

EDUCATIONAL UPDATE

We had an incredible end of year. Term 4 was full of fun and included a wide range of great projects. We would love to hear your feedback.



This term we developed a student committee with the goal of creating activities led by the year 4,5 and 6 students. One of their first projects was hosting a café. They did an outstanding job of cooking pizza scrolls, smarties biscuits and brownies. The children took on the roles of wait staff, taking orders to the kitchen staff and carrying the orders back. The kitchen staff read the orders, placed food on the plates and sent them out.

The café was a great success, and the children expanded the concept and used it as an opportunity to incorporate their interest of sharing their culture through cultural themed café's. Our first international café was Israeli themed. The week before the café, Orr, Chaya, Victoria and Katie put together a hand written menu. It took a lot of initiative organizing this and they cooperated well. During the week we cooked apple and cinnamon pie and Hamantaschen, a traditional triangular biscuit with am or chocolate. We displayed photos of landmarks on the tables and played cultural music.

The following fortnight we hosted a Mexican themed café. Creating a menu consisting of Quesada, nachos, Mexican tomato-based rice and Mexican bread and butter pudding, we played Mexican music as they ate, looked at photos of Mexican landmarks and spoke about our knowledge of Mexico. We would love your input on this project next year as we explore all your cultures and traditions with the children.

A Lady bird and Fairy Garden. Kyra was so excited to have found a lady bird that she created a ladybird habitat in a container with rocks, flowers and water. We discussed and researched the things that ladybirds like and don't like and decided to make the perfect home for ladybirds, creating a fairy garden.

The following Monday, Kyra, Emma, Evie, Eva, Lucinda started the process by planning and designing our garden. We illustrated our ideas and conducted research and started to collect the resources we would need. Jacqui provided the girls with a wooden door and stones that they painted in beautiful colours. With our vision in mind and the planning coming together, the excitement and possibilities of our garden started to come to life.

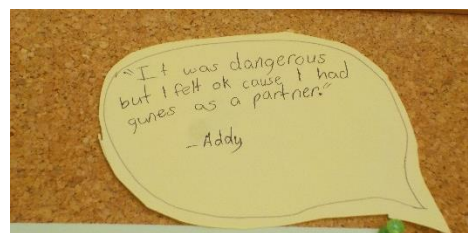
To support the children further we developed a Christmas project where the children created their own gardens to take home. They drew faces on Oriental Poppies and placed them in the soil with succulents, pugs, dinosaurs and color stones. The children had so much fun and created something really spectacular.

This term Tanishka and her friends organised an **Art Competition** with prizes. They gave all the children the opportunity to submit their art work and the other children were invited to vote anonymously for their favorite. This child-led project allowed them to explore their creativity and understand the concept of abstract art. Due to the success of this project we gave the students more opportunities to engage in different art techniques. Utilising the knowledge and passion of our educator Susie each week we focused on different artistic style. Some of the things we tried included paper sculptures, textured art and Charcoal drawings. We look forward to exploring more art techniques next year.

Outside we have welcomed back some of our favorite games including, smash-hockey, oz tag, cricket and mobile basketball. The children have continually requested these activities on our program, showing a love for team games and physical movement. Building **Cubby houses** has been hugely popular since last term, we have provided the children with a new tarp, resources and open space. They love using the timber patterned pillows to create a cozy area to engage in a range of dramatic play games. As the heat climbed the children requested boats in the water trough, this opened up conversations about water management in our community as we manage draught conditions. We problem solved strategies to ensure we don't waste it by throwing it on the floor, reusing the water on the plants and filling the trough in small portions throughout the afternoon.

WPOOSC Cafe





As you are all aware, during the term, we did a precautionary **Fire Evacuation**. Following up from this we spent some time reflecting with the children. We suggested the children could draw what happened, giving them the opportunity to process what happened, discuss their thoughts and ask questions. One of the boys drew an amazing map of the path we walked. We wrote down the quote that the children made through this process. Thank you to all the families for your encouragement and comments.



For **Remembrance Day** the children created some beautiful red poppy craft with Kerry in the craft room. We discussed what remembrances day is about. They created some incredible pieces, showing their creativity and recalling their knowledge of engaging in Remembrance Day in previous years. We are so proud of the children, and the caring and compassionate hearts they have.

Approaching **Christmas** we set up a Santa's mailbox, writing letters on a traditional letter and envelope template. In the lead up to Christmas the children were busy preparing invitations, decorations and banners for the Christmas party, making Christmas earrings, Christmas baubles, cards and Christmas box constructions.

We also acknowledged Hanukkah, discussing the meaning of Hanukkah at our morning meetings with the help of **Etam**. We made dreidels, decorated stained glass windows, and coloured one candle at a time on a Menorah. We are pleased that our children respect and value the celebrations of other cultures. We hope you have a wonderful Christmas with family and friends

Next year we are excited to run a range of new projects with the children including more activities designed for stage 3. This will include a fundraiser for our fire fighters as we make **tie dye t-shirts** with Kerry. We will also be doing basket weaving. We will work with our student committee as they share their interests and inform us of what they would like to do.



Ach Yarn Circle - **Acknowledgement of Country**

As we continue our goal of developing a personal Acknowledgement of Country for our services, we started a yarn circle to discuss what we wanted to include and other specifics. We worked together to come up with ideas and next steps for our acknowledgment for Country. We talked about doing a dance or making movements to words, the time we would do it, different inspirations for the song to choose. We decided that doing our acknowledgment to country at 8:30am, just before sign out to school, was a good time as most children would be there. We also believe that is be an activity that children can join if they want as it would lead to more curiosity and excitement.

We spent the afternoon researching and finalising our own acknowledgment to Country and a song to compliment this. After research we found a resource from ABC playschool, where they did an Indigenous episode. This gave us a lot of inspiration for our own song and acknowledgment to country. With the help of Ruby, we finalised and typed our own version. Our next step is to create actions to go with our version of the song and acknowledgment and to implement them into our daily routine.

This is West Pymble Out of School care Acknowledgement to Country and Traditional Land Owners poem

Acknowledgment of Country

We would like to acknowledge the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

Together we will touch the ground of the land

We will reach for the sky that covers the land

We will touch our heart our hearts in care of the land

We will open our arms to welcome the land

Song:

Guringai people, Guringai people

Custodians of this land, custodians of this land

We respect and learn from you, we respect and learn from you

And the stories you tell, the stories you tell

Care for Country, care for Country

Love our land, love our land

Plants and animals

People of our background

Hand in hand

Together we stand



