

**OUR NEW
CENTRE LOGO**
DESIGNED BY PALLYAN AT
MURRUNDINDI PTY LTD

CPELC NEWSLETTER

CPELC UPDATES AND REMINDERS

End of year closure dates

Children's last day will be 20 December 2024

Children's first day back will be 8 January 2025

Reminder to our current 4 year kinder families, this means your child's last day here at CPELC will be 20 December 2024.

Upcoming Dates

- 15-19 July Pyjama week (gold coin donation for the Pyjama Foundation)
- Wednesday 17 July Centre closed for Katie's funeral
- 7 August Recycle man Incursion
- 19-23 August Book Week
- 28 August Father's/Special Person's Evening
- 2-6 September Superhero week (gold coin donation for Muscular Dystrophy)
- 20-26 September Footy Week
- 27 September AFL Grand Final Friday (Centre Closed)

We wanted to express our heartfelt gratitude to each of you for your unwavering support and kindness following the loss of our dear friend Katie.

Losing Katie has been incredibly challenging, but knowing that we have had your support and comfort has been a source of great strength for us.

Katie was a remarkable person, and it is clear that she was cherished deeply by all of you.

Please know that your support has not gone unnoticed or unappreciated. In these times of grief, your kindness has been a beacon of light for us, and we are truly grateful to have you in our lives.



COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Just a quick reminder that our Community Library is continuing to run at the front of the centre. It is located in the house shaped bookcase in the foyer. It's been great to see families borrowing books and enjoying them. It will be restocked at the beginning of term 2!! Don't forget the books are there for you to take and you can return it when your done our replace it with another. We are also always happy to take donations. Please come and see Rhiannon If you have any questions. Happy reading.



“In the case of good books, the point is not to see how many of them you can get through, but rather how many can get through to you.”
- Mortimer J. Alder

We are collecting bottles and cans for the 10c refund, so please bring in any used bottles or cans that can be added to our collection.



We have also registered with the CDS Vic as a donation partner for people to be able to nominate the centre for their funds from cans/ bottles.

Our Zone ID Barcode:
C2000010836



Find your nearest refund point here:

<https://cdsvic.org.au/?>

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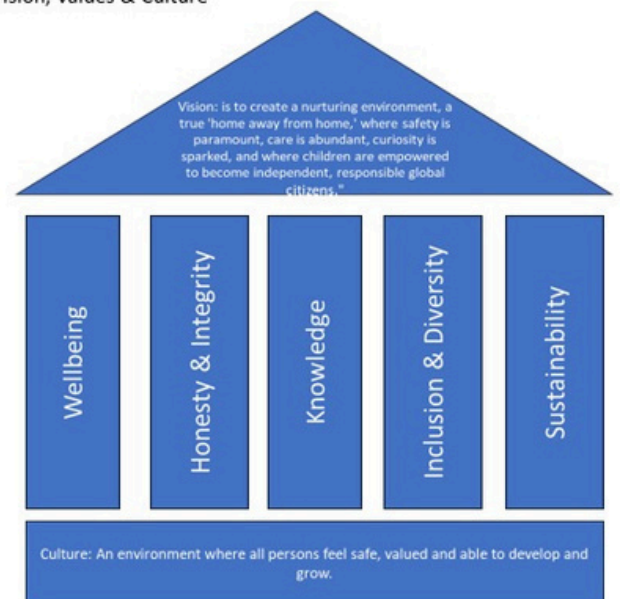
Thank you to those who have donated back to the centre we have made a total of \$18.70

OUR PHILOSOPHY, VISION, VALUES AND CULTURE

Philosophy

Columbia Park Early Learning Centre is a community based non-for-profit Centre founded on the principles of belonging, being and becoming. Children are viewed as competent and capable learners who are given opportunities to construct their own understandings and contribute to the learning of others. The children and families collaborate with our long-term professional teaching team in decisions including each child's educational goals. Our community values environmental and sustainability education and we embed this in practice, programs, and policies so that children take on responsibilities as global citizens. Our educational play-based program embeds weekly nature explorers. The rights of the child underpin all practice including their safety, health, wellbeing as we educate them to become responsible active citizens. In our inclusive community, diverse circumstances and cultural heritage including Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures are acknowledged, respected, valued and celebrated. Columbia Park Parent Management Committee collaborates with management and teaching teams who are dedicated to exceeding outcomes for all children, families, and our wider community.

