

## Growing Pulses (By Jeanie Clark)

Have you watched a seed sprout?

The second session of “Pulsing into Pulses’ was about ‘growing pulse seeds’ and hopefully the children will see this happen through their monitoring of the seed growing experiments we set up .



What’s inside a pulse seed? We made a model of one, a bean design, with its three main parts: coat, food storage, and baby plant. We modelled water reaching inside the seed to set the baby plant growing and using up the food storage before pushing out a baby root and then a sprout. We looked at some examples of these under magnifiers. All the children thought the most amazing thing this session was something to do with seeds sprouting.

Yaapeet’s Slasher chick pea ‘farm’ has 10 seeds in each of their mini plastic mug ‘paddocks’. Having sown on a cold winter day, how will our young farmers fare in raising young plants? The children know they have to think, not just about water needs (they have a year’s supply of rain), but also light and warmth.

They have high hopes for their ‘farms’, as shown by their hypotheses, with expectations of how big their plants will be in 4 weeks’ time. So it will be a great experience for the children to monitor their ‘farms’ and see what does happen and how quickly.



It was wonderful to see the children improving their knowledge of the meaning of ‘pulses’ and being able to identify key features of the six types commonly grown in the Wimmera, during this session. Well done everyone – this knowledge is the first aim of the International Year of Pulses.



Mrs Clark is looking forward to her return on 11<sup>th</sup> August to see how the plants have grown and discuss it with the class for the National Science Week session. The results of this will then be shared with the

other schools in this project for the last session in September.

Thanks to Wimpak for the Slasher seeds and the Wimmera Catchment Management Authority for funding the incursion time for primary school students to learn about pulses for this IYP in a four-session enviroed4all® Science based, interdisciplinary program with local environmental educator Jeanie Clark.



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