



Djeembana News

The last few weeks we have experienced calm and productive sessions. The children are applying themselves, extending their learning and creating new connections and relationships. The teaching team are therefore having more opportunities to spend longer periods of time with small groups engaging at a deeper level.



Herbie wanted to share an experiment with the group (thanks Herbie) which led to us conducting several experiments over a few weeks. When engaging in experiments, the children have the opportunity to predict what will occur and describe what they observe, each child being encouraged to share their theory. These experiments were then linked to the environment – mixing of liquid, the damage oil can have on water and the life that lives in the water.

One of the hens is sitting on eggs, hopefully they will hatch next week. The children have learnt how protective animals can be of their young receiving a few pecks from the mother to be!

Nature explorations have been interesting and varied. There was a very low tide two weeks ago revealing some creatures that live in that tidal zone. We found a blue ringed octopus camouflaged under a rock – we often speak about the octopus living in the rock pools so finding one allowed us to revisit the importance of being careful. Each week four children are asked to tell a story using the items they find around them – each child is now having their second turn and we are observing an increase in their confidence to tell the story and develop a story line. Telling storied is great for connecting people and for the development of oral language – why not try some story telling over the holidays?



Have you heard about the story telling tree?

This is a tree that is over 250 years old and it tells stories to the listeners. I told the children that the tree told me about what Balnarring looked like when it first started to grow and then that Boon Wurrung Country was invaded. Then the children were asked to listen to hear more stories. If you would like to visit the tree it is in B reserve up from Bundjil's nest.

It was a pleasure for the teaching team to spend time with the children's dads last week, observing their relationships and the joy on faces as experiences were explored. We greatly appreciated the effort that dads went to in order to be able to participate.



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Learning and Living with nature

Skye will be joining the program each Friday as a student participating in the VCAL at Dromana Secondary College. Please help her to feel welcome.



Theo update – it will be Theo's birthday next week. We will have a party for him on Tuesday 25th. He has had his 12 month assessments of his eyes, hips and temperament. He was also de-sexed. If the assessments went well, he will be taken into the formal part of the training program at which point he will leave us. I don't expect this to occur for a few months and will begin preparing the children.

The group are very interested in learning Boon Wurrung language and listening to music by Mitch Tambo (dancer from Bundjil Day in May). It is so wonderful hearing the children use the language when they are talking, singing and telling stories. This week we learnt tulum – duck, goyeep – bird and used them in playing duck, duck goose.

We continue talking with the children about the impact rubbish has on the environment. They are very alert in looking for rubbish when we are out and about. Next term (July) we will be having a visit from AWARE – an animal rescue group. They will share information about what they do and conduct an activity with the children.

In August Emma (artist), will work with the children to create their own Waang and then use the children's ideas to make Waang sculptures out of the hard blocks that are being made from the recycled plastic we have collected.

Kinder books will be sent home next week. Please look through them with your child and ask them to tell you what is happening in the photos. We look forward to your child sharing their holiday adventures with us after the term break.

Thank you for the support and assistance you have given the group this term.

Coming events

Clean up day 22nd June. Meet at the reserve next to the kinder at 9:30 with gloves, tongs, buckets to collect rubbish.

Mud Day- Wednesday 26th June. See note sent home

The children will be designing the mud program, preparing the experiences on Tuesday afternoon and Wednesday morning. We invite all families to join us on the 26th for mud play. Children are to bring a spare change of clothes and a towel. Parents may also want to bring a spare set of clothing! If you have heard about a Djeembana mud day you will know that it is very messy, wet, cold and GREAT fun. Expect to get dirty.



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Learning and Living with nature

Friday 28th Filming will occur for the ECOLN training package. Please ensure you have returned the permission forms if your child is to participate.

Progress reports are being held in the last week of term. If you haven't found a time that suits you, please let me know. Meeting with families at this time of year provides an opportunity to discuss each child's progress, sharing information between the home and centre. I will be asking parents to consider what they would like their child to achieve for the remainder of the year.

NAIDOC week Many activities are planned in the city and Cranbourne gardens- check out the website for details.

15th July Term three commences

Share a book morning starting 22nd July – parents invited to stay and share one or more books with their child.

17th July – The children from Balnarring ELC will spend some time with us exploring our learning environment and sharing a fire. They buddies will join us several times until the end of the year.

Monday 22nd July – AWARE are visiting the children 11:15-12:15 They are speaking about caring for wildlife and the impact rubbish as on the wildlife. The children will be involved in several activities. Parents are welcome to join us. Balnarring ELC will also be joining us for this session **SESSION will finish at 12:30 on this day**

Monday 5th August 6-8pm. Parents are invited to an information evening run by AWARE at Balnarring Primary school in the library. Further details next term.

When looking at puddles we challenged the children to look deeper – what could they see?

Then we all jumped in the puddles – where did our reflections go?



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