



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

Dear Weelam group, As we begin Term Four we continue to offer our group experiences both at Kindergarten and on Zoom as required due to the lockdown restrictions. As I write this newsletter there is discussion about the lifting of restrictions, so hopefully it will be not too long before we will be all back together again. Thankyou to all families for their support and understanding as we changed the program times to enable us to create 'group bubbles' this now means just one group attends the preschool each day. The kindergarten times for Weelam group are now Monday, Wednesday and Thursday. Each session is from 9am to 2pm with the Wednesday session at Bush Camp for five hours. Both at Kinder and at Bush camp drop off and pick up is from the family cars. We appreciate everyone smiles and patience as we welcome each child into the program. We look forward to everyone returning over the next few weeks.



Together on Zoom and at Kinder:

This month we are gathering as Weelam group on both Zoom and/ or at Preschool within smaller groups. Emails, phone calls, mail outs, home drop offs and text messages have been supporting us to connect and remain in contact with everyone. We appreciate all your messages and photos.



Care Crows Project:

Look who is turning up around Balnarring? We have new friends made by us.

Over the past week on Zoom and at Kinder we have explored what being caring may mean, how we can show care and what caring words we could say and what caring messages we could create.



The children explored body shapes and the characteristics of their Care crows within our art experiences.



Down on the beach we created 'Care crows' and added messages with kind words in the sand. We hope this act of kindness bought joy to those who walked by.



Making Care crows both Big and Small At home and at Kinder.



Our Care crows are now being shared with others. As you go by the Kinder please stop and say Hi to our Care Crows by the gate. We encourage you to make your own Care Crow at home.

Jumping higher, balancing and having fun as we explore new challenges:



We continue to build on each child's skills and confidence to move up, down, over, under and through many spaces. The children have been creating their own obstacle courses and setting their own challenges. The teaching team have been adding further ways to extend these learning experiences.



Just for Fun: Working as a team???

Sometimes experiences are not planned and just happen, after creating an experience that encouraged balancing on the rope, the fun times began when the children started to 'help' Kim to 'pack' away the long rope. Kim had many helpers BUT they seemed to be going in a different direction laughing all the way!!!

Our experiments and discoveries: *The Ice block challenge- what is hiding inside?*



With only water, salt and the Sun the challenge was to remove the objects frozen inside. As they patiently worked the children made many predictions and observations about what was happening and what they might discover. This experiment supported the children to work in teams, share their learning with their friends and to return to this experience to see what was happening throughout the session. It took all day for the ice to melt. The sense of wonder, experimentation and curiosity continued all through the session.

Making worms: *Introducing Bronwen our current Preservice teacher*



Making Worms:

Bronwen explored worm making with the children. They followed the instructions and were fascinated with what happened next. How long can you make your worm?



Preparing the Veggie garden: *Who is living in our garden?*



What's New? With the new season there are many changes happening in our garden. The children have been checking the Bug Houses for new friends and making discoveries in the Veggie Garden as they have been digging, planting, and caring for the plants.



Learning about Bush foods with Sean from Living Culture:

We began the term learning with Sean from Living Culture on Zoom with our families. Sean shared his knowledge about the many Indigenous plants that we can find as we explore Boon Wurrung Country on our walks. The next day at Bush camp the children found many of these plants.



We carefully collected the leaves from the Bower spinach. First, we asked the plant for the leaves, stated why we need them and carefully took only what we needed to eat and cook with the next day



Sean had told us how to make Bower Spinach chips, we tried making our own with the leaves we collected.

Learning experiences at the beach:



The Red Capped Plovers are nesting:

If you are down on the beach, please sit quietly and see if you can spot a Red Capped Plover. We were excited to see how tiny they were when we saw one ran up the beach. We learnt more about them from the new sign on the beach.

Story making and Telling:



The children are actively joining in story making and telling times. The found objects on the beach support us to create and tell stories in many ways. If you were wondering what we do if it starts to rain at Bush camp, we are Ok and prepared. Our stories can continue under our red mat as they did just last week. Everyone loved being in our 'red cubby'.



Time to Be: *Balancing busy times with times to relax and Be calm.*



We are balancing our longer sessions with times to rest, explore yoga poses, lie under the tree and watch the leaves, make pictures with the clouds, listen to the wind and the sounds around us.



Thinking about 2022:

As hard as it is to believe we must now turn our thoughts to planning for 2022. I have begun preparing the Transition to school statements for each child who will be attending school in 2022. Over the next few weeks, I will be seeking permission from all of you to share information about your child with the school that they will be attending. I will also be sending out the parent sections within the statements for you to complete, this will offer you the opportunity to add your thoughts and any additional information you would like to pass onto the school before your child begins. Please do not hesitate to make a time to talk with me if you have any questions or just want to speak further about your child's transition to school.

Fingers crossed we have begun making plans for the end of year celebrations, when we feel we are able to confirm them and how they will be possible I will pass on this information to you. We are hoping to be able to celebrate all together in December with some special gatherings.

On Behalf of the Teaching team we look forward to the next few weeks and to bringing Weelam group 2021 all back together again. If you have any questions about your child attending or returning to preschool please give me a call.

Kind Regards, Ann