

NEWSLETTER



A MESSAGE FROM OUR ACTING TEAM LEADER EDUCATION & CARE

Dear Families,

As we approach the holiday season we also near the conclusion of 2022. Thank you to our families, children & staff for another wonderful year. We are excited to see you again & meet our new families in 2023. Congratulations to all graduating Kindergarten children, we wish you all the best on the next adventure to school!



The Christmas holiday period can be busy and so are the active minds of our children. Providing children with the opportunity to explore their creativity through art and craft is valuable for many reasons. It promotes extended times of concentration, allows for self-expression, cause & effect skill building, experimentation with different materials and mediums, critical thinking & problem solving to achieve desired effect. Homemade crafts are also cost effective and incredibly thoughtful gifts for friends and family.

Here are some craft ideas to keep their hands busy too:

- <https://www.thebestideasforkids.com/popsicle-stick-christmas-crafts/>
- <https://www.thebestideasforkids.com/handprint-christmas-tree/>

Many of the suggested Christmas craft activities can be modified to suit resources that you can find at home. You can even use natural materials gathered from your garden.

Summer holidays

For many families, summer means gathering with friends & family, BBQ's, trips to the beach/river/pool, holidaying to somewhere cool or even playing under the sprinkler on a lush lawn. While relaxing and enjoying your time together the importance of water safety & sun smart practices still stand. Stay informed using these links:

Always slip, slop, slap, seek & slide: <https://www.cancer.org.au/cancer-information/causes-and-prevention/sun-safety/campaigns-and-events/slip-slop-slap-seek-slide>

And remember Kids Alive do the Five- always supervise: <https://www.royallifesaving.com.au/stay-safe-active/locations/water-safety-at-home>



Introducing Emerging Minds Families: free infant and child mental health resources for parents, families and practitioners

Emerging Minds has recently launched [Emerging Minds Families](#) – a brand new range of resources for parents and families looking for information and support about infant and child mental health.

The resources – including videos, factsheets, animations and podcasts – are free and have been developed in collaboration with families, practitioners and researchers. They are designed for practitioners to share and use with the parents and families they work with, or for parents and families to access directly.

Topics include:

- Supporting parents and families living with mental illness
- Responding to and managing the impact of natural disasters including floods, bushfire and drought
- Understanding and managing anxiety in children and young people, and
- Infant mental health and wellbeing.

Visit the [Emerging Minds website](#) to access the resources and [subscribe to the Emerging Minds Families newsletter](#) for the latest updates and releases.

OFFICE NEWS & REMINDERS

Important Reminder regarding Accounts

A reminder to parents/guardians that your child must attend their last booking date if their enrolment is ending to avoid incurring a Child Care Subsidy debt.

If your child does not attend their last booking date without a valid reason (please see link below), you will have your Child Care Subsidy withdrawn by Services Australia (centrelink), dating back to their last day of attendance. This can amount to a significant amount of money owing.

Parents/Guardians are liable for this Child Care Subsidy debt if this occurs.

<https://www.education.gov.au/child-care-package/child-care-subsidy/absences>

I would also like to remind parents/guardians that your child will not be able to access children's services with the Glenelg Shire if you have an outstanding balance on your account.

To avoid this scenario, please ensure that your account is paid in full prior to the end of 2022.

The best way to get in touch with us

Children's Services Customer Service Team

Tel: 1300 453 635

Email: childrenservicesenquiry@glenelg.vic.gov.au

Fee or Account Enquiries, Children's Services Accounts Team

Tel: (03) 5522 2515

Email: csaccounts@glenelg.vic.gov.au



Absence Notifications

We ask that families please notify the Children's Services Team as soon as possible if your child will be absent from their program. This can be done via the Xap Smile App or through the following methods:

Phone – 1300 453 635

Email – childrenservicesenquiry@glenelg.vic.gov.au

RECRUITMENT

Glenelg Shire Council currently has a number of positions vacant in the Children's Services Unit. For more information, please visit

https://hcm618.peoplestreme.net/glenelgshirecouncil/erec_external.asp



2022/2023 ANNUAL CLOSURE & COMMENCEMENT DATES

Glenelg Shire wishes to advise families of the following closure and commencement dates at our education and care centres 2022/2023

Integrated Services

Karreta Peeneeyt Mara Portland Child and Family Complex

- Last day of long day care – Wednesday 21 December 2022
- First day of long day care – Thursday 12 January 2023
- Last day of kindergarten 4 year old – Thursday 15 December 2022
- First day of kindergarten 4 year old – Thursday 2 February 2023
- Last day of kindergarten 3 year old – Friday 16 December 2022
- First day of kindergarten 3 year old – Friday 3 February 2023

Kathleen Millikan Centre

- Last day of long day care – Wednesday 21 December 2022
- First day of long day care – Friday 13 January 2023
- Last day of kindergarten 3 & 4 year old – Friday 16 December 2022
- First day of kindergarten 3 & 4 year old – Thursday 2 February 2023

Dartmoor Children's Centre

- Last day of long day care – Thursday 15 December 2022
- First day of long day care – Tuesday 7 February 2023
- Last day of kindergarten – Thursday 15 December 2022
- First day of kindergarten – Tuesday 7 February 2023

Kindergarten Services

Jaycee Kindergarten

- Last day of kindergarten Penguin (3's) – Monday 12 December 2022
- Last day of kindergarten Seal (4's) – Thursday 15 December 2022
- Last day of kindergarten Dolphin (4's) – Friday 16 December 2022
- First day of kindergarten Seal (4's) – Thursday 2 February 2023
- First day of kindergarten Dolphin's (4's) – Friday 3 February 2023
- First day of kindergarten Penguin (3's) – Monday 6 February 2023

Kalbarri Kindergarten

- Last day of kindergarten 4's – Thursday 15 December 2022
- Last day of kindergarten 3's – Friday 16 December 2022
- First day of kindergarten 3's – Thursday 2 February 2023
- First day of kindergarten 4's – Friday 3 February 2023

Heywood Kindergarten

- Last day of kindergarten – Thursday 15 December 2022
- First day of kindergarten – Tuesday 7 February 2023

GIFTS FOR EDUCATORS



The year is quickly coming to an end, leading up to the busy Christmas period.

