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Managers' Report

Goodness, how time flies! The Easter holidays are already upon us and Term 1 for the Kinder rooms is almost finished. Transitions and settling in have been the focus of these early months of the year and we hope everyone is feeling more settled now.

A number of the rooms were able to attend the Kids Day Out at Yarram Memorial Park on the 6th March, and it sounds as if everyone had a wonderful time, with the petting zoo being a particular favourite. Staff and children attended Yarram Early Learning dressed in purple on Tuesday 26th March to support Epilepsy Awareness Day and we thank you for getting behind this and donating towards such a great cause.

There are available positions on the Committee of Management and I would like to invite any parents who are interested to call the centre for a nomination form or, if you would like more details of what is required, to stop by and have a talk with me about it. It is always a pleasure to talk to parents who are invested in seeing our centre progress and thrive.

We are always interested in developing a better understanding of the ways we can support families and our local community so please feel free to send us an email or stop in to speak with us. We will be looking into other ways we can encourage parent/guardian/carer feedback and would love to hear your ideas.

We are hoping to get an early start on planning for 2025 and so will be putting out Expression of Interest forms at the start of Term 2, this will help us to look at the way rooms can be structured to best support families and the community.

To those of you who are taking some time away over the holidays we hope you enjoy yourselves and stay safe and well and we'll see you back at the start of Term 2. To those of you who have to continue work or study during this time we hope you get to have a rest and some fun over the Easter long weekend.

Sarah Gregory
Manager





Centre Closures



Anzac Day
Thursday 25th April

Kings's birthday
Monday 10th June

EASY CHICKEN TRAY BAKE



SERVE 4 | PREP 10 min | COOK 1hr

INGREDIENTS

- 8 skinless chicken thighs
- 1 cauliflower, broken into florets
- 1/2 butternut pumpkin, cut into 2cm cubes
- 1 cup frozen peas
- 3 tbs honey, melted
- 2 tbs extra virgin olive oil
- 1 tbs Dijon mustard
- 1 tbs wholegrain mustard
- 1 tsp salt-reduced soy sauce
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 1/4 cup water

METHOD:

Preheat oven to 200°C and line a baking tray with baking paper. To prepare the marinade, combine honey, oil, mustard, soy sauce, garlic and water. Place chicken thighs in a mixing bowl and pour over half of the marinade. Cover and refrigerate. In a separate bowl, add cauliflower, pumpkin and the other half of the marinade. Toss to coat. Pour vegetables onto baking tray and bake for 45 minutes, or until almost cooked through.

Remove tray from oven. Spread chicken thighs evenly over the vegetables, then pour over frozen peas. Return to the oven for 20-25 minutes, or until chicken is cooked through. Serve immediately.

Recipe from Kidspot - [Recipe Here](#)



We have noticed the children have been making progress with their developmental milestones within the room environment this month. The babies in the Ngarawert room have been mastering rolling, crawling, standing up and taking their first steps. The children proudly show the educators with big smiley expressions. We provided the children with a sensory art experience by painting their feet to make footprints for an Easter gift. We had giggles and smiles from the children whilst doing so.

This month the children have engaged with their educators and peers as they explored their environment and the experiences they could take part in. They have participated in many activities to build on their fine motor skills and confidence, engaging them in experiences they can all enjoy. With experiences both indoor such as cooking and painting - and outdoor activities like chalk and balancing beams, the Wook Gook room has had many exciting moments for the children to create and share with those around them.



Wook Gook



During the month of March, in the 2/3 room we have enjoyed the many new spaces in the room. The children have enjoyed expressing creativity with finger painting and Easter crafts in the art areas. We have been exploring cause and effect using the conveyer belt predicting the direction in which the pinecones will go.

One of our rituals before lunch is singing both 5 speckled frogs and old McDonald. The children have been enjoying dancing and singing along with the educators.

On the 6th of March the 2-3 Long Day Care children enjoyed their first excursion to the Yarram Memorial Park where we enjoyed the Kids Big Day Out. The children participated in a traditional smoking ceremony before drawing on some gum leaves and enjoying the petting zoo.

We look forward to more exciting things we have planned over the next month.



2-3 Long Day Care

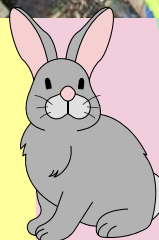


3-4 Long Day Care



This month in the 3/4 long day care room the children have been beginning to form some new friendships with each other and the educators, as well as building on existing ones. We have experimented a lot with paint, chalk, building blocks and new, exciting climbing courses. The children have been busy creating their locker tags to solidify their identity within our space. March 26th saw us celebrate Epilepsy Awareness Day as a whole centre! Thank you to those who joined in and donated a gold coin towards a good cause!

Bataluk



Our Inspiration for this term has been the Enchantment of Discovery with the “wonders of our new place”. The children have become familiar with our daily rituals and the educators are encouraging each child to settle in, enabling their ways of being and ways of doing to become the focus of their play and conversations, supporting them to build relationships and secure attachments.

The children’s learning has ventured into many avenues with -Kids Day Out - the children readily explored the Yarram/Wellington Shire activities. The Welcome to Country with the Aboriginal dancers, the petting zoo, painting rocks, listening to the Fairy story, exploring the pond , stream and rolling down the hills adjacent the Rotunda. Sharon Ray, the Sustainability Officer from the shire, engaged the children with waste materials to recycle into different bins, showed pictures of rubbish and the effects on the environment.

Spirals have become a fascination for the children, drawing and painting these intently along with creating the symbols in clay and with loose stones. Looking for worms and beetles are a daily event with the children recently finding a fiddler beetle in the garden which feeds on flower nectar – the children have made a beetle habitat with leaves and debris and are uncovering different specimens of beetles. Thank-you to Bruce’s family for the donation of spider plants for our space which we are readily planting. With Easter at the end of the week the children are investigating creatures that lay eggs and with our play dough have designed habitats for a chosen animal.

