

Term One Wrap

April Teacher's Report

Home Kinder

Term 1 has passed quickly and it has been a wonderful beginning for the children and teachers and we hope for families too. The children have settled in well and have become relaxed and comfortable in their kinder groups. We are all developing our feeling of belonging in ANMK environment. The children have plenty of uninterrupted time to play both indoor and outdoor and this has created a very relaxed and harmonious environment for everyone.



We focused on diversity and inclusion using Harmony Day as a stimulus for this. The children all drew an individual self- portrait and were guided to recognize their personal identifying features and how that may differ from others . This art work provided them with an opportunity to appreciate and value who they are as individuals. While reading, 'It's Okay to be Different' and 'We're Different, We're the same', the children were introduced to the concept of the diversity amongst us and that this diversity (and sameness) is something to be appreciated and enjoyed.



The kinder sandpit has been a place of collaboration, negotiation and team work as the children have become architects and designers. The Wombat group worked hard to construct their local community including Birrarung (the Yarra River), Kinder and the Fairfield Boathouse.

Learning Outcomes

Outcome 1:

When children can construct a positive image of themselves, they can behave as secure, significant, respected individuals.

Outcome 2:

Children increasingly enjoy being in groups and learn to respect those who are different from them.

Outcome 4:

Children are active learners exploring the world through touch, sight, sound, taste smell and movement. Periods of uninterrupted play give children time to invent, investigate and discover.

After our Term One working bee, the children arrived to an enhanced and inviting outdoor space. A very big thank you to all our kinder families for their amazing effort on that wet Sunday. It was a huge task and the community building was lovely to see. The children played in the fresh, soft, yellow sand like they were at the beach. They rediscovered the potential of the dry river bed that has been hidden for some time. They ran water from the top pool all the way to the sandpit extending on their play, learning and collaboration. There were many wet and messy clothes and we hadn't even made it to Bush Kinder yet! As educators, we are so very pleased with what we see in this play.



There is a strong interest within both groups in insects and wildlife. The children drive their own learning and teachers work alongside them to help create opportunities that spark their natural curiosity. The children were introduced to factual information about bees as we held a "bee meeting". The children were engaged in the reading of "The Book of Bees" by our relief Teacher, Marni. . This book has wonderful illustrations alongside facts. Some of the children participated in an art experience using the bee illustrations to develop their own bee painting.



We hope to extend this interest in bees by having a visit/incursion with a bee keeper and educator. We also have a Wildlife incursion in Term 2 to look forward to.

Local Indigenous Season

Waring (wombat) season (April- July)

Cool rainy days follow misty mornings. The time of highest rainfall and lowest temperatures.

Waring – (**wombats**) emerge to bask and graze in the sunshine

Bulen-bulen – (**Superb Lyrebird**) males perform their courtship displays.

Hearts of Kombadik- **Soft Tree-ferns** are the major food when no fruits are available.

Days and nights are of equal length

Woi- Wurrung words we are learning

Bunjul- Wedge-tailed Eagle

Waa- Crow

Warrin – Wombat

Wallert- Possum

Birrarung- Yarra River

Bush Kinder

An important learning aspect of Bush Kinder is to simply feel comfortable outside in our natural environment thus developing a long term love of nature. This learning/love can provide ongoing positive influence on mental health and well-being.

This term at Bush Kinder the environment has varied week to week and the children have had a chance to explore the Parklands after some heavy rainfall. This weather has given the children opportunity to understand the importance of the right clothing for the weather conditions in order to be comfortable.

Many children embraced the opportunity to use their wet weather gear.



The children observed the changes to nature after and during rainfall. A big discovery was the changes to our earth and soil. The once dry soil had become a soft, pliable mud/clay and the children investigated this through hands on exploration. They squeezed and shaped the clay and felt for themselves the changes the weather had made. Many of the children showed great enjoyment in this clay ball making.

The children are becoming masterful at tree climbing. Our BK site offers a number of tree climbing opportunities to suit the varying and developing abilities. Many children are embracing the “ladder” tree and continue challenge themselves to climb up high.



An unexpected highlight was the delivery of fresh mulch. The kinder children stood back and watched as Ranger Pete guided the truck carrying mulch onto our site.



Immediately this wonderful mulch pile became an area to play and investigate as the group enjoyed rolling, bouncing and relaxing in the mulch pile.



During our last sessions of Bush Kinder we gathered and discussed what dangers might cause us to need to leave in the middle of a Bush Kinder session. We then went on our evacuation drill to the BBQ shelter and then onto our first off site walk. Excitement buzzed through us all as we had embarked on our first adventure and exploration of the wider Darebin Parklands.

We are continuing to learn of dreamtime concepts, some Woi Wurrung language words (the language of the local Wurundjeri people) and nature songs and dance.

We are greatly looking forward to the learning and playing together in Term 2.