

# NEWSLETTER



## A MESSAGE FROM OUR TEAM LEADER EDUCATION AND CARE

It was wonderful to read the updated Service Philosophies that were recently reviewed by educators, families and children. The Philosophy of a service outlines the values and beliefs that frame the program and influences how the teachers and educators guide children's play. This process is always more meaningful when family and children's voices are captured in the review.

The 2022 Glenelg Shire Council Children's Services Family Satisfaction Survey is currently open and we invite all families to provide feedback as we strive to provide the highest quality education and care to the children in our local community. We look forward to reading your feedback.

For children who will be transitioning to Primary School in 2023, Kindergarten Teachers will soon be writing the Transition Learning Development Statements (TLDS). The TLDS will be completed on the Insight Assessment Platform and shared with parental permission, directly to the Primary School to support effective transitions. A child's TLDS identifies each child's approach to learning, summaries their abilities and indicates how the child can be supported to continue to learn. A fact sheet will be sent to families at the end of Term 3 with further information.

All services now have air purifiers in use in all children's play room, this is an added COVID safe measure we have in place.

Thank you for families continued understanding as some disruptions to programs occur due to staff shortages, we endeavour to keep these disruptions to a minimum.

As we head into the warmer weather we look forward to a reduction in illnesses and having most children back in attendance at our high-quality programs.

Thanks Karen



# OFFICE NEWS & REMINDERS

## The best way to get in touch with us

Children's Services Customer Service Team

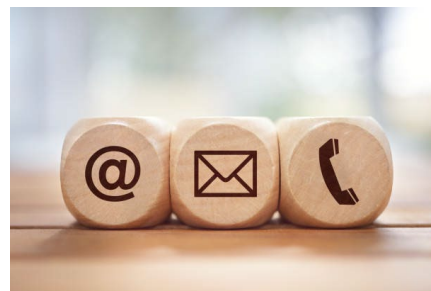
Tel: 1300 453 635

Email: [childrenservicesenquiry@glenelg.vic.gov.au](mailto:childrenservicesenquiry@glenelg.vic.gov.au)

Fee or Account Enquiries, Children's Services Accounts Team

Tel: (03) 5522 2515

Email: [csaccounts@glenelg.vic.gov.au](mailto: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](mailto:childrenservicesenquiry@glenelg.vic.gov.au)

## Updated COVID-19 Agreement

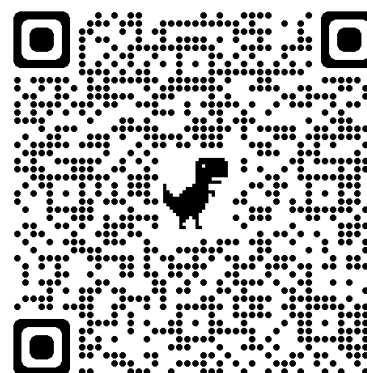
Recently families were emailed the updated COVID-19 agreement. We ask that families please read and familiarize themselves with the requirements of this agreement. Hard copies can be available upon request at your service. If you have already signed and returned a copy of this agreement you do not need to re-sign it.

## 2022 Family Satisfaction Survey

A reminder to families that the 2022 Family Satisfaction Survey is currently open for feedback. Your feedback will assist us with continuing to offer you, our families, the best possible service. Please take a few moments to share your thoughts about the strengths of our programs and services, and areas where you think that improvements are needed.

The survey will close at 5pm on Friday 9 September 2022.

Following the closure of the survey, a summary of responses will be published in our next newsletter.



# 2022/2023 CLOSURE & COMMENCEMENT DATES

## Integrated Services

### **Dartmoor Children's Centre**

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

### **Kathleen Millikan Centre**

- Last day of long day care – Thursday 22 December 2022
- First day of long day care – Friday 13 January 2023

### **Karreeta Peeneeyt Mara Portland Child and Family Complex**

- Last day of long day care – Thursday 22 December 2022
- First day of long day care – Thursday 12 January 2023

## Kindergarten Services and Programs

Kindergarten programs delivered across all 6 services operate in line with Victorian School Terms. Dates for individual 2023 kindergarten programs will be communicated to families via confirmation letters.

Thank you for supporting our Educators and Teachers in having a well-deserved break over the Christmas and New Year period.



# GLENELG SHIRE COUNCIL FOOD SAFETY POLICY

Storing children's food safely at our services is essential for children's health and wellbeing.

Cold storage facilities are available at each service, please ensure ice bricks are included in your child's lunch box or staff are alerted to items that need to be stored in the refrigerator on arrival.

The Glenelg Shire Council Food Safety Policy will be under review in September.

A copy of this policy can be requested via email [childrenservicesenquiry@glenelg.vic.gov.au](mailto:childrenservicesenquiry@glenelg.vic.gov.au) or at your child's service.



## 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](https://hcm618.peoplestreme.net/glenelgshirecouncil/erec_external.asp)





# FROM OUR SERVICES

## Dartmoor Children's Centre

After lunch we have been implementing some Mindfulness and Meditation with the Smiling Mind app. The children lay on a cushion and focus on their bodies and breathing for a guided session, which lasts around 3-5 minutes.

We are finding that this is a great way to relax and recentre ourselves for the afternoon. Smiling Minds introduces mindfulness foundations, including focussing on the breath, paying attention to the body, cultivating gratitude, connecting sense of curiosity and listening. This can improve mood, mental health, life satisfaction and purposeful engagement.

