



# P.I.E.L.C Newsletter

December 2024

## A message from our Director

As we reflect on 2024, we celebrate the many wonderful learning opportunities, fun excursions, and exciting challenges that our Centre children have experienced. This year has been filled with incredible moments of growth and development as the children formed friendships and explored new skills. It has been a joy to watch them thrive in an environment that encourages curiosity, exploration, and learning.

Thank you to our many community partners for their invaluable support throughout the year in so many different areas, donating their time and assistance from regularly stocking our community pantry, to reading stories or voluntarily assisting in the classrooms, fixing play equipment, knitting warm woollies for winter, or bringing delicious home baking for the staff as a treat; all of these make a real difference!

A big thank you also goes to our qualified casual staff who step in whenever needed. Not least, our own dedicated teaching staff, whose wonderful skills and knowledge in creating engaging, challenging, and rewarding learning experiences for your children is undertaken with purpose and dedication. We could not manage without our fantastic administrative staff who work daily, planning, documenting, troubleshooting, and keeping everything running smoothly.

We are also grateful for the ongoing support of all our Allied Health Service staff who share their knowledge and resources with our community, making a positive impact on both our families and the children in our care. Of particular note is the very strong connection and governance of Cowes Primary School, also playing a key role in supporting transitions for our four-year-old children; along with enabling us to utilise their playground spaces, library, gymnasium, and sanctuary.

Raising young children in today's ever-changing world is both a challenge and a privilege. We are fortunate to be part of such a warm, welcoming, and supportive community with families that work together to create a safe and nurturing space. We are excited to continue this journey with you all in the coming year! Thank you for your ongoing support and partnership. Wishing you all a wonderful holiday season and a joyful start to the new year!

*Lynne Clements*

### Important dates and information:

- **Friday 20th December:** Last day of child care 2024
- **PIELC Closed:** Saturday 21st December to Monday 6th January 2025 Inclusive
- **Tuesday 7th January:** First day of childcare 2025

- Children who have completed four-year-old kinder in 2024 and are starting prep in 2025 are categorised as school-aged children in 2025. PIELC's childcare licence is only for pre-school children. If your school-aged child needs childcare in January 2025 before school starts, please contact the YMCA holiday program.



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## Phillip Island Early Learning Centre Statement of Fees and Charges 2025

### 2025 Child Care Fees

Full day fee – under 3 years old	\$99.00
Full day fee – 3 years old and over	\$93.00
Half-day AM or PM	\$62.00
Before- or after-kinder 1 hour	\$20.00
Before- or after-kinder 1.5 hour	\$27.00

### 2025 Kindergarten Fees

All 2025 kindergarten fees will be paid by the State Government

### 2025 Late Collection charge

A \$50 flat fee, plus \$1 for each minute after the end of the booked session

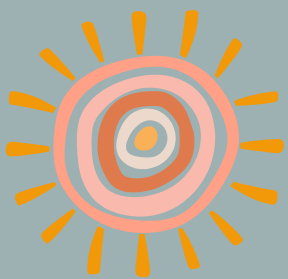
## Long Day Care Educators 2025

**Wallabies:** Pennie-Anne Burrows & Simonette Summers

**Blossoms:** Emma Sherburn, Julianne Kelly & Julie Bennetts

**Explorers:** Diana Sokac, Narelle Brindley & Simone Ryan

**Gumnuts:** Kylie Gordon, Harpreet Kaur Tung & Bianca Hellmuth-Pask



# Gumnuts (0-2 room)

## Term 4

What a wonderful term we have had in the Gumnuts room! It's hard to believe that the year is coming to a close, and many of our children will be moving up to the Explorers room next year. It has been such a joy to watch all the children grow, learn and have fun each day.

This term, our main focus has been on numbers, particularly 1 to 5. We have incorporated these numbers into our daily routines and activities, and it has been fantastic to see the younger children begin to count in order, while the older children confidently identify the numbers. We are so proud of all their progress!

As the festive season approaches, Christmas has been in full swing in the Gumnuts room.

