

## In this Newsletter...

- \* Important dates coming up.    \* POLD - Parents of Little Diggers AGM, General Meeting and Parent Information Session.
- \* A Taste of Harmony.    \* Community Church Visit .    \* Easter.    \* Paint The Ridge REaD.
- \* Connections with home and centre.    \* STEAM and From the Children.    \* SeeMore KIDS Foundation.
- \* Revamping our Dingle Dangle Scarecrow.    \* Congratulations to Families new adventures.
- \* Royal Flying Doctor Dental Service Visit.    \* Governance and Leadership.

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**POLD (AGM) Annual General Meeting** followed by  
**General Meeting and Parent information Session**  
**Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> May 5.15pm** here at Little Diggers.

Followed by an **information session and chat** for  
 Parents on **Children’s Health and Wellbeing (QA2).**

**Brian the Brain - Food, Water and Sleep,**  
 with a **Special Guest Dietician Gemma Roper**  
 who can shed some light on the topic of food.

## \* Important dates coming up...

### May

**Mother’s Day - starting Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> of May**  
 over the week the children will be treating our Mums,  
 Grandmas, Aunties with Massages, Facials, Hand cream,  
 Tea or Hot choc... served by children.

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We have been **developing children’s sense of Belonging with our Belonging Tree**, for children to feel recognised and respected for who they are (LO1.3a) as well as the EYLF Principle of establishing secure, respectful and reciprocal relationships. Extending on this we celebrated... **A Taste Of Harmony.** Connecting with the Principles and Practices of the EYLF .... We share a respect for diversity and value the cultural and social contexts of children and their families.



The key message of Harmony Day is that... **Everyone belongs and has something to contribute to our community.** Families were invited to bring a plate to share their culture or favourite dish. LO1 Children have a strong sense of identity and LO2.1d an experience to broaden children’s understanding of the world in which they live.

### **Thank you to all the families who contributed to this experience...**

Megan, Catherine, Kathryn, Amba, Natasha, Patricia, Kim, Sarah and asparagus from our garden.

Harmony Day carried on over a week for us and included St Patrick’s Day, where we shared green pancakes with our Language and Culture Group.



**\* Community Church Visit to Little Diggers... sharing their Easter Celebrations.**



Thank you to **Rebecca** (Lydia's Mum) and **Heather** for coming to share their songs, story and craft experience connecting with the meaning of Easter. They also spoke about emotions and feelings and had time for a little play with the children outside.



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Leading into Easter ...all the children got to **decorate their own Easter Egg**. Thank you to **Jacinda** (Pippa's Mum) from Carinya Station for the eggs.



The children used pastels to draw, decorate and write on the egg... then dye them. Because older siblings made Easter hats for the LRCS hat parade, we made Easter head bands. The children worked on painting these to take home.



Adding to our beautiful display of eggs, the Easter Bunny and Bob the Builder left a special treat for the children to take home. The children were very proud of their head bands. We also did the Chicken Dance – working on the moves as individuals and also coordinating with a partner.

.We hope you all had a lovely Easter and enjoyed spending time with family and friends or just staying at home. ☺

**Celebrating our Paint The Ridge REaD Dhinawans 2<sup>nd</sup> Birthday** at John Murrays Gallery on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2021.

Motto - **“Talk, Read, Sing and Rhyme with your child all the time”**

A Community Capacity Building Project supporting **Relationships, Literacy and Learning.** (NSQA 6.1, 6.2, 6.2.3.)



We had a lovely day for our **PTRR Dhinawans 2<sup>nd</sup> Birthday** at John Murrays Gallery. It was great to return to the place where our Dhinawan hatched in 2019. Children followed the emu prints in and received... a Bag, Bookmark and got to choose reading material, there was something there for the whole family.



