

TERM 1 NEWSLETTER

THANK YOU TO
EVERYONE WHO
ATTENDED AND
CONTRIBUTED TO
THE EASTER
FUNDRAISER WE
RAISED A TOTAL OF
\$1100



WOMINJEKA!  YOU'VE
MADE IT TO THE END OF
TERM 1—
CONGRATULATIONS



Join our committee for 2025 We are seeking expressions of interest from families to join our management committee. Please contact committee@columbiaparkelc.com.au if you have any questions.

CPELC UPDATES AND REMINDERS

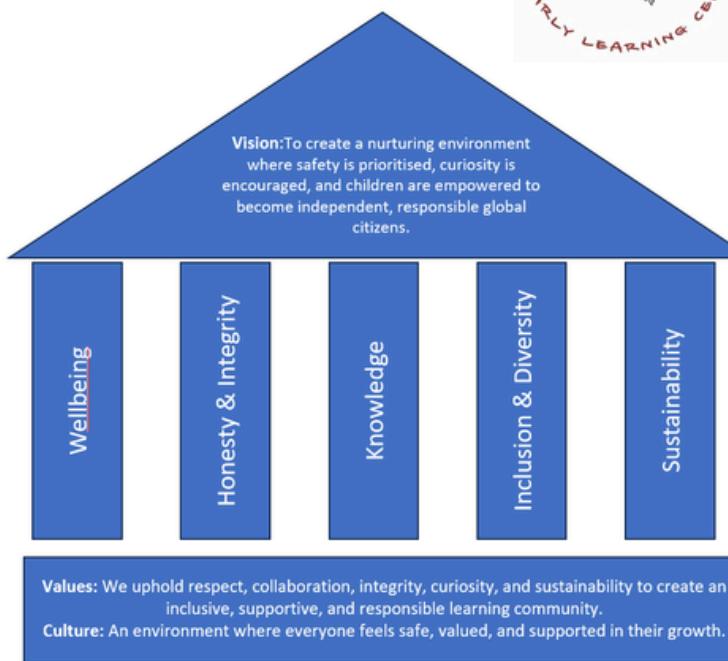
Calender of events

- Katie's Memorial reveal May 2nd 4pm
- Mother's day evening - 7 May after hrs
(more information closer to the date)
- Dentist 3 & 4 yrs kinder – 8 & 9 July
- PJ week – 14 July
- Superhero week – 1 September
- Father's Day – 3 September (more information closer to the date)
- Footy week – 22 September
- Art show – 10 October
- AGM – 14 October
- Family Xmas party - 21 November
- 3 yrs concert – 26 November
- 4 yrs concert - 3 December

CPELC Philosophy, Vision, Values & Culture

Philosophy

Columbia Park Early Learning Centre is a not-for-profit organisation embeds the principles of belonging, being, and becoming. We view children as capable learners and provide them with meaningful opportunities to explore, discover, and engage in the learning process. Our experienced teaching team works in close collaboration with families to support each child's educational goals. We are committed to sustainability and actively incorporate this focus into our practices and programs, fostering responsible global citizens. Our play-based curriculum is enriched with weekly nature explorer sessions and promoting hands-on learning. The safety, health, and wellbeing of children are our top priorities. We celebrate and value the diversity within our inclusive community, honouring the rich cultures and heritage of First Nations peoples. We are committed to justice, equity, and equality for all. The Parent Management Committee partners with our teaching team to ensure we consistently meet and exceed the expectations and aspirations of children, families, and the broader community.



THANK YOU FOR JOINING US FOR OUR EASTER FUNDRAISER EVENT.
TOGETHER WE WERE ABLE TO RAISE \$1100.



POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

POLICIES | COLUMBIA-PARK-ELC

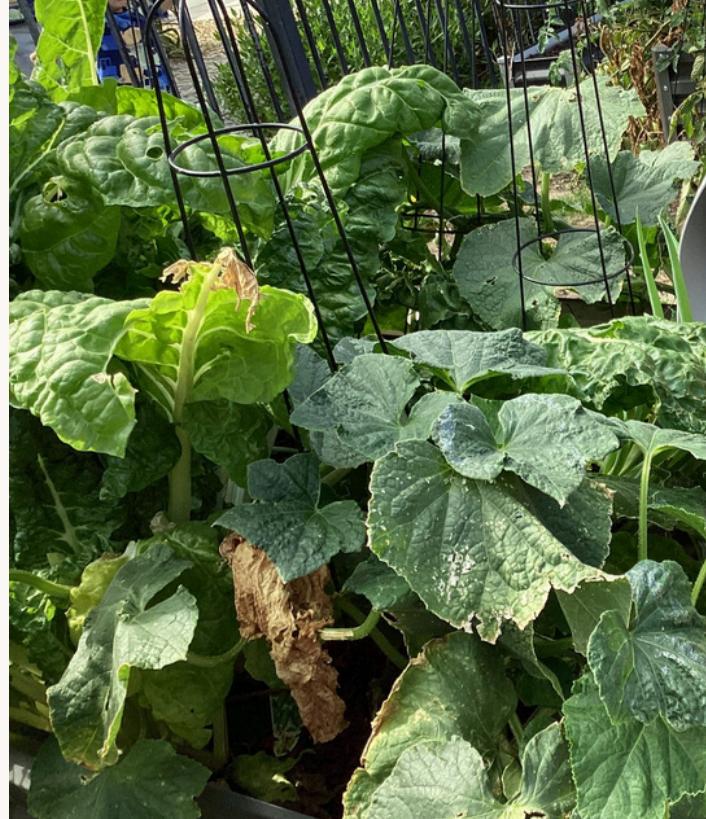
COMMITMENT TO CHILD SAFETY

Columbia Park ELC is committed to safety and wellbeing of all children and young people. This will be the primary focus of our care and decision-making. CPELC has zero tolerance for child abuse. CPELC is committed to providing a child safe environment where children and young people are safe and feel safe, and their voices are heard about decisions that affect their lives. We are dedicated to the training of our staff in reportable conduct and being aware of the signs of child abuse

child safe standards

The Standards set out minimum requirements and outline the actions organisations must take to keep children and young people safe. They provide more clarity for organisations and are more consistent with Standards in the rest of Australia. The things organisations already do to keep children and young people safe will help them be compliant with the new Standards. What will be different? Although similar to Victoria's current Child Safe Standards, key changes include new requirements:

- to involve families and communities in organisations' efforts to keep children and young people safe
- for a greater focus on safety for Aboriginal children and young people
- to manage the risk of child abuse in online environments
- in relation to governance, systems and processes to keep children and young people safe.



Sustainability news

We have had a very busy time looking after our Vegetable garden. The children have been watching the vegetables grow, watering and finding the snails to remove . The children have also enjoyed harvesting the vegetables. They take them to Richard and we have been having them in our lunches which is also a wonderful way to encourage children to eat and try something different. We are enjoying tomatoes and cucumber on our fruit and vegetables platters . They are tasty and sweet. Soon it will be time to replant . In the Babajin room the children have been drying out the seeds from the fruit and vegetables . Experimenting with them to replant at a later date. It has been wonderful seeing and hearing the discussion with family and friends when you are entering the centre.

Some families might like to start a vegetable patch at home . We would love to see some photos of them if you already have one .

Our wish list .

We would love any paper for drawing on. Small boxes and construction materials for art and craft .

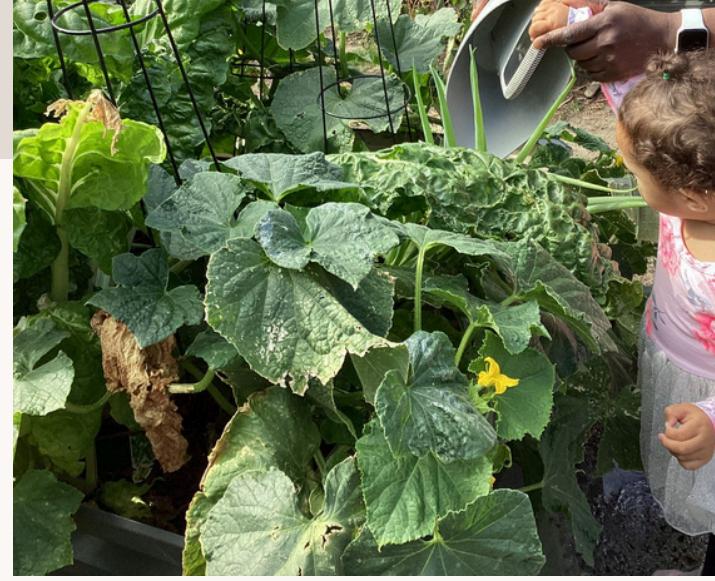
Plastic bags for placing soiled nappies in .

Metal sandpit equipment .Pots pans spoons and ladles .
please ask us if you are not sure.

Mirrums and Coobaroos have been gaining an understanding of recycling in the rooms . They have been exploring the different colours of the bins and what we place on each one .

We have started learning about how and what our rubbish does to the environment and the wildlife .

