

# **Wombat and Possum Groups teachers' report**

## **February 2020**

Children of both Possum and Wombat groups had their first three weeks of kinder and they are getting familiar with the other children in the group, the teachers, the co-educators and the preschool environment.

It has been very exciting to see them exploring the new environment, visiting and revisiting learning experiences and connecting with peers.

During this term we will be focusing on establishing a strong sense of belonging to our kinder classes and our kinder community. We are getting to know each other's through name songs, class discussions and by sharing our 'All about me' sheets. Our Buddy program offers the children the opportunity to get to know all the children in the group and to create a sense of community and confidence in the class.

### **Our birthday celebration**

We celebrate birthdays in a unique way at Alfred Nuttall and would like to share this experience with you. We normally gather the children in a circle and the teacher will light a candle that represents the Sun. The teacher will explain that we are all living on the Earth and that the Earth moves around the Sun. It takes one year to do this, so every time we have a birthday, we have moved around the Sun once.

The birthday child walks around the candle holding the globe and wearing our special crown and mantel. The class sings the song 'The Earth goes around the Sun'. With each turn, the child stops at the teacher's chair and we talk about the milestones that were reached in the year of development, or some significant event in child's life that year. The discussions may also be supported by information supplied by parents, photos and of course the parents of the child are willing to participate.

The birthday celebration not only marks a significant day in the life of each member of the class, it is a lesson which encompasses Science, Astronomy, Mathematics, History, Singing and Social Development.

### **Positive Psychology:**

We are reading and discussing the book *Have you filled a bucket today? A guide for daily happiness for children* by Carol McCloud and David Messing. As part of our program we will talk about emotional intelligence and we will use different media to explore different emotions, feelings and learn self-regulation skills.

### **Art and Nature:**

The children will be exploring art and nature during all year and will use different media to express and experiment. We encourage the creation of soft sculpture with playdough and later on clay to develop strong fine motor skills while unleashing our imagination.

**Italian:**

This term the children will be exposed to Italian as a second language and will learn elements of Italian language and culture. As part of this program we will celebrate *CARNEVALE* and we will have a dress-up day on:

Possum Group: Monday 24<sup>th</sup> of February

Wombat Group: Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> of February

**Upcoming Incursion:**

*Responsible Pet Ownership* will take place:

Possum Group: Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> of March

Wombat Group: Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> of March

Thank you and please do not hesitate to approach us if you wish to elaborate on this or to discuss any other matter related to your child or the kinder program.

Wombat and Possum Groups Teaching Team