

# **Annual General Meeting Report for 2022**

## **by Nominated Supervisor: Bronwyn Davies**

Hello children and families,

Welcome to Dr Harry Little Preschool.

I would like to start by introducing you to all our staff.

I am Bronwyn Davies, the Nominated Supervisor. Natalie Hobson is our Educational Leader.

In Room 1 we have Green and Blue groups. The teachers are Ange Dance and Cherie Hammer with Mara Dole as the educator. In Room 2, we have Red and Yellow groups. Teachers for this room are Nat Hobson and myself with Pauline Bell and Robyn Broderick as educators.

Christina Nankivell is the Pre-kinder teacher for both Orange and Purple groups with Maria Kilmartin as the educator.

For the new kinder year in 2023 we will have many group and staffing changes. We are very excited to be offering 10 hours to our Prekindergarten children for 2023. With this change comes new staffing as well. Cherie Hammer will teach Orange group and a new educator will assist her. Purple group will continue to be taught by Christina Nankervis and Maria Kilmartin as the educator. We say goodbye to Red group to allow space for the Prekinder children. This was decided as Pauline Bell (Red group Educator) and Bronwyn Davies (Red group Teacher) are retiring at the conclusion of this year.

### **A report on the kindergarten program of 2022.**

We began the kinder year getting to know our kinder children and their families. We place the utmost of importance on helping children to feel comfortable, safe and happy in their kinder. We want to build a sense of trust between the kinder children and their families and the staff. For children to reach their full potential, they need to feel like they are valued and listened to. We work very hard to ensure children feel they can approach any staff member. We want the children to have a strong sense of identity and to be proud of who they are.

During term one we focused on the skills and interests of each child as we endeavoured to get to know them. We also focussed on families – the things the children like doing with their families, how families can differ etc. We know how important families are to children.

As the weather was quite warm, we discussed the season of summer and the impact on our environment. This was a great opportunity to further teach children about being sunsmart. As a part of our wider community, we also celebrated Easter with the children and discussed how Easter can be celebrated in many ways and sometimes not at all.

We asked the children what they would like to learn more about while they were at kinder. We were also able to observe what interests the children had and as a result we planned our program around this. For the rest of the year the children indicated they wanted to

learn about dinosaurs, space, people in our community (firemen/women, police, doctors, nurses, vets etc), Australia and other countries, volcanoes, animals, bugs and mini creatures, reptiles and the seasons of autumn, winter and spring. (Just to name a few!)

The children learnt new information by being involved in learning experiences, reading stories, puzzles, music, maths and science experiences. One example is learning about volcanoes. Before we begin learning about a new area of focus, we always ask the children what they know about this topic and then we can extend their knowledge. (We then know what we need to teach). After some in depth discussions and stories about volcanoes, we then made a paper mache volcano and “erupted” it with vinegar and bi carb soda. Of course, we needed to do this many times!!

In term four we also focus on the next stage of children’s lives .... going to school. We have many discussions about what to expect and how they may feel when they go to school. We set up our dramatic play space as a school, providing school uniforms for children to dress up. We also talk about who will be going to school with them from kinder.

Throughout the year staff are always observing children’s interests and skills. From these observations we plan the kinder program. We use the Victorian Early Years Learning and Development Framework to base our planning on. We aim to assist the children to have a strong sense of identity and wellbeing. We assist the children to further expand on their sense of community – being a part of a family, a kinder, the Bendigo and district community and the wider world around them. We also plan experiences to extend the children’s ability to communicate – whether verbally, non verbal and in written format through the use of writing and symbols. We also work hard to extend the children’s learning – in all areas of maths, science, technology, music, art and dancing.

We are able to keep parent’s informed of their child’s progress through informal chats, email and by having parent teacher interviews mid year. In term 4, the teachers prepare a transition Statement for parents and primary school teachers.

For the third year we were restricted with having visitors at our kinder due to the Covid pandemic. (particularly at the beginning of the year). These were the visitors we were able to have - a Pet Educator She taught the children how to remain safe around dogs, Coliban water visited and taught the importance of drinking and conserving water (before the floods!!), Thingletoodle who taught the children how to remain safe near the roads. We also had the Kelly sports program in Term 3.

This year we were very fortunate to have some school readiness funding available to us. This has been used throughout the year to train staff and therefore to assist the children and families. We have had fantastic support from some allied health workers who assisted staff and parents with any speech or occupational therapy concerns. We also worked closely with the Madeline and Allannah foundation as well as with Kelly Boucher who has assisted the staff with leadership and the culture of the centre as well as embedding “our country” into our program.

We have been very fortunate to have had beautiful children and families this year. We have had a dedicated committee who have endeavoured to do their best to keep the kinder operating at all times. Thank you committee.

This is the last year for Pauline Bell and myself as we move into retirement. On behalf of both of us we want to thank everyone associated with the kinder while we have been employed here. We are very proud to have been a part of this kinder.

The other staff look forward to meeting their new children and families.

We welcome you to the Dr Harry Little Preschool community.

We wish our 2022kinder children and families all the very best as they go onto school next year.

Thank you

Bronwyn Davies.

Nominated Supervisor

Dr Harry Little Preschool