



Being, Belonging, Becoming together as Weelam group in many ways.

This week we have all been challenged once again to stop, rethink, and reimage what we are doing each day and how we continue to support our young children emotionally and socially as well as create learning opportunities and juggle everything else happening around us. I thank and acknowledge all of you for your support over the past week as we developed both the Kinder programs at home on Zoom, the outdoor kinder program for those attending the centre and what that all meant for each of you and the teaching team. For those at home Sarah will now be coordinating the online program on Zoom. Each day (Monday to Thursday) catch up chats and learning times will be offered, and these began this week. It was terrific to see many of our friends on the computer and we look forward to sharing many fun experiences with you. On different days the other teaching team members will join you on Zoom to say 'Hi' too. Sarah and I are working together to synchronise the program between home and kinder so when we are back together the children will have shared similar knowledge and learning times between them. We will also continue to keep in touch through emails, text messages, phone calls and surprises in your letter boxes- keep looking out next week for something to arrive. This newsletter is my opportunity to share just some of our exciting and quiet learning times- the memories we have created together as Weelam group. We will continue to create special times as we all stay connected with each other in so many ways and keep each other safe during these times. We look forward to receiving your stories and photos from your discoveries as you walk with Boon Wurrung Country within 5 km of your homes over the next few weeks. There are many wonderful new changes to see/ hear.



Learning with Boon Wurrung Country teaches us change can be Ok and be a message that new times are coming. With the change of seasons, our learning times are changing from learning with puddles, the rain, big seaweed hills, the wind, fungi, mud and colder weather. We have special memories of puddle jumping and running, watching the rain fall on the roof of our tent and listening to the stories of the wind and waves. A change of season brings regeneration, opportunities to reconnect with past knowledge, be surprise, discover the unexpected and enjoy rainbows and stories within the clouds up in the sky. As we move slowly from the Boon Wurrung season of Beerreen to Bareep we have begun to notice more changes as we explore our learning spaces, there are new colours, the yellow flowers on the wattle, bower spinach, new leaves, growth and flowers- please send us your discoveries too.



Learning with Country: Over the last month we have revisited many of our favourite spaces with new enthusiasm, more confidence. With emerging skills and stronger bodies the group have been climbing higher, running faster, jumping, rolling, balancing, finding many ways to move and challenge themselves. These active times have been balanced with times just being, quietly working by yourself, watching or just with a small group of friends.



New Friends: *We have some new friends that are supporting us both emotionally and with our learning*



Meet **Calming cat**, he is here for a cuddle



Word Bird is supporting us to learn values



Celeste is learning to be a teacher

Cooking experiences around the fire: *Working outside and with the colder weather we have been cooking more on the campfire. The first challenge is to collect the wood, set the fire and then use the flints to light the fire. Several children are very persistent using the flints, delighting in being able to make sparks.*



Using the flint.



Preparing the fire to light



Damper man starting to cook



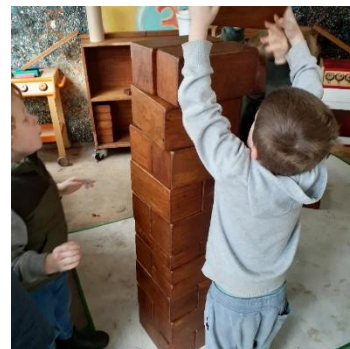
Making popcorn



We have moved Toast Tuesday and Thursday cooking times to under the verandah adding pancake and flat bread making to these experiences. Our Curly potato chips were sold (for one leaf) at our shop and tasted great.



Our buildings are becoming stronger, more elaborate, higher and the children are working with ideas in mind. It is exciting to see how this is inspiring others.



Kinder Hospital: *Oh. Dear what has happened!! Our hospital has been very busy- we have many great Doctors.*



We talked about the many work roles we needed within our hospital. We even had the chefs and 'cuddlers'.



Kinder Olympics: *We explored many ways to create our own Olympics, there were many medal winning performances (including for Kindness) and it was terrific to see everyone trying new skills and ways to move.*



'Rock climbing'

'Hurdles'

'Soccer'

'Relay race'



The Olympics also inspired an interest in flags, the children created their own flags as well as exploring the many colours, their meanings and patterns that make up the flags from each country. As I write this Newsletter the Para Olympics has just begun. Please take the time to watch some of the events with your children, it is a fabulous opportunity to teach diversity and the many ways we can all achieve our goals. At this young age teaching that there are many ways to walk, move and communicate supports each child's learning towards understanding that diversity in how we look, talk and move is just apart of life and what some peoples do. We teach we are all different and similar in so many ways.

Learning to work with Ochre respectfully:



Recently the teaching team joined in a learning opportunity with Annette Sax, Tangurung woman and early childhood teacher on Zoom. Annette taught us how to work with ochre respectfully when teaching. We all created our own story with the ochre. This was my story.





Keep watching our wall outside. We have painted it the colours of Boon Wurrung Country and one day something else will be added to the walls. The children were very active Artists.

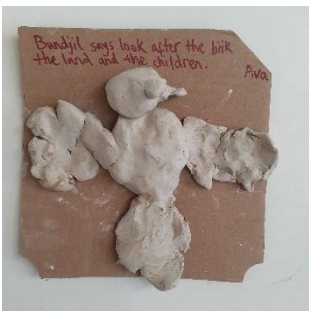


Learning with Waang: *We were excited to see Waang back alongside the creek after being missing for some time.*



We have been taught by the Boon Wurrung Elders that Waang is the Protector, Waang at the creek (he is made of recycled soft plastics) reminds us of our responsibilities towards the waterways and taking care with our rubbish. Waang often visits us at the campfire and around Kinder- he even posed for this painting recently.

Learning with Bundjil: *We have been exploring the Laws of Bundjil to show respect and care for the Land and the Bubups as taught to us by the Elders through our play, story making and art experiences.*



Through our Learning with First Peoples teachings we are discussing the word 'Respect' and are beginning to talk about 'Empathy'. We would love to hear from you about your stories from home and how your child is embracing this learning and what their understandings are. You might like to make your own stories at home too.



Just for Fun:

If you would like to explore one of our fun sensory experiences at home just take a couple of cups of cornflour and slowly add water till it becomes runny. Keep playing, watching, catching and pouring and notice how the texture changes. Try to make a ball, try to hold onto the ball and watch what happens next. This mixture will slowly dry out and when you want to engage in this experience again you can just add some water to begin the experience again.

Please keep in touch:

During this time when our group is both learning at home and at kinder, we encourage everyone to stay in touch in many ways, come join us on Zoom, send us pictures and keep checking your emails and texts messages for updates with what is happening. Don't forget to check your letterboxes too. I welcome your calls and please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or would just like to chat. Enjoy your walks, quiet moments and let me know if you find a rainbow. Kind regards, Ann and the teaching team