



# VIRGINIA PRESCHOOL

**'Learning Together, Learning for our Future'**

RESPECT CARING FAIRNESS ACHIEVEMENT DIVERSITY

Wow! What a tumultuous end to the term we have had. Looking back to 11 weeks ago who would have predicted our current situation. As a staff team we have been very impressed with how well the children have adjusted to the recent changes in their lives. During the last weeks of term 1 we had between half and two thirds of the children attending preschool. Our days included minor adjustments that reflected the health recommendations for Coronavirus provided by Health SA such as parents remaining outside of the preschool yard when dropping off and collecting their children. A cleaner sanitizing tables and chairs and wiping down frequently touched surfaces within the preschool twice per day and many extra hand washing times.

We were missing all of the children that were learning from home but were fortunate enough to receive lots of messages, photos and videos from these children. Returning to preschool in term 2 will look different for many families and we are respectful of the individual choices that all families are making in regards to this. To help minimise the interruptions to children's learning we will be running both an on-site and off-site learning program. Regular phone contact and support will be provided to those families that are learning from home.

Some of the learning experiences that we had planned for term 1 had to be postponed due to social distancing and gathering restrictions such as our fire safety topic and visit from the local CFS. We know that many children had been looking forward to this and we will definitely try to reschedule this for later on in the year. Hopefully normality will soon return allowing us to get back on track with our learning and having fun.

We would like to wish all of our families a happy Easter and hope that everyone has a safe and enjoyable holiday break. We look forward to seeing all of the children next term whether it be in person or via an on-line format.

The following are some of our learning experiences and activities from term 1:

## **Friendship Skills**

We have been learning about what it takes to be a good friend and how to maintain friendships.

The children brainstormed the following qualities that they would like to see in their own friends:

- Good friends help each other
- Good friends care - they don't yell or hit
- Good friends know that sharing is caring
- Good friends share
- Good friends always play nice
- Good friends help each other
- Good friends play with everyone
- Good friends ask 'are you okay?' if you are sad
- Good friends ask you to play if you are alone
- Good friends say 'Hello' to each other and use their manners
- Good friends smile at everyone



Caring: Carmela, Olivia, Arabella and Maddison



Helping each other: Myla and Mya



Playing nicely: Jincahel, Lakin and Peter

## **Harmony Week Celebrations**

As part of learning about acceptance and inclusion during Harmony Week educators asked the children to broaden their friendship circles at Preschool by playing with a variety of different children. For some of our activities educators also paired children with someone that they were less familiar with. This was an amazing experience with many positive outcomes. Educators were so proud of the way in which the children embraced this experience; enthusiastically including their new friends in their play and happily engaging in their friend's favourite activities. We are very proud to say that some of these new friendships are still going strong today.

## Harmony Week Celebrations continued



Adele and Ruby

Selin and Scarlett

Harrison and Chase

Kade and Orlando

Alessandra and Asher

## Service Philosophy

As part of reviewing our service philosophy educators asked the children, "What they would like their preschool to look like?" and "How they would like the people within it to act?"

The following are some of the responses the children provided:

Caring kids – Eva, Pride

Soccer balls - Lakin

Kids being safe – Madison T

Kids taking turns – Sara

Teachers – Indie, Lio

Playing nicely – Aidan, Mya

Dancing – Dakota, Scarlett

Tables – Harrison

Recycling – Brady

Sharing – Lakin, Eva

Awesome toys – Asher

Sandpit – Aidan, Asher

Trains – Bailey

Bikes – Kade, Tyler

Toy cars – Tyler

Games - Ruby

Computers – Alex

Packing up – Lily, Carmela

Dolls and prams – Maddison N

Friends – Myla, Selin

Songs – Myla

Lots of fun - Kade

Reading – Arabella, Peter

Dinosaurs - Oliver



## Caring for Planet Earth

We began exploring the topic of 'Caring for Planet Earth' which encompasses 'Recycling', 'Caring for Our Immediate Environment' 'Gardening' and the 'Lifecycle of a Plant'. At preschool we have red and yellow rubbish bins located around the room with pictures on the lids to support the children's understanding of recycling. During eating times the children use red and green food waste containers to put their rubbish into. The green container is for food waste and is emptied into our compost bins every day. We then use the nutrients from the compost bins in our garden.



Maisie and Summer, Brady and Alex, Lio, Callum and Lily putting our food scraps into the compost bins.

The children enjoy maintaining the preschool garden and have been involved in planting a variety of seedlings.



Emily planting bok choy seedlings

Emelia planting spring onion

Tyler planting beetroot seedlings

Azaliah and Bailey watering the garden

## Volcanoes

Learning about volcanoes was an extremely popular topic. With the help of many enthusiastic children and their shovels we created several models of volcanoes in the sandpit. We used a mixture of bi-carbonate of soda, vinegar, detergent and red food colouring to replicate the appearance of lava.



From left: Sara, Hilda, Madison, Jason and Indie

## Magic Milk

The children participated in the science experiment 'Magic Milk' to explore a chemical reaction. Milk is made up of mostly water but it does contain vitamins, minerals, proteins and small droplets of fat. The fat and proteins are super sensitive to changes in the milk and so when the dishwashing liquid is added to the milk and food colouring solution with the use of a cotton bud, a chemical reaction occurs. During the experiment children were asked to predict what they thought would happen to the colour in the milk, and to hypothesise why it might be happening.



Magic Milk Experiment

## Hygiene/Germs

Charlotte, Maddison and Bailey

In line with the Health SA guidelines for Coronavirus children were engaged in learning to support minimising the spread of germs and the links between good hygiene and good health. This included the importance of hand washing, when to wash our hands, wiping our noses and coughing and sneezing into our elbows (Superman cough). We also learnt about the power and importance of soap! This was emphasised through a germ experiment in which children observed how soap causes germs to immediately detach themselves from your hands when the soap makes contact with water. In this experiment water, pepper and soap were used. Pepper was used as the visual representation of germs. First the 'germs' (pepper) were added to a container of water. Once a child dipped their finger into the container and removed it, you could see how the 'germs' had attached themselves to the child's finger. In order to get rid of the 'germs' the child applied soap to their finger and then dipped it back into the container of water which caused the 'germs' float away from the child's finger leaving them with a clean and 'germ'-free finger! While also learning about the importance of handwashing, children were involved in developing a 5-step procedural text in regards to washing our hands. These 5 steps included: Wet, Add soap, Scrub (sing 'Happy Birthday' while scrubbing), Rinse and Dry.



Bailey with our Handwashing Procedure.

## Facebook

Please don't forget to view the Virginia Preschool Facebook page for updated preschool information and photos. We will also be using a closed Facebook group titled Virginia Preschool Off-Site Learning as our platform for off-site learning during Term 2. The use of this closed group will commence when term 2 begins. Please view the Virginia Primary School Facebook page if you are looking for information that is specific to school.

## Learning Through Play

When we are playing we are developing our confidence, creativity and imagination, our language, social and cognitive skills and learning to make sense of the world around us. We are exploring emotions, developing empathy, learning to participate, contribute, co-operate, concentrate and negotiate. We also develop our motor skills, co-ordination and attention spans while learning to invent, predict and problem solve. Play is our brain's favourite way to learn!

Here are some examples of our play:



Madison and Eva



Lexie and Scarlett



Kodi



Aidan



Jeremiah and Marco



Maisie and Anna



Jason



Peter and Pride



Lily



Emily



Jayden



Indie and Mya



Dakota



Myla



Marco and Jinchael



Tyler and Aidan



Azaliah



Callum, Charlotte and Emelia

