



Djeembana News March

Isn't it amazing what difference time can make to everyone? The children are now understanding what is required of them as a member of Djeembana. They are listening to the team and responding positively to what is being asked of them. Last week we had a very calm week and observed an increase in the children's level of participation and engagement. This is a direct result of the children becoming more relaxed in the space and beginning to develop a connection with the teaching team. The group are becoming familiar with the expectations we have off them and the boundaries that they can play within. We have focused on the children being responsible for their things, following routines, participating in group times, contributing thoughts to group discussions, taking care of their food and lunch boxes and exploring a variety of experiences provided in the program. We are encouraging them to make choices within the program that engages them in an experience and gives them the opportunity to get the most learning from that interaction.

The routine each day was the same until last week, when we introduced different combinations. The visual schedule assists children to know what to expect for the day reducing any possible anxiety and preparing them for what is to come. Thank you to families for drawing their child's attention to the board which assist them to feel comfortable about what is happening.

The routine could be: inside first then outside or the reverse; in all then all out or some children inside and some children outside as divided by their photos. One day we gave the children a choice to move between the two spaces throughout the day, every child managed these changes and when they weren't sure they checked the schedule.

The nature program at the beach continues to be accessed with great enthusiasm. The children have mostly spent time at the base area and the rock platform area allowing them to become comfortable in those spaces and develop ways to play in those spaces. Some children are requiring a team member to offer ideas on what they can do and connect them to the space and other children. As they become more familiar, less adult intervention will be required. Then we will start introducing other spaces – last week we spent time around the old pier and bush area where different play occurred. Each week at the beach we make discoveries and go on adventures. So far the discoveries have been: observing five dolphins (barbarka) fishing; finding possum (walert) dreys and several dead possums (which stimulated a conversation on what happened to them); learning how to scramble over the large rock wall and develop various imaginative games; developing the confidence to pick up crabs; finding quiet spaces to 'be' and testing their courage and physical skills.



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Learning and Living with nature

The children are showing the team the things that they are interested in which assists us in the planning. Many of the children are looking for construction areas, creative areas, opportunities to be physical, messy play areas, experiences with water (determined by the water level in the tanks), fishing play, exploring connections with another child and demonstrating an interest in learning about First Peoples and the environment.



We have been adding things to the children's kinder books, please take time to look at them. Over the break we will send the folder home for you to add photos and items about what the children did over the holidays. The children will then be sharing their adventures with the group. Please bring them back in the first week even if you have not added anything as we are adding pages all the time.

Priscilla spent the session with the children on Monday. Priscilla has worked closely with the teaching team for many years and was instrumental in guiding us to embed First Peoples perspectives. Priscilla is from Gamilori Country in NSW. Priscilla shared a creation story and language with the children, sang in language, gave the children ochre to paint with and made feather flowers.



PMP has run for three weeks. The children are gaining a solid understanding of the process as each week new challenges are presented to them. While PMP focuses on gross motor skills it also promotes: listening skills; comprehending information; taking instructions from unfamiliar adults; focusing on staying with the team and having fun. Thanks to all parents who have assisted this term. We have one more date scheduled for the 27th.



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Snack boxes – Just a reminder to send your child with healthy options – please no chocolate, sweet food. Also consider how much to pack. On Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday we are not eating lunch just a snack mostly of fruit or vegetables. ON Friday we have snack and lunch. Some children feel they have to eat everything in their lunch box which reduces their playing time.

Race horses on Friday – There was a discussion about the race horses at the committee meeting this week. We are all entitled to use the beach space and I feel we have safe processes in place. The race horses are legally required to be off the beach by 9am. We are using the walkie talkies to ensure the children and families and the horses are safe. When the horses are around please keep big distances between you and the horse. Race horses are highly strung and when they get frightened can spin around quickly and with force. As for the floats in the carpark – yes it can be congested- please be patient, even arrive closer to 9 when most floats have left. If you have any concerns, please talk to me.

Harmony Day – Special thanks to the families who joined us for Harmony day. We learnt about connections the children have to various parts of the world and look forward to further sharing of food, stories, language and culture.

Coming events

- 23rd and 24th March Womin djeka Balnarring Ngargee
- 27th March Jill teaching for Mrs Karen
- 27th March PMP
- 3rd April Whale out of water program at Balnarring Primary school 9:30-11. See separate notice
- 5th April Last day of term one
- 23rd April First day of term two
- 26th April **NO** session as teaching team are attending a conference in Melbourne

Thank you for your support this term.

Karen



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