

I'VE LEARNED THAT PEOPLE WILL FORGET WHAT YOU SAID, PEOPLE WILL FORGET WHAT YOU DID, BUT PEOPLE WILL NEVER FORGET HOW YOU MADE THEM FEEL. – MAYA ANGELOU



# ON *this* MONTH

AT SERVICE NAME

Pre-Prep Information Evening ----- 10

## AROUND THE COUNTRY

Melbourne Cup Day ----- 3  
Outdoor Classroom Day ----- 5  
NAIDOC WEEK ----- 8-14  
National Recycling Week ----- 9-15  
Remembrance Day ----- 11  
World Kindness Day ----- 13  
Food Safety Week ----- 14-21  
Universal Children's Day ----- 20

## Letter from the Director

Welcome to our Newsletter for November 2020. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome new families into our centre. This month, sees us begin to prepare for our end of year, and as such our centre Children and Educators are busily preparing for our upcoming Children's "Around the World" Christmas Concert. Please be sure to save the date, Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December at 3pm, for I am sure will be a magical end of year experience for all. If you have not already, please be sure to LIKE our Instagram and Facebook pages, to keep up with current and/or upcoming centre events.

This month, we have introduced our new childcare software app OWNA. If you have not already received your parent login and pin please see our centre director today to set this up. OWNA will allow educators and parents to be more interactive in communication and again increase parent partnerships in order to enhance children's learning and development.

Invoices will now be available on the APP 24/7, please ensure that you are checking these regularly and that your account remains two weeks in advance in accordance with our fee policy. If you are having ongoing issues with your account, please see our Centre Director for support.



## Room News

### Early Learners Room

Last month saw our Early Learner Children engaging in a fun month of new experiences, including Sea Life activities; Nutrition week; Superhero Day; Book Week; Water Park Play; Grandparents Day and Day for Daniel.

Strategies from The Abecedarian Approach, “SEE, SHOW, SAY” were implemented in a new game about Sea Creatures. Where children had the opportunity to play this game individually and in small groups, finding and learning names of new and familiar animals.

During Nutrition Week, Early Learners opened up their palates by trying vegetables served in a different way. Using ingredients such as Coconut milk, Carrots, Spinach, Avocado, Zucchini, Cream Cheese (LF) and Corn, children enjoyed taste testing some very yummy dips.

Book Week “Snug as a Hug” was our beautiful book of Australian Animals. Early Learners learnt about the animals in the book engaging in craft activities using clay, playdough and painting. Book week provided a great opportunity to extend children’s reading skills through some one on one conversational reading experiences.

During November Early Learners will use more strategies from the Abecedarian approach, while they explore the story The Very Hungry Caterpillar, tying back to last month’s healthy eating and animal discussions.

### Junior Early Years Room

Last month, we welcomed so many new friends into our Junior Early Years Room, which meant transitioning our older three year old friends into the Early Years. Although we will sadly miss our friends we are excited for them to embrace their new room and friends as they prepare for next year and pre-kindy.

'Where's The Green Sheep' and 'The farm animals' are still our favourite storybooks this month and provided opportunities to talk about 'Animals around the world'. We learnt that some animals are native to certain countries, and as such, different countries around the world all have different animals that are significant and symbolic to them.

Talking about animals around the world, and the similarities and differences in countries has provided an opportunity to cross over into preparing for our Christmas around the world concert. The children have been learning the Samoan song called 'Ia manuia le kerisimasi' which is the Samoan version of 'We wish you a Merry Christmas.' This month, as we continue to learn our Christmas song, we would also like to encourage parents to practice with their children at home in preparation for the big event. Please feel free to share your child” practicing on our message board on OWNA so we can share with each other during group time and put more meaning into learning our song.



# Room News

## Early Years Room

Last Month, our Early Years Children celebrated many centre events. They enjoyed harvesting their vegetable garden and planning what types of fruits and vegetables they would like to replant for their summer harvest. Children displayed higher levels of learning, as they sat in front of their garden and drew what they would like to see in there. Once children communicated their drawings and reasoning behind a new potential crop, Miss Peta assisted in purchasing the seedlings, and the Early Years children helped grandparents to plant these at the end of last month for Grandparents Day.