Woolerts and the Bubajin children have also been exploring the effect humans have on our planet with what we do with our rubbish i The children are responding in a positive way and continue to grow with the understanding of the effect it has on the planet. The Woolerts have been investigating what happens in our oceans and water ways with rubbish Bubijins in the bush and the effect it can have on the wildlife.





COOBAROO NEWS

🌸 Welcome to a New Year of Learning & Exploration!

A warm welcome to all our families in the Coobaaroo Room! It has been a wonderful start to the year, and we are delighted to see the children settling in so well. They are becoming more familiar with the daily routines, gaining confidence in exploring their environment, and expressing themselves through verbal and non-verbal communication. It is heartwarming to see them forming trusting relationships with their educators and beginning to build friendships with their peers.



🌿 Caring for Our Garden

Our little learners have also been nurturing their green thumbs this term! We have been encouraging them to take part in caring for our veggie garden, where they help with watering the plants, observing their growth, and learning about nature. This hands-on experience allows the children to develop patience, responsibility, and an environmental appreciation.

-celebrating Chinese New Year

This term, we embraced the festivities of the Chinese New Year with various exciting activities. The children engaged in creative arts and crafts, decorating the room with vibrant colours and symbols of good luck. A highlight of our celebration was making dumplings with our educators, where the children explored new textures and participated in a meaningful cultural experience.

We were fortunate to have a Chinese Fan Dance incursion, where Cindy introduced us to traditional fan dance, storytelling, and even a few Kung Fu moves! The children had the opportunity to try on traditional Chinese clothing, hold the beautiful fans, and immerse themselves in the rhythm of the dance. This cultural learning experience was a joy to witness, and we hope it has broadened their understanding of and appreciation of the world around them.



👉 Building a Warm & Supportive Learning Space

At Coobaaroo Room, we are dedicated to creating a safe, nurturing, and engaging environment where children feel secure to learn, explore, and grow. We deeply value our partnership with families and believe that strong connections between home and the learning environment play a key role in each child's development. We welcome your feedback and suggestions. Your insights about your child's interests, favourite activities, or any other aspect of their learning journey are invaluable to us.

MIRRAM NEWS



January filled with moments of adjustment, as the children reacquainted themselves with the space, the activities, and the expectations of the day. The first week was also an opportunity to observe how the children had grown emotionally and cognitively. It was heartwarming to see their personalities shine through as they rediscovered the joy of learning in a social environment. The children were eager to reconnect with old friends, make new ones, and share their moments spending time with peers participating in our learning environment. These connections foster a sense of community and belonging, helping each child feel safe and supported in the classroom.



Veggie Garden:

We are so pleased to announce that Mirram children will involve in planting this year as we are growing snow peas in our garden bed. Our children are super excited for this project. They show their great interest in gardening; it provides a wonderful opportunity to foster their development in a variety of ways. Gardening can be a rich, hands-on experience that supports physical, cognitive, social, and emotional growth. Gardening is an opportunity to nurture children's growth in many different areas. The sensory exploration, responsibility, patience, and connection to nature that gardening offers provide a solid foundation for their emotional, social, and cognitive development. We want to make this gardening experience become a joyful, educational, and deeply rewarding experience for children. They learn a lifelong love of nature, healthy habits, and a deeper understanding of the world around them.

Chinese fan dance:

The children were immediately intrigued by the vibrant colors and unique designs of the fans, and their natural curiosity led to delightful moments of discovery. We observed the children developing fine motor skills as they held the fans and practiced coordination in their movements. The experience also encouraged social interaction, as the children shared the fans, took turns, and giggled together, showing an early sense of cooperation. The bright colors and dynamic movements of the fans created a visually stimulating environment, supporting sensory development while allowing the children to explore artistic expression in a simple, hands-on way. Children had great opportunity to wear the Chinese costume for photoshoots. They look amazing.



WOOLERT NEWS

Welcome to the Woolert room for 2025.

Its been such a super fun Term and The children have all settled in so well. We thank all the amazing educators who have worked in the room this term, particularly over the Jan school Holidays when Myself and Liza have been away. The children are in the routine of things and are really enjoying their time.

We cant wait for another 3 great terms with the Woolerts!!

This term, we were fortunate to have a special visit from Pallyan, the son of Murrundindi, the Elder of the Wurundjeri people. During their visit, Pallyan and his team presented a lesson focused on the Wurundjeri language and culture. We had the incredible opportunity to learn several important Indigenous words, which helped us connect with the rich heritage of the Wurundjeri people. Some of the words we learned included:

Wominjeka – Welcome

Gudjinna – Hello

Bunjil – Wedge-tailed eagle

Mirram – Kangaroo

Wooterang – Platypus

Wollert – Possum

Inga-Linga – Echidna

Babjin – Kookaburra



After familiarizing ourselves with the names of these animals, we were introduced to a puppet of each one, which made the experience even more engaging. The puppets helped bring the animals to life as we sang songs about each one, learning more about their significance in Wurundjeri culture.

