



***“All children have the best start in life to create a better future for themselves and for the nation.”***

*-My Time, Our Place.*

## West Pymble Out of School Care

### Educational leader’s Update - Term 2 2020

#### MOTHERS DAY

A week before Mother’s Day we spoke to the our very small group of children about what they wanted to make for their mothers and we decided on creating flower bouquets and started research designs and arrangements online.



Supporting the community, we purchased a range of different colors and species of flowers from home grown stalls and set them up on the tables. The children selected their flowers and then arranged them. The children spent over an hour flower arranging with everyone wanting to create one. Zoe was inside ready to help the children to wrap and decorated their bouquets.



With such success and popularity, we decided to plant some more of our Discovery Garden seeds, to replenish our environment and with the opportunity to keep this cycle of flower arranging and growing going.



**WORD OF THE DAY:** we found that one of the educators knew a few Hebrew words and discussed these words with one of the children at our center. This prompted us to make a “Hebrew Word of the Day” as some of the children speak Hebrew at home.



The children made a sign and worked to research the words we wanted to use and write them on cards and display them around our poster. Talking together and looking at the words that Karin, Lotan & Eytam's mother, gave us we decided our first word would be "car". We wrote the word in English first and then using English characters how it is sounded in Hebrew. Lastly the boys were eager to write it in Hebrew characters too, this was more challenging but the boys

We have had some help from our lovely parents to send in words and help us with this journey. We decided to extend this with other languages and our educator Will.TK has been introducing Russian Words of the Day, (p.s. it's not daily, the children lead this schedule).



We even gathered attention and input from other students including Isaac and Anika, whose family background is Ukrainian. We look forward to inviting their families to support us with their wisdom and knowledge of their home language and cultures as we continue on our journey.

## COOKING:

While many of the children from our center stayed home during quarantine and we restrictions limited us, we weren't able to continue our Cultural Café series.

However, Veda has continued to plan our next café which will be a range of delicious Indian cuisine.



We still engaged in a range of cook experiences this term. Since we had smaller numbers the children have been able to cook their own dishes to ensure we are maintaining healthy practices.



We have made our own single-portion nacho bowls inspired from when we had done them in the past. This progressed to a weekly cooking treat that we would do with the children. The older children would help the younger children make their treats.





These hot treats were the perfect afternoon snack after a long, wet and cold day.



By working together in pairs, the children gained confidence in how they cooked and what they made. Because they worked together, they were able to make really delicious treats that they could be proud of. For the following Friday afternoons, we continued to cook our own pizzas on crackers, pizza puff pastry squares and toasties triangles. The children have really enjoyed this activity and it something we are continuing with other recipes and treats as soon as we can.

#### VOLCANO:

At the beginning of the term the children mentioned they would like to make a volcano. To follow on from their interests we decided that we should make use of our plaster of paris bandages to build a volcano. Using some wire for the base we created the outline together, working

to form the structure.



We then added some crumpled paper and other material to give it some texture, and create rock formations.





We had a discussion about volcano formation and geological processes as we built it. We strategically added a plastic cup into the centre to hold liquids.



This building process took us two weeks before we painted it. On Tuesday the 23<sup>rd</sup> of June we continued with our volcano activity by adding some details to our scene. We built tiny houses to make a village at the foot of the volcano. We also built some roads to connect them together. Lucinda had the idea to build a cable cart between two mountains and worked on the team to build it.



This was a popular addition and Ryan decided to add a second one. We also built a small network of telegraph poles and connected them with wire.



Everyone loved to brainstorm new ideas and add them to the scene. Annabelle decided to make one section into a small zoo. It took a lot of patience and cooperation to plan out the volcano setting.

The children had to work together to connect up their sections. When it came time to erupt our volcano the children set up the backdrop and prepared the bi-carbonate of soda and vinegar. We are all very proud of our volcano village.





### STAGE 3 PROJECTS

At the beginning of the year we developed our Stage 3 program, this was received positively by the children and resulted in lots of fun and engaging experiences for them.



When Covid-19 arrived at the beginning of this term the majority of our stage 3 children were not attending so the Stage 3 program came to a halt.



For the children who were here we engaged in a STEM project that encouraged them to engage in challenging experiences that captured their interest. Together we built a buzz game. Using technology, the children connected the wires, battery and frame with the support of Will TK.



Once they had finished, they were excited to play, moving a metal circle around through the maze of a wire, if the circle touched the wire it buzzed.

### RECONCILIATION:

We celebrated Reconciliation Week this year by doing a few projects. This included our regular acknowledgement to country every morning before the bell. Unfortunately, we weren't able to do the actions that we made up at the end of last year due to social distancing regulations. We also did some activity in the craft room in relation to some modern Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artworks. With some picture we found of some contemporary artworks as an inspiration, we started with making colorful backgrounds ready for the next stage the next day.



We then used some videos of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians explaining the different techniques used and why they use them. With this in mind, we used the videos, the pictures and our cards explaining Aboriginal symbols to help us make the



different patterns on our colorful background. Amelia.B , without prompting, developed a speech explaining reconciliation week and why it is important to recognize it in the center.



The children sat down and listened to her give her speech and learned many things about Reconciliation Week.

#### SUSTAINABILITY:

There has been a large focus this term on our chickens, worm farms and compost. Frequently, we visit the chickens, with chicken monitors from school educating the younger children on the rules of the chicken coop.