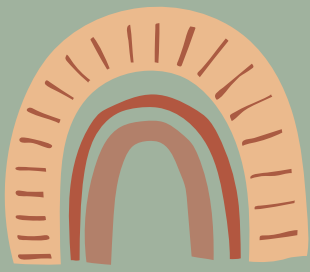
The children have enjoyed listening to Christmas songs, and have made incredible Christmas artwork. We thank all the families from the Gumnuts room for all your support over the last year, we have had such a fun year watching all the children grow each day!

We would like to wish all of our families a happy and safe holiday season, we look forward to welcoming you back in the new year!

Kylie, Harpreet & Jasmin







# Explorers (2-3 room)

## Term 4

It's hard to believe that December is already here, and we're nearing the end of another wonderful year!

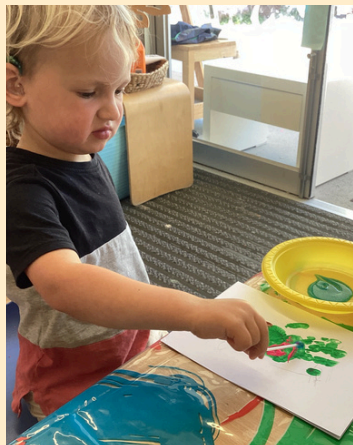
On behalf of the entire Explorers team, we want to express our heartfelt thanks for making this year so special. We are incredibly fortunate to have such supportive families who embrace the joy and learning that takes place every day.

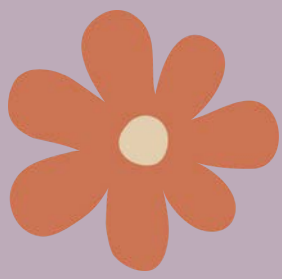
As we enter the festive season, our classroom is filled with excitement, enjoying Christmas-themed activities. The children are fully embracing our holiday storybooks, singing Christmas carols, and decorating our space with festive crafts. We've also been playing with gingerbread-scented playdough and making delicious cookies, which the children have loved!

Outside, the children have enjoyed many exploratory activities, such as building their own cubby house, using tables and draping fabric over them for a cozy hideaway and building new developmental skills as they learn and grow

Thank you for a year full of exploration, fun, and growth. We wish you all a joyful, safe, and restful Christmas and New Year!

Diana, Keely & Sim





# Blossoms (3-5 room)

## Term 4

It's hard to believe we are at the end of the year!

We have enjoyed a happy and productive year in the Blossoms room. Our learning program has promoted and developed the children in the following areas: emotional and social development, fine and gross motor skills, language and music, also involving cognitive and problem-solving skills.

Dance and music have been integral to our daily activities, and the children have fully embraced these experiences. A favorite song in the Blossoms room has been "Beautiful Things" by Benson Boone. The children loved waiting their turn to sing into the microphone, creating their own concert-style performances. We even made a stage under the Bali hut for our performances!

"Danny Go" has also been a big hit, with children asking for it regularly. The energetic actions and movements in this song have helped improve their balance and coordination. Our absolute favorite this year has been "Lenny Peace," with the children joyfully expressing themselves to his remixes of beloved songs. I'm sure that if you play this music at home, it will have everyone dancing!

I am incredibly proud of all the Blossoms children. It has been a privilege to follow their journey from the Explorers group, and I am thrilled to continue with them as they move on to the Wallabies. They are a truly exceptional group of kind, talented, creative, and enthusiastic children. To those of you heading off to school, don't forget to come back and say hello, or wave through the school fence!

A huge thank you to Julie and Julienne for their support in ensuring that the Blossoms room runs smoothly, and to Sim and B for making sure we have our well-deserved lunch breaks.

I would like to extend my warmest wishes to all of our families for a Merry Christmas and a joyful summer. May you enjoy the holiday season with loved ones, full tummies, and happy hearts.

Pennie, Julienne & Julie







# Wallabies (4-5 room)

## Term 4

What an exciting Term 4 it has been in the Wallabies room!

As many of our children prepare to transition to primary school, there have been numerous discussions about school life, particularly with orientation days taking place throughout the term. It has been truly heartwarming to hear the children express their excitement as they look forward to this next step in their journey.

