

# ELC Newsletter

## Welcome Family and Friends

Thankfully, the beginning of Term 3 saw the very welcome return to our much improved ELC building and our team of educators and children have been delighting in our lovely play space and exciting new resources.

I hope you enjoy reading about some of the things that your children have been exploring and learning.



Science investigations – making a volcano explode



Many thanks for taking part in Wattle's focus child time when we were learning about occupations



We've been very interested to learn about all the adventures "Recycle Roo" has had when visiting our Wattle friends.



## Discovering our Sweet Potatoes

When we returned to our ELC, the children were delighted when Daniel discovered a sweet potato growing in our veggie garden. Some of our Wattle children remembered planting a singular sweet potato in the garden with Liz last year and were excited to see how many had grown. They eagerly dug them up. They chose a potato that they thought was the funniest shape and drew around them using their fine motor skills and later enjoyed scrubbing and slicing them to make some delicious sweet potato chips.





## Relocation Back To Our ELC

Term 3 has been extremely busy for the Bunya children with our relocation back to the Early Learning Centre (ELC) which demonstrates 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 new friendships flourish. We've also had lots of birthday celebrations during the term which has helped the children develop new friendships.

Learning activities over the term have focused on the outdoors and allowing 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 communicating with each other to develop their social and emotional skills.

We planted a herb garden with dill, rosemary, tomatoes and mint. The children also created a fairy garden with painted rocks and natural materials for them to look after and maintain.



## NAIDOC Week

The Bunya room observed a week of celebrations for NAIDOC week where the children participated in a variety of sensory activities including sand art, boomerang painting, Aboriginal face painting and cultural music with dancing. The children enjoyed these activities that help to demonstrate the history and culture of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. The children showed a sense of belonging in group activities and learnt how to be inclusive of everyone.



## Focus Child and Book Week

This term we celebrated book week where all the children dressed as their favourite book characters and enjoyed a story or two read by Mr Kennedy (School Principal). It was great to see some very creative outfits so thanks parents. We also had our focus child activity where a favourite book was brought in from home and read during group time.



This was great for the children to interact with each other and ask questions to stimulate language and listening skills in a group environment. For the focus child it is a way to enhance speech and build confidence whilst improving memory as they expressed and shared why the book is special to them.

## Getting Ready for Prep

### Maths

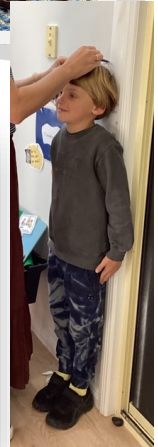
The Wattle children have been focusing on literacy and numeracy skills, science, language and communication this term. Getting ourselves ready for our transition to Prep!

We often talk about what prep will be like and things we still need or want to learn as well as skills we need to keep practicing.

We have been really interested in maths investigations; ordering and sequencing numbers, positional words and measurement.

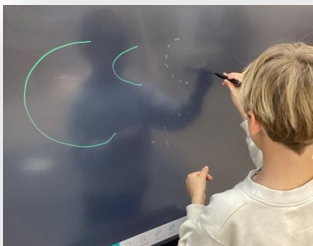
We created a measuring chart to record height. We used unifix cubes as a way to measure objects around the room.

We experimented with heavy and light on a giant weight scales, as well as capacity of fully, empty and half way in the water trough, learning lots of mathematical language as we went.



### Literacy

In literacy we have been really focused on letter sound relationships and recognising name tags of ourselves and peers and familiar signs. Through stories and group discussions we are extending our language and social skills; while extending vocabulary, expressing feelings and using higher order thinking skills as we ask and answer questions.



### Getting Creative

Our new resources have provided many rich open-ended activities for children in which that can plan, experiment and create, completely lead by themselves "child directed".

They have been extending this by showing a strong interest in constructing with nature and loose parts. We will explore and expand on this further in term 4. Keep an eye on our day book for the amazing creations we will make.



## Supporting Children in their Transition to School



Exploring our musical instruments



Taking great care painting pictures of the birds we spotted on our nature walk



Looking after Claire in our hospital

We acknowledge that starting school is a big milestone for children (and their parents) so this term we will be supporting our Kindy children in their transition to Prep. Children have been very proud to tell us about their new schools and it has been great to hear about their visits.

We will encourage children to reflect and 'wonder about' things that may be similar or different at school and will continue to encourage their independence and self-help skills with regards to dressing, toileting, tidying their own things away in their locker and keeping our environment tidy, as well as supporting name recognition, fine motor skills such as cutting and pencil grip, recognising letter sounds and rhyming.

The Prep teachers have shared some useful skills for children to have when starting Prep :

**Zip up my school bag**  
**Close my lunch box**  
**Put my own shoes on**  
**Apply sunscreen**  
**Get myself dressed**  
**Wash my own hands**

As you are aware, we have a duty to write transition statements which, with your permission, are sent to your child's school teacher. These show your child's skills and abilities and suggestions for how they can be supported in their transition to school. Once the statement has been written, you will be sent a copy for you to approve or request that any inaccurate personal information about you or your child is corrected. You will then be asked to sign consent for me to send it to your child's new school.

Please let us know of anything that you or your child feel is important to include in their transition statement.

Here are a couple of links to websites with lots of helpful hints for supporting your child's transition to Prep.

<https://www.startingblocks.gov.au/other-resources/factsheets/transition-to-school>  
<https://www.guardian.edu.au/blog/parenting-advice/6-tips-to-prepare-your-child-for-the-transition-from-childcare-to-school/>

### Dates for your Diary

7th Dec - End of Year Celebrations 10.00am (details to follow)  
23rd Dec—Our last day of 2022 and final day for children moving to Prep in 2022  
9th January—Re-open for 2023