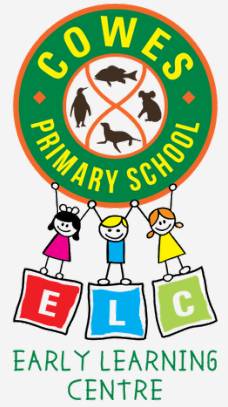


PIELC NEWSLETTER

October 2026



A message from our director

Dear Families,

Term 3 has been a wonderful and busy term at PIELC, filled with learning, discovery, connection and lots of fun!

Across all of our groups in Kinder and Day Care, children have been exploring their interests, building friendships, developing new skills and enjoying a wide range of experiences both within the Centre and out in our community. From science and stories to cultural experiences, outdoor adventures, creative projects and opportunities for children to share their ideas and voices, it has been lovely to see their confidence, curiosity and sense of belonging continue to grow.

We have also enjoyed connecting with our local community throughout the term, some of our groups have had visits to Melaleuca Lodge sharing stories and songs with the Residents there. I have attended regional Early Years events and network opportunities, including the launch of an Early Years Literacy Program that is a new focus for our local Maternal and Child Health Nurses that we, as a Centre, are helping to support by encouraging families to keep up their regular child health checks with the Nurses.

As always, we are continuing to look at ways we can improve and enrich the environments and experiences we provide for children. We have been exploring opportunities to further develop one of our Kindergarten outdoor play spaces, with a focus on creating engaging environments that encourage children to explore, investigate, imagine and play.

We recently celebrated Educators Day at PIELC, taking the opportunity to recognise and thank our wonderful educators for the care, commitment and dedication they bring to their work each day. Staff enjoyed a shared rolling-lunch provided to show appreciation for the important role they play in making every child feel safe, valued, special and supported

Thank you to all of our PIELC families for your ongoing support and for being such an important part of our Centre community. We look forward to another wonderful term of learning, play, connection and discovery together.

Important dates!

- PIELC will be closed on Monday 2nd November 2026 for a staff training day.
- The final day of operation for 2026 is Thursday 17th December
- PIELC will reopen Wednesday 6th January 2027

A message from our Educational Leaders

Denise Szutta & Emma Sherburn

Hello PIELC families and friends

There is a lot of ongoing discussion, and often division, around the use of technology within our immediate community, and the world at large.

Technology is everywhere we go. It's in our cars, it's in the supermarket, and it's in our home, as well as in our schools and early learning centres through the use of large interactive smartboards, iPads, and digital communication devices. But most of all it's in each of your hands as you sign your children in and out of the centre each day, it's in the hands of our educators as they share images and memories of your child's day here at PIELC with you, and it's in the hands of many of the children as they listen, play, watch and learn at home and here at PIELC when they reach our BIG kinder programs in the Bilbies, Penguins and Seals groups.

This means children are being exposed to technology everyday, multiple times a day even if they are not the ones using it. Some of you might be asking "so what?" and that is totally OK, we all ask that from time to time. Some of you might be feeling incredibly concerned by the increase in access to and use of technology within early childhood settings and schools, and that is totally OK. Some of you might be juggling the differing expectations and/or demands of homework within your own homes and that is totally OK.

All members of the PIELC team have been and/or are facing these questions and challenges so this is a good opportunity to share with you the eSafety Commissioner's website

- eSafety Commission website - <https://www.esafety.gov.au>

This governmentally developed website has very useful and engaging information and resources available that have been especially developed for educators, families and young children (kids) regarding the safe and appropriate use of technology. The website also has materials carefully and meaningfully developed for other specific members of our community so please take some time to look around the whole website to see how it can support your wider family and friend networks to remain safe while digitally connected.

- eSafety information for parents - <https://www.esafety.gov.au/parents>
- eSafety for children under 5 years of age - <https://www.esafety.gov.au/parents/children-under-5>

Gumnuts

Narelle, Harpreet, Kayla & Simone



Hello from the Gumnuts Room,

Term 3 has been an exciting time in our Gumnuts Room, as we have welcomed some new additions to our group. Our program has become wonderfully varied, catering to the diverse developmental needs of children ranging from just four months old through to those approaching their second birthday.

Our youngest babies have been exploring cause and effect through engaging with rattles, sound-making and interactive toys. They have also been developing their core strength and gross motor skills during tummy time, reaching, grasping and pulling sensory toys during floor-based play.

Our older children have been developing their understanding of shared play, kindness and good manners. We have been enjoying stories and discussions about emotions, kindness and helping others, including When I Feel Sad, Saying Sorry and Helping.

Music and movement continue to be a favourite part of our day. The Gumnuts have been practising the alphabet song and enjoying a range of counting songs, including Five Little Ducks and Cheeky Monkey.

It has been wonderful to see the children growing, learning and developing new skills throughout Term 3, each at their own pace and in their own special way.

The Gumnuts room team

Narelle, Harpreet, Kayla & Simone

Explorers

Bianca, Jasmin & Carol



Term 3 has been full of change with many Gumnuts transitioning to Explorers and many Explorers transitioning to Blossoms. All children have transitioned extremely well to their new environments and are growing in confidence every day.