Some children and families like to acknowledge educators at this time of the year, often with a card or small handmade token of their appreciation.

Please be aware that Council staff are unable to accept any type of gift card or voucher as per the Gift, Benefits and Hospitality - Employees Policy.

The biggest gift to our educators has been the opportunity to provide a high-quality educational program to your child during 2022.

NEVER LEAVE CHILDREN IN CARS

A friendly reminder to our families to ensure that you never leave a child in a car.

In Victoria, it is against the law to leave a child unattended in a car.

The Never Leave Kids in Cars campaign prompts parents to take their kids with them whenever they get out of the car, just as they do their everyday valuables, to avoid potentially tragic consequences.

More information and resources can be found in the following links:

- <https://www.vic.gov.au/never-leave-kids-in-cars>
- <http://www.kidsafevic.com.au/road-safety/hot-cars/>
- <https://raisingchildren.net.au/toddlers/safety/car-pedestrian-safety/never-leave-children-in-cars>.



FROM OUR SERVICES

Dartmoor Children's Centre

Mindfulness meditation has been an addition to our daily routine at the Dartmoor Children's Centre. The children eat their lunch, pack up their belongings and find a space or area on the mat with a cushion and the meditation begins.

Looks like: Each child laying in an area of their choice with a cushion, concentrating on nothing other than their breathing and the meditation audio (sometimes also visual).

Feels like: quite, calm, listening to each other's breath, being present in the moment & not talking or disrupting others.

Benefits: Children's brains tire, and children of all ages need opportunities where they can take time out each day to relax, reset & focus. Meditation offers this break and helps children function more effectively and clearly.

Holidays are fast approaching; mindfulness meditation might be something that can add value to your household?

Here are some links from *The Mindfulness Teacher* to try:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UEuFi9PxKu>

[o](#)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xLoK5rOI8Qk>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IbBI-BT9c4>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zkm2IFVVlqE>

Heywood Kindergarten

We have a special friend at Heywood Kinder. Her name is Gail the Snail.

Gail

- is very shy and doesn't like loud noises
- visits our kinder every now and then.
- helps us to learn about feelings, our thoughts, and how we can deal with challenges that we face.
- likes to talk about her family as she has two Mum's and a brother named Doug the Slug.
- doesn't like the colour red, and is scared of everything that is red.
- loves green apples and green grass, and the children can't wait for her visits.

We introduced Gail as a way of talking about our feelings, challenging situations, our families and so much more.

Gail is a very special friend.



FROM OUR SERVICES

Karreeta Peeneeyt Mara Portland Child and Family Complex

The children have been buzzing with the excitement of Christmas in the air. To support the festive atmosphere at KPM PCFC we have been creating, decorating, and maybe even making a little gift or two.

Stories of Christmas adventures to come are filling the air as we enjoy bringing the year to a close together with lots of fun and laughter.

Keep your elf ears open for our end of year Children's Christmas Party too!



Kalbarri Kindergarten

Kalbarri Kindergarten have been learning about space. Each day we have learnt about a different planet and placed the information on our Discovery Wall.

We now have our space station set up where the children can pretend they're real life astronauts, either in a rocket ship or back at headquarters. We are loving it!



FROM OUR SERVICES

Jaycee Kindergarten

Recently at Jaycee Kindergarten we were excited to be able to open the doors and allow our special people into kinder to spend some time exploring the indoor and outdoor environments and engage in some fun experiences together.

The children's smiles tell the story of how happy they were spending this special time with those they invited along.

We would like to thank all our families that came and enjoyed this special moment at Jaycee Kindergarten.



Kathleen Millikan Centre

We have had quite a few hot days over this month and with the weather being so lovely children have got to enjoy more water play.

The children were enthusiastic and interested in the different types of water creatures we had out, learning some of their names and the noises they make.

Moving the water tub into the sandpit allowed children to explore what happens when you add sand to water and an opportunity to use different sand tools like shovels, buckets and funnels in the water.



Beef meatballs in tomato

Ingredients:

- 500g beef mince
- 2tbs onion flakes
- 1 tsp garlic
- 1tsp curry powder
- 2tsp stock powder
- 1 jar of your favourite tomato-based pasta sauce

Method:

1. Mix together the mince, onion, garlic, curry and stock powder until well combined.
2. Cook meatballs off in a pan with a little oil until browned on all sides.
3. Place into greased baking dish.
4. Heat pasta sauce and pour over meatballs.
5. Cover and cook in per-heated oven at 180°c for 20 minutes or until meatballs are cooked through.
6. Can add grated veg or herbs to meatballs of desired





**THANK YOU FOR
READING.
WE HOPE YOU HAVE
ENJOYED THIS EDITION.**

**GLENELG SHIRE
COUNCIL CHILDREN'S
SERVICES**



