

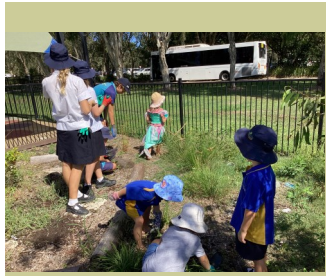
# ELC Newsletter

## Welcome Family and Friends

What a busy and fun start to 2023! It has been lovely to welcome so many new families to the centre and we have been delighted by how well the children have established a strong sense of belonging within their group room and the wider ELC community.

Those who have returned have made the transition to the Kindy room with ease and show great enthusiasm in exploring the exciting Kindy program.

I hope that you enjoy the newsletter which gives a glimpse of our adventures in Term 1.



Some of our college students came to help us weed the garden



Making friends as we investigate together



Taking pride in our achievements, comparing size and pattern making are just a few of the skills used to make this tower



Taking an interest in how things grow supports our commitment to sustainability and care for country



Hammering these shapes with tacks takes fine motor skills, hand eye coordination and great determination

## Kindy Swimming Sessions

Last term our kindy children enjoyed some swimming sessions in our college pool with swimming instructors Alex and Narelle. Not only was this fun for the children but they also had opportunity to practise some vital skills such as water safety, breath control, submersion, floating and propulsion and to develop confidence and to be relaxed in the water. We hope that Alex and Narelle will work with us to provide more sessions in Term 4.





## Getting to know each other

Term 1 has been a wonderful start to the year with the settling in of new children and welcoming families into the Bunya room. The children have settled very well with a strong sense of belonging by making beautiful friendships and connections with educators in the room, demonstrating their resilience and ability to adapt to change. It has been lovely to welcome many new families and friends to the Bunya room and watch these new friendships flourish. We've also had lots of group learning activities during the term that have helped the children become familiar with their new environment and make friends.



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## Learning in our Natural Play Space

Learning activities over the term have focused on getting to know each other whilst feeling safe and secure in our beautiful outdoor areas at PBC that allow the children to enjoy the open space and gardens. This helps develop practical skills and physical awareness with the children caring for our natural surrounding and learning about plants, birds, and insects. The Bunya children have been handling different types of materials such as mud, wood and leaves as they become more confident in communication with each other to develop their social and emotional skills. We planted sunflower seeds and have watched them grow in our garden each week. We will be growing our garden and veggie patches over the next few terms. The children have also liked to investigate bugs and insects using a magnifying glass.



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## And so much more...



Dramatic role play has been great with the children enjoying the supermarket, hair salon and animal hospital,. This has been good for development of social skills and getting to know one another. Counting and maths games have been a big hit, the children enjoy them every morning, especially when we ask who is going to count how many friends we have in the class along with our daily weather reporter.

We have been enjoying a range of cooking experiences when the children bring in bananas from their garden or eggs from their chickens. The regular library experience is also fun for the children when they have to choose a book for story time. The children were also fascinated with the science experiment "sink or float" where they all picked an object around the room and had to guess whether it would sink or float.



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## Plans for Term 2

We are looking forward to an exciting term 2 in the Bunya room where we will be working on more fine motor skills and gross motor skills with lots of ball games and obstacle courses.

During this term we will also be introducing Mr Sustain-a-Bill. Each week or cuddly friend will go home with a child for them to look into recycling and how we can help the environment.



## Settling in to Kindy

Term 1 has been a wonderful start to the year for our group of kindys who have quickly settled into the routines and exploring the kindy program. Our friends have been very involved and engaged in table activities, building skills of concentration, fine motor control, drawing, art, and writing skills. At our 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.



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## Cooking

Cooking has also been a hit in term one and will continue throughout the year. So far we have cooked sausages, corn fritters and sweet and sour popcorn. Through our cooking experiences the children are building skills in mathematical language, fine motor control/manipulation of utensils,



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## Lots about Lifecycles

In Kindy we explore topics of investigation based on the children's current interests. This term their interests have included life cycles and we have studied butterflies, chickens, frogs and humans. This led to discussions about the human body, doctors and other careers and resulted in lots of fun role play. Linking to this interest was our Focus Child time when we shared photos and information about ourselves as babies. This supports our sense of identify and builds our sense of belonging and confidence within the group.



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## Plans for Term 2

Term 2 we have lots of lovely things planned, continuing focus child, having our little mate Recycle Roo (class mascot) starting home visits, and bush kindy adventures!

## The Pleasure and Benefits of Books and Stories



*Learning about our wider world*



*Becoming part of the college community as we join them for cross country*



*What amazing buildings our children create with the ever popular magnetic tiles*



*Sharing ideas as we build with our new leg set*



*Using our imagination and large muscle skills to build a swimming pool*

We take pleasure in seeing children enjoying books throughout their day as they:

- Listen to stories as a group, joining in with familiar stories. A firm favourite with the Bunya children has been “The Ginger Bread Man”
- Spend time quietly, on their own studying a book, “reading’ from the illustrations or recalling a story
- Spend time with a small group of friends to look through a favourite story book or factual book of particular interest
- Have a quiet few minutes as they snuggle up with an educator for a story
- And of course a great favourite is to be the “teacher” as they read books to their friends.

Some of the many benefits of reading with your children are:

- Enjoying some special one on one, uninterrupted time
- Extending their vocabulary
- Developing their early literacy skills
- Sparking imagination and curiosity
- Developing their brain’s ability to focus and concentrate
- Learning to value and love books
- Widen their knowledge and understanding of the world around them and of the wider world
- Support them in understanding their feelings or to deal with difficult events
- Helping them to understand the difference between fact and fiction

In term 2 Kindy children will be bringing in a favourite book from home and we would be delighted if a parent/family member could come to kindy to read it to the group.



### Dates for your Diary

1st May Closed for Labour Day

14th May Mother’s Day—gifts will be available to buy via the college parent’s group. More info will be on the white board when available.

23rd June Last day of term 2 (ELC remains open)