**Support for this project is growing...** Thanks to George McCormick - Walgett Shire Council. Thanks to all the following people ... Katherine Cross (cupcakes & helping with hand prints) - Lightning Ridge Central School, Heather Robinson (helping with books & display) - Community Church, Carol Ferguson (face painting) - MacKillop Family Services, Jason Cobb (fruit & water) - Walanbaa Dhurralli, Beau and Belinda (magazines) - Seaton's Newsagency, Liz Smith (hand sanitiser) - Yuwaalaraay Language and Culture Group, John and Viki (venue)- John Murrays Gallery, Bob the Builder(aka Peter for helping set up & pack up) and Sarah Chamberlain - Little Diggers Preschool and Child Care Centre. We are also grateful for books from PTRR - Paint The Town REaD, Books 4 Outback, Big W Dubbo, Outback Division NSW and the Indigenous Literacy Foundation... Thank you. Thank you to all the Children, Families and Friends who attended over the morning.



\* (QA6.1) **Connections with home and centre...** It has been lovely to have families spend time playing with their child at either drop off or pick up, reflecting on the day or recent experiences, by looking in our **Day book** and also using **technology**, to revisit photos of the day. **Children** have also shared photos from **home** and **holiday experiences** in this way.



\* **STEAM** - This term includes **Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Maths** can be seen across our program .... LO4 Children are confident and involved learners. We provide experiences that connect with STEAM and we find that nature also provides lots of learning experiences too.



Thanks to **Natalie** the children did an experiment with water beads. Seeing how big they grow and noticing colours.



**Exploring with colour** by making play dough... Wondering what would happen if we mixed yellow and blue? ... **Kayla** working with the children... exploring this concept. Children predicted what they thought would happen and then they discovered the result.



**Sound** has been of interest... With the rain the children noticed sound - heavy rain and light rain and of course thunder. **Megan** then extended on this with the instrument play... experimenting with the different sounds and making loud and soft music.

QA2 Childrens Health and Safety (QA2.1.3) Healthy lifestyle Healthy eating and physical activity are promoted and appropriate for each child and to (LO3.2i) show an increasing awareness of healthy lifestyles and good nutrition.



**Connecting with food using our sense...** smell, textures, and taste... we have had experiences in preparation... making cream cheese sandwiches, as well as vegemite and cheese scrolls.

Also a **Tea party** - black tea with milk and peppermint tea to pour and try. With the beautiful weather we have **enjoyed lunch outside.**



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**Lots of different physical play....**



We have been doing **Yoga** moves for strength, flexibility and balance.

To release energy **Megan** introduced **the Jump song by Patty Shukia**... listening for the different actions. Another physical experience... using our hand eye coordination and taking turns - **Throwing through the hoop.**

**Megan and Frank** shared with us... **The floor is Lava Game.**



Developing listening skills and self-regulation.



5, 4, 3, 2, 1 Singing and dancing to a range of different physical movements the children wait in anticipation ... Game over! The floor is Lava... and they race to safety.



**Box play** - Thank you to **Heather Robinson** for all the different boxes she brought in for the children to play with...providing **great open-ended play opportunities**.

**Who's in the box?** Disappearing into the box...Interactive play connecting with others.... waiting with anticipation to see who pops out and having the thrill of popping up to surprise your friend... Boo!



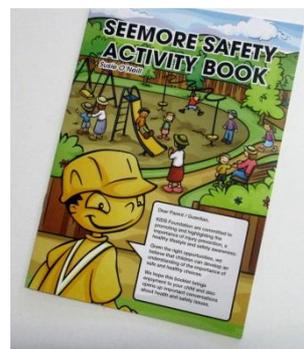
**Car play**.... and experimenting with **gravity** letting the car go at the top of the incline and watching it go down.

More **engineering play** - working together to seeing how high they can construct their tower.



**Children have shared their interests - Threading, making bracelet or necklace and play with Tools.**

We believe that **learning occurs inside and outside, over the whole day**. Part of our **intentional teaching and embedded practice** is that... not only do we have conversations in play about children's interests; we also read stories connecting to these interests. Strengthening our relationships and supporting literacy and learning.