Providing various games that require turn-taking, sharing and negotiation has been on high rotation this year, enhancing valuable skills that the wallabies will benefit from as they transition into school and pre-prep.

Sensory play has been a standout feature in our room this term. The children have been enjoying activities such as making playdough, cloud dough, and potions. These experiences have given them an opportunity to self-regulate, and engage in calming, solitary activities that promote their wellbeing.

*Outcome 3.1: Children become strong in their social and emotional wellbeing*

In the art area, we've continued to focus on process art, encouraging the children to explore the creative journey rather than focusing on an end product. From bubble art and marble painting to box construction and various resources as paint stampers, these activities have allowed the children to immerse themselves in the artistic process and truly express their creativity. It's been so exciting to see their skills and imaginations grow throughout the year!

*Outcome 4: Children are confident and involved learners*

It's been such a joy to watch the children in the Wallabies room grow and develop over the past year. Narelle and I want to extend a heartfelt thank you to all of our families for your ongoing support and feedback. As we say goodbye to some of our friends moving on to school next year, we wish them all the best in their next adventures! We hope everyone has an amazing break, and we look forward to seeing you in the new year!

Warm regards,  
Paige and Narelle.



# First year of Kinder

## Joeys, Possums & Emus

What a beautiful and busy term. To see out all of the wonder that has been our 2024 First Year of Kinder Program. Andrea, Julie, Lani, Lee, Kaz and Mel all feel tremendously grateful for the support we have received from the families as we have had the privilege to watch the children learn and grow in all developmental areas over the year. They absolutely blew us away with their enthusiasm, confidence and innate desire to learn.

As the children have felt supported and secure in expressing their own identities, they too have felt confident to express their needs, seek out peers with similar interests and to contribute to shared play and learning experiences. These ever evolving social connections will hold the children in good stead as they transition into their Pre-Prep Kinder groups in 2024.

This term has been packed with exciting incursions in our kindergarten space. As we eased back into Term 4, we were visited by Animals of Oz, who brought a variety of Australian animals for the children to see and touch. Some of the animals that visited included a Squirrel Possum Glider, a Green Tree Frog, a Blue Tongue Lizard, a Kookaburra, a Dingo, a Saltwater Crocodile, and a Carpet Python. The children had the chance to learn about these animals, discovering where they live and what they eat.

Next, "Recycleman" came to visit, bringing his recycling superpowers to the classroom. He flew in with high-fives and had everyone laughing in no time. "Recycleman" shared how happy he feels when we put the right items in the recycling bin, highlighting how it helps protect the planet. During this interactive session, all the First Year Kindergarten children became recycling superheroes, donning green capes and using their newfound knowledge to sort various recyclable items.

We also had the chance to get out and engage with the community by taking a walk to our local library at Berninnet for a special storytime session with Becky or Ali. This outing was a fantastic opportunity for the children to connect with the wider community, and they thoroughly enjoyed the experience of listening to stories in a new environment. Thank you to our parent helpers during our excursions. Your participation was greatly appreciated. We look forward to strengthening this relationship with the library in 2025 for your child's 2025 kinder year and plan to take part in even more community-based activities in the future. This experience has inspired us to consider additional outings and collaborative events for the developing years of kindergarten that will further enrich the children's learning and connect them with the local community.



# First year of Kinder

Joeys, Possums & Emus

We have had a very merry end of our term getting stuck right into Christmas art and sensory play.

The children have enjoyed experimenting with potions, finger paint, goop, soapy water, clay, beads, lentils and also putting their own flare on their creative masterpieces, with the focus on the process rather than the finished product. Art and creative projects are an enriching experience that allows the children to experiment and problem solve. We hope the children's creations bring some festive joy to your homes for years to come.

Thank you to our wonderful volunteer Liz for all your contributions and to our inclusion support worker Caitlin for supporting our Emus kinder this year. You have both enriched our kindergarten program and we have loved working together.

We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you for the enjoyable and rewarding year we've had in the First Year of Kindergarten. It has been a truly successful year, and we are so grateful for all the support and memories created. Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a safe, Happy New Year!

