



I STEAM AHEAD

OUR FIRST INCURSION OF THE YEAR!



The children had the opportunity to learn about the ocean during our intentional teaching experiences in the beginning of the year. The children helped the educators transform the classroom into the Ocean and engaged in different learning experiences to nurture and develop their understanding of and about caring about the environments and in particular the ocean during the month of January. Our first incursion for the year was also related to the Sea.

It provided a hands-on experience to support our children's interest in learning about the sea and its creatures. Diver Dave brought in starfish, urchins, snails, beautiful shells, shark eggs and an octopus for the children to experience. As part of the workshop Diver Dave showed the children all the rubbish he has found while diving in our beautiful Freshwater Beach and linked our learning about the ocean to sustainability, exposing the children to the importance of looking after our planet, our beaches, and the ocean.

Reflection of learning

The children are starting to broaden their understanding about the world they live in. By engaging in meaningful experiences about the ocean our children are able to build their knowledge and respect for both natural and constructed environments, learning how to take care of our planet and the creatures that live on it. It was a great activity to support the Shakers cognitive skills too by participating in group time experiences, engaging with peers and educators.

Diver Dave gave the children an opportunity to ask questions, make comments, and working on building their own attention span. The Shakers have been exposed to sustainability which helps develop their awareness of the impact of human activity on environments and the interdependence of living things, especially when Diver Dave showed them all the rubbish he has found while diving in our beautiful waters.

TAKE A PEEK!

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A LETTER FROM OUR ROOM LEADER MRS GLORIA



Dear Families,

Welcome to our monthly Newsletter. A big welcome to all those new families that have just started with us. I hope you have a wonderful experience here at I Steam Ahead Learning Centre, and your children settle into childcare life quickly. We are looking forward to many exciting experiences in our room this year. It has been lovely hearing all about holiday adventures, and the children have all settled back into routines, ready for continued learning.

In Term 1 we focus on friendships and social skills, classroom routines, care of self and belongings, which we call grace and courtesy. Lessons on greeting a person, walking around a mat, speaking quietly indoors, and waiting quietly rather than interrupting are examples of essential grace and courtesy skills. We foster and introduce specific skills based on the children's and classroom's needs.

In our classroom, we expect children to be kind to one another, walk in the classroom, use a quiet voice in the classroom, use materials carefully, put our work away, pack up our toys after play, respect everyone in the classroom and allow others to work without interruption. The older children in the classroom are enjoying teaching their younger peers and monitoring the classroom to ensure everyone is working in harmony.

Our Steam Program:

As part of our philosophy at I STEAM Ahead we will focus on extending each child's knowledge, interests, and skills to prepare them for their formal schooling years. We plan and implement programs that focus on school readiness with a curriculum that includes STEAM disciplines.

Our STEAM Program is implemented throughout the classroom in several ways, such as:

Science: Microscopes and hand lenses are available to explore living and non-living things in an up-close way. As scientists we ask questions.

Technology: For group learning experiences, interactive (and age-appropriate) digital technology. Technology is more than computers it is about all the tools we use to help us do things efficiently.

Engineering: Robotics materials, blocks, Legos, and magnets are used to inspire children to design, test, and build constructions of their invention. As engineers we design and create.

The Arts: Activities offered to explore language arts (reading, writing, literacy), visual arts (painting, sculpture, etc.), and dramatic and musical arts (costumes, instruments, etc.). As artists we express and share our ideas.

Math: Unique materials and resources—such as tree blocks, stone counting pieces, balance scales, and measuring tools—introduce tangible, engaging math experiences. As mathematicians we explore patterns and relationships in the world around us.

Family Input: Thank you to everyone who has been contributing to our program by sending in books and recyclable boxes. We use these to help the children care for the environment. It also teaches them valuable lessons about sustainability and how we want to leave the world for future generations.

So please remember to keep sharing your family input with us!



OUR ACTIVITIES

After looking at videos of sea creatures and reading books with drawings about the ocean, it was great to experience the live animals and be able to use our senses to feel and look at them all.

This is year we celebrated Tibetan and Chinese New Year 2021 by engaging in different art and craft activities. Some of our children came on their traditional costumes too. We believe it is important for children to understand about the world they live in, the different cultures, language, costumes, and food we can find worldwide, specially while living in a multicultural country like Australia. Children will start learning to respond to diversity with respect and develop their own sense of belonging to groups, communities, and their world. Linking to multiculturalism the children were provided with an art and craft activity to celebrate Brazilian Carnival too and did some music & movement listening to Brazilian traditional music such as samba.

This past week we have also been talking about the Random Acts of Kindness Day (17th of Feb) in the Shakers room. By talking about kindness, we give our children the opportunity to talk about their feelings, emotions, and kindness itself, encouraging children to use their gentle hands and express themselves through words, being able to self-regulate their behaviour in an age appropriate way. We are exploring their feelings and how they impact others. We have been focusing on our self-help skills downstairs too (specially for the toddlers), encouraging and supporting them to become independent and responsible for themselves. The Shakers have been toilet training, putting sunscreen on their own, helping to make beds, scraping after mealtimes, being encouraged to take shoes off by themselves.



DISCOVER & PLAY DAY EVENT

I Steam Ahead is opening its doors on the 26th of March to the public for the first time this year!

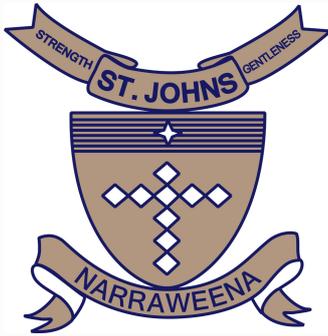
This event will give parents the opportunity to meet new families and understand more about what we offer at I STEAM Ahead. We will be talking about our philosophy, our STEAM program, our mission, and how our director Moira Battikha has been putting her heart in what she loves the most, education!

We also encourage our current parents to invite friends who are becoming parents, new parents, and future parents to be part of this event.

Referrals will be rewarded when a new family enrolls with us because of you!

A delicious morning tea will be provided, and the children will have some time to play and discover our centre together with our educators.

We look very much forward to meeting and connecting with new families!



St. John's Catholic Primary School, Narraweena invites you and your pre-school families to the Open Day Events being held in March:

*** Thursday 18 March at 9.15am-10.40am**

The Open Days give families who are interested in enrolling in 2022 an opportunity to tour the school, discover all that we have to offer, and to see a typical school day in action. St John's is a nurturing, collaborative learning environment where children are inspired to explore, think and grow. The wellbeing of children is central to everything we do and plays a vital part in their learning success. Our professional and inspiring teaching staff take pride in their commitment to the learning of every child in our care. At St. John's, children will gain a well-rounded education which links Catholic faith and values with life.

Open Days will take place at the school:

St John the Apostle Catholic Primary School
166 Alfred Street, Narraweena NSW 2099