



THE NSEYC BUZZ

The Official Newsletter of the Northern Schools Early Years Cluster

Love a life of learning and living!



Hello from our CEO

Welcome back to Term 2 of kindergarten, and to the first edition of the NSEYC Buzz for 2022! The NSEYC Buzz is our termly newsletter where we share all the great things happening across our early childhood services.

Considering the impact of the last 2 year that COVID has had on our children, they have settled well into their kindergarten year. Thanks to our educators who have worked hard to develop strong relationships with the children and families.

In this edition of our NSEYC Buzz we will share how some of our kindergartens celebrated Harmony Week and how we are implementing school readiness plans to support our children's education and care.



Sigi Hyett,
Chief Executive
Officer

This Term's issue brings you:

Enrol now for 2023 - 2

News from our kindergartens - 3

New services @ NSEYC - 3

Kindergarten upgrades - 4

School Readiness Plans - 5





IT'S TIME TO ENROL FOR 2023



Enrolments are now open for 2023!

Remember, if your child is attending 3-year-old kindergarten this year, you must submit an enrolment registration to secure a place in a 4-year-old program in 2023. And if they are attending 4-year old kindergarten and will go to school next year, you must enrol at the school. **This does not happen automatically.**

- To enrol in a 3-year-old program for 2022 or 2023: contact the NSEYC Office on 9306 1662 or email us at office@nseyc.org.au, and Kirti or Amira will assist you to enrol.
- To enrol at Rothschild Road Kindergarten (Gisborne) contact the NSEYC Office.
- To enrol in a 4-year old program in the City of Hume: [click here to go to the Council's website](#) and complete the registration form.
- To enrol in a 4-year-old program in the City of Moreland: [click here to go to the Council's website](#) and complete the registration form.

You can also pick up enrolment forms from our office, our kindergartens or school offices. If you need any assistance to register, please contact our office on 9306 1662. We are always happy to help!

The NSEYC point of difference: our K-6 model

Do you know what makes NSEYC kindergartens different to most others?

The majority of our kindergartens are located on school sites and operate as a Kindergarten to Year 6 (K-6) model, where the kindergarten is considered a part of the school community. This has enormous benefits for children and families, including:

- making it easier for families who have children at kindergarten and school
- providing the opportunity to develop connections and familiarity with the school environment and teachers, which supports a positive transition when children commence their formal schooling
- giving children access to a broader ranges of facilities and programs (such as a library, gymnasium, kitchen gardens, music and language programs etc.)
- supporting continuity of learning for children from early childhood into Foundation/Prep.

Our collaborative governance model features strong oversight and involvement of local primary schools and other partners, which supports both continuity of learning between our early childhood services and schools, as well as genuine connections with our local communities.

To learn more about our model visit our website - www.nseyc.org.au/our-model



For more information about our services, for help with enrolling, or any other queries please contact us on 9306 10662 or email office@nseyc.org.au and we'll be happy to help!



News from our kindergartens...

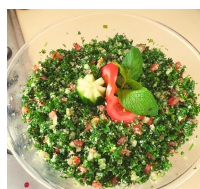
Celebrating Harmony Week

Harmony Week was celebrated across the NSEYC in March, with lots of dress ups, music and delicious food!

Harmony Week celebrates Australia's cultural diversity. It's about inclusiveness, respect and a sense of belonging for everyone.

Our cultural diversity is a great strength and brings with it a whole range of traditions, religions, languages and of course, food!

We are lucky at the NSEYC to have so many different cultures represented amongst our staff and families.



Upfield and Meadows Kindergartens celebrated with delicious food, while the Bethal Kindergarten team dressed in traditional clothing.

Introducing our two new kindergartens...



Last term we welcomed two new kindergartens to the NSEYC team: Holy Child Kindergarten at Holy Child Primary School in Dallas, and Rothschild Road Kindergarten at Willowbank Primary School in Gisborne!

Rothschild Road Kindergarten has opened in a beautiful brand new facility as part of a new school build.

Holy Child Kindergarten is operating temporarily from the Children's Hub at the primary school while the kindergarten facility is under construction.

Both kindergartens offer programs for 3 and 4-year-old children, and are now taking enrolments for 2022 and 2023!

Pictures:

Top - Mary-Ann Thomas MP, Willowbank PS staff and NSEYC staff and board members celebrating the official opening of Rothschild Road Kindergarten.

Bottom - Sigi Hyett, Kerrie O'Neill and Bec Howell of the NSEYC management team visiting the site of the new Holy Child Kindergarten.



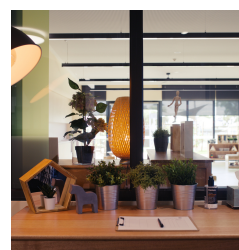


The NSEYC extends into the under 3s...

Our Glenroy Hub Children's Centre is now open!

At the NSEYC we know that the first 1000 days of a child's life are so important for their development. That's why we're so excited to now have the opportunity to provide high-quality education and care for children from 6 weeks to 6 years of age at our brand new Glenroy Hub Children's Centre, located within the state-of-the-art new Glenroy Community Hub.

The centre is now open, and we have a wonderful team of educators on board, led by Centre Manager Brinda. The team is off to a great start, making families feel welcome and helping children to settle into their new environment. Read below some lovely feedback we received from one happy family recently!



