



THE NSEYC BUZZ

The Official Newsletter of the Northern Schools Early Years Cluster

Love a life of learning and living!



Pictured: NSEYC staff participated in a juggling workshop at our recent conference

Hello from our CEO

Can it really be Term 4 already? This year has flown by, being our first full year of face-to-face programs since the pandemic began. It has been a joy to watch our children learn and grow together this year.

Some recent highlights for our teams have included our 2022 Staff Conference, when we came together for a day of learning, collaboration and inspiration. It was so wonderful to see our educators connecting in person again! We also recently hosted some special guests from the Department of Education and Training at our Glenroy Hub Children's Centre: Kylie White, Deputy Secretary of Policy, Strategy and Performance, Claude Sgroi, Area Executive Director, and Anita Siassios, Manager ECIB Hume/Moreland, who came to learn about the NSEYC's K-6 model and our wonderful new service at the Glenroy Community Hub. We were proud to share the great work happening across our services as we strive for the best possible outcomes for our children and communities. I am also pleased to announce that we will be receiving \$703,000 from the Victorian State Government for further facilities upgrades, and our existing building works are nearing completion. By the end of this year we will have completed an upgrade on all of our services – helping to ensure that the children in our communities have access to the highest quality learning environments.

This Term's issue brings you:

Reminders and updates - 2

Benefits of mixed-age kinder - 3

What's happening at the NSEYC - 4

Our Wellbeing Program - 6

Building blocks facility upgrades - 6

News from our kindergartens - 7

Important dates for Term 4 - 8



Sigi Hyett,
Chief Executive
Officer





Did you know that from 2023, children can access two years of kindergarten for FREE at NSEYC services? We will be offering 15 hours of kindergarten for both 3 and 4-year-old children in 2023 - at no cost to families! Help us spread the word to other families so that more children can benefit from two years of high quality kindergarten.

روضة الأطفال مجانية
اعتباراً من عام 2023
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کینڈرگارٹن 2023 سے مفت ہے

Enrol now for next year

Kindergarten places are filling fast for 2023, so it's important you register as soon as possible!

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 or 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 3 or 4-year-old program in the City of Moreland: [click here to go to the Council's website](#) and complete the registration form.
- To enrol at Rothschild Road Kindergarten (Gisborne) contact the NSEYC Office on 9306 1662 or email us at office@nseyc.org.au.
- To enrol for long day care at Glenroy Hub Children's Centre, [go to the Moreland Council website](#) or call 9240 1111.

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!

School term dates for 2022 and 2023

Term 4, 2022	3 October - 20 December
Term 1, 2023	30 January - 6 April
Term 2, 2023	24 April - 23 June
Term 3, 2023	10 July - 15 September
Term 4, 2023	2 October - 20 December



For more information about our services, for help with enrolling, or any other queries please contact us on 9306 1662 or email office@nseyc.org.au and we'll be happy to help!



The benefits of mixed-age kindergarten

Multi-age groups that bring together children aged three to five-years-old, offer unique opportunities for learning and development.

Children in multi-age settings, such as blended 3 and 4-year-old kindergarten groups, benefit from learning from younger or older peers, and build stronger social skills that can be used as they grow older.

Our programs offer flexible spaces and differentiated experiences that allow children to learn at their own pace with individual support. With the active support of educators, children are supported to access resources, materials and experiences that match their interests and skills as well as those that challenge them to extend their capabilities.

Children in multi-age groups will develop friendships and engage in learning just as they would in same age settings, with the added bonus of being able to access peer support and lead learning for other children. These opportunities offer children the opportunity to develop more sophisticated social skills.



Some excellent results from the Parent Opinion Survey 2021

Each year, the Department of Education and Training invites all parents whose children attended a funded kindergarten program in that year to participate in a voluntary online Parent Opinion Survey to seek feedback about their child's kindergarten program. The survey includes questions on parent experience and satisfaction with their child's kindergarten program.

We were thrilled with the results across our kindergartens in 2021! Of the parents/carers surveyed:

- 94% were very satisfied or satisfied with the education their child receives
- 95% said the quality of the education program was very good or good
- 96% said that attending a kindergarten program is very important
- 91% said the service provides help for their child's learning at home
- 92% said the kindergarten program helped their child prepare for transition to school
- 95% said the teachers and educators consider child's views, interests and feelings
- 97% said the service is friendly to children, families and visitors
- 97% said the staff at the service have a good relationship with child

All of these results were higher than for Victoria, by an average of 4%. Well done to our kindergarten teams, and thank you for always being so welcoming and responsive to children and families!



