

Flemington Co-op

53 Wellington Street, Flemington VIC 3031
www.flemingtonchildcare.org T: 03 9376 6348
info@flemingtonchildcare.org

Dear Reader

Welcome to our new look newsletter. Thanks for taking the time to have a read. This month both Narelle and Daniela have tried to fill you in with a bit of stuff that is happening behind the scenes around Co-op.

We welcome your feedback, ideas and involvement to help us continue to build our rich history, and continually 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)

It's great to know that the Winter Solstice is behind us and the days are getting longer, but geez its been freezing! Unfortunately, like a lot of you, we've been hit by the winter bugs that have been circulating Melbourne this season. But on those cold but lovely sunny days we've taken the opportunity to get out of the house whilst we can, and have a run around at the Enclave playground in Ascot Vale.

If you haven't been there yet, check it out. It's a beautifully designed playground, set in the wetlands in a natural environment between the new housing development with plenty for children to explore and extend their skills on. Maija has loved the flying fox and it's a perfect size for her to use it herself. It's lovely to see kids of a similar age helping each other bring it to the top, climb the ladder and taking turns to zoom down the line. A very handy thing to have a four year old happy and self-managed if you're up the



Upcoming Events

August 3

Kinder Info Evening 6.30pm

Late August

Tony's Pie Drive

Date TBA (September)

Grand Opening –
Renovation Finalization Party
& AGM

Important Announcement

Do you know anyone who is looking for child care for their 3, 4 or 5 year old?

When Co-op increased its license earlier this year from 31 to 37 children it has opened up some new places for children and we have some spots available.

Please let people in the community know if they are looking – as historically we are so hard to get into, most assume they cant!

other end of the park with a busy 2 year old! It's definitely worth a trip for a change of scenery. (Enclave Wetlands, corner of Enclave Ave & Aspect Ave, Ascot Vale).

With all this cold weather and winter bugs we've also been enjoying some indoor craft time at our place producing bountiful creations made with pasta boxes, egg cartons and various other recycling items! Whilst they often still end up in the recycling bin in the long run, it is a good way of managing your recycling when it is overflowing at the end of the fortnight, (if only we lived in Kensington and had weekly recycling collection!) Another good way of managing your abundant recycling is bringing in your small boxes and milk bottle lids etc. for the Co-op kids to use – the kids in the Snapdragon and Kinder rooms will love producing magnificent creations with your excess recycling.

A big CONGRATULATIONS to Daniela on her graduation ceremony in May in Sydney for her Masters in Educational Leadership, specializing in Early Childhood Education. We really are very lucky to have such a committed Director of Co-op. She has an amazing amount of experience and she is passionate about professional development and wider opportunities for all the Co-op educators. For those of you who don't know, Daniela has been recognized for her skills in the ASG NEITA Awards for Inspirational Educators and won the National Teachers Award in 2013 and again shortlisted in the Victorian Education Excellence Awards in 2014 as Early Childhood Teacher of the Year. Now that we are out of the building phase of our redevelopment at Co-op we look forward to enhancing the development in our team and centre as a whole.

Thanks to Victoria (Casper's Mum) for the heads up about a program on Ratio National earlier this month. It was on their Life Matters program regarding early childhood education. The program discussed the benefits of early childhood education and highlighted that industry experts say there is a strong prediction of the level of performance reached at later ages, both in and out of school by the number of years' children spend in early childhood education. That is, those children who attend more in those early years have higher levels of performance.

<http://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/lifematters/australia-lagging-behind-other-oecd-nations-on-early-childhood/8720746>

(The title of the program relates to the fact that compared to other relevant countries, Australia interestingly spends less on early learning, despite the predictor on future performance). This evidence again reiterates for me how lucky we are to have such a centre as part of our local community and that our kids are reaping the rewards both now and into the future.

Thanks to everyone for supporting Co-op and our local community by attending and contributing to our trivia night it was a fabulous and really successful event raising \$5700 for Co-op. Thanks to Claudia (Wren & Elke's Mum) for writing the great questions and to Jess, Daniela, Jodie and the rest of the Board for all your hard work organising the night. Well done to the Staff/Pepper table for winning on the night!

Stay warm and I look forward to seeing you around the neighborhood soon.

More Important News

News from Daniela

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

As I am writing this today, you wouldn't know from looking out the window that we are in the middle of Winter. It's a beautiful blue sky day (or as my family refer to it - a bluebird day). We have been so lucky this winter to get these sunny days, however the rain is needed and affords the children with so many learning opportunities.

In our household when it rains, Harryo runs straight for her gumboots and rain jacket so she can head outside to the puddles. I think some days when the sky is dark she is hoping its raining even when its not! But, don't underestimate puddles, they are the most wonderful play materials that nature can provide children (and adults).

As many of you know, just before the start of winter we landscaped our backyard and included a trickle creek for the children to be able to create two puddles and watch the water run from one to the other. Obviously including such a water feature in the yard has meant that we have had to look at the risks associated with water play, but also the benefit risk assessments of it.

Puddles provide children with opportunities to increase their conceptual knowledge about the creation of puddles – and at Co-op our puddles are formed in two ways – by the children filling them up with buckets, or by it raining. They can observe evaporation and experiment with floatation and sinking.

The team at Co-op have created an intentional teaching document which draws out all the ideas of what we feel we are the learnings behind water play and puddles – and the list is never ending – mathematical thinking, concepts and shapes, provocations of artistic expression with water paintings, the children's awareness and management of risk –



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

and scaffolding some of the other children's learnings surrounding this, and most recently they are coming to terms with how valuable water is and the hard work involved. At Co-op, for the children to fill the puddles, they must clean the base of the creek to ensure no sand and leaves are in it, use the buckets to fill the puddle enough for it to spill down to the next one – take turns, negotiate and then, supervise and monitor the little ones from pulling out the plug and all their hard work being taken away from them within seconds! It makes for great learning & fun.

As Narelle mentioned above, I have spent the last six months taking the team on a professional development journey – starting with wellbeing. Earlier on in the year we finalized our work with Marie from PoPsy, learning about positive psychology and how we can transfer the skills surrounding strength based learning and teaching to children. It has been brilliant to see the team using strategies taught by Marie to settle children and build their self regulation skills. Currently I am working with The Practice – heading to Fiji with them in the middle of the year for some strategic planning, and we are unpacking some exciting stuff. The team and I cannot wait to launch some new ideas and learnings over the coming months.

This month we also celebrated Kausser's 10 year anniversary at Co-op. What an amazing achievement. We are so very fortunate to have such a great team at Co-op, and many of them have been here for years! Kausser joined the Co-op team after completing her final placement in 2005 for her Certificate 3 in Child Care. Since then Kausser has become a permanent team member and also completed her Diploma in Children's Services. Kausser currently works in the Poppies Room from 9am – 3pm which means that many of you don't get to see her often, but I assure you, the children have such beautiful relationships with her and her appreciation of beauty in the room does not go without show. CONGRATULATIONS Kausser.