For more information, contact the Glenroy Hub Children's Centre on 9038 9430, or register via the Moreland City Council website:

<https://www.moreland.vic.gov.au/living-in-moreland/community-services/children-and-families/childcare/>

Testimonial from a family at the Glenroy Hub Children's Centre

"I just wanted to take the opportunity to acknowledge the incredible job the team at the Glenroy Hub children's Centre are doing. In just 5 days of attending care, my daughter has settled very easily building a strong sense of belonging, displaying leadership, confidence and resilience through genuinely compassionate relationships with her educators.

"Glenroy Hub children's Centre is truly a state of the art service with natural environments to inspire and promote positive health and wellbeing, exceeding all our expectations and providing our daughter the best possible start to early education.

"We are so grateful to all the staff who are nurturing, kind and genuinely love what they do. Thank you for helping us feel reassured. We are truly lucky to have a place at the hub!"



Centre Manager Brinda with one of the families at the Children's Centre



Kindergarten facility upgrades

Our Building Blocks upgrades and expansions are almost complete!

We're so excited to share some photos of the beautiful new and improved learning spaces we are creating at our kindergartens, with help from the Victorian Government's Building Blocks initiative.

Our architects, Jeavons Landscape Architects and Gardiner Architects, and builders Adma Group, have done an amazing job, working with us to create beautiful, welcoming, natural learning environments where our children can thrive.

Works are now complete at Moreland, York Street, Belle Vue Park, Lorne Street, Dallas and Upfield Kindergartens, and are nearing completion at Bethal, Meadows, Broadmeadows and Will Will Rook. Glenroy Central, Belle Vue Park and Holy Child all have projects underway or commencing soon.

We are proud that by the end of the year, every NSEYC service will have had an upgrade of some kind! Thanks to our teams, children and families for their flexibility and patience during the works. We are sure the results make it all worthwhile! We'll share more photos as each project is completed... so watch this space!

"Our new kinder is amazing to work in, very calming and all the new windows give so much natural light." - Lucy, Early Childhood Teacher

Thoughts from the children:

"I love this room, there are lots of books and light." - Benjamin

"I like the new room because it has more space." - Ethan



Moreland Kindergarten has been completely transformed (see the 'Before' photo, bottom left). Teacher Lucy looks very happy with the result!

Key dates for upcoming facility upgrades

Service name	Scope of work	Commencement	Completion*
Will Will Rook Preschool	Upgrade of indoor and outdoor, new kinder room added	Underway	Term 2, 2022
Meadows Kindergarten	Upgrade of indoor and outdoor, new kinder room added	Underway	Term 2, 2022
Bethal Kindergarten	Upgrade of indoor and outdoor, new kinder room added	Underway	July 2022
Broadmeadows Preschool	Upgrade of indoor and outdoor	Underway	Dec 2022
Belle Vue Park Kindergarten	Upgrade of indoor and outdoor	Underway	Dec 2022
Holy Child Kindergarten	New facility under construction	Underway	Term 3, 2022
Glenroy Central Kindergarten	New kinder room and playground	2022 - tbc	Tbc

*Completion dates are estimates only and are subject to change due to a variety of external factors.



Focus on: Implementing School Readiness Plans @ the NSEYC

School Readiness Funding provides extra support for early childhood education and care services delivering a funded kindergarten program to help children to get the most out of their early learning. At the NSEYC, our School Readiness Plans are focused on improving outcomes for children in the areas of Communication and Wellbeing, based on data indicated that this is where there children in our communities experience the most vulnerability. Here are some of the evidence-based programs we are implementing:



Language Enrichment Program (LEP)

Through the LEP, speech pathologists provide screening and assessment of children's oral language development, as well as working with teaching staff to help increase awareness and provide strategies on how to further nurture each child's language development.

Allied Health Partnerships

In partnership with Merri Health and DPV, Psychologists, Speech Pathologists and Occupational Therapists work alongside our educators to strengthen their skills and knowledge in supporting children's communication and language development, and to build the capacity of families.

Community of Practice Coaching Program

Delivered by early childhood experts Catharine Hydon, Gilda Howard and Heather Barnes, this program aims to improve outcomes for children attending kindergartens across the NSEYC in line with the broad aims of the School Readiness Funding initiative with a focus on wellbeing. It helps educators consolidate and build on skills and knowledge obtained through professional learning using action research projects, mentoring and coaching. The program is now in its 3rd year with Heather Barnes, and its second year with Catharine Hydon and Gilda Howard.

New Peer to Peer Learning program to commence in Term 2

The NSEYC has secured funding through the Department of Education and Training's Innovation Grants to implement a Peer to Peer (P2P) Learning program, which will commence in Term 2. The P2P program will provide opportunities for the practical sharing of expertise, ideas, skills, knowledge and experience and structured critical reflection across our teams.

Early Childhood Educators from each of our services will spend time within the program at another NSEYC early childhood service to observe different environments, pedagogy and practices. Each team will have a key focus area for their visit, in line with their Quality Improvement Plan and depending on the strengths of the host team, and additional planning time will be allocated to the host teacher for critical reflective discussions at the end of each session. We look forward to sharing more about the impact of the P2P program as it unfolds!



Important dates and events for Term 2



- 2 April to 1 May - Ramadan
- 2 to 3 May - Eid al Fitr
- 15 May - Glenroy Festival and official opening of the Glenroy Community Hub
- 15 May - International Day of Families
- 26 May - National Sorry Day
- 27 May to 3 June - Reconciliation Week
- 27 May - Northern Schools Early Years Cluster Annual General Meeting
- 31 May - closing date for Moreland City Council first round of kindergarten enrolments
- 24 June - last day of Term 2
- 30 June - closing date for Hume City Council first round of kindergarten enrolments

