  
Kindergarten  
Teacher



**Kanthi**  
Co-Educator



**Narelle**  
Nominated  
Supervisor

## SESSIONAL KINDERGARTEN (4-YEARS OLD)

Last week, we celebrated Harmony week'. Children and educators came in dressed up in their cultural traditional outfits or their favourite colours or identities. Children enjoyed trying on different traditional attire.

As an extension of our children's interest in bugs, children have been showing interest in bees. We created a lovely bee sensory experience in one of our sensory trays which children really enjoyed exploring. We also brought the children to our bee conservatory where children observed the bees flying about. We showed the difference between a worker bee, queen bee and drone bee. We explained that worker bees visit many flowers to collect this pollen. They pollinate the flower and take the nectar from flowers inside the colony and then turn the nectar into honey.

We have also been focusing on developing social skills with the children during group time. How to approach another friend to play with, and what to say and do to get their attention such as look into their eyes, call their name and tap their shoulder. We also learnt to take turns with a toy, share and most of all, say a compliment to get another child's attention and share an idea to join in play.



## Share



Share your toys.

## Share Request



Ask your friend if you can play with one of his toys.

## Give a Play Idea



Give your friend an idea about how you can play together.

## Give a Compliment



Let your friend know that he is doing a good job.

## Get Attention



Tap your friend on the shoulder, look at them, and say their name.

## MESSAGE FROM THE KITCHEN

### RECIPE: Easy Egg-Free Pancakes

Serves: 12

#### Ingredients:

- 1 2 cup self-raising flour
- 1 1/2 cup milk
- 20g butter, melted
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 1/3 cup mashed ripe banana
- 1/4 tsp bicarbonate of soda
- 1/3 cup caster sugar



*Aki  
Cook*



*Kylie  
Cook*

### METHOD

1. Sift flour and bicarbonate of soda into a mixing bowl.
2. Stir in sugar, then make a well in centre.
3. In a large jug, whisk together milk, banana and vanilla.
4. Pour into well, then stir until smooth.
5. Heat a frying pan over medium heat. Brush pan with a little melted butter.
6. Pour 1/4 cup batter into pan and carefully spread to form a 12cm round.
7. Cook for 2 minutes or until bubbles appear. Turn over and cook for 2 minutes or until golden and cooked through.
8. Transfer to a plate and cover with a tea towel to keep warm. Repeat with remaining batter, brushing pan with melted butter when necessary.
9. Serve.

## UP AND COMING SPECIAL DAYS: APRIL 2023

April 3-6 –Easter Week

April 5 – Sessional 3yr old last day of Term 1

April 6 – Sessional 4yr old and Integrated 3yr&4yr old kinder last day of Term 1

April 11-14 – Nature Play Week

April 13 – Songkran Festival

April 17-25 - Anzac Week

April 21 – Eid al-Fitr

April 24 – Integrated 3yr old & 4yr old kinder first day Term 2

April 26 – Sessional 3yr old first day of Term 2

April 27 – Sessional 4yr old first day of Term 2



## EXTRACURRICULAR

Dear families,

It is wonderful to see you again, and I am happy to inform you that our extracurricular activities have been open for nearly a month. This year, my focus will be on practicing post-method pedagogy approaches using temporal arts, such as music and movement, storytelling, arts, and language (Chinese), to strengthen my connection with children's interests and needs. These activities follow the EYLF guidelines and coordinate with each room's programs.

Next month, my focus will be on using different materials in visual art and incorporating music and movement and languages to promote artistic play in children's daily activities. This will provide children with more opportunities for exploration, experimentation, and creative expression through music, art, and language learning processes.

Additionally, if you have any newspapers that are expired or different coloured and textured papers that you no longer need, please bring them to me as resources for the children's paper explorations. I also encourage your children to participate in recycling any resources that you have at home to help with our efforts to be environmentally friendly.

All of these activities are designed to complement and enhance your child's learning experience. We look forward to your child's participation and growth. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to me on kinder hub communication board.

Thank you for your continued support.



**Helen**  
**Diploma-**  
**qualified**



*This way is to create a relaxing and enjoyable environment for both children and educators, while providing more opportunities for children to discover musical play on their own. While providing more opportunities for children to discover musical play on*



*The musical free play base exploring time in our babies' yard.*



Love  
**LAVERTON  
PARKS**



# PARK hOP

**Saturday  
15 April**  
10:30am  
to 1:30pm

Come along to **PARK HOP** and try out the new play equipment and picnic areas.

**SIX** of the eight local parks in Laverton have been recently upgraded. The remaining two - Bruce Street and Cropley Crescent, will be finished by the end of the year.

Each park will have a special activity or giveaway including face painting, nature display, free kites and a coffee van for the parents!

The parks are walking distance to each other so you can visit two, three or all six. This is a one-day event to celebrate Love Laverton Parks as part of Better Places Laverton. Start at any of the six parks, no need to visit the parks in order.

Visit the below website to find out what the new features of each park include.  
[hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/LavertonParkHop](http://hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/LavertonParkHop)

**PARK HOP** and enjoy **FREE** activities & giveaways!

- 1 Frank Gibson Reserve**  
1 Summers St, Laverton 
- 2 Dick Murdoch Reserve**  
26 Cole St, Laverton 
- 3 Beverly Anton Reserve**  
22 Whittaker St, Laverton 
- 4 Whittaker Avenue Reserve**  
48 Bladin St, Laverton 
- 5 Bladin Street Reserve**  
1 Bladin St, Laverton 
- 6 Henderson Street Reserve**  
18 Henderson St, Laverton 



For more information Scan the QR code or visit  
[hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/Community/Whats-On/Laverton-Park-Hop](http://hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/Community/Whats-On/Laverton-Park-Hop)





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Now taking enrolments for March Intake



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