This month, will see our Early Years Children prepare for the end of year centre events, including our “Around the World” Children’s Christmas Concert. Taking on board, Mr Mario and Miss Christine’s heritage the children are learning a song that embraces both of their educator’s background.

This month, will also see the formation of our own Christmas wonderland, and using this theme and our embedded Abecedarian approach the focus will be on enhancing children’s language skills using learning games, enriched care giving experiences and conversational reading.

## Pre-Prep Room

What a busy couple of months Pre-Prep has had. They have been enjoying our extra-curricular activities such as Munchkin League and Swimming lessons. Our water park play schedule has been in full swing, and Bush kindy is still a favourite amongst all children.

Reminder . . . Please ensure that you check reminders and rosters for extracurricular activities to ensure that children are appropriately dressed to avoid disappointment of missing out due to minimising risk of injury

Last month, children expressed a keen interest in nutrition week and looked at their wellbeing and ways to keep their bodies healthy with the right foods while connecting back to our abecedarian approach and focusing on the concept of providing enriched caregiving experiences, and as such Pre-prep children created a rainbow of healthy foods to eat and explored the different food categories.

This month, we will continue to explore rhyming words in our story time. A large focus for this month will be working on our graduation play “Where the Wild Things Are”. The children will be provided with countless opportunities to they explore the story so that they have a good understanding of the sequence of events, this will help them when reacting the story for our families at Graduation. If you have not already, please save the date, Tuesday, 1<sup>st</sup> December 2020. Details will be released in the upcoming weeks, about times, restrictions and expectations on the evening.





## NATIONAL RECYCLING WEEK – NOVEMBER 9-15

Planet Ark's National Recycling Week is now in its 25<sup>th</sup> year! The week provides an important opportunity for councils, workplaces, schools and individuals to improve their recycling knowledge, build better recycling habits and build trust in recycling.

This year's theme is 'Recovery - A future beyond the bin' invites you to value your resources, giving them a second life by reducing virgin resource use, reusing and recycling. **Find our more here.**

## REMEMBRANCE DAY – NOVEMBER 11

At 11 am on 11 November 1918 the guns on the Western Front fell silent after more than four years of continuous warfare. Each year on this day Australians observe one minute's silence at 11 am, in memory of those who died or suffered in all wars and armed conflicts. **Check your local council website to find out what COVID safe Remembrance Day services are happening near you.**

## CHICKEN MEATBALLS AND PESTO SPAGHETTI



PREP 20 min | COOK 10 min | SERVES 8

### INGREDIENTS

#### Chicken Meatballs

1 kg **chicken mince**  
1 cup (40 grams) **fresh breadcrumbs**, soaked in a 1/4 cup milk  
2 **eggs**  
1 cup (125 grams) **parmesan cheese**, grated  
1 tablespoon **garlic**, minced  
**sea salt** and **pepper**, to season

#### Basil Pistachio Breadcrumbs

2 cups **fresh basil leaves**  
1 cup **baby spinach leaves**  
2 **garlic** cloves  
1/2 cup (60 grams) **pistachios**  
1/2 cup (60 grams) **parmesan**, grated  
zest and juice of 1 **lemon**  
3/4 cup (180 ml) **extra virgin olive oil**  
500 grams **spaghetti**, cooked according to packet instructions reserving 1 cup of cooking water

**METHOD: Chicken Meatballs:** Place the mince, breadcrumbs, eggs, parmesan, garlic, salt and pepper into a large bowl and mix thoroughly to combine. **Take 2 heaped tbs** of mince and roll into rounds. Heat a little olive oil in a fry pan over medium-high heat. **Add** meatballs and cook 6-8 minutes, stirring occasionally or until the meatballs are golden and cooked through. Set aside. **Basil Pistachio Pesto:** Place the basil, baby spinach, garlic, pistachios, parmesan, lemon juice and zest into the bowl of a food processor. **Blitz for 1-2 minutes** or until finely chopped. With the motor running, slowly add the olive oil and continue blitzing until thoroughly combined.

