TERM 2 NEWSLETTER 2026



Fundraising Update

A huge thank you to our wonderful families and community for your continued generosity and support throughout the year. Together, we have raised funds for some very worthy causes:

NICU Fundraiser: $240
Mirram's Good Friday Appeal: $295
Australia's Biggest Morning Tea: $478

Every contribution, big or small, makes a meaningful difference. Thank you for helping us support these important organisations and initiatives.

Seeking Committee Members

We are currently looking for members to join our Committee Team.
If you are interested in becoming involved we would love to hear from you. Please contact us for more information.

We would also like to extend our sincere thanks to our current Committee members for their ongoing dedication, support, and commitment to our service. Your time and efforts are greatly appreciated.

Please contact for details:
committee@columbiaparkelc.com.au

MIRRAMS NEW LOCKERS MADE BY THE MEN'S SHED





NQS REQUIREMENTS

NQS Refinements

Updates to the NQS have sharpened the explicit focus on child safety across Quality Areas 2 and 7: [1, 2]

Quality Area 2 (Children's Health and Safety): Element 2.2.3 was refined to Child Safety and Protection, requiring management, educators, and staff to be actively aware of their responsibilities to identify and respond to every child at risk of abuse or neglect. [1, 2]

Quality Area 7 (Governance and Leadership): Added examples of how services can demonstrate a child-safe culture during quality assessments and ratings. [1, 2]

For detailed information and operational toolkits to implement these changes, view the ACECQA Child Safety Webpage or review the Changes to the NQF Information Sheet. [1, 2]



Regulation of early childhood services: information for parents and carers | vecra.vic.gov.au

As part of our commitment to providing a safe, high-quality early childhood education and care service, our centre displays the contact details for the Victorian Early Childhood Regulatory Authority (VECRA) and the Social Services Regulator (SSR). These independent regulatory bodies oversee compliance with education and care legislation and help safeguard the rights and wellbeing of children and families. If you have any questions or concerns about the quality of care or regulatory matters, you may contact these organisations directly using the information displayed in our service.

WWCC

If you would like to be involved in any activities at the center, you will be required to obtain a valid volunteer working with children check (WWCC) prior to participating and provide us with your WWCC number for our records.



COMMUNITY NEWS

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to

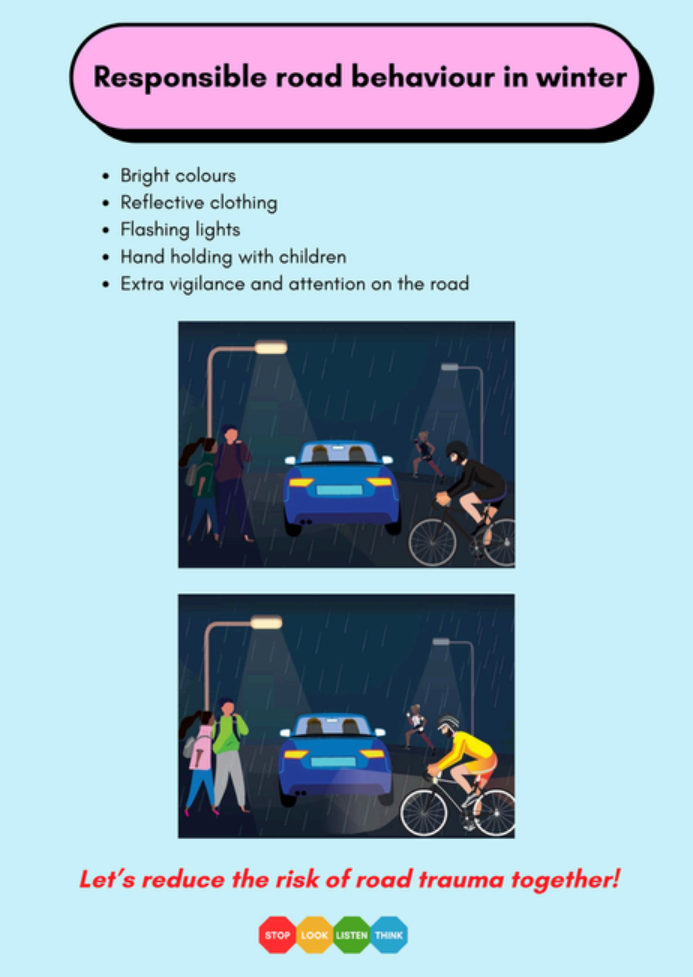
Mwangala for sharing her knowledge and culture with our team and the Babajin Room in celebration of Africa Day.

