

August 2023 Newsletter

Upcoming Dates*

2
SEP

Saturday
5pm - 7.30pm Movie Night
Pendicup Hall, Warner

Director's Report Committee Meeting 8 August

Since our last meeting, our major stakeholders have been involved in the following activities:

Families

The children and staff continue to enjoy having families on roster to be able to participate in the program and have a first-hand view of what their child likes about Kindergarten. Over the past month or so some families have also taken up the opportunity to either use roster or a separate time to speak to their child's teacher about their child. This opportunity is always available to families so please contact your teacher if you have anything you wish to discuss.

In June, 33 families took up the opportunity to have their child's hearing screened with Hear and Say. This again proved to be highly beneficial with 58% recording hearing within normal limits, 24% with hearing outside the normal limits and recommendation to seek further advice and testing, 12% recording middle ear tube disfunction and 6% with other middle ear issues.

Our Term 3 Bush Care event with Moreton Bay Council was well attended with 5 Educators, 2 Community Members, 6 parents and 10 children. We enjoyed a morning of weeding, exploring and using cameras to view the nesting boxes. We ended the morning with a lovely morning tea provided by Deb from the council.

Educators

Educators have been busy completing their annual compliance training involving child protection, workplace health and safety (including fire training), workplace bullying and sexual harassment and Privacy. The team also continue to attend various professional development opportunities such as Auslan signing, supporting children with additional needs and music workshops. They have also been involved in team reflections and readings lead by myself as Educational Leader.

Our enrolments for our kindergarten classes in 2024 are in full swing and we are confident we will fill all four of our Kindergarten classes. We continue to await advice on how "Free Kindy" will work next year (especially for children doing a second year), but are grateful to have Early Childhood Education at the forefront of State Government funding as we believe such opportunities set children up for a positive future learning journey. We will continue to build on our marketing efforts to ensure the future viability of our Community Kindergarten, with waiting list numbers for future years continuing to grow steadily.

Have you ever considered 'tagging' Albany Creek Kindergarten or C&K on your Facebook page or Instagram posts with your child? Would you consider leaving a 5-star review on us google search? **Do you share your positive Kindergarten experiences with friends and neighbours?**

**Please refer to your 2023 Calendar for individual group start dates*



Children

We were pleased to welcome back our children and families to Term 3. We are very thankful to those families who have helped keep our Educators, Children and Families safe and healthy by keeping children home when they are unwell. We wish them all a speedy recovery and remind families to notify your teacher of all absences, including any relating to COVID, Influenza and RSV.

Our 4 year old Kindergarten classes were able to enjoy an incursion with the Evergreen Theatre company. We engaged in the Rainforest show and discovered new knowledge about the environment, sustainability and the characteristics of the rainforest through puppets, story and songs. This linked well to all sections of the curriculum related to communication, connectedness and learning.

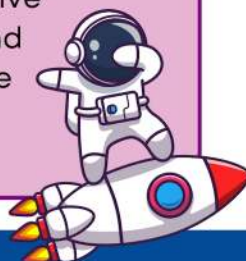
Our Kindergarten philosophy states “We empower children to become powerful learners and active citizens. We value their input and respect their individuality”. Here is how each class has embodied this statement:



Mrs Carli Wilson's **RED GROUP** reflected on their holidays, which led to a camping game, where they had tents set up in the classroom, in the playground and at bush kindy. Lots of imaginary play was involved by building fires to cook 'soup, fish and fox.' This also inspired games such as the 'survival game' at bush kindy. Bush kindy days have been full of adventure, and they have been enjoying having their morning tea in the bush and returning to kindy in the afternoon. One of the highlights was 'Going on a Bear hunt' ...crossing the creek, walking through a 'bubble' snowstorm, and finding a bear in a cave. They have also been learning to sew and are making nature prints by hammering flowers and leaves onto fabric. The current interest involves experimenting with making individual paint palettes by mixing primary and secondary colours, creating a pizza shop and a princess game with its very own castle.



Mrs Robyn Taylor's **YOUNG KINDERGARTEN** class have welcomed two new friends. The children enjoyed helping the new friends feel welcome into the class. Recently the children have been interested in space travel. They have made a rocket and had stories and songs about rockets. The children have also been making wonderful and creative constructions, 'delicious' coloured mud pies and had discussions and stories about horses and dogs. The class have also been eating lots of cakes as they celebrated eight July Birthdays.