What's happening at the NSEYC

Four more NSEYC kindergartens have been recognised for Exceeding the National Quality Standard

Every few years, kindergartens (and other early childhood education and care services) across Australia are assessed and rated by their state and territory regulatory authority to make sure they are meeting the required standards and providing a high quality learning experience for children. In Victoria, this is done by the Department of Education and Training.

Services are assessed against the seven quality areas of the National Quality Standard, which include:

- **1. Educational program and practice** - Children are supported to participate in play and learning
- **2. Children's health and safety** - Children are protected from illness and hazards
- **3. Physical environment** - Children play in a safe and well maintained environment
- **4. Staffing arrangements** - There are enough qualified staff to give children the attention they need
- **5. Relationships with children** - Children are made to feel supported and welcomed
- **6. Collaborative partnerships with families and communities** - Local community involvement and respect for the beliefs and values of families
- **7. Governance and leadership** - Children are cared for in a positive and well managed environment.

Services can be rated as:

Significant Improvement Required

Working Towards National Quality Standard

Meeting National Quality Standard

Exceeding National Quality Standard



We are excited to share that four more of our kindergartens have recently undergone Assessment and Rating, and all have achieved a rating of **EXCEEDING** the National Quality Standard!

Congratulations to:

- Dallas Kindergarten
- Lorne Street Kindergarten
- Belle Vue Park Kindergarten (Exceeding in all 7 areas)
- Moreland Kindergarten (Exceeding in all 7 areas)

This is in addition to our other services rated as **EXCEEDING** in 2021:

- Upfield Kindergarten
- Will Will Rook Preschool (Exceeding in all 7 areas)
- Glenroy Central Kindergarten (Exceeding in all 7 areas)
- York Street Kindergarten (Exceeding in all 7 areas)

What an outstanding achievement!

This is a wonderful reflection of the high quality learning that is provided at all of our kindergarten services every single day, and the dedication of our educators and teams to providing the best start for children in our communities.



The NSEYC Conference 2022

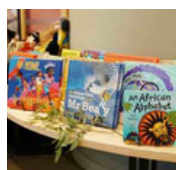
On the 9th of September, the NSEYC held its first in-person staff conference since before the COVID pandemic began, at our newly renovated Will Will Rook Preschool. It was so wonderful to be able to share a day of learning, collaboration, good food and fun!

The day covered a range of activities and sessions focused on strengthening our knowledge about the new Child Safe Standards, as well as fostering the wellbeing of ourselves as educators, including:

- A juggling workshop, which showed us how we can achieve the seemingly unachievable if we just take it one step at a time
- A 'Making Learning Visible' competition whereby documentation panels were shared from across all of our kindergartens
- Inspiring trade fair displays from Yarn Strong Sista and FKA, plus a loose parts and nature play displays by our Teaching and Learning Facilitators
- Professional Learning sessions on the 'CARE' model (Cultivating Awareness and Resilience in Education), presented by Banksia Gardens, and on the new Child Safe Standards, presented by Body Safety Superstars
- A 'PubSing' style singing workshop to end the day on a high note with a rousing rendition of The Beatles' "Here Comes the Sun".

Our teams continue to demonstrate and live our values, Trust, Respect, Relationships and Learning to meet our purpose, "To Love a Life of Learning and Living". Throughout the day our teams *trusted* in each other and were open to explore new ways of doing, strengthened their *relationships* through respectful reciprocal communication and participation where *learning* became evident.

It was a great day, with plenty of smiles and laughter, as well as lots of valuable learning and connection. Thank you to all of our teams for bringing your best selves and participating with so much enthusiasm!





New Family Support Workers for our Wellbeing Program

We are pleased to welcome Katie Does, our new Family Support Worker (FSW) to the NSEYC team! Katie has a wealth of experience working with kindergarten teams, schools, children and families in various roles related to Child Safety, and has a background in psychology as well as currently completing studies in Family Violence.

Katie will mostly be based at our Meadows, Dallas and Upfield kindergartens, and will work with families and educators to support children's wellbeing, participation and engagement in the kindergarten program. Katie will also help to link children and families with other practitioners such as Maternal and Child Health, Allied Health, school-based Wellbeing teams and others.

The FSW role is funded through School Readiness Funding, and is a key aspect of our broader Wellbeing Program, which aims to support children's wellbeing and ensure they are able to access and participate fully in kindergarten at our services.



Katie Does, FSW

A second FSW will join our team in Term 4. Melissa Kosteas comes to us with a wealth of experience from many years working in children's and family services roles, including as Access to Early Learning Facilitator, Supported Playgroup Facilitator and CALD Outreach Worker. Melissa has strong connections with the local community and will be a wonderful asset to our kindergarten teams and families.

