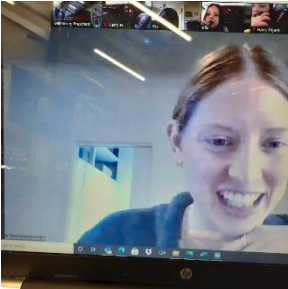


Dear Weelam group families,

For the past month we have continued to Be with each other as 'Weelam group' in many ways. We thank everyone for staying in touch and for sharing your experiences and stories with us online, through text messages and phone calls. Our group continued with some friends joining us at Kinder, some friends zooming in from home, others calling by to pick up Kinder resources and packs and through our letter mail outs. We thank all our families for your amazing support to both your children and the teaching team during this time. Your smiles, photos, and kind words assisted us to stay connected with you and continue the teaching programs as best as possible. Every session (in some way) we were able to offer experiences for the children to engage in and learn with. Our aim was to link the learning experiences between Zoom and Kinder, this newsletter is an opportunity to share just some of these learning times with you. Please look in your child's folder for more stories, reflections and ideas for experiences at home.

Zoom Kinder:



Sarah took up the challenge to develop the Zoom program and was able to offer many fabulous and fun learning times for the children who joined her throughout the week. This was a new experience for Sarah and as a new graduate teacher she can certainly add Zoom Kinder teacher to her resume now. Zoom kinder was a terrific way to link us with our friends at Kinder, allowing us to pop in, say Hi and join in the experiences. It was always terrific to see you and have a chat. Well done Sarah, great work.



Sarah's reflections: *"What an experience zoom has been. Thank you to all the children that have attended Weelam Group zoom gatherings, it has been a delight having you share your creations and discoveries. We hope you have enjoyed the program". We loved meeting all your treasures and pets too*



Our Cooking experiences continued both at home and on Zoom:



Toast Tuesday continued online and at the kinder campfire. There were times cooking with Damper, exploring Bush foods and special treats with marshmallows on the fire.



Thank you to the Djeembana teaching team and kinder friends:

Due to the latest COVID restrictions and the reduced numbers in the groups at Kinder the decision was made to join Weelam and Djeembana groups together for the first couple of weeks. We say thankyou to everyone who joined us, it was great to be able to share the sessions with you. Many children reconnected with old friends from three year old kinder which was exciting for all.

Planting our Murnong seeds:



Everyone received a small packet of Murnong seeds that we had harvested earlier in the year from our Murnong garden, we asked everyone to make their own Murnong garden at home. We also planted Murnong seeds on Zoom and at Kinder in the seedling trays and pots. We have been watering them everyday and just yesterday at Kinder we could see the new green shoots appearing. Keep watering your murrnong garden at home and keep watching shoots should start appearing soon.

Our experiments: *Making predictions, wondering, being curious and surprised by what happened*



Over the past few weeks, we have been supporting the children to continue to develop their sense of wonder and curiosity through the many experiments we have engaged in together both at Kinder and on Zoom. Smarties, soap, vinegar, pepper, food dye and Bi carb of soda became our learning tools. It was beautiful to watch all the children, both at home and Kinder as they made their discoveries. Sometimes what happened affirmed their predictions, there were also many moments that were unexpected and supported the children to think deeper about what just happened. There were funny times too as I discovered when experimenting with vinegar and bi carb on Zoom. The rubber glove had a hole and vinegar squirted every where just missing the computer!! (Ann)

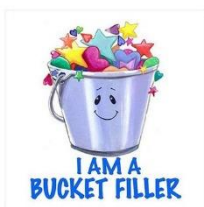
Making homes for the bugs in our gardens:



Our Bugs have new homes down in our veggie garden along with some new 'Bugs' friends that now decorate the garden. An information sheet was sent home to families, inviting everyone to make their own bug homes too. Have fun



Have you been past the Kinder to discover who now lives on our outside walls? We have been taught by the Boon Wurrung Elders that Waang is 'The Protector', especially of the waterways. We now have our own Waangs on the walls to remind us of our responsibilities to our local environments. These are the places that have kept us 'safe' and have been our retreats during our times staying within 5km of our homes and we believe it is important that we continue to care for them. Enjoy your walks every day.



Being Bucket Fillers: *Everyone received their own copy of this book to share with their families. Both on Zoom and at Kinder we made special bouquets with the flowers around us. These gifts were gifted as an act of Kindness. Thank you for being our Buckets Fillers. Enjoy the holiday break, love Weelam group Teaching team.*

