

THE INSIDER

of Woden Valley



"STEAM" EDUCATION

by Paulina Jagus

STEAM Education is an approach to learning that uses Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts and Mathematics as access points for guiding children inquiry, dialogue, and critical thinking. Using STEAM education results in students who take thoughtful risks, engage in experiential learning, persist in problem-solving, embrace collaboration, and work through the creative process.

Recent research shows that STEAM is a promising approach to positively impacting student achievement and teacher efficacy. In a 2016 study, researchers investigated the impact of STEAM lessons on physical science learning in grades 3 to 5 in high poverty elementary schools in an urban district. Findings indicated that students who received just nine hours of STEAM instruction made improvements in their science achievement (*Brouillette, L., & Graham, N. J.*).



WHAT'S NEW?

NEW MENU

The new Spring/Summer menu is up. You can access the electronic version on our website or check out the displayed weekly menu near the kitchen or nursery.

TRANSITONS/ INFO EVENING

Just like each year, closer to December, each room will be publishing transition guides and statements to support your family in understanding what to expect within the new room. We are still hoping for an information evening where each team could give you a new room tour—more information next month.

NEW EDUCATORS

We welcome new trainee to our Service—Isaac in preschool. Isaac moved to us from school-age care. Don't forget to say 'Hi'!

NEW POLICIES

Our policies and procedures are now fully updated. All relating to families policies and procedures are now uploaded to both Story Park and our website (<https://www.wodenvalleychildcare.com.au/policies-and-procedures>). A printed copy is available in the foyer or upon request. Big thank you to our newest Parent Management Committee members, Laura-Jayne and Carl, who assisted with this process. Can't find a specific policy or procedure, don't hesitate to contact me; I will be happy to assist.



CONNECTED AND ONLINE

by Tracey-Lee Elliss

In a time where we can't all be together it is important to stay connected with our communities for companionship, conversation and to keep up to date with what is happening in the world. This is true for young children too.

While they are aware that a virus is affecting them coming to school or Woden Valley CCC, the ability to understand that this means they cannot see their friends or Educators and just have to be at home with their families at times can be hard. For parents too! To bridge this gap we decided to develop a staying at home program to sustain children's engagement, and support families with ideas to keep their child busy in those moments where you may have needed 5mins to breathe, answer a phone call/attend a meeting, or to support an older child in remote learning – all while avoiding long attachments to devices and inactivity.

By starting this in Book Week it was an easy concept to share with videos of Educator's reading amazing stories – thank you so much to those children who sent video messages or comments on our online contacts. From there including various provocations, good links to active YouTube sites that we use like PE with Joe and Cosmic Kids Yoga, and some great podcasts, we made great attempts to ensure that ALL families felt included and valued throughout our changing climate. As things continue to change, we will continue to adapt ways to support all families in the way that you access our service. The Holiday Program was sent out on the 15th September and included a "Staying at Home" section so each day all children are a part of the program and feel included.

If you have any other suggestions to build on our CONNECTED and ONLINE program, please don't hesitate to speak with me and I will do my best to include.

Stay safe and CONNECTED – In Service and ONLINE.

Looking after your mental health during coronavirus (COVID-19) restrictions.

The impacts of the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak, physical distancing and isolation can make us feel anxious, stressed and worried. Read about what you can do to look after your mental wellbeing and look out for those around you as we tackle these challenges together.

Lifeline - 131 114 (24-hour crisis line)

Beyond Blue Hotline - 1800 512 348

Kids Helpline (age 5 to 25) - 1800 551 800

Suicide Call Back Service - 1300 659 467 (24/7)

Domestic Violence Line - 1800RESPECT (1800737732)

MensLine Australia - 1300 789 978

NATURE PEDAGOGY PROGRAM – SPRING

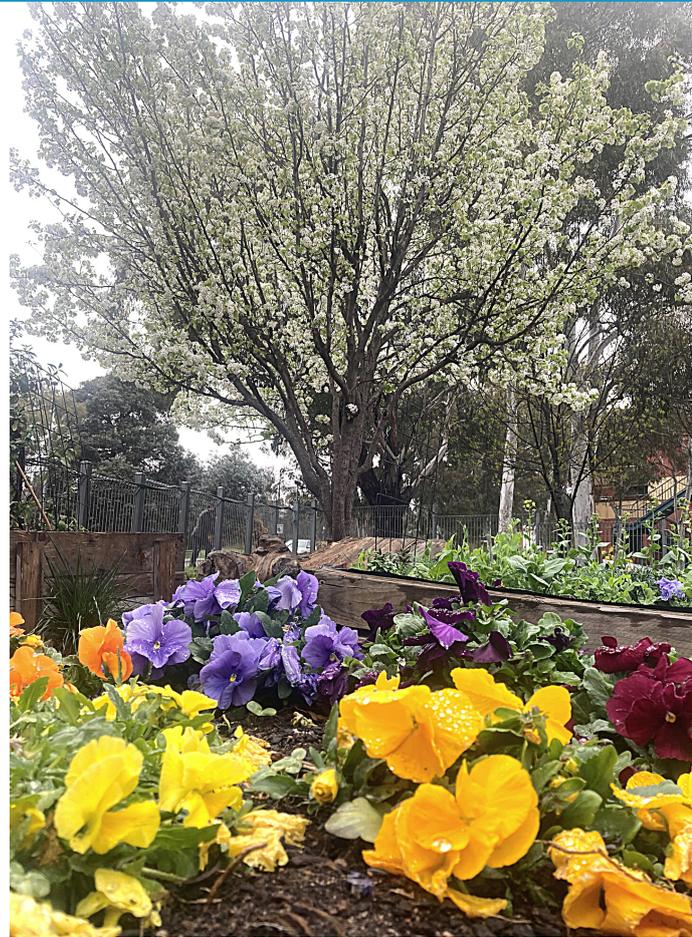
by Gabby Millgate

Hooray! It's Springtime. Miss Gabby has been taking children on walks around our gardens to investigate what is emerging during this awakening time. Last years tulips and iris are back. So even though Floriade is cancelled, we'd love the families to continue to enjoy the flowers in our community garden.

The Term 4 program focuses on reducing water use but increasing yields and cool spaces for our plants and children to flourish. We have just invested in 2 food cubes, which are the latest innovation in wicking bed systems. The children helped assemble them and filled them with the recommended soil and self-produced compost.

We look forward to all the edible plants we are about to produce.

Environments and resources can also highlight our responsibilities for a sustainable future and promote children's understanding about their responsibility to care for the environment. They can foster hope, wonder and knowledge about the natural world. -EYLF p.g 18



EDUCATORS PROVOCATION CHALLENGE

Although it feels like we are all in hibernation due to recent lockdowns, our Service never stops, and the urge for ongoing training and professional growth continues.

Our educators recently joined the ultimate provocation challenge, where each of them was asked to present innovative, challenging and exciting provocation designed for their specific age group. Educators were also tasked to identify learning outcomes and possible lines of development. The Leadership Team is genuinely amazed by the team's creativity and understanding of early childhood development, and we can't wait to showcase their work. Keep an eye on our Facebook page to see some of the examples.