Vision, Values & Culture



RICHARD'S LEMON MYRTLE BISCUIT RECIPE

Ingredients

125g butter	3/4 cup self raising flour
80g sugar	2/3 cup plain flour
1 tsp vanilla essence	2 tbsp milk
1 tsp lemon myrtle	

Method

1. Preheat oven to 160 degrees Celsius
2. Cream together the butter, sugar and vanilla essence.
3. add the remaining ingredients and combine.
4. use your hands to roll tablespoons of the mixture into balls and place on the tray 3cm apart
5. dip a fork in plain flour and lightly touch down the mixture (do not flatten)
6. bake in the oven for 18-20 minutes

CPELC'S COMMITMENT TO CHILD SAFETY

Recognising the signs of grooming

Being aware of the different forms of child abuse can help everyone understand how to better protect children and young people from harm. By being informed and attentive to the signs of grooming, you can play a vital role in safeguarding children from abuse

The below article and video on grooming explains what it is, and how you can spot some of the signs that a child may be being groomed, and also offers tips on how to effectively question a child you suspect may be being groomed.

[How to be a Good Questioner of Children \(youtube.com\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CCYP_...)

[CCYP | In the spotlight: child sexual abuse - grooming](https://bravehearts.org.au/about-child-sexual-abuse/resources-for-parents-carers/)

<https://bravehearts.org.au/about-child-sexual-abuse/resources-for-parents-carers/>

COOBAAROO AND MIRRAM BUNJIL FEATHER PROJECT



The Coobaaroo and Mirram room have collaborated together and with their children's families to create a Bunjil mural. this aims to engage our children and families in meaningful and creative activities that celebrate and respect Aboriginal culture and the diversity within our community.

Project Overview: "Bunjil" is an important figure in some Aboriginal cultures, often depicted as an eagle and regarded as a creator spirit and protector. Bunjil was the inspiration and guide for this project. We invite all children and families to participate in creating beautiful feathers for our collaborative artwork of Bunjil the Eagle.

Purpose of the Project: The "Bunjil's Feather" project is designed to:

- Encourage children to learn about and appreciate Aboriginal culture.
- Promote respect and understanding of cultural diversity.
- Foster community and collaboration among children, families, and educators.

COMMITTEE OF GOVERNANCE

Are you passionate about making a difference and contributing your expertise to an impactful organization? CPELC is seeking dedicated volunteers to join our Board of Governance. We value individuals who are committed to providing insight, oversight, and foresight to enhance our governance and operations.

What We Are Looking For:

- Individuals with diverse knowledge, skills, and experience.
- Commitment to supporting the strategic direction and operations of CPELC.

Application Process: While specific vacancies will be advertised as they arise, we welcome applications throughout the year.

To Learn More: For more information about joining the CPELC Board of Governance, including details on responsibilities and duties, please contact Scott Che or Sheyam Gunaratnam on the Governance and Appointments Committee at committee@columbiaparkelc.com.au



Are you running out of room on your fridge and walls for artworks? We have teamed up with 2 students from Caulfield Grammar who are doing a project where they collect artworks from the centre and donate them to the Wearly Dunlop Aged Care residents as a way of making them feel they are part of the community. So if you would like to donate, there is a box in the foyer just waiting to be filled up with amazing works of art. This project will be running for the rest of 2024!!

COOBAAROO NEWS



We are excited to share some wonderful updates and highlights from Term 2. The children have continued to settle beautifully into the room, strengthening the trusting relationships they have formed with their educators and peers. This sense of belonging and connection is essential for their well-being and development. We have actively listened to the children, observing their interests and abilities, cooperating with the children and families in the design of our program, supporting them in achieving their goals.

The children have gained a strong sense of community through participating in Nature Explorers and engaging with Aboriginal perspectives and other cultural experiences. This sense of community is a testament to their growing social skills and understanding of the world around them. During Reconciliation Week, the children and their families participated in the Bunjil's Feather activity, which highlighted the importance of cultural respect and understanding. We are delighted to see the children showing increased respect for the natural environment. Their gentle touch of leaves and trees during natural exploration is a clear reflection of their growing understanding and appreciation of nature. We also had a Police excursion, which we extended by creating Emergency Services play spaces.

