



Working together as we use our bodies to make letters.



Studying ourselves in the mirror and painting our portraits as we develop our identity and sense of self



Mark making using a variety of media



Science discoveries with ice fossils

Kindy Newsletter

Term 3

September 2020

Welcome Family and Friends

Wow what a busy term we have had. It has been a pleasure to welcome new families to our Peregian Beach College Early Learning Centre community and to see how our children have supported them to settle and develop their sense of belonging within our centre. It has been great to see some new friendships forge as children share their interests and ideas and show care and consideration for each other.

We are very excited about the development of our new outdoor place space and can't wait to be able to get out there and see how the children will explore this new area. Next term we will be bringing elements of our bush kinder into the area, gathering resources from our bush kinder environment to use and explore in this new play space.



Prep for Prep

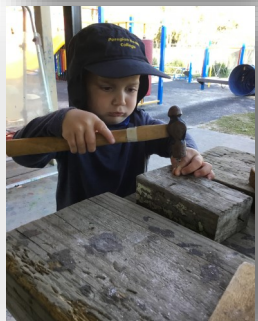
During term 3 the kindy children have been engaging in some short, teacher directed sessions to support their skills in preparation for school. These have been devised following discussions with our own and other local prep teachers regarding their expectations of children when they start school. They have included activities to assess and develop skills such as following instructions, scissor and pencil control, self-help skills, recognising their names, identifying letter sounds and rhyming sounds. As always, we have continued to support children's social and emotional skills and their sense of self as confident and capable learners.

Shae will soon be sending information and invitations to transition sessions for those of you whose children will be attending PBC and Mrs Broadley will be visiting us to introduce herself and spend time getting to know the children. I'm sure they will be keen to show her all we do at kindy. I will be contacting other schools that children will be transitioning to to ask for photographs/booklets of their school for the children to share with their friends as they begin to chat about their new schools. Children are welcome to bring in photographs/names of teachers/new uniform that they would like to show to us.

Please don't hesitate to talk to myself, Shyra or Lauren if you have any questions or concerns regarding the transition to school—it's quite a transition for parents too!!! Here are websites that may be useful:

<https://earlychildhood.qld.gov.au/early-years/transition-to-school/starting-school>

<https://www.earlyyearscount.earlychildhood.qld.gov.au/starting-school/>



Amity proudly shared her family's connections to New Zealand

Coordination and Fine Motor Development

Children engaged in a range of activities to develop fine motor skills with a focus on strengthening scissor grip and technique. Children explored threading with a range of materials such as beads, pasta, string, wire, ribbon and pipe cleaners to improve hand/eye coordination to help develop precision when cutting with scissors. Teachers further programmed ways to build hand and finger strength through the use of play dough and play dough tools as well as woodwork tools such as hammers and craft tools such as hole-punchers and sticky tape dispensers. Intentional teaching sessions provided opportunities for children to challenge themselves when using scissors – learning ways to navigate paper and scissors while cutting different lines (straight, zigzag, curly/wavy), experimenting with cutting different textures (nature cutting tray), following line patterns to create basic shapes (circle, square, triangle, love heart).

Music and Beat Patterns

Many children have been showing a passion/interest for music and instruments in free play. Teachers extended this by exploring beat patterns during group time sessions. To begin with, we experimented making different beat patterns using our bodies (clapping combinations – hand/knees, stomping, tapping etc) and explored concepts of fast/slow beating. We incorporated instruments into sessions and discussed how different instruments were played, described how different instruments sounded and reflected on what the sounds might represent eg bells – Santa, wooden percussion stick – frog, drums – elephant walking. During these sessions we investigated beat concepts fast/slow and loud/soft. We would like to further extend this interest next term by programming sessions in the music room within the college.