The children have become quite practised at these sessions and are looking forward them each day. A recent comment from a child as soon as the session started was 'I feel relaxed already!'



## Heywood Kindergarten

This term we have set up a school area. We have included some of the resources that the children will use when they begin school.

There are things to read, draw with, count, weigh, manipulate and write with. There are so many ways that we can prepare for school, and this area includes some of them. The children are also taking on the roles of Teacher and student so imaginative role play is another way we can learn about school.

Our children are all different, and we all learn in different ways, and this is why we set up different areas of learning.

School transitions are an important part of school preparation and can lead to a more positive start to school.

**IDENTITY:** Children confidently explore and engage with social and physical environments through relationships and play.

**WELLBEING:** Children manipulate equipment and manage tools with increasing competence and skill.





# FROM OUR SERVICES

## Jaycee Kindergarten

The Seal group at Jaycee Kindergarten made damper. Each child had their own damper dough that they kneaded into a ball to be cooked.

The children mixed butter into the flour to create a crumb and then water was added to make the dough.

We talked about how damper can be cooked in a campfire or an oven.

The children then ate the damper warm from the oven with butter.

Children comments: "It was easy to make" "Super yummy" "It was like bread" "Adding the butter was my favourite part" "Rolling it was fun"



## Kalbarri Kindergarten

In both the 3-year-old and 4-year-old programs we have been learning about the different dinosaurs and where they live as well as adding to our dinosaur wall each week.

The children have been engaging well and getting involved in the activities based around dinosaurs, we look forward to getting involved in our archaeological dig for dinosaur bones in our sandpit.

The 4-year-old group were involved in the commonwealth games. We first did a warm up on the smartboard before heading outside to compete in our mini Olympics. Everyone received a gold medal at the end for participation, great work everyone!

Both groups looked forward to getting dressed up for book week, we couldn't wait to see everyone dressed up and bringing along their favorite book to read to all our kinder friends.





# FROM OUR SERVICES

## Karreeta Peeneeyt Mara Portland Child and Family Complex

It has been a busy month at KPM Portland Child and Family Complex and the children have been involved in many exciting experiences for calendar events. We had Science Week with many experiments and experiences relating to glass, the theme science week. Book Week saw our educators and children dressing up in a variety of character's and sharing their favourite story books. We have also had experiences related to fundraising that highlights awareness for Jeans Day and Red Nose Day. Thank you for taking part and supporting our events.



## Kathleen Millikan Centre

Kooramook Before and After Kindergarten and School Care

Afternoons at the Kathleen Millikan Centre for the school children and preschoolers have been filled with children enjoying games together such as our Giant Connect Four.



“Getting Messy” Leading up to Science Week, the school children were looking through a book of experiments when they discovered non newtonian fluid for kids. The recipe consisting of corn flour and water was used providing a great opportunity for all to participate.

“It’s cold out there” Although this time of the year can sometimes feel like forever, the children were able to bring the outside in by playing with homemade snow. Hair Conditioner and bi carb soda make a great smelling snow that not only felt like the real thing but smelt fantastic as well.



## NEW INITIATIVE AT KARREETA PEENEYT MARA PORTLAND CHILD AND FAMILY COMPLEX

Karreeta Peeneeyt Mara Portland Child and Family Complex now have a Food Pantry/Book Sharing Library at the front of our building with the support of United Way.

We will be adding items to it (pantry staples, individually packaged food products, hygiene products, pet foods and books to share).

The book sharing will also be a beautiful addition to our centre as it not only supports our literacy development, but also our community connection!

We would love families to be involved too and any donations (books or pantry items) will be gratefully and thoughtfully added to our little cupboard. The idea is to give some and take some – whatever you need, and as we know this varies for all of us at different times.

As the weather improves - we are looking forward to decorating it!



## 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>.





# CHEESY SAVOURY SCONES

## Ingredients:

- 2 cups self-raising flour
- ½ tbs vegetable stock powder
- 1 tbs cup dried parsley flakes
- ¼ cup dried onion flakes
- ¼ cup dried chives
- ½ tbs crushed garlic
- 1 cup shredded cheese
- 1 ½ cups milk + 2 tablespoons
- Note: you may wish to add some fried off bacon and/or onion or use fresh herbs rather than dried herbs.



## Method:

1. Preheat oven to 180°C.
2. In a large bowl, combine the self-raising flour, stock powder, parsley, onion, chives and garlic.
3. Whisk the dry ingredients together vigorously, or rub together with your hand, until everything is fully combined, and the garlic has broken up and been properly mixed through.
4. Add the milk and fold through to make a soft dough.
5. Add the cheese, and fold through. Turn out onto a floured bench and knead to get the cheese mixed through evenly.
6. Re-flour the bench if required, flatten the dough out into a 2cm thick round, and cut scones out using a scone cutter.
7. Place scones onto a lined tray and brush the tops with a little extra milk.
8. Cook in the pre-heated 180°C oven for 15-20 minutes, or until the centre scones are cooked through.
9. Remove from oven and cover with a tea-towel and allow to cool for 10 minutes.





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

**GLENELG SHIRE  
COUNCIL CHILDREN'S  
SERVICES**