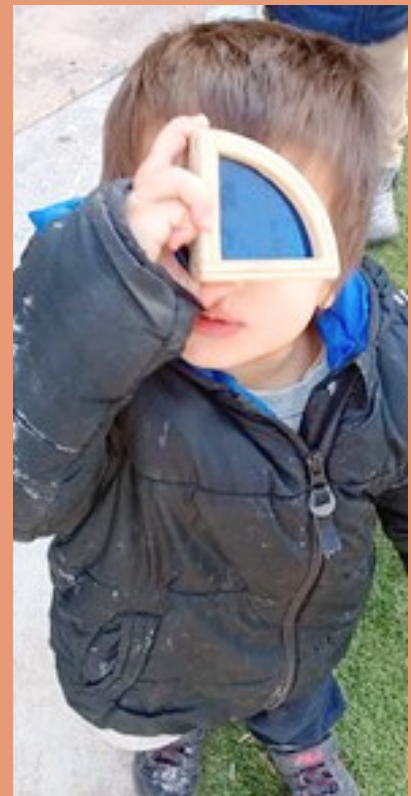


This term, we have focused on enhancing the children's awareness of their bodies and personal space. Activities such as "Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes" have become popular in the room, with children responding enthusiastically to the song's actions. The educators continue to model respectful relationships by asking for the children's permission before changing their nappies or cleaning their faces. This practice helps young children develop the concept of "my body my rules."

We are also enhancing the children's awareness of personal space while engaging with their peers. The educators model how to use verbal and nonverbal language to express their feelings when others get too close to them. This guidance helps the children learn to navigate social interactions more effectively and respectfully.



We are looking forward to continuing our exciting journey together in Term 3. Thank you for your ongoing support and partnership in your child's early learning journey.



MIRRAM NEWS

We are at the midpoint of the year, and the children have made significant progress in their learning and growth. Their comfort in our environment is reflected in their confidence to engage actively in learning activities and interact with their peers. The children readily adapt to our established routines and are developing self-help skills while becoming more open to trying new experiences. The children thoroughly enjoy spending ample time exploring and playing in our outdoor areas, connecting with nature and discovering new things daily. They build life skills through hands-on learning experiences and enhance their gross motor skills in a relaxed environment. Our outdoor spaces also foster social connections among the children, helping them develop their social skills as they navigate their surroundings together. Nature Explorers continues to expand their exploration of the natural world. The children are gaining confidence in climbing trees, taking on more challenges independently. Low tree trunks have transformed into makeshift monkey bars, where the children enjoy swinging from branches. They creatively use large fallen branches as brooms to sweep leaves from the ground. Additionally, the young explorers enthusiastically search for insects on tree trunks and among debris on the ground, their curiosity alive and thriving. We also enjoy walking through leaves and branches, pretending we are on a bear hunt, this all strengthening the children's physical development and sense of adventure.



We marked ANZAC Day, Easter, Orthodox Easter, and Mother's Day during a bustling term of festivities. Additionally, we joined the National Simultaneous Storytime, uniting our community as children nationwide shared the same book simultaneously. "Bowerbird Blues" captivated everyone, inspiring creative expressions as children explored various shades of blue through artwork and engaging discussions.

Road Safety Week emphasized the importance of traffic rules through engaging activities and dramatic play scenarios. The children learned about traffic lights and their meanings through a song variant 'Twinkle, Twinkle Traffic Light.' Dramatic play included a police setup where children role-played with police cars and traffic signs, recognising the emergency number "000". A visit from the police further reinforced safety lessons, with discussions on emergency procedures and the role of law enforcement.



"A child is a discoverer. [They are] an amorphous splendid being in search of [their] own proper form"

-Maria Montessori

MIRRAM NEWS CONTINUED

Reconciliation Week was a journey of cultural understanding and respect. Activities such as storytelling, sensory exploration, and learning Indigenous languages deepened appreciation for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures. Collaborative projects like the mural with the Coobaaroo room promoted unity and inclusivity.

Child Safety Awareness remained a priority, with educational initiatives focused on body awareness and boundaries. Books like "Boss of Your Own Body" and interactive discussions empowered children with knowledge and skills to stay safe. Our coloured circle mats at group time representing the imaginary circle around our bodies, reinforcing the concept of personal space and safety. The compost bin and worm farm is thriving. The children have shown consistent enthusiasm for these sustainable practices and delight in observing the growth of our vegetable garden. We remain committed to nurturing their curiosity in these areas, as it provides a wonderful opportunity to deepen their connection with the natural world and understand their impact on it. The children eagerly volunteer to bring food scraps to feed the worms.



As educators, we are committed to nurturing curiosity, empathy, and resilience in our young learners, creating a nurturing environment where every child feels valued and supported in their journey of discovery and growth.



*"it does not matter
how slowly you go
as long as you do
not stop"*
-Confucius



WOOLERT NEWS



What an amazing term 2 we have had in the Woolert room!! We have had incursions, Special events and a whole lot of fun while learning and growing. We thank all the families for their ongoing support for the program and look forward to Term 3 and 4.