Mrs Tracey Wilson's **GREEN GROUP** have continued to enjoy their Bush Kindy experiences and are becoming more engaged and confident within the environment. Some favourite activities have included jumping from the big log, knot tying, searching for and trying to catch bugs, making a slide down an embankment, making stick kebabs and rope courses with carabiners. The group has continued an interest in a planet song to extend it to lots of discoveries about planets, space travel and the solar system. The group enjoyed lots of painting and craft activities, links to Indigenous star mapping, stories, rocket experiments, songs and music and puzzles to build this interest. The group enhanced their knowledge through great questioning and investigating the answers.



Mrs Janelle Bull's **BLUE** and **YELLOW** groups have been following their interests from Bush Kindy. They have been using torches, magnifying glasses and binoculars on their visits to the bush. In the classroom they had been pretending to be nature detectives. This also gave the children an opportunity to think about those animals they might see at night in their backyard.

Our visitor, Kevin from Evergreen Theatre Company in his show "The Rainforest" also talked about 'Stop, Look and Listen' when in the rainforest. The groups also practised this on their last Bush Kindy day still hoping to see the platypus. In the show the talking tree intrigued the children. Following the show the children also made their own puppets.

The other interests the classes have been following is with colours. They have tried marble painting, dropper painting and even tested out making mini volcanoes when they used coloured vinegar in a tray of bi carb.

The yellow group were particularly interested in the obstacle course. They have helped plan the actions (eg up a ladder) in their daily course.



Can you help contribute to our community Kindergarten?

This month we are asking for donations of

cotton balls | patty pans | bi-carb soda | vinegar | sticky tape | masking tape | boxes of tissues



Thank you to those who have been able to make contributions to our Building Fund. We welcome donations at any time of the year as it goes a long way in continuing to make improvements to our Kindergarten such as the upgrade to the children's bathrooms last year. As this is a registered Building Fund, if you are able to make a voluntary contribution, you may wish to donate and we will issue you with a tax-deductible receipt. Please deposit into the Kindy's bank account as follows:

Albany Creek Kindergarten
BSB: 124068
Account: 10255144
Re: Building Fund Contribution



Purchases

Through the support of fundraising, book club orders and efficient budgeting we have recently been able to purchase new storage equipment for our digging patch shed, fabric for cushion covers, an updated photocopier, books and craft resources.

Tracey Wilson (Nominated supervisor)



Fun ways to encourage your child to brush their teeth

- Build good oral hygiene habits early
- Talk with children about why teeth need to be cleaned
- 'Model' brushing ("lets brush our teeth together")
- Let children choose their own toothbrush

For more information, watch
<https://raisingchildren.net.au/babies/videos/dental-care-video>



MOVIE & PIZZA NIGHT REMINDER

Grab your picnic rug and join us for a movie & pizza night on 2 September from 5pm - 7.30pm at Pendicup Hall, 1&2/365 Samsonvale Road, Warner. The movie, Luca, will begin at 5.30pm.

Order forms can be found on the Family Communication bench on the front verandah of the Kindy and are due back Monday 21 August.

C&K COVID-19 Response Level

This centre is currently at the following COVID-19 Response Level

GREEN

Low Response

Please refer to the Commitments in the latest C&K COVID-19 Commitment Statement at candk.com.au/coronavirus or ask your centre Director for a copy.

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Keep up to date and share our wonderful Kindy with our local community. Find us on Facebook at

Albany Creek Kindergarten

Admin Office Hours

Contact Deonne or Jennie
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Developing Fine Motor Skills

Fine motor skills are all about using those little muscles in your hand, fingers, thumb, and wrist to do things like getting dressed, eating, writing, colouring, playing sports, playing musical instruments, and flipping through books. Basically, they help you do all the fun stuff and important tasks in life!

Early childhood learners need to keep practicing those super important fine motor skills to improve hand strength. That's why having a variety of fine motor skills activities in and out of the classroom setting is so important. The more students practice, the stronger their muscles get. This typically transfers to those important skills like drawing and writing.

Can you tick off these activities for your child this year?

- Painting
- Drawing
- Using Tweezers
- Playdough
- Using Pegs
- Wind Up Toys
- Tearing Paper
- Lacing
- Finger Plays
- Paper Folding
- Manipulative Blocks
- Cutting
- Peeling Stickers
- Peg Boards
- Rubber Band Boards
- Threading



Some other ideas ...