Focus Child

Our focus children in Kindy explored our cultural heritages. Thank you to all children who participated and added to our understanding about the world around us, where we /our families come from and how wonderfully different we all are. The children gained an interest and knowledge of different cultures and languages and have a developing understanding of other countries and the world map. Many of the children were happy and eager to share their stories with their peers, talking confidently about their heritage and family history. We are very thankful and aware of the time and effort required of the parents obtaining all of your history and pictures to show our friends. Special projects like this assist your children in developing their sense of self and an understanding of different cultures, people and the world around them.

Bush Kinder

The children were immersed in the natural surrounds of the college during term 3. They were encouraged to explore using all their senses as they investigated the muddy puddles, the banana trees, flower patches, bushlands, the wood pile and hill. It was a joy to see their enthusiasm as they made discoveries in this new environment.

Carly's curriculum enhanced their learning and interests developing their knowledge of habitats, camouflage, different types of animals and plants. She brought a strong understanding of the knowledge of our First Nation People and taught the children various ways to be in and use nature safely and respectfully.

The children discovered many ways to care for their environment and began to develop a strong connection to nature and have wanted to bring many creations and ideas back into our kindy space.

The freedom the children were allowed created opportunities for them to explore their interests, develop their personal boundaries and teamwork as they collaborated on numerous experiences together.

We look forward to continuing to embed Bush kinder into our week next term.

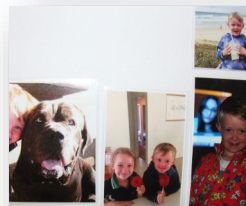


Sense of Belonging

The Joey's have had a wonderful term, beginning with the move into their new room. Most of the Joey's had previously used the room for dancing or rest times, so it was great fun exploring the new areas, different resources, and finding new places for their belongings.

Our first focus was a sense of belonging, within the group, in the new space and with each other.

We asked parents to send in photos of what each child enjoys doing on the weekend with their families. The children were so proud to stand up in front of their peers and explain the photos. We learnt about pets, dancing, fishing, but mostly how much the children feel love and pride within their families. The wall has been a popular place for extended discussions amongst all the children as they proudly discuss the photos, and drawings they have produced.



Confident and Involved Learners

At mealtimes the Joey's really enjoy discussions amongst each other or with an educator, building communication skills by listening to each other and adding their thoughts and ideas. We talk a lot about foods "from the garden" and "sometimes foods". This extended to a focus on the book 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar' by Eric Carle. We painted fruits and used our numeracy skills to count them, hand eye co-ordination skills to create the caterpillar using coloured and scented play dough, and our literacy, listening and memory skills when retelling the story to educators and peers. It has been such a fun experience watching the children extend their own learning and deciding which direction they wanted to take it.





Sharing a story with Miss Lauren and our friends. What a wonderful sense of belonging!!



Studying our faces and painting our portraits using charcoal developed our sense of self and fine motor skills



Joining the college for cross country

Wonderful Feedback

I felt very proud to receive this wonderful feedback from Carly who led our Bush Kinder sessions alongside our educators.

“Your staff have been supportive, professional and respectful to me, to the children and to the concept and practice of Bush Kinder from the first session - they are a pleasure to work with and are very skilled, intuitive and compassionate educators. The relationships they have with the children are honest, respectful and caring, which enables the children to feel supported and safe during Bush Kinder - this has resulted in the children feeling able to explore and engage with the space from the moment we arrived on our first session. It was wonderful to bear witness to this - I can assure you, it is quite rare!”

I would also like to thank you as families for recognising the value of these sessions and for being on board with our philosophy of supporting children in exploring their natural environment, setting themselves challenges and learning about responsible risk taking. We are also grateful that you accepted some very muddy clothes being returned to you at home time!!



Diary Dates for Term 4

Monday 5th October—Public Holiday

Tuesday 20th October—visit and book reading by local author Renee Irving Lee

Wednesday 21st October—Book Day (dress up) “Curious Creatures, Wild Minds”.

Thursday 29th October—Official Opening Celebration of our new outdoor play space (TBC)

Monday 9th November—Photographs

Wednesday 9th December—last day of school term. End of year celebrations (TBC)