

Flemington Co-op

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Dear Reader

Welcome to our spring newsletter. Thanks for taking the time to have a read. This month both Narelle and Daniela have tried to keep you up to date with a bit of stuff that is happening behind the scenes around Co-op & in the ins and outs of Kinder.

We welcome your feedback, ideas and involvement to help us continue to build on our rich history, and continue to improve our services to families, to children, and to the community.

Narelle's news

Our Chairperson & also Mum to Maija (Kinder Room) & Sylvie (Poppies Room)

I can't quite believe it's the end of October already. We've just finished dealing with the Show traffic jams and soon enough Flemington will be shut down again with Spring Carnival traffic and then Christmas will be upon us.....! Of course the shops are already encouraging us to think as such as there is tinsel and other Christmas paraphernalia staring at us as we do our groceries!

So with the end of the year fast approaching there are a few important dates to be putting in our calendars.

As you will have seen on the noticeboard at Co-op, we had our Open Day at co-op on Sunday October 29th. This was a day to welcome the community into the Co-op grounds and buildings to show them a bit about what is actually hiding behind that tall



Upcoming Events

November 15

Annual General Meeting
7pm

Wed & Thurs November 15 & 16

Children's Professional
Photos

Sunday December 3

Children's Christmas Party –
2pm Farnham St Park

Friday 15 December

Kinder Room Graduation
Pizza Night – 6pm Pepper
Cafe

Friday 22 December

Co-op closes for 2017 at 6pm

Monday 8 January 2018

Co-op opens for 2018 at
730am

fence. To show the beautiful learning environment inside and out and to get more of a sense about our philosophy and the care that we prioritize at Co-op.

By now you would have seen the storybook that is in the entrance way at Co-op. This is a resource that Daniela has been working on over the past 6 months and is a fantastic visual display outlining Co-ops philosophy and values of care and a bit of history too showing how Co-op all started 35 years ago. The team launched this book with Jason Cunningham at a training session on culture in September.

If you haven't had a look at it yet, please do – it's a very informative and beautiful resource.

The other important date to put on your calendar is the AGM that is scheduled for Wednesday November 15th, 7pm at Co-op.

Lastly, I wanted to congratulate Daniela on her recently published piece about Co-op in the latest Early Childhood Leadership text that is being sold Australia wide. We are so fortunate to have educators at Co-op who are considered industry experts.

I hope this Spring weather isn't bringing too much hay fever to you all and you're enjoying these longer, warmer days.

See you soon,

Narelle, (Maija and Sylvie's mum)

More Important News

News from Daniela

Our Early Childhood Director & Mum of Harryo in the Poppies Room

With November ready to hit us this week, I am sure we are all in that phase of denial around what has to be done before 2017 is over. I am in this same position – and every time someone gives me the current count down to Christmas I cringe even more.



In the Social Media Community

Facebook

You can find us at

<https://www.facebook.com/flemcoop/>

For all our general information to keep up to date with all the fun things that are taking place.

OR we have a closed parents Facebook page which you can find here:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1211484642249652/>

This page is a great way for parents to network together and maybe tee up some social outings.

Instagram

You can search for us:

@flemcoop

Twitter

You can search for us:

@flemingtoncoop

This time of year is big on Co-op's social event calendar and this year we added our Open Day which was held Sunday to the festivities. I am pleased to report back that the day was extremely successful with a steady flow of families coming through our doors for the two hours we were open. This was the first year we have held an open day – with the main objective being to showcase how beautiful Co-op looks after our renovation & build our waiting lists for 3 and 4 year old children. With children's placements for 2018 being high on my list at the moment, if you happen to know of any families looking for spots in our Snapdragon room (3 year olds) and also our Kinder room please send them our way. Historically Co-op has never really offered places to the waiting list for this age group, however as we extended our places in February this year – its going to take us a bit of time to fill up.

Filling these places and building up our kinder spots is vital for Co-op, and I thought this might be a good time to briefly talk about the benefits of children attending kinder at Co-op. For many of you, you may not have had an opportunity to walk into our kindergarten room and seen the amazing work that goes on in here. Chris, our Kindergarten Teacher and I met in 2013 in Italy when we were both attending an intensive Early Childhood course in Reggio Emilia – The Reggio Emilia approach is considered one of the most highly regarded approaches in the world. As Chris finished her post grad at Melbourne University, I approached her to work full time at Co-op, wanting to ensure that Co-op had a dedicated, passionate and knowledgeable Early Childhood teacher for our children. Chris has lived up to this expectation – and continues to expand her knowledge and skill by attending conferences and professional development sessions regularly, both in Australia and overseas.

Walking into our kinder room you can see the care and effort that Chris takes to ensure that the room is aesthetically pleasing and inviting for children to connect with the experiences and build their capacity to learn. The project wall in the kinder is a testament to Chris and the children's hard work on inquiry based projects, and every week they continue to amaze me. At present, the children are researching frogs – their habitats, the life cycle and more, you may have seen their pastel drawings on our social media pages – if only I had the ability to draw like that! This project stemmed from their last project, about homes. A project focused on children's belonging. Project work is a way for children to explore a variety of topics, interests that they all share, and to explore their learning in a variety of different mediums – through drawing, painting, sculpture, technology, literature and more. These skills support children for life – and help them transition into a school program where learning takes place in a variety of ways.

Our kinder room is intentionally capped at eleven children per day. This is because we believe in relationships being the foundation of children's learning. By having a smaller class size, children have the opportunity to build meaningful, close relationships with not only Chris, but the children in their room – friendships that I know will last years into the future. When children feel safe and that they belong in a space, they open up the doors to their learning. Small class sizes mean that every child is able to engage in shared, sustained conversations, that children are supported to work with and learn from and help others through collaborative learning opportunities.

When we get all the above areas right – we know that children strengthen their skills in negotiation, problem solving , conflict resolution. These skills allow children to feel confident, be persistent & resilient – important for all of us in life, however particularly when entering into a school system where class sizes are larger and there is less 1-1 interactions.

At the moment we have a display in our foyer showcasing some of the work that goes into our kinder program – all children enrolled in 4 year old kinder will have a transition report written by Chris to take with them to school. The reports in the foyer have been shared with family permission. If you are interested in enrolling your child for Kindergarten for 2018 or even 2019 please let me know ASAP and if you have any further questions please don't hesitate to contact either Chris or myself.

For everyone in the centre, your expression of interest forms (the yellow ones) are due back by this Friday. I am happy for families to fill them out on the spot if you know what days you are after for 2018, or to email me if you don't think you will get back in. Next week I will be approaching families on our waiting list to fill places, so if you are after additional days or want to swap your days please let me know ASAP.

As Narelle mentioned our Annual General Meeting will be held on Wednesday 15th November, at 7pm. This is our one compulsory event for Co-op and babysitting will be provided for children who are in attendance. The formalities of the AGM will usually take about 20 minutes and then for those who wish to stay on, some drinks & nibbles will be provided so you can hang about and celebrate another great year.

I wanted to take this opportunity to thank everyone for the abundance of kindness and thoughts surrounding my Nan's passing. My Nan's passing was the first time I have had to explain grief and loss to Harryo, and from a family perspective instead of just an Early Childhood teaching perspective, it was really comforting to be able to bounce ideas and different ways of explaining death to children with families. It was so lovely to be reminded of how amazing our community is, no matter the circumstance.

Lastly, I want to point out the dates to remember on the right side of this newsletter – get them into your diaries ☺

Photo credit: Brendan Keogh @ The Practice

Team Launch of our Storybook with Jason Cunningham.



