

ELC Newsletter

May 2025



PEREGIAN BEACH COLLEGE

Early Learning Centre

Here's what has happened in Term 1 and what's to come in Term 2!

Welcome Family and Friends

What a busy start to the year we have had at PBC ELC. It has been a pleasure getting to know all our new families and welcoming back those who have returned for 2025.

We have also welcomed two new staff to our wonderful team. I hope that you have met Summer who is working as an additional educator across both rooms to support our commitment to inclusion and Shiloh who will be working as Assistant Director while Taylah is on maternity leave. Talking of which, we send big hugs and huge congratulations to Miss Taylah and her family on the birth of her daughter, Bowie. I have been enjoying spending a few hours a week in centre now that my chemo has finished and hope to be extending these hours over the next few months. Recent scans haven't shown any signs of the cancer returning so it looks as though the treatments are doing their job.

I hope that you enjoy reading this terms newsletter which gives a snapshot of the learning, fun and adventures that your children have taken part in during the first part of the year, we cannot wait to see what they get up to this term.

the ELC Team

As always your comments, ideas and feedback is welcome

Meaningful Moments This Term





Bunya Room News

The Bunya Room has been 'delightfully busy' this term. with the children's growth, learning and development flourishing over this time.

Initially, the term began welcoming our new friends and families to the Bunya room and learning, 'All about Me.' The children have developed lovely new friendships and we have emphasised and modelled the importance of kindness; using kind hands, kind words and kind hearts. We have encouraged and supported independence and communication skills throughout our daily program and routines, witnessing the children's quiet confidence in their achievements and abilities.

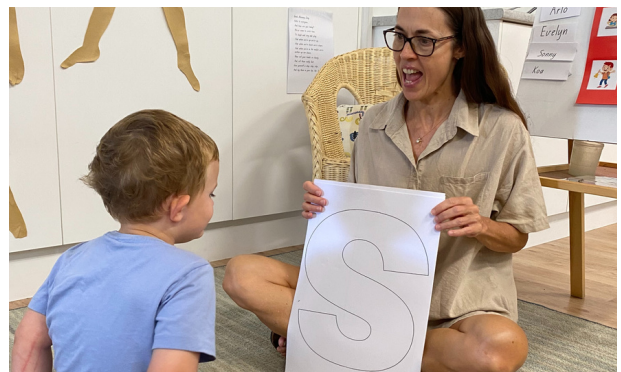
We have concentrated on healthy eating habits, learning about different foods and where they come from. Our inviting outdoor learning environment has provided many learning opportunities including our indigenous seasonal calendar, worm farm, vegetable garden and focus on planting seeds flowers and pollination.

Enjoyment of literature based focus stories also led to the children's interests and curiosity in bugs, bees, caterpillars, butterflies frogs and other small insects. We have implemented activities to support the recognition of beginning letters and sounds of our names and encouraged early literacy and



numeracy development through play based learning experiences. Our fine motor skills are developing through the use and exploration of various materials whilst our gross motor skills have developed exploring our physical environments, manipulating equipment, negotiating spaces and participating in physical play, movement and dance.

Our dramatic play corner has evolved throughout the term, through child initiated and child led role play scenarios including: home corner, a hot chip shop, doctors' surgery, an animal hospital. and a great interest in 'People who help us'. This culminated in a visit from



the Coolum Fire Brigade, where the Bunya children were delighted to learn about fire safety, fire equipment and taking turn using the fire hose. We even got to see the firetruck up close - with lights and sirens!

We have also enjoyed our weekly library visits, Playball games with Coach Matt.

Wattle Room News



Term 1 has been a wonderful start to the year for our group of kindy children, having settled beautifully into the routines and exploring the kindy program.

Term 1 we welcomed new friends Charlie, Stormy, Koen, Luca, Lily and Zoe to our centre! We have been very involved and busy with many different learning and play experiences, exploration, investigations and creativity while having so much fun! Role play has been so popular with this years cohort!

So far we have new interest areas that have allowed us to become 'Space explorers', 'Hair dressers', and 'Pizza chefs'.

In our first term we are building fundamental Kindy skills of responding to familiar routines and rituals, building concentration, fine motor control, drawing and name (attempt) writing, learning number, shapes and counting, the joys of books and storytelling, and positive, inclusive play and social skills.

At or weekly library visits our children are growing an appreciation and respect of books and reading, either in the classroom or sharing at home with family.

We have enjoyed reading and acting our favourite fairytales.

We have celebrated special events of "Healthy lunch box week", Fire Truck Visit and fire safety talk, Kindness and Harmony Day.

In term 2 Recycle Roo will continue to visit each child's home – learning about reducing, reusing and recycling. So if you haven't had a visit yet he is soon coming your way!



Term 2

In term 2 we will continue 'Focus child' which is essentially a day where each child can show and share at morning group time. There will be a 'Focus child' roster sent out and displayed on the Kindy door. On your child's focus day, we ask you to bring in their favourite book for us to read.

In the mornings we also asking that parents allow time to assist their child to 'sign in' at the table just at the kindy room door (children will find their name, trace the letters and attempt writing their name on the sign in sheet). This will become a daily practice throughout the rest of the year providing children name writing skills.

Looking forward to much more fun and learning to come in term 2!

Regards
Kate McDonald
Kindy Teacher

How are We Doing?

As you may well have seen, there have been a number of articles in the press recently around the quality of daycare. We have used some of these to reflect on our practises and philosophy. At a recent staff meeting we read through the following article and considered what we are doing well and what we can develop further: <https://theconversation.com/how-can-you-tell-if-your-childs-daycare-is-good-quality-252613>

We were delighted that the areas that the article pointed out as indicators of high quality were totally aligned with our philosophy and practices. These included:

A high-quality, consistent staff team with warm and caring educators.

We have a small team of highly qualified educators, four of whom are qualified teachers and five of whom have worked at the centre for over six years. Staff appreciate that working in the centre, allows and expects them to spend their time in meaningful engagements with the children and to build strong relationships with each child and their family.

We regularly receive recognition of how well we know and support each child in our setting from other agencies that we work with such as allied health and schools that children transition to for Prep.

A physical environment that is suitable and fun for children (not purely appealing to adult tastes)

We ensure that children have access to indoors and outdoor play spaces and both group rooms for a large part of the day. This enables children to be active for the recommended minimum three hours per day, enables them to have agency in the type of play they want to engage in and to enjoy the great benefits of exploring plenty of natural materials.

High Quality Activities and Play Based Educational Program

As our educators spend their time being present with our children, observing and interacting, and have close relationships with families, they know the children well. They use their knowledge of each child's interests, ideas, stage of development, curriculum guidance and professional knowledge to provide a tailor made program that promotes fun and learning for each child. We are honoured to spend our days with children who are happy, engaged and thriving in our beautiful ELC space.

As lovely as it is to celebrate our successes, there are always areas to develop and we are consistently reflecting on ways to improve, and recognise the valued part that families play in this. Therefore we welcome your comments and ideas and will be seeking your feedback as we work through our Quality Improvement Plan over the next few months. You are also very welcome to add your suggestions to the clip boards on display in the foyer.

Dates for the Diary

- Reconciliation Week 27th May - 2nd June
- World Environment day 5th June
- World Ocean Day 8th June
- Kindy Athletics Carnival 17th June

Thank you for reading!



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