To wrap up the lesson, we combined all of the songs we had learned, celebrating both the animals and the language. This experience not only taught us new words but also deepened our understanding of the Wurundjeri people's connection to nature and their rich cultural traditions.

Colour Monster and Emotional Literacy

This term we have started work on our Emotional Literacy learning, with a major focus on the book "the Colour Monster" By Anna Llenas.

This book looks at lots of different emotions and associates them with a colour. We have looked at things that make the woolerts happy so far. Some of those responses include Their mummy and daddies, a hug, friends and breakfast. We will be continuing to explore more emotions in Term 2 and onwards.



BABAJIN NEWS

KINDNESS JAR

Kindness- we engaged in reading a book about Kind- This sparked conversations about what it means to be kind and each child shared something they have done which is kind. We created our own kindness jar; have a look in our room where the children placed a sticker inside the jar when they had done something kind and shared their kindness act. We will now extend this to make another jar as they share acts of kindness they have done in their home environment.



Pallyan excursion and incursion- Pallyan is the son of Wurundjeri elder, Murrindindi and he came into kinder and taught his language program. They are continuing to learn;

Wominjeka is welcome
They sang the 'We come together' song

Bunjil- Wedge-tailed eagle

Gudjinna (Good-gin-na) is hello

Mirram- kangaroo

Woterang- platypus

Inga- Linga is echidna

Noon-Gudjin (Noon-good-gin) – thankyou

Triganin-See you later

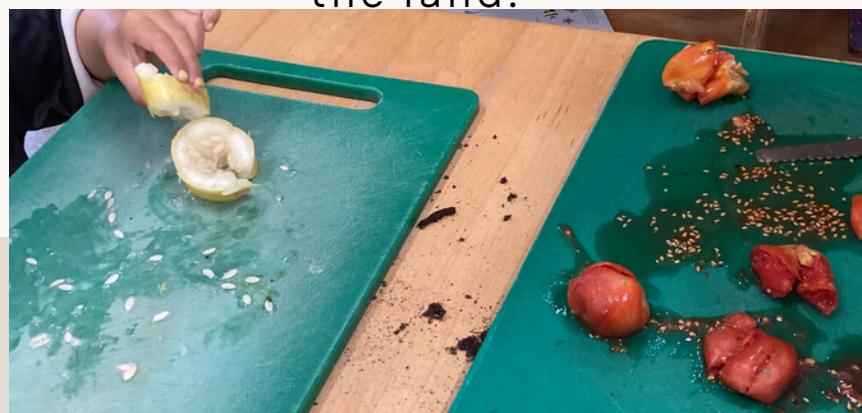
We then went to the oval and he taught us how to hold and throw a boomerang.



OUR VEGETABLE GARDEN-

Wow! So impressed with the endless learning opportunities and their joy when they discover the fruit/vegetables. They have been involved in the whole process including watering, weeding, hunting for snails and eating it in their meals. The children have learnt about what seeds need to grow/life cycle of plants as we engaged in a drama experience including the bee coming and pollinated their flowers and they grew tomatoes. This sparked curiosity and questions about what is pollen, how honey is made and the importance of bees- see their painting in the hallway. They are also sharing their awareness that seeds need soil, water and sun and emerging awareness that they also need time, space and air.

The children cut up some of the rotten tomatoes and a cucumber and have planted the seeds and hopefully they will become seedlings and be used in the new planting in our vegetable garden including broccoli which has just sprouted. Connecting with country and learning how we can be sustainable and live off the land.



RICHARD'S CURRY TUNA SLICE

INGREDIENTS:

1 Large carrot
1 large brown onion
2 stalks of celery
1 can of tuna in spring water
1 tsp curry powder
50 grams butter
 $\frac{1}{4}$ cup plain flour
 $\frac{2}{12}$ cup milk
cooked rice

METHOD

Finely chop all vegetables finely, saute the vegetables until soft.

Add the butter melt and add flour.

Cook for a few minutes, then add curry powder.

Add milk and cook until it begins to thicken up but it is still has a slight runny consistency.

Add tuna into the mix.

Place cooked rice into a baking dish.

Add the tuna mixture and bake in the oven at 180 C for 10-15 minutes.