Hello Everyone!

Hoping you all had an enjoyable break with your families, even with the onset of winter colds and flus it’s been wonderful to see the children eager and excited to return to kindy for a busy term 3 ahead with focus on literacy and creativity challenges. We look forward to Book Week ‘Australial Story Country’ celebrations in weeks 5/6 with Dress Up Day, visits to local libraries and children sharing their favourite books and story book characters. Also acknowledging Science Week in week 5 with ‘Forensic Investigation’ Incursion visiting kindy.

We will be extending on our Partnership focus of Complexity and Creativity as we introduce ‘Create your own…. ‘Day. This allows children to explore different ways to create their own adjuncts to their play eg. Cars, planes etc. as well as Performance Art/music/dance challenges. Create their own patterns, Create your own stories/books, following up from children’s ‘Wonderings’ brainstormed in small group.

See details in Term Overview which was uploaded on Skoolbag app in week 1

Outdoor Re-development underway!

Stage 2 of our Outdoor Re-development is underway and will continue for the next few weeks with exciting additions supporting and extending our Outdoor Nature Play. The children will soon be able to explore the new obstacle course, creek river bed with pump and new sensory pebble pathways adjacent to river bed and around sand pit area.
Exploring Kaurna Greeting

As part of our morning greetings we share the ‘Kindy Promise’ and ‘Kaurna Greeting’

This land belongs to all of us

It first belonged to the Kaurna people

We thank the Kaurna people for sharing their land

We will help the take care of the land together

Ninna Marni

We are unpacking the Kaurna Greeting with the children as we make meaning and connections to the Kaurna culture and the role we play in the care and responsibility of the land we share.

Kaurna symbols and designs

Children helped to create symbols to represent ‘land’ ‘Kaurna people’ ‘us’ and ‘sharing’

Stories

Olivia’s painting of a Kaurna girl next to the Kaurna fire under the red Kaurna sky.

Congratulations West Beach Primary School!

They have been chosen to support the development of students’ STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) skills. Along with Henley High School, West Beach Primary School and 5 other primary schools in our Western Adelaide Shores Partnership have been successful in winning an $80 000 grant to support a year 7/8 STEM project. This will involve Year 7 students
joining with Year 8 students at Henley High School to engage in STEM learning and activities. This will provide quality hands-on project based experiences for students.

Through our Complexity and Creativity challenges at West Beach Kindergarten we are also endeavouring to build foundation skills, knowledge and language to support this Partnership focus and continuity of learning across our preschools and schools.

- A Reading from West Beach Primary School explaining the importance of challenging our children in Maths/Numeracy.

Why being wrong in maths is better than being right. | Kennedy Press

Failure is not “ok”, it’s critical. When we learn, we grow new neural pathways in our brain. The more pathways we grow, the more intelligent we become. Our intelligence as adults is more a result of the thinking that we did as kids, than our genetics. In fact today, you probably have around twice as many neural connections as you did when you were born. So the most important question for STEM Education then becomes, “How do we get our kids’ brains to grow?” The answer is deceptively simple – let them fail. Our brains don’t grow new connections just for fun. We grow them when we need them – particularly when we are thinking really hard. And that’s why failure is so critical. If we already know the answer to a question, it’s not hard enough. We need to think hard, about things that we don’t know, not waste time answering questions that we already know how to answer.

Instead of saying, “It’s ok to be wrong”, we need to start saying, “If you’re not wrong, then it’s not hard enough to grow your brain”. And we need to believe it. So let’s ask hard questions and then step back and allow kids to think really hard. Let’s embrace failure when it happens, and learn to bounce. It’s impossible to become resilient without trying, failing and learning that failure is just a step in the process – not the end of the process.

Kind Regards
West Beach Kindergarten staff team
Rosa, Bronwyn, Rhondda, Amanda, Ines, Sofie, Sara, Sue, Alena and Yvonne