We also wish to let you all know that we farewelled Diana at the end of term, and Bianca has stepped into the Room Leader role for the remainder of the year.

At the start of this term our activities were creating a pirate ship, the children painted the ship, made pirate hats and built the ship using climbing equipment. We were able to “walk the plank” showing the children’s ability to balance and also role play. (EYLF Outcome 4.1 Children develop dispositions for learning such as curiosity, cooperation, confidence, creativity, commitment, enthusiasm, persistence, imagination & reflexivity.)

As we near the end of term the children showed interest in insects, we have discovered Butterflies, bugs, beetles which extended into early learning about the seasons changing from Winter to Spring. We also completed an experiment in making ‘grassheads’, where the children participated in making them by planting the seeds, and caring for them by regular watering, then watching them grow. (EYLF Outcome 2.4 Children become socially responsible and show respect for the environment.)

Our term will finish off with some Outdoor activities to celebrate the AFL Football finals which wraps up our active and wellbeing theme with other sports such as the Soccer World Cup and the Commonwealth games. (EYLF Outcome 3.1 Children become strong in their social and emotional wellbeing.)

Warm regards,
The Explorers Team

Blossoms

Emma & Keely



We have welcomed new Blossoms into the cohort this month, both from Explorers and some other new faces to the Service. The children have all settled quickly into their new environment and are building connections with their new peers and educators and we look forward to watching them flourish in the Blossoms.

[Learning Outcome 1: Children feel safe, secure and supported].

The children have been busy getting ready for Father's Day by making a card using water bottle sprays for a graffiti effect. This has given their fingers a workout building their motor skills and strength to aid their writing skills in the future. They have also had a LOT of fun making Rocky Road as a gift to their special person. This exposed the children to science and mathematical concepts through measuring and mixing and turning liquid into a solid component.

[Learning Outcome 4: Children build skills in problem-solving, inquiry, experimentation, hypothesising, researching, and investigating].

We are continuing our fortnightly excursions to Melaleuca Lodge. With this consistent approach the children are forming connections with the elderly residents and this fosters empathy, understanding, and respect across age groups, helping to build more inclusive, compassionate communities. We are very proud of how kind and respectful the Blossoms are with our elderly friends.

[Learning Outcome 2: Children are connected with and contribute to their world].

The Blossoms room team,
Emma & Keely

Wallabies

Pennie, Leah & Julie



In the Wallabies room, we have been focusing on being present and engaged in the moment with the children, supporting meaningful interactions and learning experiences throughout the day. We have introduced a range of team-building games and group experiences to encourage children to develop new friendships, strengthen their teamwork skills, and build resilience and persistence when faced with challenges.

We have also been embedding children's voices and ideas into our everyday practice. Educators have been actively listening to the children's interests, suggestions and ideas and incorporating these into our planning and learning program. This has supported children to feel valued, heard and actively involved in shaping their learning experiences. The children have particularly enjoyed creating special Father's Day gifts. This experience provided opportunities for children to express their creativity while drawing self-portraits and representations of themselves with their fathers. We have also been exploring light and developing our understanding of how light works through experiences with the light box.

The children have enjoyed experimenting with different materials and observing the effects of light, encouraging curiosity, exploration and inquiry-based learning. Alongside these experiences, we have been supporting the children's emerging literacy and fine-motor skills. The children have been practising writing and recognising their names, as well as developing their pencil grip and control. These experiences are helping to build the foundational skills required for future writing and mark-making.

We look forward to another exciting term in the wallabies room

Pennie, Leah & Julie

Kinder update

Term 3 saw our kinder groups able to enjoy a wonderful range of engaging incursions and experiences, including visits from Ambulance Victoria, the Bass Coast Dental Team, the Wangaratta High School Band, and the Prep Teams from CPS and Newhaven College.

The children enjoyed learning about “**sometimes foods**” during an interactive presentation from the Bass Coast Dental Health Team. Each child had the opportunity to have their teeth counted by the dentist and learn some helpful tips for keeping their teeth healthy through regular brushing. The children were delighted to take home their very own toothbrush and toothpaste!

We were also excited to welcome **Ambulance Victoria**, where the children had the opportunity to explore some of the ambulance equipment and ask lots of curious questions. The heart monitor demonstration was a particular highlight and captured everyone’s attention!

Our Bilbies group has also enjoyed their first visits to Melaleuca Lodge. The children have been sharing songs, creating crafts and spending time with the residents. These intergenerational experiences have been a wonderful opportunity for connection, conversation and shared enjoyment, and have been thoroughly enjoyed by everyone involved.

Across all groups, the children have been busy building cubbies, investigating bugs and exploring the natural environment in our school sanctuary. We have also been making the most of the beautiful sunny weather at the CPS playgrounds, where the children have plenty of opportunities to develop their gross motor skills, build confidence and engage in independent and imaginative play.

We wish all of our children and families nice break and we look forward to welcoming everyone back for a busy and exciting Term 4!

Reminders for term 4

- Please ensure you pack some spare clothes. As the weather warms up and the children engage in more water play.
- Please label Children’s clothing so we can return any items