Thank you to Kat and Kalliopi for cooking with the children as part of our Greek Easter celebrations,
Lara for sharing and celebrating Orthodox Easter with the children and educators and egg dying activity.

We would also like to thank Awtani family for raising funds and dontating for the Babajin Room, $1000 to be used for resources please see below the image of items brought from the proceeds.

Gaya for sharing her knowledge and experiences with the children and educators about Tamil New Year.

Aimee for visiting the centre and teaching the children a special song in AUSLAN which the children will be using at the Babajin end of year concert.





COOBAAROO NEWS

What a wonderful and busy Term 2 we have had in the Coobaaroo Room! Throughout the term, we have continued to actively listen to the children's voices and work closely with families to support each child's learning and development. It has been heart-warming to see the children grow in confidence and become increasingly comfortable expressing themselves within their learning environment. One of our key focuses this term has been supporting children in developing body awareness and personal safety skills. Through everyday interactions, stories, and discussions, the children have been learning about safe boundaries, consent, and respecting their own bodies and the bodies of others. We have been so proud to see many children confidently using words such as "stop" and "no," or putting their hands up when they feel uncomfortable. These are important skills that help children develop confidence, self-awareness, and respectful relationships.







A highlight of the term was our monthly Library Excursion. Each month, we take a small group of children to the local library for storytime. The children were excited to travel together and thoroughly enjoyed participating in storytime. Along the way, they eagerly observed vehicles, traffic lights, road signs, and everything happening around them. It was wonderful to see their curiosity and enthusiasm as they explored their wider community.







This term also marked the beginning of our Nature Explore program, which has become a favourite experience for many children. The sessions have been running smoothly, and the children look forward to their outdoor adventures each week. Nature Explore provides opportunities for children to connect with the world using all of their senses. We listened to birds singing, felt the wind on our faces, touched the ground, leaves, trees, and rocks, and smelled the fresh grass around us. The children collected sticks for digging and tapping, worked together to build a teepee, and engaged in meaningful conversations and discoveries along the way. There has been so much learning, exploration, and joy during these experiences.

Throughout the term, we also celebrated several special events, including Mother's Day, National Sorry Day, Reconciliation Week, and the Dragon Boat Festival. These celebrations provided valuable opportunities for children to learn about different cultures, traditions, and communities, helping them develop a sense of identity, respect, and belonging.

Another exciting initiative this term was our whole-centre "Eat A Rainbow" program. Through this program, children were encouraged to explore a variety of colourful fruits and vegetables, try new foods, and develop healthy eating habits. It has been wonderful to see many children showing curiosity and confidence as they explore different foods.

We are incredibly proud of the children's growth, confidence, and enthusiasm for learning. Thank you for your continued support, partnership, and trust. We look forward to another exciting term of learning, discovery, and fun together.

MIRRAM NEWS

ANZAC day: Children participate in ANZAC biscuits in small groups. The children were actively involved in measuring, mixing, and observing the cooking process. They showed excitement and pride in participating, and the experience helped build their confidence as well as early skills in following steps and working together.

Mother’s Day celebration at the center: What a wonderful Mother's Day evening we had. Thank you to all the mums for coming and celebrating with us. It was so lovely to see everyone enjoying the Mother's Day event together. The children and mums had a great time making DIY bath salts using Epsom salt, pink salt, essential oils, lavender, eucalyptus or peppermint, and fresh mint. It was such a beautiful and relaxing activity, and the evening was filled with joy and laughter.