The children have grown in confidence over the term and we wish families a safe, relaxing Easter break ready our continued journey of learning together.

Throughout this program, the children have been enthusiastically delving into the fascinating world of life cycles, with a special emphasis on butterflies. One particularly memorable moment occurred during our recent Nature Kinder outing when a keen-eyed child spotted a caterpillar making its way up the trunk of a tree. It provided a delightful opportunity for us to bridge the gap between our classroom learnings and real-life observations in nature.

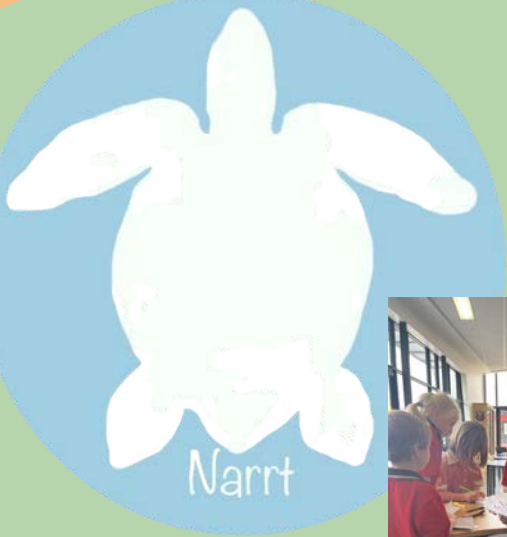
In addition to exploring life cycles, we've also been nurturing our understanding of emotions. To assist the children in this important journey, we've introduced them to the Kimochis. Our first Kimochis character is Bug, serving as a friendly guide as we navigate the landscape of emotions together.



“Hi I’m Bug, I’m pretty smart and thoughtful. I’m also cautious and a little scared to try new things. I know that change is a good thing, but sometimes, it makes me afraid



Tiddalek



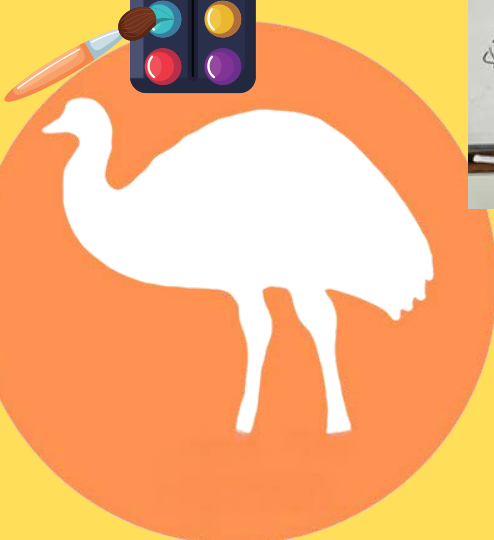
Over the last few weeks, to help the children develop problem solving skills we have purchased new games and activities. They have enjoyed participating and challenging themselves. The games have included color matching and new puzzles.

We also set a challenge for the children. They needed to design, decorate, and make their own paper planes to have a paper plane flying competition in the gym. They thoroughly enjoyed this activity and it led to some of the older children helping the younger children to build and create better paper planes. This gave the older children a chance to show their leadership abilities.

We have been developing our hand-eye coordination skills this month by telling a story in pictures. One child made a drawing on the whiteboard of the intended picture, adding details until they were satisfied with their creation. They were then asked to paint that creation with paints. The result made the child very proud....and so was their parent upon pickup.

We have also been using one of our new balancing toys. Usually used with 2 children taking turns to see how to balance various pieces on a balance object....but one child decided to challenge his own balancing skill. He practiced many different combinations, sometimes succeeding, sometimes finding the need for a retry, but he enjoyed about 20 minutes of concentration and dexterity.

Who remembers pick-up-sticks? We have a classic version with instructions that include a scoring system according to colour of the sticks you successfully keep. This child loved the challenge...beating me more than once!!



SEEDS TO SOW IN APRIL

- Broad Beans
- Broccoli
- Cabbage
- Carrot
- Cauliflower
- Coriander
- Kale
- Lettuce and Salad Greens
- Onion
- Parsley
- Parsnip
- Peas
- Radish
- Spinach
- Spring Onion
- Swede
- Thyme
- Turnip



Source: The Diggers Club

5 Minute MOVES

THIS MONTH LET'S... DO YOGA
Short simple activities to get some active minutes in the day.

You might already do yoga yourself, but have you ever included your children in your yoga session? Or maybe you have never done yoga before. Jump on google and search simple yoga positions and learn together. Cosmic yoga is a very popular channel kids love. See the link below.

Try : Cosmic Kids www.youtube.com/watch?v=LhYtcadR9nw



Places To Visit



East Gippsland All Abilities Playground

A fully accessible playground. It is themed "From the mountains to the sea" and signifies different parts of East Gippsland.

This playground features a liberty swing, which enables people in wheelchairs to experience the joy of swinging.

Located at Davison Oval, Park Street, Barinsdale.

<https://www.eastgippsland.vic.gov.au/community/east-gippsland-all-abilities>

Open studios West Gippsland

13th and 14th of April

A weekend where creative minds and artists open their home studios to allow the public to see their work and the

<https://openstudioswestgippsland.com.au/>

First Aid Training



On Wednesday 13th of March, Kym from National First Aid visited the centre. In the 4 year old kinder room a number of staff updated their First Aid and CPR qualifications.



Purple Day Celebration for Epilepsy



On Thursday 26th of March, staff and children dressed in purple to help raise funds for Epilepsy Action Australia. Thank you to staff member Ashleigh Brookes for organising the event.

