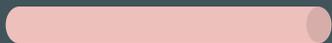




MELROSE  
PARK OSHC  
BLOG

TERM 1 WEEK 5



## DEAR PARENTS

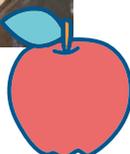
Thank you to all who came to our SOD turning on Friday afternoon. We are all very excited for the start of our OSHC building to commence.



## OUR WEEK AT OSHC

Monday morning began with creating animals such as wolves, crocodiles, dogs and cats out of paper plates. This animal craft activity was easily recognisable for the children, so it made it easier when directing them and helping them to see the overall picture. A popular choice of animal to make was the paper plate octopus where the children brushed up on the scissor skills. The bubble wrap tentacles were a great addition and the children had lots of fun popping the bubbles after their art was created. Indoor and outdoor play was additionally enjoyed by the children with some choosing to run off some of their energy from the weekend. Others instead opted for some quiet time playing boardgames and reading. The afternoon was spent outside where the children engaged in various sporting games such as soccer, netball, basketball and volleyball. The children have shown an interest in learning new sports and we will therefore be providing more sport materials for them to play with. Craft today taught the children that vegetables aren't just for eating! They can be used to make beautiful paintings and craft. Various fruits and vegetables were firstly cut up into small pieces and then dipped into paint. The children then had creative freedom in making their fruit and veggie masterpiece. Apples, Oranges, Carrots and Banana. The children loved making stamps out of the fruit and were amazed with the different patterns that were created. The children were able to learn the many fruits and vegetables that are available through this craft activity

Tuesday morning the children weaved colourful rubber and plastic bands into decorative items such as bracelets and charms. Using loom bands encourages correct pencil grip among the children and strengthens fine grasping movements by improving dexterity. For those children who struggle with 'free range' creativity, following a pattern using loom bands allows the opportunity to create something by only making a few simple decisions such as what colour and shape. This activity is a great way to encourage social skills as the children learn how to make different kind of bracelets.



Tuesday afternoon the children participated in the sensory activity of playdough. The properties of play dough made it a fun investigative and explorative activity whilst additionally building the childrens' fine motor skills. The children used the play dough by squashing, squeezing, rolling, flattening, chopping, cutting and poking. Each one of these different actions aided in fine motor development in a different way, not to mention hand eye coordination and general concentration. This week a hair salon has also been set up in the OSHC room. The children have enjoyed engaging in imaginative play as hairdressers and clients where students are creating various hairstyles on each other. Toy tools such as hair straighteners, water, blow dryers, brushes, mirrors and bows are used to create the hairstyles. It has been great to see the children collaboratively working together in this activity.

Recycled items were utilised for craft for this morning where materials from around the house such as breakfast boxes, toilet paper rolls, aluminium cans and more were used to create new items. From this activity the children learnt the benefits of conservation through craft and design. Many chose to cut and stick items together to create things such as doll houses, vending machines and robots. The children were able to turn one useful object into another useful - entirely different object, helping them to think creatively and not be afraid to make mistakes.

In the afternoon the children embraced their inner masterchef and baked some brazillian cheesy bread. This treat is like small cheese puffs that are crsipy on the outside but amazingly soft and chewy inside. This activity provided the children with a variety of learning experiences. It was a practical way to teach the children basic life skills as well as academic skills involving science and math. See recipe attached for instructions. This afternoon the children checked on the OSHC garden and to their surprise found that the lettuce had grown and was ready to be taken out and eaten once washed. The garden was watered and new seeds of beetroot and snowpeas were planted. Gardening is teaching the children responsibility. They are learning that if the garden isn't watered, the veggies will die. They have began to take note of the weather and that they must water the plants accordingly.



Thursday morning symmetrical painting was offered to the children. Firstly, the children folded a piece of plain paper in half and then added drops of various coloured paints. The paper was then refolded and pressed so that the paint inside the paper spreads. The children were then very surprised with the end results once the paper was opened and a beautiful symmetrical design unfolded. Once the paint was dry, the children refolded the paper and cut a butterfly shape out. Once the paper was reopened the children enjoyed a bright, beautiful butterfly. Indoor games such as 'balloon volleyball' and imaginative play in the hairdressers corner was enjoyed by majority of the children.

Thursday afternoon began with our weekly tennis lesson by James. The children are always excited for this day throughout the week. Tennis has been a great sport option as it is equally a mental activity as it is physical, therefore promoting both strong psychological and physiological development. This week James focused on developing the children's hand eye coordinator skills. The children learnt how to properly judge the timing between approaching the ball and the right point of contact. Craft consisted of creating tie dye bags. Each child was firstly given a bag which was wet and then dried out. The bag was then sectioned with rubber bands and the different coloured dye was applied. Each bag was then placed in a plastic bag to dry. This activity resulted in a beautifully patterned tote bag which can be used for various purposes.



Friday morning the children collaboratively created a vet and hairdresser poster to be used for imaginative play. The children all had an individual contribution to each poster and enjoyed drawing their own pets for the vet poster. Imaginative play has been popular this week at OSHC. It provides the children with their own space to play together as they develop and grow socially through collaboration. A tea party was set up where each child played a different family member. They took turns in preparing and serving the tea. Learning to take turns of different characters has been a great social skill developed by the children as they are learning to compromise with others.

The afternoon was spent painting with balloons. The children were able to explore creatively and imaginatively as they created various patterns in an





open-ended unstructured way. It was a great sensory activity as the children were required to use their hands to manipulate the paint and balloons to create patterns and prints onto paper.



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# Brazillian Cheese Bread

## Ingredients

- 2/3 cup low-fat milk
- 1 large egg
- 1/3 cup olive oil
- 1 1/2 cups tapioca flour/starch
- 1/2 cup shredded cheddar and/or mozzarella cheese
- 1 teaspoon salt

## Instructions

- Preheat the oven to 400°F. Grease two 12-cup mini-muffin pans.
- Add all of the ingredients to a blender in the order listed and blend until smooth. Use a spatula to scrape down the sides of the blender, to ensure that all of the ingredients are evenly incorporated.
- Pour the batter into the prepared mini-muffin pans, filling up each cup until about 3/4 full.
- Bake for 18 - 20 minutes, or until puffed up and golden brown. Remove from the oven and allow to cool slightly on a wire rack. Serve warm.

