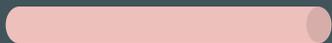




MELROSE  
PARK OSHC  
BLOG

TERM 2 WEEK 7



## DEAR PARENTS

If your family would like to participate in our weekly OSHC Cultural cooking activity we ask that families bring in any recipes from your culture for the children to cook and enjoy.



## OUR WEEK AT OSHC

Tuesday morning the children created DIY fruit fans. The children firstly chose their coloured paddle pop sticks and laid them out in a fan shape. These were then glued together. The fan shape was then drawn on a plain piece of paper and then cut out. The children then drew on some fun fruit shapes. The sticks were then spread out and glued into place on the back with a hot glue gun. Once finished, this craft resulted in cute fruit fans where the children decorated them as apples, oranges and watermelons.

In the afternoon the children had some sensory fun creating DIY wacky sacks (stress balls). These were simple to make and provided hours of enjoyment to the children. These homemade stress balls were made using balloons and flour, a fun project for the children to participate in. The children firstly stretched the balloon top and then put a filter inside it for the flour to be poured into. The balloons were then pressed flat to get as much air out as possible. The children then tied them with a knot at the top. Lastly the children used sharpies to draw funny faces on the balloons.

Wednesday morning the children engaged in sensory play with clay. Clay is a great resource for the children to use as it is very versatile due to the many ways the children can play and experiment with it. Clay gives them the opportunity to be creative and learn about texture, shape and form whilst having lots of fun. The children created and experimented with various structures and ideas including; buildings, soccer balls, snowmen and animals. This activity additionally helps children develop their fine motor skills as they pinched, squeezed and prodded the clay, adding detail to the shape or object.

In the afternoon the children created folded mirror paintings. Using paints, we experimented with adding some water until they were the consistency of runny yoghurt (according to the children). The children began with folding their pieces of paper in half and then opening them up again. This helped in identifying the centre of the paper making it easier to fold and squish later on. Small blobs of paint were then dropped around the middle of the paper which was then carefully folded in half. It was then time for the children to squish the paper, pressing and pushing the paint around as much as they could. When they were done squishing, they carefully opened up the paper to check out their awesome squish paint creations.



Thursday morning the children squished, rolled, moulded and sculpted using play dough. We added in a few props for the children to play with as this then becomes a powerful way to support the children's learning. Throughout this activity the children used their imaginations to create various objects such as; cupcakes, pizzas and animals. This activity assists in strengthening the children small fine motor muscles in their fingers - the same muscles they use to hold a pencil and write. As this is often run as a group activity, the children's social skills are supported where they learn to share, take turns and enjoy being around other peoples company.

In the afternoon the children engaged in a science experiment called Rainbow walking water, which may now be OSHC's favourite experiment. The children were completely mesmerised with the process, and couldn't believe how quickly the water travelled up the paper towel. A recording sheet was printed out for the children where they made their own hypothesis' as to what they thought would happen during the experiment. This was then compared once the experiment was over to what actually happened. The children firstly placed 7 cups in a row and then poured water in the 1st, 3rd, 5th and 7th cup. 5 drops of different coloured food colouring was then added to the cups with water in them. The children then halved sheet of paper towel and placed into the 1st cup and the other half in the cup next to it. This process then continued until we placed the last paper towel that draped over from the 6th cup to the 7th. We found that by trimming off some of the length of the paper towel enabled that the water walked quicker. The children then observed the process that took place. We saw the coloured water begin to crawl up the paper towel. After a few minutes the water had crawled all the way up the paper towel and was walking back down into the empty cup next to it. Since the cup on either side of an empty cup had coloured water in it, the two colours began to mix.



Friday morning the children created hot air balloons out of paper plates. The children loved having the opportunity to decorate their air balloons in whatever way they wished. The other fun aspect of this craft was weaving the paper plate strips for the hot air balloon basket. We began with firstly cutting one of the paper plates in half and then cutting two sides of the plate to form a rectangle. This would then be the hot air balloons basket. The paper strips were then weaved through the basked piece, under and over and then secured with glue.





In the afternoon the children were treated with a movie due to the wet weather. For the children who were looking to do something creative loom bands and beading were offered which developed upon the children's fine motor skills as they carefully placed small beads on templates and weave elastic bands around one another to form decorative items. These activities were a great way for the children to learn persistence in that when a mistake is made they need to be patient and keep trying again. The children were able to learn to not become frustrated but rather work through their setbacks.



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