



*Gum Nut Preschool*  
and Child Care

Monthly news sheet - March



## Calendar

### April

- 17th** Gum Nut Easter Bonnet Parade
- 18th** Good Friday (Centre Closed)
- 21st** Easter Monday (Centre Closed)
- 22nd** Term 2 Starts
- 25th** Anzac Day (Centre Closed)

### May

- 4th** International Firefighters day
- 11th** Mothers Day
- 11th-18th** Road Safety Week
- 20th** World Bee Day
- 21st** National Simultaneous Storytime - "The Truck Cat"  
by Deborah Frenkel and Danny Snell
- 26th** National Sorry Day
- 27th** Reconciliation Week

We respectfully acknowledge  
the Traditional Owners  
of the land where we learn  
and play, the Wurundjeri  
people of the Kulin Nation.  
We pay respect to their  
Elders past, present and  
emerging.



Centre opening hours.  
7:30 AM - 6:00 PM



PH: 9499 4410 M: 0421286900



[office@gumnutpreschool.com.au](mailto:office@gumnutpreschool.com.au)



[gumnutpreschool.com.au](http://gumnutpreschool.com.au)

# WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND THE CENTRE

---

- **Opening hours:** The center opens at 7:30 AM. Please note that we are not licenced to care for any child dropped off before this time, and we ask parents to wait until 7:30 AM.
- **Parking in the driveway:** If you are required to stay at Gum Nut for an extended period of time please find parking along the street to allow others to have access to the driveway for quick drop offs
- **Holiday discount:** Please ensure you notify the office two weeks in advance of any planned leave from the centre to receive the fee discount.
- **Updating personal details:** We would like to remind you to ensure that your contact details are up to date. Having the most current information on file will help us stay in touch with you in case of important updates, events, or emergencies. If any of your details have changed recently, please update them.  
Please take a moment to check the following information:
  - Address
  - Email address
  - Phone numbers
  - Emergency contacts
- **Sick children:** It is crucial for the wellbeing of all children and staff that we maintain a healthy environment at Gum Nut. Therefore we request that if your child is feeling unwell or displaying any symptoms of illness, that you keep them at home until they have recovered. This includes symptoms such as fever, cough, runny nose, vomiting, diarrhea or other contagious conditions. By keeping sick children at home, we can help prevent the spread of illness to others and ensure a safe and comfortable environment for everyone. If your child has undergone testing and is awaiting results, please keep them at home until the results are received and you have received clearance from a doctor.
- **Team updates:** Firstly we would like to let you know that Zach's last day was Wednesday the 26th, and we thank him for his time and dedication to the centre. We are thrilled to have Hannah take over Zach's role as Educational leader. Hannah will focus on this role on Fridays with Anthea continuing to lead the kindergarten program. Vivian has made the decision to move to Queensland with her family, we wish her all the best in her new adventure. Additionally, we are pleased to introduce Cali who has joined the Possum Room as a new educator. We also welcome Celeste, who will be joining us on the 14th of April as a Teacher in the Magpie Room. She brings in a wealth of experience and enthusiasm, and we are confident she will be a wonderful addition to our team.

Thank you for your support and cooperation!





# SUMMARY OF TERM 1

## Road Safety

The Magpie and Kinder programs had a fantastic opportunity to learn about road safety during a special incursion with our local crossing supervisor, Jules! The children were taught important lessons about crossing the street safely, looking both ways, and understanding traffic signals. Jules shared her valuable experiences and demonstrated how to stay safe while walking around busy streets. The children enjoyed the hands-on learning and are now more confident in their road safety skills. A big thank you to Jules for helping us keep our little ones safe!



## Possum & Wombats

During term 1, the Possum & Wombat rooms have been focusing on supporting the children to gain a sense of belonging within their new rooms. This has consisted of building strong, trusting relationships with new educators. The Wombat children have been involved in creating our sense of belonging tree! Some children have brought in photos to add to the tree, which has added an aspect of community to our room, further supporting a sense of belonging, not only for the children, but for their families too.

The Wombats have also continued to develop their ongoing friendships with their peers as we have been learning to gain an understanding of respect and caring for others. This will continue to be a focus for term 2 as we explore turn-taking and sharing through physical activities such as using the slide and ball games.

