



### **Djeembana News March 2020**

Thankyou for your support this week it has been greatly appreciated and is assisting me in moving forward.

We are so pleased with the way the children have settled into the group. When we were in half groups we observed many children struggling with the change in teaching team and routines. However every day is going very smoothly. Each child is demonstrating their strengths and welcoming contact with the team enabling us to develop relationships. The assessor even commented on how settled and confident the children appeared especially considering it was term one.

We are observing the children exploring new play ideas inviting different children into those spaces. Being outside all week has been great with children creating imaginative play ideas under the trees, within the bushes, and with the large blocks. When we spend long uninterrupted periods outside the play becomes settled and has a greater focus.



I have observed many acts of kindness as the children look out for each other and support each other in achieving success.

Djeembana really enjoys singing and music time. Every song or movement activity I introduce is met with great excitement and an increasing level participation. One of the favorite songs is Ready Set Go which involves singing, moving, waiting and creates a strong sense of Belonging. The children have been introduced to Boon Wurrung language through several songs, which we

often hear when the children are playing: Boon Wurrung; Bundjil is a spirit, Marrin Gamu ( song of many languages) and Bundjil/Waang.

This week most of the children made a microphone. We have had many performances often with children making up their own songs – their confidence is definitely growing.



The program at the beach has introduced the children to the rock pools. It is tricky navigating the rock pools however already we have observed the children's increased confidence in walking independently across the rocks. At this stage most children are more than happy to let the adults collect the crabs but even then some adults are unsure! The more we visit the rock pools the more confidence the children will have in picking up the creatures in a respectful and kind way. We have found small sea stars, squid egg sacs, green algae, and a variety of shells.

While at the rock pools we are observing imaginative play developing on the rock wall – small groups of children breaking off, finding an area they can all fit into and each adding ideas to the game. Last week 6 children were playing mums, dads and cats using the small rocks for food. This type of play develops many skills – turn taking, negotiating whose ideas are followed, physical skills to be in that area, communication skills, patience and the ability to draw on previous knowledge influenced by their lives at home.



Another favorite space is becoming the tea tree area near where the children run down the sand hill. There are some secret spaces in there that support imaginative play ideas.

When we arrive at the beach, the direction the day takes is determined by what is happening in the space and environment: A few weeks ago we watched an excavator digging out the area the boats are launched from. If people are involved in activities on the beach we will usually approach them to learn about what they are doing – could be kayaking, people fishing or boating, school groups.... Most weeks Ranger Paul will drop by and have a chat with the children.

We thank the families for supporting the hygiene practices we have out into place. The children are becoming excellent hand washes. We also appreciate how diligent people are being in keeping children at home when they have a runny nose.



It was lovely sharing Harmony day with so many families and to hear about your cultural connections. Thanks for the yummy food and the beautiful song from Lindah and Oscar – very appropriate for the current climate reminding us to care for each other and the land. We encourage families to share their cultures with us at any time – food, songs, stories, language, dances and traditional items.



PMP is met with great excitement each week, thank you to the parents who are able to support this program. I have been quite impressed by how well the children are listening to the adults and then trying really hard to perform the skill. There are many physically competent children – I will be making each week a little more challenging than the previous to extend their skills and build their confidence.



The kinder books will be sent home next Wednesday. Please take your time to look through them with your child as they share what they have been doing this term. There is also an activity for you to do over the break Books to be return promptly at the beginning of the term even if you have not completed the activity so the children can share their holiday adventures – thank you.

The festival was amazing, your support once again unwavering. I hope you enjoyed hearing the stories from First Peoples and immersing yourselves in the land and culture. The festival committee are always looking for more people to join them. If you are interested please let me know



### Coming events

Please complete the surveys – they guide future plans

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> is the end of term one. Term two commences in the 14<sup>th</sup> April. We will let you know if this changes

20<sup>th</sup> April – we are hosting a student teacher from Deakin

Take care everyone, thanks for your support this term

Regards

Karen on behalf of Djeembana team

