

BEYOND EDUCARE

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST OSHC FORTNIGHTLY NEWSLETTER 12.8.26

Curious Minds: Wonder, Inquiry & Innovation

What a fantastic month we have had at our OSHC! Children have embraced opportunities to create, investigate, move, imagine and learn together, with our Curious Minds: Wonder, Inquiry & Innovation program continuing to encourage children to follow their interests and turn everyday experiences into opportunities for discovery.

Across Before School Care and After School Care, we have seen wonderful examples of creativity, teamwork, cultural curiosity, problem-solving and child-led learning. Most importantly, children have continued to build friendships, welcome others and contribute to a community where everyone can belong.

Creating, Building & Exploring

Our creative spaces have been filled with ideas! Children have enjoyed origami, colouring, Play-Doh, paper crafts and designing their own Commonwealth Games jerseys, flags and personalised medals. Open-ended construction has been particularly popular. Using cardboard and recycled materials, children have designed robots, vehicles, planes, jets, buses, shields, armour and imaginative worlds. Outdoors, children extended this engineering thinking by building huts with loose natural materials and even experimenting with ways to transform familiar playground equipment into something entirely new.

These child-led experiences encouraged children to plan, test, modify and problem-solve while developing creativity, persistence, collaboration and confidence in their own ideas.

Curious Minds in Action

Inquiry has emerged naturally through children's play and conversations.

Our Commonwealth Games focus inspired children to explore countries, flags, languages, sporting events and cultural identity. Children recreated flags, designed team jerseys and shared different ways to say "hello" around the world. A special educator-led discussion about travels through Africa also prompted plenty of questions about different places, animals, people and experiences.

Sport created its own opportunities for investigation. During a fast-paced soccer game, children began wondering why professional players can compete for long periods without becoming exhausted. This sparked a conversation about fitness, endurance, training and healthy lifestyles — a wonderful example of children turning their own experience into a meaningful question about the wider world.

Children also put their thinking skills to the test through ancient Egyptian riddles, mathematics challenges, treasure hunts and strategic games, demonstrating that curiosity can emerge anywhere in our program.

Active Bodies, Teamwork & Wellbeing

There has certainly been plenty of movement! Soccer and football have been firm favourites alongside gymnastics, penalty shootouts, Camouflage, Everybody's It, hide-and-seek, monkey-bar challenges and other energetic group games. Children have organised their own teams, negotiated rules, practised passing, defending and goalkeeping, and encouraged one another during friendly competition. We have particularly loved seeing children demonstrate positive sportsmanship and find ways to make games enjoyable and inclusive.

Even rainy weather hasn't slowed us down! Children adapted confidently to indoor play through gymnastics challenges, indoor soccer and active group games, showing flexibility and resilience when plans needed to change.

Imagination, Friendship & Belonging

Imaginative play has continued to flourish. Children have transformed everyday spaces and materials into restaurants, spy missions, fairy gardens, secret hiding places and imaginative battles.

Our sandpit Fairy Garden and ongoing outdoor hut construction have been wonderful examples of children returning to ideas over time, collaborating with friends and developing a shared sense of ownership over their play.

We have also seen some beautiful examples of friendship and inclusion. A particularly lovely moment occurred when a new child joined our OSHC and was immediately welcomed into a group soccer game by other children. Moments like these reflect the sense of community we work to foster — where children feel comfortable joining in, sharing ideas and developing new friendships.

Growing Confidence & Independence

Some of the most meaningful learning this month has happened during ordinary everyday moments.

Children have confidently sought help when faced with challenges, worked alongside educators to identify practical solutions and discovered that problems can often be broken down into manageable steps.

We have also seen children take increasing ownership of our program. From helping design posters and ideas for our new Slime and Craft Clubs, to supporting friends with mathematics challenges and experimenting with different materials through our new Squishy Club, children's voices and interests are helping shape what happens at OSHC.

These experiences support resilience, independence and confidence while showing children that their ideas are valued within our community.

Celebrating Every Child

Across our program, we have celebrated our creative thinkers, young engineers, curious investigators, sporting stars, problem-solvers, team players, kind friends and independent learners.

We are proud of children for asking thoughtful questions, experimenting with new ideas, supporting friends, persevering when something doesn't work the first time and confidently sharing their creativity with others.

We have seen children teach one another new skills, welcome new friends, communicate their feelings, negotiate ideas, solve everyday problems and celebrate each other's achievements.

Each of these moments — big or small — helps children develop the confidence to see themselves as capable learners and valued members of our OSHC community.

Looking Ahead

Our Curious Minds: Wonder, Inquiry & Innovation journey will continue to follow children's questions, interests and ideas.

We are excited to further develop our child-led clubs, continue our sporting and Commonwealth Games investigations and provide plenty of opportunities for children to design, construct, experiment, imagine and explore.

We can't wait to see what questions the children ask, what ideas they create and where their curiosity takes us next!

Thank you to our wonderful children and families for helping make our OSHC a welcoming, creative and inclusive community where children can belong, explore, connect and thrive.