**To Serve:** Pour the pesto over the cooked spaghetti with a splash of the reserved pasta water and toss to combine. Top spaghetti with cooked meatballs, fresh basil leaves and a grating of parmesan cheese. **Enjoy x**

Recipe and Image from 'mylovelylittlelunchbox.com'

## App reviews

A mixed bag of apps to keep pre-schoolers entertained and learning.



### MIXIMAL

YATATOY | AGE 3+ | \$3.99

*MIXIMAL is an entertaining game based on the traditional flip books we all know from our childhood.* We have taken this old-fashioned model and generated sweet handcrafted animations and sounds to compliment it. Create wacky animals and find out their wacky names.

### SHAPE GURUS: PRESCHOOL GAME

GEOMETRY LEARNING PUZZLES | AGE 2 - 5 | \$4.49

In this interactive story, children are regularly challenged to complete puzzles based around shape-matching. In one case, a little bird flutters towards the outline of a nest, while five brown triangles wait to be dragged into place. Elsewhere, shape and colour matching creates flowers and a watering can. This app is designed for 2-5 year olds, this game teaches Pre-schoolers math skills of matching, sorting and classifying by shapes and colours.

### STAR WALK FOR KIDS - SKY GUIDE

VITO TECHNOLOGY INC. | AGE 3+ | FREE

*Star Walk for Kids will teach your children the basics of astronomy in an interesting and unusual way.* The app is an entertaining astronomy game for children to learn about astronomy and our solar system while playing and having fun.



## FOCUS: Transition to school

A positive start to school is important and depends on everyone working together to make it happen – family, community, early childhood service and the school team. Many states have now given the go ahead for school orientation to commence/resume in Term 4 assuming correct COVID safety guidelines are followed.

The pandemic this year has most likely changed your child's final year of pre-school and prep for big school and this may be concerning for you. However, there are things you can do to ensure your children get the best start to school possible.

**Know your child's school** Each school community is unique. It's a good idea to attend available transition, orientation or information sessions. Check out their website or subscribe to their newsletters, follow their social media pages. *Show your child pictures and videos of the school they will attend. Locate their school on a map and draw a route to your house.* Where possible meet the Principal or ask staff at the school office for information. Connect with other parents who have children at the school.

**Literacy** Literacy is a key foundation for learning. Talking and an awareness of word sounds form a strong base for reading success. *Read, rhyme and draw, sing, listen and talk with your child regularly.* This develops literacy skills needed to understand information and communicate ideas. If English is not your first language, continue using your strongest language as well as English to promote multilingual skills and maintain cultural identity.

**Numeracy** Numeracy is all around us and used throughout life. Your child uses numeracy when measuring ingredients, counting stairs as they climb, sorting buttons or matching socks. When children play with blocks and containers they think 'mathematically' about size, shape and space. *Talk about positions such as behind, next to and above, and inquire 'how many?' 'which way?' or 'is there enough?'*

**Friendships** Making friends can be challenging for your child. You can help by prompting them to think about games to play, where to play them and how to include others. Your child will develop these skills by watching you – the way you start conversations, handle issues and accept others' perspectives. Encouraging play provides opportunities for your child to 'read' faces and body language, furthering their social skills.



**Managing feelings** Starting school can produce a broad range of emotions in your child, and understanding how to manage them can take a long time. Give support by listening, acknowledging and accepting their feelings. Help your child to label those feelings and to find appropriate ways to manage them if needed. Your child will learn to manage their emotions by watching those around them.

### Good learning behaviours.

- 1. Exploring interests** Your child learns when they are interested, asking questions and exploring possibilities. This helps them to be creative and involved.
- 2. Problem solving** Encourage your child to persist with activities, even when it gets tricky. You can help them come up with their own ways to solve problems.
- 3. Acknowledge efforts** Acknowledge your child's effort when you see them trying, regardless of the result.

You are your child's first and most significant teacher. Being positively involved in your child's learning helps them become successful at school. You can find out more helpful school transition tips by following the link below.

