

KINDER 4

TERM TWO

NEWSLETTER

In term two we continued on with our interest in dinosaurs by introducing into the learning environment several activities around dinosaurs. We had an area where budding palaeontologists could dig up fossil bones, and the children transferred this into the sand-pit area.



As you can see in the photos the boys were delighted to have found dinosaur bones and teeth in the sandpit. We introduced the children to words such as palaeontologist during discussions about how people find dinosaur bones. Emma stated that you had to be a miner to find fossils. We used Vygotsky's zone of proximal development to take Emma's understandings, that you were a miner who dug up the earth to find fossils and we gave her the correct terms for these people such as palaeontologist and archaeologist. To tie in with our term focus of interdependence in the natural world we had also been discussing how the dinosaurs may have become extinct. One theory is that a meteor crashed into earth which cause a large dust cloud to rise up into the atmosphere. This in turn blocked out the sun. The children knew that plants need the sun to grow so we explained that because there was no sun the plants died out which meant that the plant eaters had no food source which lead to them dying out. The impact of this was then the meat-eaters had no food source either so they died out also. It is difficult for the children to understand that when the dinosaurs roamed the earth there were no humans around.



We made mini glass-houses and attached them to the window. Inside these we had sunflower seeds in them, these were a success. Most of the seeds germinated and the children were able to observe as the seed sprouted, grew leaves and began to establish a root system. We transferred the seeds into pots and sent these home with the children to watch the plant grow with their families. We kept some here in kinder so the children can continue to observe the growth and we will be learning about measurement as we keep a visual record of the sunflowers growth over time.



Another strong interest the children developed was football, each day they asked to listen to team theme songs. To extend on this we took the children over to Thomson Oval to kick some footballs around. We discussed with the children the importance of daily activity for our health. It was great for the children to have the space to see how far they could actually kick a ball.

The kinder children have been very busy exploring space through our space area. This is set up with rockets, space shuttles, astronauts, moon rocks and pictures of actual space and astronauts. One of the pictures displayed is of a woman astronaut getting into her space suit. It is done in a sequence so the children can see each stage of getting into the suit. This picture has also sparked some interesting discussions about gender and the perceived roles/occupations women can do. At one stage one of the girls in our learning group walked over, studied the picture for a while, then walked off saying to herself, "I could do this when I'm older."



In the block corner we were exploring measurement as the children and I built a tower and then compared where we got to, in terms of our height next to the tower. The only person who was taller than our tower was Gemma. The children were able to use one-to-one correspondence to count how many blocks were in our tower. Winter Solstice decoration making was also a time that maths was discussed. The children were making a paper chain to string from the ceiling to the hanging log in the middle of our room. The chain was not quite long enough to reach so they had to add more links to the chain. Once they had done that Rocco and a few other children counted how many links were needed. It turned out to be 106, guess what the children managed to count these independently.

Upcoming Events in Kinder 4

Monday 6th August- Living Safely with Pets Incursion

Tuesday 7th August- Wide Smiles Dental Team's second visit

Thursday 9th August- Narana Aboriginal Cultural Centre Excursion

Monday 13th-Friday 17th August- Science Week

Monday 20th – Robot Incursion with Alexander's Grandparents

Monday 20th-Friday 24th August- Book Week Activities