

Monthly Program Report for 4YO Possum and Wombat Groups

June 2020

During the last month we have seen significant changes in our life at kinder and in the world outside our little community. We can all feel normality now again and joy in the air and the children are benefitting from this welcomed reality.

The children are returning slowly to kinder and at this stage we have almost all the children attending both 4yrs old groups. It has been a very important social and emotional journey. The children were happy to see their friends interact with them and share important experiences and learning occasions. We regrouped as classes, recreated that sense of community and belonging that we missed in the first part of term 2 and we are now again part of cohesive, positive and connected classes.

Nature offers us constantly many opportunities for learning and reflection: we are observing the changes in weather patterns, the nights and mornings getting colder and we are all wrapped up in warm clothes to come to kinder. The



children are exploring sensory experiences that are reflecting the cooler season and evoking the magic of winter. We discuss the rhythms of time passing, seasons, months and weeks. We are learning with songs and poetry the days of the week in English and Italian and are recognising rhymes, alliterations and rhythms in spoken language and in music.

We celebrated Reconciliation Week as part of our ongoing exploration of First Nation's culture with music, books and the creation of a mosaic of the Aboriginal flag. The children participated in the creation of the mosaic and we decided to put our acknowledgement of the country in the middle. This opened an avenue for many discussions about identity and what does it mean to be Australian today. As part of this journey we read the book *I Am Australian Too* by Mem Fox and talked about our different cultural backgrounds.

We learned a lot about each other's and our families' history. We are now singing with the children the song *We are one* that many already know and love. These experiences offered the occasion to start a journey that is taking us to different countries around the world. Firstly we have explored many flags and introduced some spatial concepts as *horizontal* and *vertical*, patterns and we practiced our attention to detail. Some flags may have very similar symbols or colours, but have some important differences that we need to identify in order to be able to differentiate them.

As part of our program we are now exploring a different country each week, our current country is Greece. By doing so we are getting familiar with the globe and words as *continent*, *country*, *island*, *peninsula* and *capital*. This journey involves math concepts, art, geography, history, literacy and music and offers the children a broader understanding of the wider world we live in.

ANMK Teaching Team