



School contact details

address: cnr Ayres and Acron Roads St Ives NSW 2075 telephone: 9449 6003 fax: 9983 9334
email: sirericwoo-s.school@det.nsw.edu.au ABN: 98 951 675 254

Sir Eric Woodward School newsletter

9th March 2018 Volume 7 Issue 93

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Executive Director visits SEWS

This week Sir Eric Woodward School (SEWS) welcomed Cathy Brennan, Executive Director, Schools Performance Macquarie Park Operational Directorate to the school for a meet and greet. It was wonderful to show the Executive Director around our school and highlight all the amazing work all the students do with all of our talented staff. We started the visit with a viewing of our school video which highlights both the face to face and distance education delivery mode of education we do so well at SEWS. This also demonstrated to her how committed we are at SEWS at recognising ability, building confidence, celebrating achievements but most of all the exemplary personalised learning that takes place daily at our school. Luc, our school vice captain, welcomed the Executive Director, and Sophie stepped in as 'relieving' school captain (our face to face [F2F] school captains, Daniel and Oliver, were otherwise engaged in their hydrotherapy programs). Luc and Sophie greeted Mrs Brennan with the respect that we always welcome our visitors. A walk up the hall way and into the multipurpose room, she was greeted with the smiles from our youngest classes, Class 1 and Class 2 ready to perform 'We're going on a bear hunt'. The performance was stellar but we do nothing short of brilliant at SEWS. Mrs Brennan certainly seemed impressed by the talent. A quick hello to Class 3 and then to DESU where teacher Doug walked her briefly through a DESU Set of work and then it was time for her to go. We would like to extend our thanks to Mrs Brennan for taking the time to visit our wonderful school and welcome her back anytime to know more and see more of our school of excellence.



IGA St Ives North donation

Our deepest gratitude goes to IGA St Ives North for their recent very kind donation. These funds will support a Musica Viva incursion later in the year for all our students during Education Week. St Ives North are great friends and advocates of SEWS. They are constantly supporting us and coming up with ways to offer their services and raise funds for our school. SEWS is certainly part of a great community! Thank you IGA St Ives North.



Thank you IGA St Ives North!

Chinese New Year celebrations

SEWS F2F students celebrated Chinese New Year with a dragon boat race and lots of colour and excitement. All classes met in the playground and each class used musical instruments to bring the event to life. Classes played drums, another class twirled Chinese Umbrellas, while another class held the giant Chinese dragon puppet and danced. Other students carried lanterns, dressed in traditional Chinese costumes and waved colourful streamers as they processed in formation before the big dragon boat race. The procession was led by our vice captain Luc, who entertained everyone with his Chinese ribbon dance. The dragon boat race was a challenge from one class to another to try and move their boat from one end of the canal to the other end without actually touching the boat. All students were very creative in making their dragon boat float along the water. Some students used the force of magnets to push the boat along, while others used the forces of wind from a balloon to move their boat along. It took Brooke's initiative to hurry her class boat along with human force to ensure the class boat was in front! The propulsion from water and fans also moved class dragon boats along the canal. It was not only a Chinese New Year celebration but great science activities as well. All the students were so engaged and supported each other and the race. Prizes were given to classes for their efforts and a special prize was given to Xavier for his exceptional drumming in the procession. A big thank you to Sandy for her creativity and all the staff for their sense of fun and ensuring all our students learn through so much fun. Class 3 have written the following recount...

Chinese New Year Parade and Dragon Boat Race

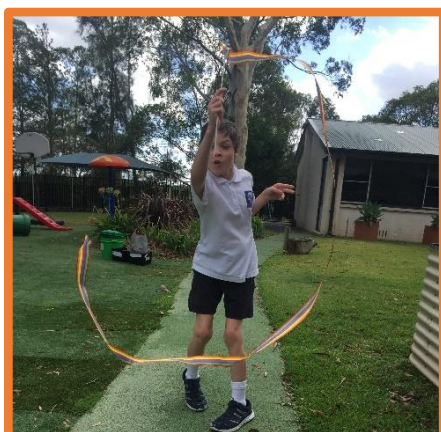
A recount by – Class 3

All the Face to Face classes went in a parade. Class 1 played noisy drums and bells. Class 2 waved long, colourful streamers. Class 3 carried the big, scary, shiny dragon. Class 4 carried colourful umbrellas. Class 5 and 6 dressed up and had pretty umbrellas and fans.

