

ELC Newsletter



Planning what to build together



Exploring different ways to work with paint



Taking turns as we play games with our friends



Welcome to our newsletter, showing a snippet of the fun, learning and adventures we've had at PBC Early Learning Centre during Term 3.



Stay and Play

Many thanks to those of you were able to join us for our Stay & Play afternoon. We hope you had lots of fun



Book Week Celebrations



The children enjoyed sharing their favourite story book and getting dressed up in character. We brought some of our favourite stories to life by making our very own "gooey chewy Wombat Stew" and rolling, cutting baking our own "Gingerbread men". Repetition of the children's favourite stories helps them to actively use, engage with and share enjoyment of language through text.



Exploring Nature

Another favourite activity the Bunya children have enjoyed this term is visiting the nature playground; observing what happens to the plants and animals as the seasons change. This supports and develops their understanding of the natural environment and how to care for it. They represented these findings with mark marking and nature drawings and have been making their own calendar which you can admire in the Bunya room.



Sports Skills

We have continued to provide opportunities for children to challenge their gross motor skills by constructing obstacle courses and organising group sport games, encouraging team work, problem solving and spatial awareness as they move around their environments confidently and safely.

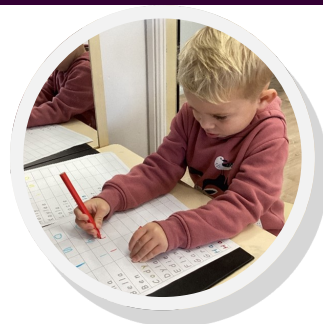


Getting Ready for Prep

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

We often talk about what Prep will be like and the things we still need or want to learn as well as skills we need to keep practicing, like filling our own drink bottles, opening snack packets and yogurt lids – which can be tricky, and keeping our shoes on for the whole day!

Also this term the children have been making decisions about learning – voting, planning and organising, games activities and projects. This teamwork and collaboration has generated some rich and interesting spontaneous learning experiences such as creating a Kindy café, with chefs, and waitstaff and developing a menu based on “toy” ingredients on offer.



Maths

In the classroom 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 giant weighing scales, as well as capacity of full, empty and half in the water trough, learning lots of mathematical language as we went.



Literacy

In literacy we have been focusing on letter sound relationships and recognising name tags of ourselves, peers and familiar signs and symbols. Through stories and group discussions we are extending our language and social skills, while extending vocab, expressing feelings and using higher order thinking skills of asking and answering questions.

Acting out of favourite traditional stories has been so much fun this term!. The kindy teachers were surprised to see such enthusiastic and entertaining character role play, from The 3 Billy Goats Gruff, The Three Little Pigs and our favourite Jack and the Beanstalk.





Gathering soil to plant seeds as we reestablish our garden



The kindy children and educators worked together to design and make some amazing creations using recycled materials.



Supporting Children in their Transition to School

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

6th Dec - End of Year Celebrations 10.30am (details to follow)
22nd Dec—Our last day of 2023 and final day for children moving to Prep in 2024
8th January—Re-open for 2024