Connect – Child and Family Services (2020) My child is starting school: A guide for parents and caregivers. Retrieved from [www.transitiontoschool.net/uploads/2/9/6/5/29654941/english\\_\\_a4\\_flyers\\_connect.pdf](http://www.transitiontoschool.net/uploads/2/9/6/5/29654941/english__a4_flyers_connect.pdf)



## SIMPLE CUPCAKE COUNTING

**You will need:** Cupcake liners, Marker, Pompoms or similar, Tongs or tweezers (optional)

- Begin by writing a number in each of the cupcake liners. Of course, this is a very flexible activity and can be made to suit your individual child and where their learning skills are at.
- The aim of this activity is for the child to read the number inside each of the cupcake liners and use the pompoms to accurately represent it.
- This wonderful Math activity can also double to help children develop their fine motor skills.

For activity extensions and adaptations **follow the link here.**

Activity and image Source: [laughingkidslearn.com](http://laughingkidslearn.com)



# HEALTH & SAFETY: Water Safety

Drowning continues to be one of the biggest killers of Australian children. Every year a number of children are killed and hundreds more are rescued from near drowning situations. **It only takes 20 seconds and a few centimetres of water is all it takes for a child to drown.**

**Why children are at risk** Children are adventurous and enjoy exploring their environments. They are often attracted to water but have little understanding of the danger that it poses. The physical build of young children also places them at risk as they are 'top heavy' and prone to falling into water due to a lack of balance.

Drowning can occur quickly and silently - 20 seconds and a few centimetres of water is all it takes for a toddler to drown. It's not only large bodies of water, such as pools and the beach that put children at risk; baths, ponds, buckets, eskies, pet's drinking bowls and other small bodies of water are also drowning hazards.

## Common causes –how and when

**Children 0-4 years** - Swimming pools are the most common location for toddler drownings making up 67% of all cases followed by bathtubs which account for 22%. Children falling into water account for 78% of drownings. Evidence suggests that a large number of drowning deaths in backyard pools are a result of pool barriers that are faulty or noncompliant with Australian standards and the absence of active adult supervision.

**Children 5-14 years** Lakes/dams/lagoons (22%), the beach (22%) and baths/spa baths (22%) were the most common locations for drowning among this age group. Swimming and recreation was the most common activity being undertaken at the time of the drowning incidents, accounting for 56% of all deaths in this age group. Under-estimating the strength of currents and over-estimating swimming ability are common mistakes for this age group.

## Key messages for prevention

**Supervision:** Keep a constant watch on your children around the water and don't be distracted by your phone. **Active adult supervision involves focusing all of your attention on children at all times, when they are in, on or around the water. Do not expect older children to look after their younger siblings.**



Children have short attention spans and can be easily distracted. Remain within arm's reach of toddlers to ensure you can get to the child in time if something goes wrong. Older children still need to be supervised by an adult who is ready to enter the water in case of an emergency. Always take children with you if you leave the water area.

**Reduce the hazard:** Use safety barriers, such as pool barriers, to restrict access to water. Remove hazards such as pot plants and chairs from pool barriers to prevent children climbing on to them and over the barrier. Do not prop any doors or gates open as this may allow children access to a body of water. Create a safe play area to separate children from bodies of water such as swimming pools and dams. This is especially important on farms and larger properties as very young children have been known to follow family pets to water over very long distances. Regularly inspect and maintain your pool barrier and gate to ensure that it is working properly. Weather conditions and general wear and tear can affect the performance of your pool barrier.

**Knowledge/water awareness** Water familiarisation lessons can assist in teaching children to swim while also helping them understand water safety.

**Resuscitation** Learn CPR and update your skills regularly so that you are prepared in the event of an emergency. Resuscitation posters are a good reminder to keep around pools and spas

## For more information see:

- [kidsafe.com.au/water-safety/](https://kidsafe.com.au/water-safety/)
- [www.watersafety.nsw.gov.au/Pages/resources/be-water-safe-not-sorry.aspx](https://www.watersafety.nsw.gov.au/Pages/resources/be-water-safe-not-sorry.aspx)
- <https://www.watersafety.vic.gov.au/>

Kidsafe (2019). Drowning Fact Sheet, retrieved from <https://kidsafe.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/Drowning-Information-Sheet.pdf>



## CHECK IT BEFORE YOU CHUCK IT

**Check It! Before You Chuck It** is a new campaign encouraging Australians to always check the Australasian Recycling Label (ARL) when disposing of packaging.