**Emus** - Kaz, Mel & Caitlin **Possums** - Andrea and Julie **Joeys** - Lani and Lee







# Joeys

First year of kinder







# Emus

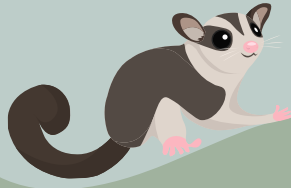
First year of kinder





# Possums

First year of kinder





# Second year of kinder

## Seals, Koalas, Penguins & Bilbies

Term 4 has been a busy one for both children, families and educators alike in the Pre-Prep Kindergarten program with all children regularly participating in their school's individual transition programs, children and families working hard together during dance rehearsals and performances as well as their team sports grand finals, and educators have been writing Transition Learning and Development Statements {TLDS} for each child heading off to school in 2025. All of this whilst still planning for, providing and actively engaging in all the wonderful experiences that kindergarten affords young minds, bodies and spirits.

(EYLF 2 - Community)

Throughout the term we have continued our visits to, and use of the school grounds for gym and library visits. Exploration of, and engagement in risky play using the different playgrounds to provide safe spaces to experiment with height and distance as we develop individual skills and abilities, and prepare children to navigate the larger open spaces school offers them.

(EYLF 1, 3 & 4 - Identity, Wellbeing & Learning)

Each kinder program draws on the interests and current strengths and needs, as well as knowledge of the children within it. As such, activities and experiences offered in each space differ somewhat, but a consistent pattern has emerged throughout term 4 - across each group there has been a surge of interest in reading, drawing and writing. These are key ways many children express their thoughts, feelings and ideas, and explore concepts in their world. To facilitate this each group continually ensures there are both open ended and intentionally focused opportunities and time for children to engage in such play during each kindergarten session.

(EYLF 1 & 5 - Identity & Communication)

"RecycleMan" was a highlight of the term when he visited each group to help us learn why, how and what recycling does for our world, its people and wildlife. This, fun and highly interactive incursion empowered children to not only care for their world, but fosters their belief in themselves that they can influence and change things in and for their world, now and into the future (EYLF 2 & 4 - Community & Learning)



# Second year of kinder

Seals, Koalas, Penguins & Bilbies

As we all celebrate the final PIELC newsletter for 2025, and look forward to Christmas and the summer break, for some of you this is the end of your partnership with us all here at PIELC as you and your child look ahead to the start of their school journey. Whilst this is an exciting period in your child's life it may also be a slightly anxious time but here are just a few tips to help you and your child navigate the myriad of feelings you might experience

- Read books about starting school - check out the local library (they also often school holiday free activities)
- Have regular 'lunch box days' where children practice opening and eating their own lunch, can also build familiarity and excitement
- If your child's school gates are open have a play on the playground or oval, or go for a walk/drive up the driveway and talk about where they get off or meet the school bus
- Engage in open communication with your child - talk about their feelings and concerns regarding their transition to school, this will help them feel secure and understood. Encourage them to express their feelings and concerns as this lets them know that it's normal to feel anxious or excited during these times
- Foster a positive attitude towards the new school, and highlight the exciting aspects of the new school, such as new friends, activities, and learning opportunities
- Once school begins it is important to establish good attendance patterns for your child and talk to the school early about any issues that may arise and impact this - they have support strategies that may assist your family
- Develop family routines at home to support your child's learning at school e.g. read with your child each night, help them with any homework etc

The Pre-Prep Kindergarten team wishes each and every one of you a very Merry Christmas, a safe and Happy New Year, and of course the very best of wishes to those children starting school in 2025. We are so very proud to have been a part of your life journey so far, we know you will continue to grow and learn and become exactly who you are meant to be - *"You're one of a kind, and it's so clear to see: The world needs who you were made to be."* (Joanna Gaines, author & Julianna Swaney, illustrator)

Seals - Denise & Nadine Penguins - Justine & Rachel  
Bilbies - Jaz & Kim



# Seals

Second year of kinder





# Penguins



Second year of kinder





# Bilbies

Second year of kinder

