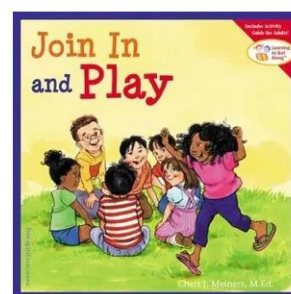


## ***Being, Belonging, Becoming together as Weelam group***

As I write this newsletter, we are beginning lockdown 5. Once again, we are all staying home to be safe. Being able to still walk and connect with Boon Wurrung Country during this season of Beerreen offers many opportunities to explore and discover. We encourage everyone to rug up, put your gumboots on and see the stories within 5km of your home. It was fabulous to be able to share our preschool experiences and end of term two celebrations with our families. The last day of Bush camp we ended with a BBQ. Everyone enjoyed their sausage in bread, big thankyou to the parents who cooked for us. This was followed up with our Mud Day fun. We are very grateful for these opportunities to Be together when possible and could be together as a community, to laugh together and throw some serious mud!!



***Learning to get along:*** Friendship and social play skills are important for young children to develop in the early years of life. Being a friend and understanding what to say and do is not as easy as you may think. Becoming a respectful and kind friend is complex. We have been offering some extra support to develop and strengthen these skills. Gorgeous Gus is helping as we offer him advice and the words and actions to use.



*The children have been putting these skills into practice as they work together in small groups.*



***How do you think your friend is feeling?*** Our learning towards understanding and being able to verbalize our feelings continues and we are also supporting the children to develop the understandings to empathize and know how their friends maybe feeling and how to identify and understand the emotions of others.



***Our discoveries continue with the change of season. What have you been discovering around your home?***







### Time of Chaos:

*We are being Illustrators for N'Arwee't Dr. Carolyn Briggs AM. N'Arwee't joined us to share her story and talk to us about the stories of the Boon Wurrung Peoples. N'Arwee't bought her possum skin coat to share with us.*



*The children have been watching video of this Boon Wurrung story in our theatre, the link for this story is <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KDc1yggfVAY>, if you would like to watch this at home.*



*The children listened as N'Arwee't told the story in her words and spoke with the children about how they could create the images for the book. N'Arwee't talked to us about gratitude and we learnt to say "Ngood godjin,. I show gratitude".*



*The children all sat around N'Arwee'ts possum skin, we were encouraged to look for the stories within the coat. We learnt this possum skin is just for N'Arwee't and tells the story of Boon Wurrung Country.*



*The next day the children showed their learning from being with N'Arwee't reflecting on the story as they watched the changes in the tide, the creek and the waves and explored together. We are now gathering images of these times when the children connect with the story, they may become images within the book as it comes together.*



## Mud Day Reflections and Memories: *Serously connecting with Mother Earth*



*Our lists of Mud ideas. During the morning we prepared our targets (also on Ann's jumper!) and the Mud scones.*



*Outside we move the dirt to many places around the playground, set up the slide and mud swimming pool. After lunch the fun began, quietly at first but then,,, who gave the hose to the children?*

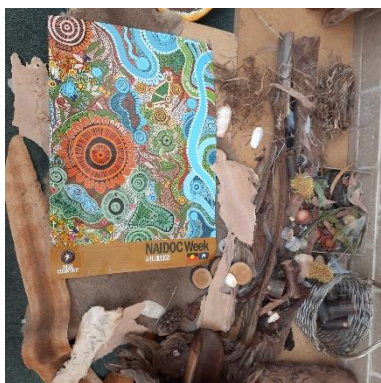


*We wonder...How will you remember Mud Day, How does your child recall this day?*



The teaching team (if you can recognize us) would like to thank everyone who came and joined in this fun and time for us to be together. It was terrific to see so many finding new ways to be with mud and for overcoming their initial uncertainties to participate in the experiences with the children. There were so many laughs as memories were created for all us on this day. How long did it take to remove all the mud for you? It is always surprising to see where the mud ended up!





**NAIDOC WEEK:** During the holiday break NAIDOC week was celebrated with the important message for us all to reflect on our responsibilities towards 'Heal Country'. We acknowledged NAIDOC as we returned to kinder exploring the poster titled Caring for Country within our art and story making experiences. The children are developing their knowledge of the symbols in play.



### The story of Damper Man:

We are exploring there are many ways to tell stories. The book Damper Man offered the children another way to know the story of the Gingerbread man. After reading the book we made our own Damper Men, then cooked them on the campfire before they ran away.



**Challenges and Confidence:** As we move into term three we find the confidence levels with each child increase. They are seeking new and bigger challenges. The sea grass hills are offering many opportunities to extend skills and be proud of new achievements.



### Joining our Community:



A big welcome to our new friend Hunter (we now have two Hunters) and his family to Weelam group. Hunter joined us at the start of term three. We all look forward to getting to know all of you and you being with us. We also welcome Suzy (one of our previous student teachers) back with us on Wednesdays at Bush camp. It was great to have Suzy back with us again. Further student teachers will join us when allowed.

**Important Dates for your diaries:** Thankyou to everyone who completed the Kinder survey sent out by the committee last term. Your responses guided the discussions for the Quality Improvement Plan meeting during the holiday break. Your feedback and suggestions are always welcome, the plan will be available in the future and shared with everyone.

- **VIP (Very Important Person) times :** Apologies but with the restrictions I feel the possible session planned will need to be postponed to later in the term. Stay tuned for future dates.
- **PMP sessions and Campfire experience** will continue alternatively each fortnight into term three. Please join us when you can, your assistance allows these times to be extra special.
- We have currently planned for **the Kinder Photographer** to join us on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> August.

**\*\*The children** will now be entering and exiting the preschool through out new gate. Please remember to check the gate has closed after you have opened it. Let me know if you experience difficulties accessing this new entrance.

**Parent catch up times:** These conversations will continue into term three as restrictions allow, please let me know if you would like to talk on the phone and you are welcome to send a text or email if that is easier. I welcome all your questions and hearing your thoughts about the program and plans for 2022. I look forward to sharing further adventures from Weelam group again soon, Kind regards, Ann.