

# ELC Newsletter

Term 1 April 2022

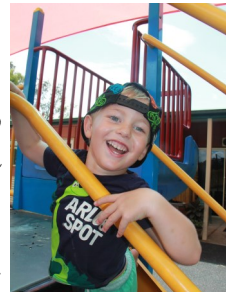
## Welcome Family and Friends

Well, what a start to 2022!! It has been a pleasure to welcome so many new families to our centre community and to welcome back those returning to us.

It has certainly been an unusual term with the floods disrupting us just as we were all settling so well into the rhythm of life here at PBC ELC. I thank you again for your support and patience as we made the move and adjustments to our temporary play space.

The children have taken it in their stride but I think they will be thrilled to have their sandpit and climbing frame again when we move back. I am hoping that will be by the end of May. In the meantime I have spoken with the building company to arrange access to our big, natural yard and we can also make use of the sandpit in the prep area. I hope you enjoy reading about our adventures and learning during our busy first term of 2022.

As always your comments and ideas are welcome.



## Sense of belonging



Our Bunya friends have responded and adapted so well to our new learning environment. Over the course of term 1 we have developed friendships and connections with others. The children know our room is a safe and secure, fun and engaging environment. Building our independence has been a big focus, establishing self-help skills, getting our own belongings, packing our bag and making beds. We are using words and kindness and identifying emotions at times of sadness, anger and happiness.



## Literacy

The Bunya children have enjoyed learning about the school library. We collect books of interest and new things we are learning about to take back to pre-Kindy. Children return and then borrow their own book of choice to take home. Our love of books is evident in all the independent book viewing in play, and engagement of our daily story time before lunch. We have been reading lots of books with predictive text and repetitive verses for the children to chant along to. We are getting good at reading "Where is the green sheep?" and "We're going on a bear hunt!" from the picture clues and memory. In our classroom we are also exploring letters and sounds in our name, mark making and attempting name writing.



## Role play is a big part of being three!

As we develop fundamental cognitive, social, emotional, and physical skills, imaginative play allows us to develop practical life skills such as dressing ourselves, how to cooperate, and share with others. Through role play the Bunya children are learning from experience: from what happens around them, exploring ideas and concepts and creating magical experiences. In the home corner we have been busy playing families and pets, with dress ups and props. Our dress ups are so popular we have even been creating our own from recycled materials using our own ideas with assistance from educators.





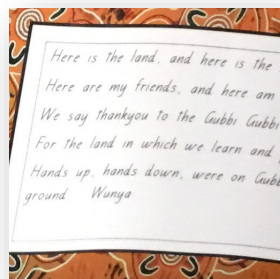
## Signs and symbols

With a keen interest in construction, the Wattle children throughout term 1, were given ample opportunities to explore and role play being construction workers. As the term progressed, various construction areas were setup which encouraged the children to build on their problem-solving skills as well as explore sensory awareness, show creativity by incorporating loose part resources into play and to develop an understanding of literacy, through safety signs and symbols. The children enjoyed learning about different road signs and began transferring this knowledge into real-life experiences. Parents commented that while driving to Kindy their children were identifying signs on the road and explaining their meaning. Children even discovered that signs were located around the school and were eager to describe their purpose such as the walking sign at the pedestrian crossing near the car-park. Learning about signs and symbols has shown the Wattle children that pictures have meaning which help us to identify/interpret rules and information.



## The World Around Us

This year we welcomed many new children and educators from diverse backgrounds. To celebrate this, teachers created opportunities for the children to connect with their wider world by learning about countries, culture and language. To begin with, the Wattle children learnt about the significance of local land and the importance of reciting PBC ELC's Acknowledgement of Country. They have developed an understanding that it is a time for respect and to say, "thank you to the Gubbi Gubbi people for sharing their land with us." As the term progressed the children were eager to learn to say "hello" in different languages and we explored this through a flag recognition game. Educators used this game as an opportunity to discuss cultural foods and iconic buildings/landmarks from around the world. It also offered children a chance to share about countries they have visited, countries they have family living in or countries their parents were born in. We extended these discussions by using the world globe to gain perspective of where these countries are located, in relation to Australia. Some children brought in texts from home to share about their cultural backgrounds, which the Wattle group enjoyed listening to at story group times. We also used music and movement sessions and rest times as an opportunity to explore cultural music.



## Tips for Technology Use



Caring for our sweet potato plants



Enjoying the rain before the floods



Showing our sense of belonging as we act out being the teacher



Signing in when we come to Kindy supports our literacy skills and sense of belonging

This term we have been reviewing our media and technology policy. The use and kinds of technology available has increased dramatically since the policy was first written and while it is important for children to develop skills in this area it also presents questions for us as educators and for parents regarding what is suitable/safe use and what is beneficial/potentially damaging to children, their learning and their mental health. Here is some information/tips that we felt was worth sharing.

The World Health Organisation recommends **no more than an hour screen** time for children up to 5 yrs old.

It is important to **be positive role models** to children, to be aware of time they see adults using technology and what adults are using it for. It is important to ensure that it is not negatively impacting on the communication between adults and children.

**Set out screen free times** for the family eg. no phones at mealtimes, no technology 1hr before bedtime.

**Engage in technology with children** rather than using it as a tool to occupy children to free up time for adults or as an emotional pacifier.

**Talk to children** about the range of technology and what it is used for eg. communication, photographs.

**Be aware of what technology your children are accessing.** This includes watching what older siblings/other family are using. Many games show aggression and violence and research has shown that children under the age of 6yrs old find it difficult to distinguish between fact and fantasy.

**Check out games/apps** before allowing your children to access them and be aware of the ratings for games, television shows and films.

**Sharing a story from a book** rather than from a screen is far more likely to induce a good night's sleep.

As a mum of a son who was a keen teenage gamer I know how hard these tips can be to follow/enforce but it is definitely worth setting out rules and adhering to them. As children grow older many programs are highly addictive and children will find it increasingly difficult to self-regulate their time/use. Laying these foundations at an early age will make this easier.

Here are a couple of websites with more information

<http://www.readingrockets.org/article/children-and-media-tips-parents>

<https://childmind.org/article/media-guidelines-for-kids-of-all-ages/>

<https://www.esafety.gov.au/parents/skills-advice/taming-technology>

<https://www.esafety.gov.au/parents>

## Dates for your Diary

We will be closed for the following public holidays in Term 2:

Friday 15th April—Good Friday

Monday 18th April—Easter Monday

Monday 25th April—Anzac Day

Monday 2nd May—Labour Day

Mother's Day Stall. Some gifts will be able for your children to purchase from wk beg 2nd May. Keep an eye on the white board/emails for more information, This is organised by the Peregrian Beach College parents.

Due to our temporary re-location I'm afraid we won't be hosting our usual Mother's Day celebrations, this year. However, the children are busy creating surprises for you.