Leonie Bourke who was our previous Family Support Worker has recently retired. We sincerely thank Leonie for her contribution, first as Access to Early Learning Facilitator and then as Family Support Worker.

New building works commencing in Term 4



Site progress photos at our Glenroy Central Kindergarten

Over the last two years the NSEYC has undertaken an ambitious program of facility upgrades and expansions in order to improve our learning environments and increase our capacity to deliver 15 hours of kindergarten for three year olds. We would like to thank the Victorian Government for their significant contribution towards the cost of these works through the Building Blocks initiative.

In Term 4, we have two new projects starting:

- An upgrade to the indoor learning spaces at Belle Vue Park Kindergarten
- An upgrade to the indoor learning spaces at Broadmeadows Preschool

Works are nearing completion at:

- Meadows Primary School Kindergarten (internal upgrade and expansion), and
- Bethal Primary School Kindergarten (upgrade and expansion, new outdoor play space)
- Glenroy Central Kindergarten (new modular kindergarten room and outdoor play space)

Once again we thank our teams and families for your patience and flexibility during the building projects! Many have experienced delays, initially due to COVID and then to material shortages, however we know the inconvenience will pay off in the long term! We are excited to offer such inspiring learning spaces for the children in our communities.



Sustainability Group workshop

The NSEYC facilitates a number of collaborative groups that empower educators to lead practice improvement on key topics such as sustainability, wellbeing and reconciliation.

The Sustainability Group, lead by our Teaching and Learning Facilitator, Linda Hyett, has been exploring the topic of Biodiversity. Our kinder teams have engaged in Biodiversity audits with the children as well as exploring their environments, building children's awareness of their natural surroundings and the plants, insects and natural resources available to them.

Recently the team participated in a hands on workshop making Bug Hotels. From providing services like pollination and pest control, to breaking down fallen leaves and dead wood into soil, bugs and other insects are an important part of the ecosystem. Unfortunately, these amazing little critters are in decline. One of the ways we can make our environments a safe and effective space for bugs, bees and other insects is by making a Bug Hotel.

This is a wonderful activity to do with children, providing a way for them to care for and respect their environment. (VEYLDF: Outcome 2: Children become socially responsible and show respect for the environment.) The team enjoyed the opportunity to make their own Bug Hotels and engaged in rich discussions of ways to include children and embed sustainability and nature play into their programs and utilising the resources and learning opportunities in their own outdoor environments.



Book Week at Dallas Kindergarten

Each year across Australia, the Children's Book Council of Australia brings children and books together celebrating Book Week. During this time schools, kindergartens, libraries, authors, illustrators and children celebrate Australian children's literature. Dallas Kindergarten celebrated Book Week along with the school (Dallas Brooks Community Primary School) in a whole school costume parade.

During Arabic Language Program Huda read 'Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?' in Arabic. The children learned colours and animal names in Arabic using felt pictures along with the story book.

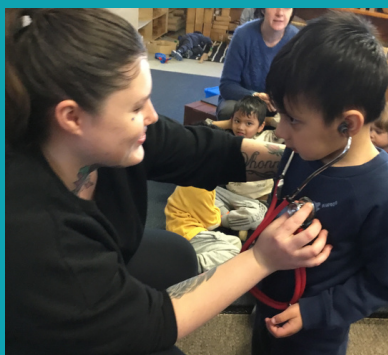


Incursions at Glenroy Central Kindergarten

The children at Glenroy Central Kindergarten have had lots of interesting visitors lately!

- A wombat, who came with the team from Aussie Wildlife Displays
- The team from ARDOC with some more Australian animals and marine animals.
- Dental assistants visiting to talk about keeping our teeth healthy
- Nurses for the royal children's hospital.

Incursions are a wonderful way for children to get to know different



We're opening a brand new kindergarten!

We are proud to have been selected as the new provider for Molesworth Street Kindergarten @ North Melbourne Primary School. The new kindergarten will be a modern and light-filled facility designed to inspire children's learning - complete with a large, beautiful outdoor learning space on the top floor. It is part of the brand new, state-of-the-art North Melbourne Primary school 'vertical school' campus.

The kindergarten program will invite children to explore, discover, create, investigate, wonder, be spontaneous, take supported risks, have fun, and be wholly engaged in learning through play. Being located within the school building offers many benefits for children and families, including the opportunity for children to experience learning in the the broader school community and and develop their sense of belonging.

Thank you for reading!

ENROL NOW AT MOLESWORTH STREET KINDERGARTEN @ NTH MELBOURNE PRIMARY SCHOOL



Opening
Term 1
2023!



- Two years of FREE kindergarten
- Brand new service, part of the 'vertical school'
- 3 and 4 year old sessional programs
- K-6 model that supports transition to school
- High quality programs
- All children and families welcome!