Easter Breakfast/Brunch

Child Side Playgroup and School

Welcoming the life giving rainy season:

On the last day of term before Easter we have created a school community ritual of a shared breakfast/brunch. A simple ritual of renewal and regeneration. Breakfast is the start of a new day, the 'breaking of the fast'. Easter symbolically is a time of new beginnings and means different things to different families. We like children to have some knowledge behind these holidays.

- Easter eggs or spring eggs are special eggs that are often given to celebrate Easter or Springtime. Both eggs and the hare/rabbit are symbols of fertility related to spring, The egg is a pagan symbol of the rebirth of the Earth in celebrations of spring and was adopted by early Christians as a symbol of the resurrection of Jesus (here locally in SW of Australia winter is a time of regeneration of life with the arrival of the rainy season).

- Easter got its name from Ostara, the Anglo-Saxon goddess of fertility and rebirth. European tribes celebrated the beginning of spring at the vernal equinox with a festival in pagan times to welcome and celebrate her and the new life/new beginnings after a harsh, 'barren' winter in the northern hemisphere.(A hot, dry summer in the Southern Hemisphere).

- In Christian times Easter became the time to reflect upon another new beginning, after the death and resurrection of Christ. It was supposed to signify a new way of living and it is symbolic of strengthening faith and religious belief through this significant event in the Christian Churches. For any of us, Easter can be a symbol of reflection and reinvigoration.

- In the South West of Australia, the southern hemisphere is going into winter, which is a new beginning for us with the rains coming to bring life giving water for all. It is our wet season and it is a refreshment and new beginning of the cycle of growth; as all growth/life depends upon water.

- To us at school it is another opportunity to display an attitude of gratitude for all the wealth we have in our lives... food, friends, family, good health, opportunities, inventiveness, resilience.

So we like to celebrate Easter as a new beginning, heralding the start of our Autumn/Winter seasons and celebrating and welcoming the potential of plenty of life giving rain through a breakfast/brunch (eating the products of our land, such as eggs, toast, fruit salad….) We would like to invite families to share it with us and eat outside on tables decorated with the symbols of Easter (all of the above dot points that may be meaningful to any family) and any other personal symbols/memories/family traditions regarding Easter. We will have the BBQ going to cook eggs and toast. We will start to eat around 9:30ish and welcome all families and

children to be part of the preparation and set up, the togetherness is the focus of our festivities.

Afterwards we take a slow amble around our lake and view the water level, with children beating the drums as a 'thunder welcome' to invite the rains to start and renew and regenerate our landscape upon which we all depend.

Family Contributions Welcome: (please write on Leonie's white board your contribution so we don't over cater in one area).

- Fresh garden flowers, candles in wind-proof holders
- Carton of eggs
- Loaf of bread, homemade buns
- Fruit Juice, tea, coffee, milk (reminder of hot drinks around little ones)
- Butter
- Jam
- Large tub of yoghurt
- fruit salad
- Item for our Easter table- a meaningful symbol for **your** family such as a photo of a childhood memory.

We see Easter and Christmas as highly personal, family occasions and do not wish to take over from the 'family'. Therefore our rituals are simple and open-ended, acknowledging that these festivities are personally different for us all, but still culturally need to be acknowledged. We stay away from the traditional chocolate egg hunt as otherwise it can become the sole focus for children and it often is part of Easter Sunday traditions for some families (it can be like children opening Christmas presents for a week before Christmas and loses any meaning).