Always following the ARL ensures packaging is disposed of correctly and can be recovered for future use in new products.

Go to Planet Ark, Recycling near you for more information about this and National Recycling Week - [recyclingnearyou.com.au/arl/](https://recyclingnearyou.com.au/arl/)

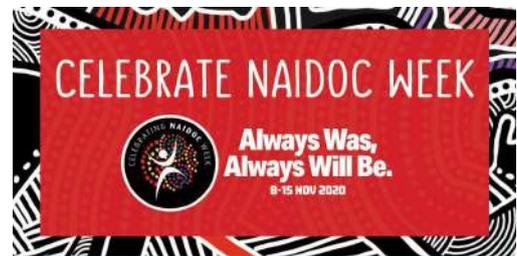


*This year's NADIOC Week theme is Always Was, Always Will Be, and it recognises that our First Nations people have occupied and cared for this continent for over 65,000 years.*

The theme identifies Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as Australia's first explorers, first navigators, first engineers, first farmers, first botanists, first scientists, first diplomats, first astronomers and first artists.

NAIDOC Week 2020 acknowledges and celebrates that our nation's story didn't begin with documented European contact whether in 1770 or 1606 - with the arrival of the Dutch on the western coast of the Cape York Peninsula, rather it celebrates that the very first footprints on this continent were those belonging to First Nations peoples.

NAIDOC 2020 invites all Australians to embrace the true history of this country – a history which dates back thousands of generations that remains the oldest continuing cultures on the planet and recognises that our first nation's people sovereignty was never ceded.



### FOLLOW ON

Short simple activities to get some active minutes in the day.

Choose someone to start, that person picks an action and everyone participating does 10 sets of that action before someone else takes over, for example – **Person 1)** 10-star jumps, **Person 2)** 10 skips, **Person 3)** 10 squats and so on until everyone has had a turn. Go back to the first person and continue to **Follow on**.

Pop on some music and get moving! It may take a few tries and suggestions to get the rhythm going, but it will be good fun once you do!



## WILD TASMANIAN DEVILS RETURN TO MAINLAND AFTER BECOMING LOCALLY EXTINCT 3000 YEARS AGO

After what's believed to be thousands of years, there are once again wild Tasmanian devils living on the mainland of Australia. A total of 26 devils have so far been reintroduced to the wild in the Barrington Tops National Park north of Newcastle, NSW. The latest batch of 11 was introduced to a 400ha wildlife sanctuary in the park on September 10, joining the 15 introduced in July.

The sanctuary gives the endangered devils space to roam and freedom to adjust to the wild, while also protecting other animals in the area, and allowing conservationists from animal conservation group Aussie Ark to monitor their progress in the lead up to the 2021 breeding season.

The devils have been fitted with radio collars and there are cameras covering the sanctuary for monitoring.

Tasmanian devils are thought to have disappeared from the mainland around 3000 years ago, hunted to a degree by Aboriginal people at the time but also impacted by the introduction of the dingo, thought to have arrived in Australia — possibly helped by Indonesian seafarers — around 3500 years ago.

A contagious cancer is now threatening the Tasmanian devil population. According to Tasmania's environment department, cancerous devils usually die within a few months of showing symptoms. The disease has caused a massive decline in the Tasmanian devil population, and the species is now considered endangered. It's hoped that a backup population can be maintained on the mainland, free of the contagious cancer, in case Tasmania's existing devil population succumbs to the disease.

Source: <https://www.kidsnews.com.au/animals/wild-tasmanian-devils-return-to-mainland-after-becoming-locally-extinct-3000-years-ago/news-story/a06e4f84ff933a84bdc70170b99956ac>