We also visit our worm farm and feed our worms with tomatoes and other foods from the garden. We visit our compost and fill it up with our fruit scraps from afternoon tea.



Hayley has been a major driver in visiting the worms and brings many of the children along with her to check on the worms.



We have also been enjoying both our discovery garden and maintaining the school care garden. The children



have been creating more Woolworths discovery garden pots and watching them grow each day.



The children started off choosing which seed they wanted to plant and mix up the seeds and soil. We have been monitoring our plants and watching them grow each day. We have also enjoyed tidying the garden from when it became a little bit neglected while we had reduced attendance due to quarantine.



The children have enjoyed watering the plants and clearing out leaves with our Director Sonja.

#### GUITAR LESSONS WITH WILL G:

We are so appreciative of Shona donating two junior size guitars to the service. Our educator Will G's plays guitar and sings in a band. The children were excited to hear him play and learn a few chords. Sitting outside in the warm sun the children learnt about frets and the

placement of their fingers to create different sounds.



After playing and experimenting Will introduced them to 'Hot Cross Bun'.



They discussed the tune and played following and watching what Will did. Anika asked if she could have some sheet music. Surprised and excited by her request we provided the sheet music which Will wrote the music notes for *Hot Cross Buns*. Looking at the sheet music Anika was able to understand the symbols and how they are used to create music. The children demonstrated excitement in the guitar, learning a new skill and experimenting with sounds.





They developed dispositions such as curiosity, confidence, commitment and enthusiasm



They valued the opportunity and time with Will. They felt safe, secure and supporting in their desire to learn the guitar and developed confidences in themselves and we look forward to providing them with more opportunities to strengthen their confidences as they learn and play music on the guitar.



## AROUND THE WORLD

This afternoon we decided to do some flag drawings to add to our new world map. We used little canvas flags and drew on interesting country flags. The children loved looking through the atlas books to find flags to draw. They also picked favorite designs and commented on the similarities of flags to each other.



We also noticed that most of them used large amounts of red.. Macklyn drew the Chinese flag and coloured it in. Alistair drew the German flag because he liked the colours, and he had friends in Germany and the Netherlands. We enjoyed talking about the countries together, and reminiscing about trips overseas. We got out the computer and looked up information and flag facts. Gunes also showed us around her home country of Turkey on google maps. We hung the flags up in the kitchen and used string and pins to attach them onto the map. This experience was really educational for the children as they looked for the countries and learn about their geography and positioning. We might add to the map later to make sure we have a good cross section of countries. We will be able to add our exploration of learning words from around the world to this experience as we support the children different interests and perspective to countries.

## LEAF

At the beginning of the term the leaves were falling beautifully on the ground, creating a blanket of color. One afternoon the children were excited with how big the leaf that Jacqui had found was and were eager to find one bigger. We set a challenge *"to find a bigger leaf than Jacqui's"*. Some of the children measured the leaf by placing their hand against it before going on their hunt.



When they thought they had found a contender they raced over to compare. As we took a closer look at the leaves, we discovered imperfect & perfect leaves, leaves with beautiful colors and tiny leaves.



This discovery set up a whole new competition looking for the *biggest*, *reddest*, *greenest*, *smallest* and *prettiest*. Once the children had their top contenders, they placed their leaves in a section of the COLA for each category. Before they were judged the children had a chance to look at the other entries and 10 more minutes to make any final changes. The children headed to the oval to play while Will Tk and Will G judged the leaf's, each child received a few jellybeans as prize. The children had so much fun exploring nature, taking the whole afternoon moving around the trees and garden. Through play they explored the concept of size and patterns and took appreciation of the beauty of imperfections.

## THE WRAP UP

This is been a very different term to anything we have had before.



With extra hygiene practices, more cleaning and changes to our practices the children, educators and our

community have risen to the occasion and we are so proud of them. As the children have slowly returned it has been a time where we have spent time being available to them and their feelings during this time and engage in a range of activities catering for smaller groups of children.

Now we have reached the end of the term it is wonderful having so many children back and we look forward to be reunited with more in term 3.









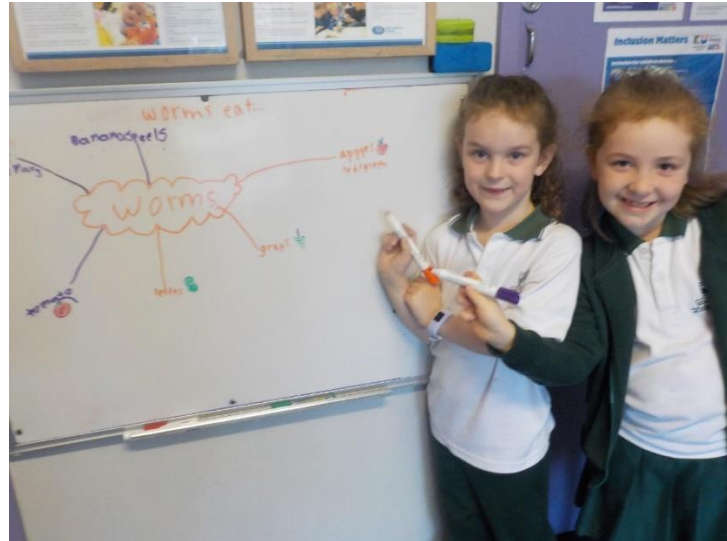
















ALL THE BEST  
JACQUI