



Term 4 At Kindy and Occasional  
Care

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‘Where are  
the  
Butterflies...’

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Mark Oliphant College B-12  
**Children's Centre**  
for Early Childhood  
Development and Parenting



RATED  
**EXCEEDING**  
NATIONAL QUALITY STANDARD





We will continue to build upon our butterfly garden along with our knowledge of native butterflies and how important they are to our ecosystem...

Over the year we have been investigating 'Who is our Mother Earth'. This inquiry has lead us to develop two native attracting butterfly gardens in collaboration with Northern Resource Management and the Bringing Back Butterflies organisation. Please see the attached 'Story of Our Butterfly Garden' for further information. This term our preschool children will engage in even more transition experiences including canteen visits, yard play at lunchtime and formal visits to school.

[Beach Kindy](#) will build upon the wonderful opportunities experienced in the bush, strengthening connections to the natural world and learning about our 'Mother Earth'. Over the holidays staff visited Beach Kindy locations and conducted a risk assessment. This year we have decided to visit Webb Beach. Teachers will send home a note in the near future outlining what children need to bring/wear.



[Transition to school](#) will be a major piece of business this term! We will continue our visits to the school, as well as the canteen. Children will be offered opportunities to play in the school yard (with preschool staff) during lunch and recess, and practice returning at the bell! Formal visits will begin half-way through the term for those transitioning to MOC.

[Child Protection Curriculum](#) - Educators have observed many children requiring further support in developing and maintaining friendships and coping with change. Over the coming term we plan to continue to explore the Kimochi Dolls with our children. This program is designed to give children the knowledge to recognise and manage their emotions, establish positive relationships, demonstrate empathy and make responsible decisions. We will continue to support our children as they begin their transition to school and find ways to manage this.



**Book-Based Program** - We will study the book, 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar' to explicitly explore literacy and language concepts including syllables, rhyme, concepts about print (front/back cover, concept of word/letter/picture, title, directionality of print etc.), questioning, vocabulary, oral narrative and more. Children will continue regular visits to the library. See your child's teacher for more information. We encourage families to participate in a Book Hug each morning as well as encourage children to write their name.

**Technology** - We have loved seeing our children's high interest and involvement in exploring different forms of technology. Bush Kindy provided the ideal opportunity to explore the walkie talkies as a tool for our children to communicate with each other in the outdoor environment. Our children have also loved learning how to use the iPads to take photos and record videos for our iMovie to present our research into our inquiry 'Who is our Mother Earth?' which we proudly showed at our Exhibition of Learning (please find link to this video in the email). This term we would like to provide more opportunities for our children to express their creativity and develop their skills in photography. This could lead to the creation of future iMovie projects co-led by the children. To support our children's growing interest in writing and technology, we also plan to introduce a typewriter into our writing area.



**Writing Table** - Our children have shown an increasing interest in writing, reading, letters and print concepts. We will expand upon this interest through creating a library. As our children have loved re-telling the story of the 'The Three Little Pigs' through their play; this term we will create a story table for our new focus book 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar' which will encourage children to sequence, recount and retell the story using props. This will not only build upon their understanding of print concepts but also strengthen their oral language and communication skills. We have noticed our children writing books with a particular purpose in mind and expressing their research into our Mother Earth through creating books about butterflies and the impact of rubbish on our environment. We have also noticed our children exploring different text structures, such as letter writing. To extend upon this interest, we plan to add envelopes, postcard templates and stamps into the writing area, Later in the term as we get closer to Christmas, this might evolve into an area where children choose to write letters to Santa or create Christmas cards.

**Art Studio** - Our children have showed high levels of creativity, and sustained involvement as they explore, create, and construct in the Art Studio. We will continue to provide loose parts in the studio to promote this learning, and further support children's STEM thinking. Children have shown particular interest in mini-beasts and creatures as part of the development of the kindy Butterfly Garden – natural materials will also be provided in the Art Studio to extend these interests. The Arts will also be brought outside by providing creative spaces in the yard, such as

painting easels in the garden, and a face painting station. Our children have continued with their deep enjoyment of music and dance. There will be opportunities throughout the term for them to engage with different musical styles and instruments, and dance and movement.







**Block Play** - We have been delighted to observe our children show their skills in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) thinking through the block play area. They are keen designers, problem solvers, risk takers and critical thinkers, all while being collaborative and persistent. This term we will continue to introduce and model ways to use a range of loose parts. We will incorporate butterflies, fairies and fantasy play into our block area to spark our children's imagination and to challenge our young engineers further. We will continue to introduce and model aspects of design, in addition to further exploring the properties of shape and investigating how to assemble and construct things including houses for the fairy garden.

**Outdoors** - Our butterfly garden is now complete and growing, thanks to the funding we received from Roots and Shoots and professional development and support provided by 'Bringing Back Butterflies.' We have grieved the loss of our fruit trees on the entrance into our centre and extended our butterfly garden there as well! We have consulted our children through a planning meeting for next term to find out what they want. There is a big interest in sports and you may have noticed our outdoor sports bar next to our butterfly garden. We will rotate sports of interest for the children to play, particularly footy and soccer. We look forward to developing "a swing we've never seen before" with the children using STEM thinking as requested in our planning meeting. Our potions lab in the back corner is ready for our little scientists to explore and experiment with. Our little green thumbs continue to be driven to protect our Mother Earth by watering and caring for our new butterfly gardens and caring for her smallest creatures, mini-beasts, including the worms in our worm farm. We have brought our children's interest in camping to the outdoor environment with our hammock amongst our trees in the front corner. As the weather warms up we look forward to allowing our children further sensory exploration through water play. Finally, we wonder what new ideas and possibilities Beach Kindy will offer for our children, and we can't wait to delight in this experience with them.

**Dramatic Play**- Our children have demonstrated such high levels of involvement and inquiry through their interest in cooking, camping and school life. Many of our preschool and occasional care children spend time inquiring to make meaning and value spending moments with their peers, educators and families recreating play through their exploration of different roles and responsibilities. Our children have spent endless amounts of time engaging in uninterrupted periods of play and exploration. Dramatic play has promoted children's imagination and has supported them to use their creativity, exploration and sense of adventure. It has been so wonderful to see children pretending. When children pretend, they're using their imagination to move beyond the bounds of reality. A stick can be a magic wand. A sock can be a puppet. A small child can be a super hero. During term 4 we will continue to explore our interest in school as we explore the school environment and our new library. We will also continue to explore real life scenarios in the outdoors through restaurant play, loose parts play and our upcoming school visits in preparation for our transition to school.

**Staffing** - We farewell and congratulate Lauren as she begins her maternity leave. We look forward to sharing the news of the birth of her baby soon! We welcome Christine Button our new Community Development Coordinator. Christine has been busy working on our latest timetable, providing many and varied opportunities for our community.

**See Tasha to book in for your child's 4 year old health check - Tuesday 26th November**

