

Written by: Jake Schuster

School – South Melbourne Park PS

Term 2 (10 weeks)

Coordinator

Jake Schuster

Assistant Coordinator

Corey Sewell

Assistants

Letitia Ryan (BSC & ASC)
Gabrielle Turner (ASC)
Gemma Rubenstein (ASC)

Area Manager

Angela Argyros



"South Melbourne Park Primary TheirCare respectfully acknowledges the Yalukit Wilam Clan of the Boon Wurrung. We pay our respect to their Elders, both past, present and emerging. We acknowledge and uphold their continuing relationship to this land

As we entered term 2, a huge focus for us as a service was the attention to detail in programming, structure and visual displays. Over the past year, we have worked very hard to establish a foundation made of routine, consistent staff and structure which we can proudly say has contributed greatly to a welcoming, safe and fun environment for everyone.

'Play' is recognised as being essential to the development of our children (My Time, Our Place). By creating a learning environment that encourages children to actively engage with hands-on learning, we have come to understand that children work best when given opportunities to observe, explore, experiment, reflect and communicate with others. The play spaces that we set up allow children to extend on their *prior-knowledge* and *skills*, *make smart choices* and *build on their self-confidence*.

Our programs that we create and develop are influenced by the ideas and suggestions of our children, families and the community around us. We try our best to promote sustainable practices and be advocates for our environment and local community.

We acknowledge all the different cultures and we pride ourselves in our efforts to incorporate these cultures in our programming. Furthermore, we have placed an emphasis to further immerse ourselves in the acknowledgement of our first nations people, through our practices and conversations in our service, which the children have respectfully embraced.

TheirCare Program Report – South Melbourne Park Primary School. Term 2-2021

Our weekly themes

Quality area 1

– Educational program & practices

Holiday Program - Our theme for the Holiday program was “welcome to the jungle”. The children participated in plenty of exciting activities, however the highlights for us were Science works, Baking day, Dance class, movies and the termly donut challenge!

- **Week 1- Neighborhood games**
This week decided to hit the nostalgia button and introduce games that we played before the Xbox and YouTube were a thing. Teaching games that could be played indoors and outdoors.
- **Week 2- Funky fruits**
Fruits play a bigger role in our services then we realize. We used this as a theme for craft, cooking experiences and even sport games.
- **Week 3- Awesome Autumn**
Awesome autumn is reoccurring theme for us. We use this week to appreciate the colours, the leaves and environment that autumn has to offer.
- **Week 4- Healthy Habits**
Heart awareness day contributed to our theme for the week, as we used the concept of the heart across the entire week. Activities include; Heart shaped baking, water art and musical chairs.
- **Week 5- Curious about culture**
This week we explored the different cultures that our school has to offer, through sport, food, art and play. We are



very proud of culture and look to embrace it any chance we get.

- **Week 6- Reconciliation week**
An important week in our calendar, as we learned why and how to pay respects to the original owners of the land. We did this through quizzes, art and games.
- **Week 7- Save our city!**
This week was an exciting opportunity for our service to explore ways in which we can do our part in society with just simple adjustments to our every day practices. Such as single use plastic, recycling correctly etc.
- **Week 8- Buddy week**
Everyone needs a buddy, and everyone deserves a buddy. We did have some fun activities planned but due to lockdown we decided to implement children's choice and let the children settle back in slowly and choose their activities.
- **Week 9- Tokyo Olympics**
The children are looking forward to their school Olympics in term 3, so we thought we would try a few things first and give them a fun snap shot of the fun and excitement that is yet to come.
- **Week 10 – Our favourite things**
Every last week of term we reflect back on our favourite themes and activities. This week we are doing water painting, Afghan biscuit making, capture the flag and our end of term party.



Quality area 5 – Relationships with children

At our service, we believe in the potential of all our children, and know that we have a unique opportunity to facilitate the development and nurture the tools and skills that will help shape these children into curious learners and responsible leaders. With the variety of staff that we have, we hope that all children can connect with our educators and trust in them to guide and support their needs and passions.

We work to provide a space for children to be able to express themselves and have an opportunity to take on bigger and new challenges. We introduced 'Monitors' for particular tasks, such as afternoon monitors, sports leader, health & safety and Wellness leaders. We also introduced the weekly 'OSHC champion award' into our program, hoping that this would encourage children to step out of their comfort zone, feel included and appreciated for their efforts.

Other highlights

- **OSHCfit:** This term we established our very own bootcamp segment which we now call OSHCfit. Jake and Corey will run one session each either at before or after school care for those children that are looking to get active and have some fun. These sessions will include learning basic exercise movements as well as sport skills such as soccer, footy, netball and basketball. As most of you are aware, our children at SMPPS love to run around be active, so we are looking forward to growing this further.
- **Breakfast Club:** The school and our service teamed up to introduce an initiative to encourage all children to have their most important meal of the day in an inclusive and safe environment. Breakfast club isn't just available to children that attend a morning session. We embrace all our children and families within the school community. At breakfast club we strive to create a fun and inviting environment for all that attend. We play feel-good music and alternate breakfast choices which include; Pancakes, toasties, smoothies, porridge and much more – We can also cater for all dietary requirements.
- **Goodbye Max & Dmytro:** This is not so much a highlight, however we wanted to say thank you to both Max and Dmytro for being a huge part of our Theircare journey here at South Melbourne Park. Both these boys have been with us since the beginning, and it will be very hard to imagine Theircare without them. We wish them both the very best and we know they will continue to be kind, smart and responsible explorers, wherever they go.

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Educator fun facts

- Jake still does NOT know how to whistle – But has not given up hope!
- Corey has never broken a bone – Even with all the sports that he's played.
- Letitia did gymnastics as a kid – Ask her to give us a cartwheel
- Gabrielle has broken her arm 4 times – Perhaps Corey could lend her one.
- Gemma loves to experiment in the kitchen – Just not at ours

Funny things children say

- **After a discussion of why people might be tall* "Aww, no fair! I want to be genetic"*
- *"One day I will beat Corey (staff), and he will be sorry!"*
- *Regarding carrot cake "Yeah mmm not bad, I'd say a solid 7/10"*
- *"I used to eat spiders when I was baby, true story!"*

On behalf of the team here at Theircare – South Melbourne Park Primary school, we would like to offer our sincerest Thank you for your ongoing support and commitment to our service. Our feedback from families and the school community has been fantastic and has given myself and my team, an opportunity to further grow and develop as passionate educators. I wish you the best of luck and hope to see you all soon.