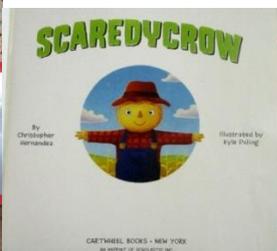


Natalie introduces **SeeMore from KIDS Foundation**, which promotes and highlights the importance of injury prevention, a healthy lifestyle and safety awareness. They believe that given the right opportunities children can develop an understanding of the importance of safe and healthy choices. The key message that SeeMore shares is... **STOP. SEE. SAFE! - STOP to SEE if it's SAFE to do.** QA2.2.1 Each child is protected ... from harm and hazards. LO3.2k children negotiate play spaces to ensure safety and wellbeing of themselves and others. We have **a copy for all families to take home** with this newsletter. If you receive your newsletter via email come and collect your copy next time you are in the centre. Thanks.

Over the holidays we worked on... \* **Revamping our Dingle Dangle Scarecrow...**



Taking down our old one and deciding what we need to make our new one, connecting with our own body to do this. Natalie found us a great outfit from Vinnies, so we now have a **Clown Scare Crow**. We used paper newspaper to... scrunch and roll... and stuffing stockings to make the arms and legs. Frank comments that "We can read the newspaper" and Jayhli points to a picture saying "That's a Nan, like my Nan". Then we decided to make a paper mache head. Extending on this we sang one of our favourite songs **The Dingle Dangle Scarecrow** and read a book about the "**Scaredycrow**" to learn about what scarecrows are for.



**Congratulations** to some of our families on their new adventures... **Morgan** (Audrey's Mum) who is now our local Florist with the **Fleur Collective**.

**Thank you to Natasha** (Charlies Mum) for the morning / afternoon treats from the **Opal Street Café**. We set up our own café and took orders... if they wanted their order warm or cold, with butter or not, having a choice of a hot cross bun or raisin toast.





\* **Thank you to Rachel and Katie from the Royal Flying Doctor Dental Service** who came to Little Diggers and did a screening for our children.



**QA2.1.2 Health practices and procedures...**hygiene practices are promoted... **Rachel** spoke about dental hygiene, touching on how many times we need to brush our teeth? “Morning and night”, responds **Jayhli**. “My tongue too” adds **Zoe**. **Valentine** role modelled to **Nate** how to open wide, when Rachel counted his teeth ...top and bottom. **Rachel and Katie are planning to return later in the year** to rescreen and give an opportunity for anyone who did not get seen to be screened.

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\* **QA7 Governance and Leadership.** QA7.2 Leadership... Effective leadership builds and promotes a positive organisational culture and professional learning community. Also, **QA6 Collaborative partnerships with families and community.** **Little Diggers is in partnership** with other groups and organisations within Lightning Ridge, as well as connecting with the broader communities. For example - We have the **Yuwaalaraay Language and Culture Group** that come to our centre and The **Lightning Ridge Early Childhood Interagency Group** that meet at **Mackillop Family Services.** As well as our **Inclusion Agency** (in Dubbo), which gives us the opportunity to connect with other services.

At the end of March I was able to be part of “**Yarnin for Inclusion**” to discuss **Reconciliation.** What it means and What a Reconciliation Action Plan is. We were introduced to **Narragunnawali**, which provides guidance with recommendations and required actions towards Reconciliation. **Focusing on... Relationships, Respect and Opportunities.** Understanding the why behind what we do. Noting that we already have things in place, that aligns and connects with a **Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP)** ... such as our **Inclusion Support Plan (ISP)** and our **Self-Assessment QIP** and the **Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF Belonging, Being and Becoming) Principles and Practices.**

We discussed ... Embedding practice, an acknowledgement and moving forward, uniting, coming together and bridging the gaps. The fact that... What we have Learned, we can Unlearn and Relearn new ways. Looking at ... What are the possibilities for being more connected. It was said that Michelle Hamilton also comments on our Mindset.

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## **ANZAC Day**

(Australian and New Zealand Army Corps)

### **Least we forget**

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old: Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun and in the morning... We will remember them... all the men, women and animals that served.

One of our children (Jayhli) has a Great Grand Pa, who would have been 100 next year... we remember. The children learned a new word “Wreath” Layla comments “You have to use your tongue to say that word”.