Library Visit: Children enjoyed their best time going on first excursion to Wheelers Hill Library for Story Time, and what a day it was! It was a big and exciting moment for all of us, both the children and the educators — going out together as a group for the very first time! The journey to the library was an adventure all on its own! The children had the BEST time along the way.

National Reconciliation Week - the theme is "All In." This theme encourages all Australians to commit wholeheartedly to reconciliation every day. It reminds us that reconciliation is everyone's responsibility and encourages meaningful actions to build respectful relationships. In our room, we set up three Australian flags to help children recognize, respect, and learn about Australia's culture and identity.





African drum incursion: our children were highly engaged as they explored different rhythms, sounds, and beats. They enjoyed listening, participating, and moving along with the music. This experience encouraged confidence, coordination, and an appreciation of music from different cultures. The room was filled with exciting sounds of drums, singing, rhythm and movement as the presenter introduced the children to African music and culture. Children were also developing physical coordination through clapping, drumming, swaying, dancing, and using their hands to explore different sounds and textures. The children especially enjoyed learning the familiar song" Head, shoulder, knees and Toes sung in a Ghanaian language while accompanying the drumming beats. They attempted to copy the action, listened carefully to the new words, and enthusiastically joined in with the group experience.

The children celebrated the Dragon Boat Festival through a variety of hands-on learning experiences that explored Chinese culture and traditions. The children investigated natural materials by adding flat bamboo leaves and rosemary to the playdough, encouraging sensory exploration and imaginative play. They enjoyed touching, smelling, and manipulating the materials while engaging in conversations about their purpose and connection to the festival. As part of the celebrations, the children listened to the story Peppa's Dragon Boat Festival, which introduced them to some of the customs and traditions associated with this important cultural event. The story prompted discussions about family celebrations, cultural practices, and the significance of festivals around the world. On Friday, the children participated in a special tasting experience, enjoying date and raisin sticky rice, a food traditionally associated with Dragon Boat Festival celebrations. This provided an opportunity for children to explore new flavors and learn about the cultural significance of food in bringing people together. Through these experiences, the children developed an appreciation for cultural diversity and gained an understanding of traditions and celebrations. They demonstrated curiosity, engagement, and respect as they participated in the activities.

WOOLERT NEWS

This term we were lucky enough to have had a visit from Abbiah from African Drumming. He came and taught us all about Ghana, the country he was born in. He showed us some pictures of his village and then introduced us to a number of musical instruments. He started playing the Kora, which is an African harp and the children had their first opportunity to get up and dance. He then told a story about selling fruit in his village with a bowl on hs head to carry them, before he then got out his drum. The children all had a drum of their own and loved to play along with Abbiah. They also got opportunities to dance and sing along with him. It is a fantastic incursion that the children enjoy and a great opportunity to learn more about the world and different cultures.





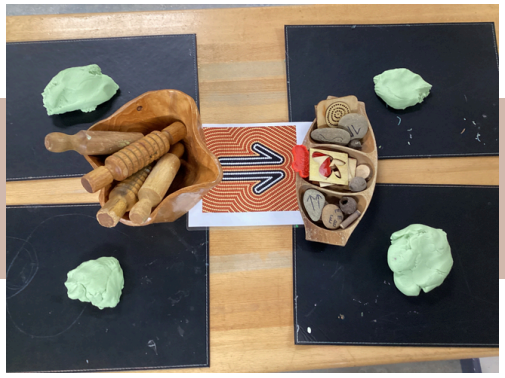




WOOLERT NEWS CONT.

Simultaneous Storytime

The children of Columbia Park ELC took part in Simultaneous Story Time again this year. Simultaneous Story Time is an annual event where children across Australia gather to read the same picture book at the same time, promoting a love of reading and literacy. The event encourages participation in shared reading experiences and helps build children's language, listening, and comprehension skills. It also fosters a sense of connection and community as children join others nationwide in celebrating books and storytelling. This year's story was called Luna Roo by Adam Jackson and Adrian Lloyd. It is a beautiful story about a young kangaroo soccer captain who learns the valuable lesson of believing in oneself and not giving up. The children really enjoyed watching the presentation on the big screen of the projector.