After the parade, Class 3 versed Class 6 in an exciting dragon boat race. Class 3's boat was powered by magnets. Class 6 had a boat powered by a balloon, but the balloon went flat before the boat reached the end. So Class 3 won! Class 6 had another boat made out of a pool noodle, which was very fast when air was squirted at it.

Everybody had loads of fun.

by Class 3



Riding to success

On the 28th of February DESU student Chris and his family attended a Variety Club presentation night in Newcastle. Chris was receiving a Variety scholarship to help fund his dream of attending and competing at the High School Rodeo Championship in the USA this year.

Chris has been an outstanding competitor at steer riding having already achieved numerous titles during his rodeo career; these include the Australian Junior Rodeo champion on three occasions.

Chris said "it has always been my dream to go to the USA and compete with the world's best, now my dream can come true thanks to this scholarship from Variety". Chris went on to say "Rodeo has been my life, I love training and riding the steers (bulls). This is the job I want to do when I leave school".

Chris' teacher, Charlotte, was with the family on presentation night. She commented, "it makes me so proud to see Chris given the chance to see his dream come true and hopefully smash those Americans". Charlotte helped the family make the successful application to Variety for the scholarship. She added "The Variety Club is an amazing charity, these scholarships are designed to help young people with a talent in arts, sport, or education to reach their next level".

Chris's scholarship will help fund not only his flight to the US, but also a significant amount of new equipment that Chris needs to compete, such as leather chaps, a new helmet, and a very heavy duty padded vest.

Rodeo is a high adrenaline, dangerous sport where riders aim to stay on top of the steer as the bull attempts to buck the rider off, he recently completed on a ginormous bull managing to stay on top for over eight seconds. This kind of awesome result will put Chris in a fighting position when he comes up against the big names in rodeo in the US later this year.

Chris has just one remaining ride to qualify him for entry to the High School Rodeo Finals in April, we wish Chris all the best for this ride and for the amazing time he's sure to have in the US.



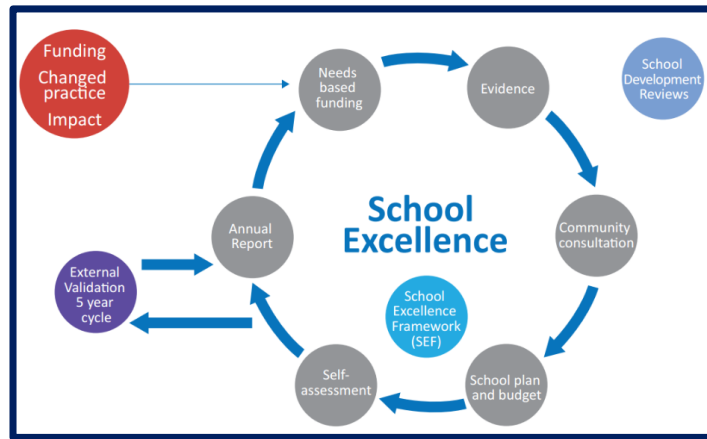
Chris and his family at the presentation night



Chris receives his scholarship at the presentation night



Chris in action



Sir Eric Woodward's School Planning 2018-2020 Update

Every NSW School creates a three-year cycle school plan. It guides the school on the important focus areas for improving your child's learning and support needs. The plan also moves our school forward as a future thinking centre of excellence. The school planning cycling involves consultation with parents/carers/community and staff and students where appropriate. All schools three year strategic plan also aligns with [NSW Department of Education \(DoE\) five year strategic plan](#) Thank you to our families who completed surveys including the Tell Them From Me survey which supported the planning process to date. SEWS is very pleased to inform our families the following areas are at the centre of our plan and entitle the three strategic directions for 2018-2020. The strategic directions are;

- **Wellbeing** – This area encompasses whole school welfare and wellbeing projects such as Positive Behaviour Engaging Learning (PBEL), Staff Debriefing, Building Community Links. These projects will give students the tools to self-regulate and engage with their learning.
- **Quality Learning** – Exciting new Literacy projects including Key Word Signing (KWS) and a Numeracy Garden Based Project. These projects will lead to improved student communication and engaged learning across both Literacy and Numeracy.
- **Quality Teaching** – A focus on assessment and data to acknowledge the considerable success students make and to give a future focus for student progression.

