

# *Prince of Peace Outside School Hours Care*

## **Indigenous Cultural Awareness**

At Prince of Peace OSH we have started a number of Educator group projects; Indigenous and Global cultures, Environment and Sustainability, Health and Physical Activity, and Positive Mindset and Quiet Spaces.

I have been working with the Indigenous and Global Cultures group and completed their online Indigenous Cultural Awareness Course; Your Mob Learning. What an eye-opening experience! Coming from Samoa, another country with a rich culture, it has been wonderful to feel respect for this land and the elders of the past, present and future. The course answering many of the questions I have had, but also questions from the children about culture and traditions. Through this course I am confident answering questions in respect to our Indigenous People.



When children feel safe and secure, we can support them in their knowledge of the culture and history of Australia. They learn to respect culture and become aware of the community around them; the land and traditions that were here before them and will continue after them.

Having completed the course and with my team working their way through it, we have had awesome discussions about how to we can enrich our OSHC and School community through information sharing, understanding, and respect. And the great thing is, we can incorporate this knowledge into many learning areas:

Indigenous/native foods; using the weather and animals to know when to hunt and when to rest; and the unique storytelling in their artwork.

If you have not completed this course, I highly recommend that you do. As we teach our next generation about Indigenous culture and history, we ourselves need to model that same knowledge and respect. We all need to walk together in the steps of reconciliation.

## **A Traditional Indigenous Smoking Ceremony**

As we educate and nurture the future leaders of our world, it is important for us to look back on our history. At Prince of Peace OSHC, our focus has been the Indigenous People of Australia, their customs and traditions and how their lives have been impacted by colonisation.

On 4 August, we focused on National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Day. The children were greatly impacted by stories of the past, and how so many children didn't have a birthday - something that is so important to them! We have also looked at the Dreamtime, foods, art, and their ceremonies.

On the 5th of August, Ally and Lara, alongside the Prince of Peace School Administration, School Leaders, and Grade 2's, had the privilege of witnessing a traditional Indigenous Smoking Ceremony. A smoking ceremony is a traditional



custom to pay respect to the land, what grows and flows on it, and to pay respect to those who have walked on it. It involves burning plants that are native to Australia to produce the smoke and cleanse the land. This was done before the new developments would take place on the school grounds.

It is important for us to continue to learn about and pay respects to the traditions, stories, and elders of the people who have walked this land for centuries and who have taken so much care of it before us.

We look forward to the continuing relationships that we are building with the Indigenous Community, incorporating education and activities into our program, and continuing the steps of reconciliation with our young people.