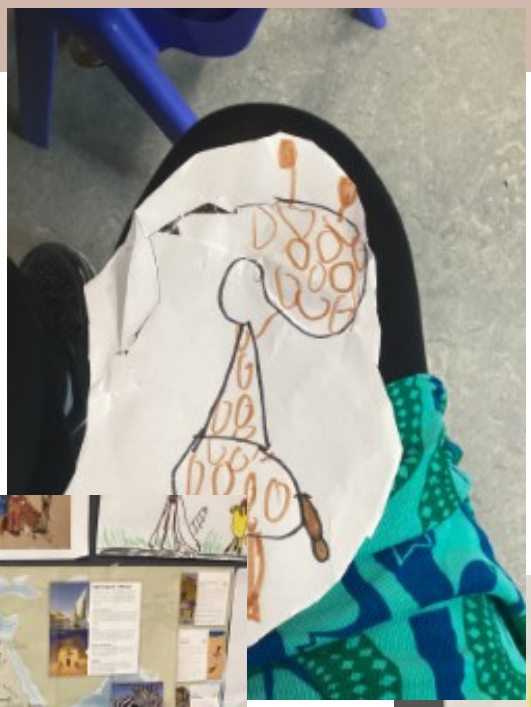




This term has been super busy and the children have enjoyed engaging in a range of experiences in the room. Some of the highlights include cooking for Anzac Day as well as for the Biggest Morning Tea where they sold what they had made to help raise money for Cancer research. They have also been showing a great interest in learning about letters and writing their names, which they are doing a great job at practicing. The continue to show an interest in our sensory activities and enjoyed playing with the penguins in the sand, colour mixing with the water and droppers and making and playing with the playdough, they especially liked the scented playdough we played recently.

Thank you for your ongoing support of the Woolert Room and we look forward to a fantastic Term 3!!

BABAJIN NEWS









What an amazing term of family participation and collaboration as they shared information about their family, culture, home languages and aspects that make them unique. The children made lots of presents, wrote their own cards including writing their name, drawing pictures of their Mum and singing 2 songs they decided to learn; incorporated their voice into curriculum decisions.

We engaged in unit of enquiry linked to Africa week designed by Soraya and her Mum, Mwangala, with contributions from Caren and her Mum, Queenie. We consolidated on their learning as we engaged in the African drumming incursions. We explored and learnt about ANZAC day, National Sorry Day, National Simultaneous story time, Dragon boat festival led by Wendy, and Samoan Independence day inspired by Aubrey and her Mum. This inspired learning about saying hello in different languages of our communities and looking at the flags as well as endless learning opportunities

BABAJIN NEWS CONT.

The Convention states that all children have the right to an education that lays a foundation for the rest of their lives, maximises their ability, and respects their family, cultural and other identities and languages. They are continuing to learn about their rights, safety for themselves and others and how to be kind and caring.





We concluded the term by an excursion to Twisted science. The children enhanced their curiosity, explored how things work, how they move and feel and explored all the fun of science through play. All the TwistED Science exhibits are curated to be hands-on, engaging, high-energy and most of all simple to understand. The universe of exhibits ignited their curiosity and stimulated learning through STEM-powered play! We will extend their curiosities, discoveries and questions at kinder. They had one of the multiple opportunities they have to practise using a lunch box, which they all opened and enjoyed with ease.

KITCHEN NEWS



Chocolate Coconut Bliss Balls

Ingredients:

450 g pitted dates

3 tbsp cocoa powder

200 g desiccated coconut

1 tbsp maple syrup

A little water (as needed)

Instructions:

Place the pitted dates into a food processor and blend until they form a sticky paste.

Add cocoa powder, desiccated coconut, and maple syrup. Blend until well combined.

If the mixture is too dry, add a small amount of water (1–2 teaspoons at a time) until it comes together.

Roll the mixture into small balls using your hands.

Optional: roll the balls in extra coconut or cocoa for coating.

Refrigerate for at least 30 minutes before serving.

Storage:

Keep in an airtight container in the fridge for up to 1 week, or freeze for longer storage.