Alongside their emotional development, we have been encouraging more independence which has involved caring for personal belongings and preparing for routine transition times, such as mealtimes and sleep times. This includes gathering drink bottles, hats, and placing clothes into their own sleep bags.

Art and crafts this term have been based around using recycled and natural materials. The children have enjoyed engaging in the sensory aspects associated with using natural leaves, flowers, tanbark, and sand to create their artwork, alongside using recycled paper for drawing, painting, and pasting activities. This is implemented as part of our centre philosophy, while promoting creativity and freedom of expression through exploring different resources that have a positive impact on the environment.





## KOALA ROOM

This term, the Koalas have developed new relationships with educators and peers. We have focused on supporting emotional regulation through a range of activities exploring feelings. Additionally, we have nurtured the children's emerging interests and identified new areas of focus for the next term, such as fine and gross motor development.



## MAGPIE ROOM

The focus this term in the Magpie Room was for children to develop a sense of belonging in relation to the new room, their peers and teachers. This sense of belonging has been developed through play-based learning that responds to the children's needs and interests (playing with cars, sorting recycling, learning about sea animals, sharing during group time, outdoor running games). Children have also learnt how to interact with each other positively through child-led play and teacher-led group time. Based on this term's engagement, next term we aim to further enhance children's understanding of the world around them through focus topics of following instructions, transport and travel, and taking care of our planet.





# KINDER ROOM

What an incredible start to the year in the Kinder Room! The children have settled in wonderfully, forming new friendships and strengthening established ones. This term, we focused on building a strong sense of belonging and respect through group activities, storytelling, and role-play. The Kinder children explored emotions through books such as *In My Heart*, discussed strategies to cope with different feelings, practiced mindfulness, and learned about cultural diversity during celebrations like Chinese New Year, Harmony Week, and International Mother Language Day. They also participated in School Clean-Up Day and National Sea Week, developing an understanding of how to care for the natural environment.

As part of our Bush Kinder preparation, the children enjoyed engaging incursions on Dog Safety and Road Safety, where they learned important safety rules through interactive activities and hands-on experiences. A major highlight this term was the start of our Bush Kinder program, with visits to Alphington Wetlands and Darebin Parklands. The children explored nature and practiced road safety skills along the way, preparing for full Bush Kinder days ahead!

It has been wonderful to see the Kinder children grow in confidence and resilience this term. As we step into Term 2, we can't wait for even more exciting adventures! Our Bush Kinder sessions will continue, giving children more opportunities to explore, discover, and learn & play in nature. We'll also dive into creative projects, celebrate special events, and introduce new hands-on experiences that spark curiosity and imagination. We look forward to another fantastic term filled with more fun, learning, and play!





# F A C E B O O K

Please use the links to join your child's room private Facebook group

These groups are used for collaboration with families, sharing information about upcoming events and program.



Gum Nut  
Community



Possum  
Room



Wombat  
Room



Koala  
Room



Magpie  
Room



Kinder  
Room



## eSafety Policy

At Gum Nut Preschool & Childcare, we recognise the importance of technology in education. We are committed to ensuring that all children are safeguarded from potential risks associated with digital technology.

### *Social Media:*

- All Centre Facebook groups are private and monitored.
- Any official use of social media for Gum Nut will be managed by designated staff and used for communication about programs with parents/careers only. No additional family members.
- Personal information about children or staff will not be shared online without consent.
- Each room will have a private and monitored Facebook group to share information about the program.



# Family Input



At Gum Nut we believe in working together and recognise the value of family input. It allows us to foster a sense of belonging for both parents and child. When this collaboration happens, it strengthens the child's identity and enhances their learning.

The Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF) states, "Educators' practices and the relationships they form with children and families have a significant effect on children's involvements and success in learning. Children thrive when families and educators work together in partnership to support young children's learning."

All of our programs invite parents to participate; you could share an interest or skill, teach a new song, play an instrument or share a cooking activity.

## CARE NET MOBILE FOOD RELIEF



April | 9.30-10.30am

April 14th

April 28th



CARENET

CHAPEL || LIFE