

ELC Newsletter



Sharing our love of books with our friends.



Taking inspiration from different artists to create our own works of art



Practising colour matching and fine motor skills



Discovering light and shadow



Wow, where did term 2 go!! It's been a real delight to see how much the children have developed their sense of self, forged some lovely relationships with their peers and educators and have built such a strong sense of belonging within their rooms, the centre and the wider PBC community. These are the firm foundations that enable your little ones to confidently explore and learn from the rich and varied experiences that the educators offer each day. Our newsletter, day books and displays are our way of sharing a flavour of that with yourselves.



Professional Development

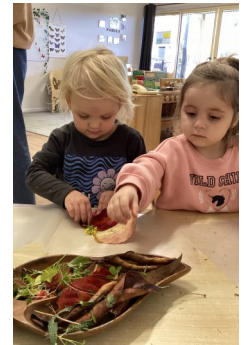
Educated by Nature - Emma and Mandy spent an evening at Golden Beach Kindy taking part in a professional development session looking at the importance of providing children a wide range of opportunities to explore and be immersed in nature. They shared some surprising statistics linking changes in children's behaviour, ability to self-regulate and cognitive ability following a 20 minute nature walk, highlighting the importance of ensuring children have regular and prolonged opportunities to be outdoors and in nature. We reflected on how our beautiful outdoor play space and large percentage of the day that children are able to access indoor/outdoor play and learning environments supports this research. We also identified areas that we could improve and develop, hence the changes that you may have seen:

- children taking part in more regular excursion/nature walks within the college grounds
- more nature being brought and included in our indoor spaces and learning experiences (many thanks for all that you have brought in)
- regeneration of our veggie garden is underway—any support/advice welcomed
- colourful and scented plants have been purchased and discussing what we know about gardening
- we are looking at ways to make more of our mud kitchen and woodwork bench during term 3

We also reflected that developing a love and respect for country and identifying and discussing seasonal changes is an important part of embedding an interest and respect for the First Nations culture and sustainability which we are committed to embed in all that we do.

Nature Play

We loved introducing our nature table into our Bunya space, Miss Mandy guided our learning after attending the 'Educated by Nature' PD which dove into daily opportunities to connect with nature to further develop children's physical, cognitive and social connections. We have been exploring our veggie garden more intensely and look forward to engaging our community within this space.



Social and Emotional

Our Bunya children have become more connected to their environment through creating strong and positive relationships with their peers and educators. We have loved watching them carry out role play experiences which has linked their home environment into their kindy setting. We hope to create a warmer and more welcoming environment through dimmed lighting, family photos and embedding collaborative partnerships with families, such as shared family traditions, experiences and recipes.



Focus Child

Moving into term three we are excited to introduce weekly focus children. We will be asking families to bring in souvenirs, photos and family emblems that the Bunya children can share with their peers on their allocated Focus Day. We ask for these experiences to be meaningful to each child and their families, in the hope this will open further discussions on cultures, traditions and values and further support children's sense of belonging in their Bunya room.

We look forward to the second half of the year watching your children further grow and develop within their Bunya environment.



Around the World & Beyond

Term 2 was very busy learning environment for the Wattle room. Our Kindy children are surprising their teachers and making us very proud with their maturity, ability, teamwork approach and keenness for learning!

We have learnt about the world around us, including exploring the world map, animals and monuments of different continents and greetings. We have shared in the personal experiences of children in our class visiting different countries on holidays and learnt about different cultures through images, investigations and stories. Our investigation then ventured further than planet earth and out into the solar system exploring all things space.



Sign language

We have been exploring basic 'Auslan' sign language at morning group times. We sing a song to check in on how each child is feeling for the day. The Wattle children have learnt to sign if they are feeling, happy, tired, hungry, worried, excited or sad. Next term we will further explore feelings and personal affirmations..



Cooking

We enjoyed the hands-on experiences of cooking with Miss Emma on a Friday, familiarizing ourselves with ingredients, methods of cooking and kitchen skills such as mixing, grating rolling, cutting and mashing. We also developed measurement skills, mathematical language and learning kitchen/cooking health and safety practices.



Letters and Sounds

Learning about letters/ sounds, drawing and writing have become increasingly popular in our classroom which we are encouraging through all areas of learning. You may have noticed your children showing awareness of signs, symbols letter sounds and rhyming words, or even heard them say " how do you spell/ write ...?" This will continue in term 3, with the development of a world wall when children and educators add words regularly for children to copy and write while also looking at the purpose of writing lists, letters and stories. Thank you to parents for supporting your child in the daily sign in routine to develop name writing skills. Shared story times and story re-enactments have been very popular with puppets, role play and felt story boards.

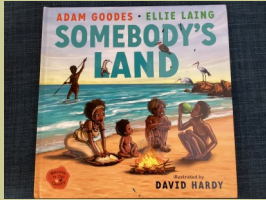
In term 3 we will be continuing our Tuesday playball sessions with coach Matt and introducing gardening and woodwork on alternating Fridays.

Looking forward to another great term of exploration and learning after the holidays.





Activities to strengthen our commitment to reconciliation during Reconciliation Week.



"I'll blow your house down" - Re-enacting familiar stories supports early literacy



Making links from home strengthens our sense of identity



Hey Little Warrior

Emma also attended a PD looking at how we can support children who struggle with anxiety. It was run by a psychologist, Karen Young, who has written a great book called "Hey Little Warrior" which helps children understand what is happening to their brain and their body when they become anxious. This may feel to children like fear, worry, sadness or anger. It reflects the same principals and approaches that we learnt and developed through our work last term with Allie Broadley.

Over the next few weeks, we will be introducing the book to children and working through the class-based program which has a variety of activities to help children to learn about their brain and amygdala. They will learn how the amygdala can help us to keep safe but may also think it needs to protect us, even when we are safe. As adults we have a role in helping children to recognize when it is time to keep safe or to be brave.

As this book is such a great resource (for adults aswell as children) we will be giving children an opportunity to take it home to read in a similar way that the kindy children do with Recycle Roo.



Bunya children were extremely enthusiastic as they practiced their long jump skills during their sports carnival.

Wattle children did a great job taking part in the track and field event alongside PBC children.



Dates for your Diary

7th—14th July—Naidoc Week

Monday 22nd July—Bringing the Sea to You Incursion

Monday 29th July —Photographs (Portrait Patch)

Friday 23rd August —Book Week Parade (details to follow)

Friday 13th Sept—CLOSED for Noosa Show Day & last day of term 3