

Term 2 Newsletter

Wow, time does fly when you're having fun! We can't believe that Term 2 is done. We would like to welcome Caio and his family to our room. We have had an exciting term as we were able to learn with the children from the Inala and Cardinia rooms.

As part of our educational program, the children have enjoyed our Blossoming Beans Planting Journey. This was to promote different ways on how we can look after our planet Earth with the focus on planting and looking after our garden as well as looking at the life cycle of a plant (beans). As the children planted the beans and observed it for 7 days, the children were able to notice how our beans were growing. We learned about key science concepts such as learning that plants grow from seeds. We also learned that there are different types of plants and seeds. The children were also able to explore their sensory development through planting. They felt the texture of seeds and the paper towel (instead of soil). They got to smell the beans, heard what happened when they scrunched up the beans together, and saw what the beans looked like before they sprouted. As it was a group experience, the children were able to develop social skills. They listened to each other and worked together to put the beans in our bucket. This experience has taught us to be more responsible and gain understanding on how to look after our plants. The children were able to make sure that our beans stayed hydrated throughout the process. We were also able to explore the concept of prediction and critical thinking skills - during the process, we asked the children "I wonder what will happen to our beans tomorrow?"

When the beans have sprouted, the children carefully washed the beans and we were able to eat it as part of our lunch! The children were all excited and curious to see what it tasted like. As we were also learning about our sense of taste, this also allowed us to explore and describe the taste and texture of the bean sprouts. This planting experience has helped us in incorporating Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Maths (STEAM) in everyday learning experiences.





This term we also celebrated National Reconciliation Week. This year's theme for National Reconciliation Week is "In This Together" which highlights that whether in a crisis or in reconciliation it's about coming together to support each other in a shared experience. As a group, children and educators were able to become involved in our hand-printing experience. We decided that our collaborative art expresses a desire for reconciliation that is shared across cultures. This shows that our educators and children from our centre come from many different cultures and they all enjoy learning about and celebrating Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture. We were also able to listen and dance to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander music and we also explored the didgeridoo.



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The children also enjoyed listening to Dreamtime stories such as Luurnpa, the Magical Kingfisher. The children enjoyed this story and as we were reading they were able to describe the pictures in the book (the shapes and colours in particular). We were able to use a cardboard box as a tool to interpret the book. They were also able to notice the sky, sun, water, trees, and land which we were able to acknowledge during our group time. They then decided that they wanted to draw these with the help from the book. This learning experience also gave opportunities for children and educators to learn more about Dreamtime stories and to engage with a range of texts and gain meaning from these texts. It was a meaningful celebration as we have also started our own Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP). The educators reflected on how we can embed Reconciliation into our everyday practices in the room. Every day we would also incorporate and acknowledge the traditional owners of the land through Acknowledgement of Country.

The children were also able to enjoy exploring our new outdoor environment which gave them opportunities to increase their gross motor skills development through a variety of music and movement experiences. The children have been enjoying dancing and moving around to different beats of music (and musical instruments). We have also been enjoying our animal yoga in the morning as we stretched and balanced our bodies as part of our program. The new grass set up in our outdoor area has also allowed children to explore their senses. As the children have been enjoying The Sleeping Bunnies song, the children were able to lie down on the grass, looked up to the sky, and get in touch with nature. The children were able to relax and feel the texture of the grass before we all get up and start hopping and jumping!



We look forward to next term's learning and discoveries.

Kind regards,

Agnes, Phuong, and Nga