Simultaneous Story Time

On the 22 May we took part in Simultaneous Story time, where more than 2 million people all over the world are reading the same book at the same time. We had our lunch while listening to the story called "Bowerbird Blues." This book follows the story of a bird, who collects different blue items, such as bread tags, scraps, and pegs. It searches far and wide to find more blue in the world, flying from cityscapes to diving under the sea. On this journey, the bird even discovers a new friend (who is not blue at all!). We really enjoyed the story and afterwards we looked up some more information and learned more about Bower birds. We also took part in a number of different activities relating to the story including drawing bower birds and learning facts about them.



Facts we learned about Bowerbirds....

They like to collect blue things

They come in different colours

They have purple eyes

They make houses called Bowers

Police Visit

Officer Hugh came to visit us from Oakleigh Police station. He brought his car in and we got to go out and have a look before he came and spoke with us about the police. He talked about lots of different things such as the different animals they have in the force as well as the different vehicles. We talked about 000 and that it is important to try and learn our address in case we ever needed to call them. He also said its very important not to be afraid of the Police and that they are always here to help us.



The Resilience Project

We are continuing to engage in The Resilience Project some of the activities we have been engaging with included having Bingo card made up of all of our faces making different emotions. The children have enjoyed looking at each other's pictures as well as matching them up. They have been talking to them about how the person might be feeling. At group time we have been talking about our moods and mood changes, the things we can do to make our moods change, some examples the children have come up with include hugging someone when they feel scared or sad or making someone laugh when they are crying.

WOOLERT NEWS CONTINUED



ANZAC day

Anzac day was looked at by the children in the Woolert room and we have marked the occasion with a number of different experiences in the room.

We set up the easel with red, black and green paints and some pictures of poppies as a provocation for the children. We also talked about the Poppy flower and that it is a symbol of remembrance for the soldiers who went to war.

We also made Rosemary scented playdough with the children and we talked about Rosemary and how it too is a symbol of remembrance. The children were a little unsure of the smell at first, but they seem to have grown to like it, smelling the playdough as well as their hands after.

The children have also had opportunities for cooking, with the children making Anzac Day slice. We read the story Anzac Biscuits and learned that these were something families made for their loved ones and sent to them when they were away at war.



Composting Incursion.

We had a visit from Christie from Monash council who came to teach us all about the importance of worms. The children really enjoyed learning all about our wiggly friends and how they help us in the environment. Some facts we learned about worms are:

- They have no arms and legs
- They have no eyes or ears
- They can still tell if its light or dark.
- Worms breath through holes in their skin.
- Worms have 5 hearts
- Worms move by squashing and stretching their bodies.
- Worms like to eat Fruit, Vegetables and cardboard.

Their favourite part of the incursion was holding the worms and watching them in the containers as well as doing the Wiggly Worm song and dance.

BABAJIN NEWS

Mother's day/special person's day -The children selected the song Skidamarink to learn to share with their loved ones, videos were sent home and they sung it and used sign language during the evening event. They enhanced literacy, creativity and fine motor skills as they make lots of different gifts and hand written cards.

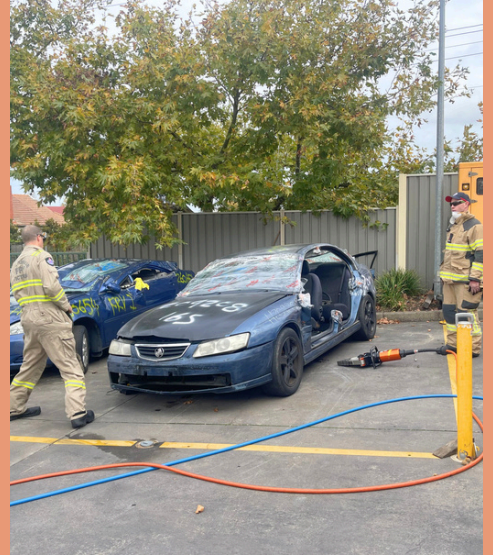


Learning about important role of fire fighters, ambulance and the police.
000 is phone number for police, fire and ambulance.

Our excursion to Oakleigh fire station and Waverley park playground. They were so excited on their bus ride to Oakleigh fire station. They had a brief discussion about fire safety with the firefighters and observed their full fire uniform including oxygen pumps. He spoke about get down low and go, go go- have you practiced this at home? Do you have a meeting place outside of the house? They watched the fire truck raise the tall ladder and saw the equipment being used to cut the roof off a car. They then had a turn of the fire house, multiple times and looked inside the fire truck. They had their lunch boxes and a big play at the amazing playground at Waverley Park.

