Hey Mitcham school community!

At MPS the 5/6 cycle3 Montessori’s have been working really hard to make an Indigenous garden for Mitcham Primary School.

**How it started/The process**

Our amazing teacher Sandy, had an AMAZING idea, she decided to reach out to CERES about creating an Indigenous garden for Mitcham Primary School.

CERES came in and talked to us about plants and how we need a mixture of bottom layer, (Leaflitter and small shrubs), and canopy (big trees). We really enjoyed learning such incredible things!

You might be wondering what CERES is? CERES is a program that assists Schools to build indigenous gardens to attract native wildlife!

Now, on wednesday the 8th of March, CERES came in and helped us conduct soil and ph testing. It was really interesting! We conducted these tests so we could plant plants that were suited to the conditions and the pH levels, and the soil type.

After we finished our testing, we began to plan out our garden, only using a bunch of plants that were suited to the conditions (pH level/Soil type). It was LOTS of fun!!

To continue constructing this garden, we needed to clear the (would be) garden space, by killing the grass, so we could actually plant the nature that would fill our garden. To do this, we wet the grass that we wanted to dispose of, then placed cardboard down on top of the wet grass, (making sure there’s no gaps) and wet that as well. After that we continued to cover it with soil then mulch. We enjoyed gardening!

**Future ideas**

Our aim for this garden is to create an indigenous garden for native wildlife. We would also like to educate the prep to year 4 students about caring for a garden and the animals calling it home!

Lastly, we would LOVE to teach you guys… Yes you, who is reading this, about the importance of biodiversity.

We like to think of biodiversity as a human's diet. If you eat too much of one thing it’s bad for you. The same is true with plants, animals, organisms and microorganisms, a wide range of them is best. Without this balance, we cannot have healthy ecosystems that provide us with the air we breathe, the food we eat and the water we drink!!

Thank you so much for taking time to read this article, and big shout out to CERES for their amazing help!

* Isla Curtis & Sihr Balzer

Montessori Grade 6’s









