



Djeembana News June 2020

Congratulations to the teaching team, committee, children and families, last Friday we received the Assessment and rating report for the preschool and have been assessed as excellent in all seven quality areas. As you will be aware the preschool is currently rated as exceeding (one of ten within in Victoria) Now we have the report we can reapply for the Exceeding rating which expires in July – this involves us writing against various criteria and providing evidence of practice.

Thankyou to all the families for their support, patience and enthusiastic engagement with the preschool this term. I realise it has been very difficult not being able to see your child's engagement and learning with the program. The drop offs and picks up are much quicker and smoother with staggering the times, thanks for you help with this.

Teaching this term has been different for all of us. Your children have managed exceptionally well which is a credit to you all. Increased time with families has given the children the opportunity to strengthen their relationships with their parents. Access to each other has increased while we have not been so busy. While this time of isolation has been challenging there have been many positives especially for the children's security and growth.

The program has almost completely been delivered outside which means the experiences and engagement of the children has been different to when they have more tabletop quiet experiences. Not only have we spent most of our time outside the routines have also been changed. With so much hand washing we have tried to reduce the number of times we interrupt the children's play. We have observed the children connecting and exploring new relationships through active and imaginative play. Groups times have been irregular to allow children long periods of unbroken time which gives them the opportunities to go deeper into their play.



The children were struggling to attend and listen for group times most probably because they haven't been happening on a regular basis however the last few weeks the children have been very engaged listening well to the learning that has been presented in group times. In music time each child is enthusiastic and participating at a high level. We have learnt new songs and movement activities. One new song was written by the Spender family (local) called Womindjeka. This song reflects the nature and cultural program we look forward to when you can hear us singing it.

As you will know Boon Wurrung Elder N'Arwee't Carolyn Briggs has given us her stories to illustrated. The story your children will be illustrating is titled The Time of Chaos – quite apt for this period we are in! This has led to discussions about the meaning of reconciliation, harmony and chaos. The Time of Chaos is about a time when the Boon Wurrung were not taking care of the land, they fought with people from the Kulin Nations and the sea got angry and began covering the grassy plains which is now Port Phillip Bay. Bundjil stopped the sea rising asking the people to follow the lores of caring for the bubups (children) and land (biik). Ann and I are meeting with Carolyn in the term break to discuss her vision of how the children will illustrate the book. In term three we will continue the learnings of the story and then begin illustrating.

You can listen to the story and watch animations on youtube. The children watched these on Wednesday

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6fSRJ03oDwc>

[Dreaming Boon Wurrung https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KDC1yggfVAY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KDC1yggfVAY)



There has been many cooking experiences on the fire with many children mastering how to get a spark from the flints.

Johnny cakes

Pumpkin (from kindergarten garden) soup



egg omelettes and pancakes



Pancakes

- 2 eggs
- 1 3/4 cup milk
- 1 teaspoon vanilla essence
- 2 cups self-raising flour
- 1/3 cup caster sugar
- Maple syrup, to serve

METHOD

Step 1

Whisk eggs, milk and vanilla together in a jug. Sift flour into a large bowl. Stir in sugar. Make a well in the centre. Add milk mixture. Whisk until just combined.

Step 2

Heat a large non-stick frying pan over medium heat. Grease pan with butter or spray with cooking oil. Using 1/4 cup mixture per pancake, cook 2 pancakes for 2 minutes or until bubbles appear on surface. Turn and cook for a further 1-2 minutes or until cooked through. Transfer to a plate. Cover loosely with foil to keep warm. Repeat with remaining mixture, greasing pan with butter or cooking oil between batches.



It has been great getting back into the bush and onto the beach. On the first day the children were unsettled and a little nervous as to be expected. Last week there was no sign of that. The children were super excited to be finally going back to the rock pools and rock wall, they have such a strong sense of belonging and connection to that space. After so long since we have been at the beach and bush it is like starting again with the procedures and rules on how to be safe and how to play in those spaces. We saw an antechinus digging and running through the undergrowth, many children sat patiently waiting for it to appear asking many questions –

Acknowledgement: Balnarring Pre-school acknowledge that our children and families play and learn on Boon Wurrung Country. We acknowledge the Boon Wurrung of the Kulin Nation as the First Peoples of this land. We thank them for caring for the land and waterways and value the sharing of their knowledge and stories. We pay our respects to their Elders: past and present.



where does it live, did it make all the holes we are seeing, what does it eat and looking carefully at its features – short ears and tail, looked like a rat.... This led to learning about mammals and marsupials.

We have been exploring all the little tracks in the bush, shadows, pattern making, and building nests. When on the beach the children have been playing with the waves and the seaweed islands: standing on them seeing how brave they can be when the wave comes in.



The children have been really enjoying the soft shaped obstacles course. They have helped each other, explored ways of moving through the course and celebrated their achievements.



Lunch boxes – the children are coming with very full lunch boxes. When we have snack the children are asked to eat fruit first and then a snack if still hungry including lunch options is not required on any days but Friday. We are also advising children that snacks that contain a lot of sugar are not to be consumed at kinder so we ask you please to not send sugary snacks.





Thanks to everyone who returned the hearts, your thoughts were encouraging and insightful. They have been delivered to Willum Warrain for them to display and share.

Term break and term three update

Kinder books will be sent home for you to look through with your child. Please ask them about what they are doing in the photos. There is also a holiday activity and term update.

When term three commences we will continue to current drop of and pick up procedures. We are hoping to make some changes after the first few weeks depending on advice from education and health department and discussions with the committee and teaching team.

Plans for term three will be developed as we know what is allowed e.g having visitors to the centre.

The Womindjeka Balnarring Ngargee Festival has been set for 13th March 2021 restrictions allowing. We are always looking for more people to join the committee to add new ideas and spread the load. If you are interested please let me know.



Once again thankyou for all your support

I look forward to the time when we can share the preschool experience inside the gates!

Take care

Keep Smiling

Karen

