



Learning and Living with nature embedding First Peoples perspectives

Djeembana Story Board



Welcome Lewis and his family to Djeembana. Please join with the teaching team in helping them feel welcome.

Thanks to the families who braved the weather and came along to the working bee. It is so exciting that the dirt patch is all ready for mud day. Several children tested the water and dirt consistency, and it was perfect!!!!



What have we been doing and learning?



The Mother's Day luncheon seems so long ago. Didn't the children do a great job? They took their role as restaurant creators very seriously. It was very special seeing everyone together, relaxing in the sun, chatting and showing how proud each parent was of their children- thanks for joining us.



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Story telling is being presented in many forms encouraging children to experiment with different ways to share their stories.

- Making a story scene with items from nature – the children collect the items, set them out and develop a story. This experience builds children's oral language skills, develops their imagination, builds their understanding of a story structure and draws on their previous knowledge. The children often include Boon Wurrung language in their stories especially if animals are featured. The story audience then describes which part of the story they liked the best building expressive language.

• Picture and symbol tiles are selected and placed in a line and then a story is created. Children are drawing the tiles and a team member writes the story so it can then be shared with the rest of the group.



The Story telling tree, in B reserve, was introduced to the children last week. The tree is around 250 years old so imagine what it has seen! The tree told me about what Balnarring was like 250 years ago and then what happened when invasion occurred.



- Stories using books. Truth telling – these are difficult stories for adults to hear so I get they can be extra tricky for young children. Several parents have shared their children's responses to the stories which I am grateful for. I hope that each family has had some discussion about the topics we presented so the children know they are safe and can ask questions to assist their understanding. If you would like to chat with me please do so.

We will revisit all these stories (plus more) over the year. It is important to us that the children know the truth of the nation and consider our role in creating a harmonious community.



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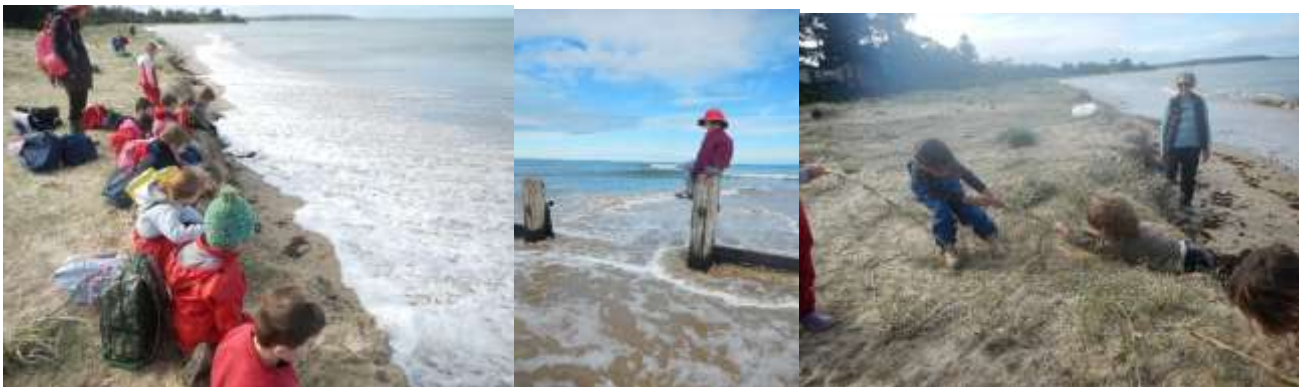


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We have made some interesting discoveries while rock pool rambling. The children are learning how to care for the creatures and handle them with respect. They are also learning how to navigate the rocks demonstrating more control and increased balance as they become more aware of which rocks are less likely to wobble.

On the high tide day the sea was wild and exciting. The children spent long periods of time sitting and observing the waves and their relationship with the sand and sand dunes. As they learnt how the waves were behaving they became very brave challenging their ability to beat the waves back to safe ground.



We have been able to cook on the fire almost every week – toast, jaffles, pumpkin soup. The children are becoming quite competent in cooking on the fire. Many children have also been persisting at getting a spark from the flint.



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Balnarring Preschool & Infant Welfare Association



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Karen Kent introduced the children to the practice of Wayapa while we were in the bush space. This practice highlights 14 elements such as sun, moon, lightning, children, gathering, water, fire, trees..... reinforcing the importance our relationship with the land. Every child participated in this experience which will be revisited at the centre on Wednesday



Erin designs ant farms. She has given one to the preschool to keep showing the children how it works and providing lots of information. ALL the adults learnt quite a lot of things about ants. We are keen to continue learning as the ant colony grows.

How did we go on the wet and cold day? Our resolve to teach outside was defiantly tested! We were so grateful that the children came dressed in their waterproofs so they were ready to tackle the elements. We set up experiences under the verandah and in the fairy garden in preparation for a wet miserable day and then the sun came out. If we do need to use the inside space, we will ensure there is ventilation and plenty of space for us to spread out. The teaching team may decide to wear masks if they are indoors with the children.

PMP

Thanks to the family members who have supported the PMP program this term. The children's confidence to have a go has grown, as has their coordination and control. Skills presented have included: jumping off a wooden box and landing with control, hopping, straddle jumping, bouncing a ball, catching the bean bag off the rebound net, balancing along the beam and performing various mat stunts such as log rolls and rabbit hops. The experiences presented each week build on the skills from the previous weeks. If we observe some skills posing challenges for the group we then add those into the obstacle courses that are provided each week.



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And we have been singing, dancing, moving, creating, making new connections, designing, learning Boon Wurrung words and Key sign words, placing compost bins into the vegie garden, reading books, completing more complex puzzles, laughing, exploring the mud, building, creating construction zones, drawing, playing instruments dressing up, listening to First Nations musicians Mitch Tambo and Gurrumul, and having fun!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Coming events

- No session Monday 13th June
- PMP Wednesday 15th June
- Parent session has been rescheduled for Wednesday 15th June at 1:15 We hope many of you can make it
- Progress reports – Times have been set aside to meet with parents so we can discuss their child's progress and make plans for term three. Please indicate which time works for you on the booking sheet. If none of the times work, please talk to me to arrange a more suitable time.



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- Wednesday 22nd Mud Day. Families to return at 12 for mud fun The children will be creating the play for mud day. Further details will follow
- Last day of term 22nd June. Kinder books will be coming home so your child can share what they have been doing with you and you can add things for us to learn about next term.
- Monday 27th June 10am – Quality Improvement Plan (QIP) - please come along and add your thoughts to how the preschool is demonstrating quality and what we could do to improve. Children are welcome. A survey will be distributed for you to share your thoughts prior to the QIP meeting
- First day of term three

If you have any questions, please never hesitate to ask

Regards

Karen Anderson



Wonderful gift from nature



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