



Learning and Living with nature



Djeembana News April 2020

Welcome to term two whether we are seeing you each day or connecting remotely Womindjeka (Boon Wurrung word that means – come, ask to come and state your purpose for coming)

It is such strange times for everyone. Every day our thoughts are with each family. We understand the stresses that each family are experiencing and commend parents on the wonderful job they are doing under these extreme circumstances.

It was lovely to see all your smiling faces over the past weeks – apologies if I didn't make it to your house.

It is strange writing this newsletter when some children are experiencing the program and some are experiencing different learning. But here goes...

We have welcomed a new staff member – Gabby- who will be providing support for the group for the remainder of the year.

Lisa is recovering slowly looking at returning mid May. In the mean time Lisa M will work with us on Mon, Tues and Wed and Kim on Fridays

Kindergarten has started with sixteen children. The drop off and pick up processes are working smoothly. Thankyou for your patience, I have almost mastered the temperature check! The children re managing extremely well and have become expert hand washers.

At the centre we have spent many hours outdoors. The children took a day to settle back into the space and their friendships. They were excited to see each other. We have spoken about the need to wash our hands and equipment and why that is important. Children have been creating 'secret' spaces amongst the trees, creating protective areas for dinosaurs and have made a performance area on the deck. Children dressed up and danced for their audience although the DJ (me) had trouble getting the music right.

There have been many ideas in the sandpit of how to use the water. These boys buried the hose and then pumped the water until it exploded through the sand – lots of squeals as it exploded and learning about gradient and water flow.

All children have been encouraged to find fungi – we have learnt there are many varieties and that fungi grows after rain. Many children have wondered what grows under the fungi?

Sophie was very generous bringing in the water balls for us to experiment with. There was great excitement when the children saw what had happened to the balls the next day. AND there is enough for each child to take some home and do their own experiment. Thankyou Sophie



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Many children have been collecting items from nature to make patterns with. Here some examples



Heath's



Roy's

Oscar grew some broad beans for us which we have planted into the garden. More planting will occur over the coming weeks.

Which reminds me, how are the bulbs growing – I think I watered mine too much!!!!!!!!!!!!

Sophie's



In the coming weeks there will be discussions about the changes that are occurring at this time of the year. We have a few trees that are deciduous so we can watch the leaves changing. If you have any deciduous trees near you please collect the leaves so we can play and create with them.

That is it for now. We would really appreciate feedback about the amount of contact we are having with you and the information you are receiving.

Please take care of each other and let us know in what ways we can support you.

Inspired by Willaura Primary School
What every teacher wants their families to know
Remember you are your child's first teacher...



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You don't need to replicate the preschool experience.
Don't try to be your child's teacher.
Just keep being the teacher you ALREADY are.
We trained for years to teach the way we do, just as
you have trained for years to teach the way you do...
Read with your child.
Cook with your child.
Garden with your child.
Enjoy nature with your child.
Make and create things with your child.
Sing and dance with your child.
Hug your child.
PLAY with your child.
And above all, keep being the kind, calm role-model
your child needs through this challenging time.
This is how you teach.
Keep doing you.
Your child is learning from you every day

Almost forgot about a Jimbo update. When we are out and about he is very settled and works well. When he is home and at kidner he is barking way too much!!!!!! I am working with the trainer to reduce this behaviour.

Until next month

Keep smiling

Mrs Karen



Acknowledgement: Balnarring Preschool acknowledges 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 the waterways and value the sharing of their knowledge and stories. We pay our respects to their Elders: past and present.