Police visit to CPELC

Constable Heath showed us the police car and then came into the room to inform us all about what the police do. The children showed interest and gave input as he talked about the different jobs police do, the different vehicles they use and why, and the animals within the police force. The children are learning their surnames and their home address?



Sri Lankan New Year-Bhagya and Chamari shared their cultural celebration -Bhagya read them books in English and Sinhala and taught them how to say hello and on Wednesday Chamari made coconut rice with them.

Anzac Day

Reading a selection of books as they learn about Anzac Day and drawing, painting and creating poppies as we learn about the symbolism. As well as forgotten Aboriginal soldiers. They enhanced awareness of what ANZAC stands for- Australian New Zealand Army Corps and of course made ANZAC biscuits to share with their families.



BABAJIN NEWS CONTINUED

Nature explorer and Aboriginal and Torres strait islander education
-They are independently saying the Acknowledgement of country and are aware we are on Bunurong ground.

-How we use boomerangs for fun, instruments and how they were used for hunting. They are continuing to practice throwing them and show such delight and joy when some of them are throwing it a greater distance and it is even beginning to come back at times
-Agency, risk taking and resilience are scaffolded when climbing, playing and racing.

They displayed consideration and the important role we have in caring for mini beasts and other living things.

-Learning about significant aspect of Australian history and beginning to understand the journey of reconciliation with Australia's First Peoples. We are all so proud of their understanding and majority of children spoke about how their treatment was so sad it wasn't fair during Reconciliation week.

Murrindindi, Wurundjeri Elder taught me this song called Good Morning Mr... (insert animal name) and the children are learning it as they continue to learn the animal names in English at the Wurundjeri language of Woiwurrung and the corresponding symbols. Babajin-kookaburra, Platypus is Watarung, Echidna is Inga linga, Eagle is Bunjil and kangaroo is Mirram. They used some recycled wood as tapping sticks, each having a turn to select a different way to use them/tempo and practise active listening. They are learning down and up sticks.



Simultaneous Storytime- National Simultaneous Storytime (NSS) book for 2024 is Bowerbird Blues by Aura Parker (Scholastic, 2023). The children then drew pictures and shared their learning. We looked at a real nest and then a clip of a bird making a nest, the different nests bower birds make and the children also made their own.



Japanese children's day
Taka bought in koinobori- carp shaped streamers which are hung up and symbolize strength and success. The children then made their own and flew around the yard with them.



Kindness- We have group and spontaneous discussions on kindness, listening to others, using kind words and asking others if they want to play chasing games. We learnt about the safety network again- asking someone until we feel safe or until we get the help we need. We are modelling language and the children are practising using a louder/assertive voice to say, "Stop I don't like it when.....".

BABAJIN NEWS CONTINUED

Sustainability – The children have now their own scrapbook which they are making a front cover design and writing their name. This sparked learning about where paper comes from and why we don't waste paper. We are also saving any unwanted paper to use their paper airplanes. We have grown one pumpkin from seeds kept from our seedlings we sprouted. They are very excited to observe the growth and use worm wee on the garden.



THE RESILIENCE PROJECT -The Resilience Project delivers evidence-based positive mental health programs to build resilience and happiness. We focus on three main strategies: Gratitude, Empathy and Mindfulness.

We are learning to develop the ability to identify and express emotions through a wide variety of experiences. Have you seen their thoughtful, and insightful learning and art work displayed in the room and in the hallway.

The children have been taking photos of each other depicting various emotions, these have been used to create a memory game as well as displayed on the wall. They are learning to recognise and name the different emotions, discussing when and why we may be feeling these emotions and how we work through our emotions. Such as taking deep breathes, dancing or asking for help when we are angry. We are now in the partnership stage with the families as they are sharing when they may feel one of the many emotions displayed and they are adding their photo to the wall.

The Babajins are now Naming 52 emotions and counting...

UPCOMING DATES

- 31 July excursion to Twisted Science
- 7 Aug incursion at CPELC recycle man
- 2-6 Sept Superhero week
- 26 Nov- Kew traffic school
- 4 Dec 4 year Kinder end of year concert



Australia's Biggest Morning Tea
We made chocolate crackles,
milo balls and cards to sell to
raise funds. Thank you to all
the families and whom have
donated. This has enhanced
the children's community spirit
a



Eid al Fitr and weekly cooking experience- Fatima read the book and shared aspects of her culture with the children. They learnt about the Ramadan moon and they then went in search of the moon outside. It must have been behind a cloud but all week they continually found it and showed others. 6 of the children made Eid biscuits for all the children to enjoy. Mixing, measuring, collaborating and using moon and star cutters.