Where to next:

For the purpose of further consultation the draft plan will be shortly emailed to our families for any suggestions/comments. If you have any suggestions/comment please submit these by replying to the sender no later than Monday 19th March 2018.

The final SEWS school plan will be available at the end of term one in accordance with DoE policy and will be made available on the school website. SEWS families will receive an email notification with a link to access the plan.

School strategic directions 2018 - 2020



Principal's message

Welcome to the Week 6 newsletter - it certainly is proving to be a busy and productive term. All our students are engaged in their learning and doing exactly what we hope and that is their best.

It was wonderful to welcome Mrs Cathy Brennan, Executive Director, Schools Performance Macquarie Park Operational Directorate. Mrs Brennan was delighted with the student performance and very keen to see all the dedication and student hard work taking place. She stated it is obvious that there is so much care and quality education taking place at SEWS.

Congratulations to Chris - what a monumental effort with your riding and ambitions to ride in the US. SEWS is so happy for you and for all your success, what a way to 'ride to success'! You and your family should be so proud of such a WOW moment in your life. I cannot wait to hear more through your teacher Charlotte.

Each week I get visits from the wonderful SEWS F2F students for outstanding work or hear all about how our DESU students are engaged and succeeding in their learning. These visits and knowledge of my DESU students are what keeps the smile on my face. I had a visit from Heath, one of our new kindergarten students, who has been working towards travelling to and from school on supported transport without his parents. Heath and I called upon all his bravery and it worked. For all his efforts to date and rallying his super powers to travel without mum or dad, Heath received a Principal's Award. We then decided what should be written on the award and Heath helped me spell out his full name. Spectacular Heath! You are a champion and certainly made my week!

Many of our staff have been engaging in professional learning of late all of which builds upon their expertise to ensure that your children have the best learning and support opportunities. We have had staff at courses on hearing impairment, new technology, anxiety, physical education wellbeing, and reading assessment. What is great about SEWS staff is when they learn a new skill they are always happy to share this new found learning/skills. Staff will deliver their new knowledge to all other SEWS staff and this makes for best practice to ensure all our students are being offered vastly skilled professionals.

This week I was heading north to visit two of my DESU students. I was so excited to be travelling with their teachers and meeting their families and of course the amazing students themselves. Unfortunately due to flooding in the area the trip has been postponed. However I am, just as excited to be going towards the end of the term and I am really looking forward to meeting them all and hearing about and seeing first hand all their wonderful learning.

I hope all our families have a wonderful weekend, I look forward to reporting more on our new three year cycle School Plan 2018-2022 in our Week 9 newsletter.



La Anne Gardiner



Heath visits for a Principal Award

Deputy Principal's message

Can you believe we are half way through Term 1? All of the DESU staff have been busy visiting their class as part of the field services component of the program. Teachers have travelled all over NSW to carry out assessments, consolidate learning, teach skills and observe the student and tutors hard at work. This essential part of the DESU program ensures we can support all our students to engage in their education from a distance.

As part of the expansion of the DESU REACT studio our teachers are tuning in to remote lessons from Broken Hill School of the Air. This is an excellent opportunity to see REACT in action and to view the many uses of this interactive, real time technology. We will keep you posted as we get closer to using this technology in additional areas around NSW.

Today we were visited by our Executive Director of School Performance, Cathy Brennan. She was taken on a bear hunt by Class 1 and 2, introduced to the educational journey of one of our DESU students, their interest areas and the individual service we provide, and welcomed into Class 3 to see business as usual. We hope she enjoyed visiting our wonderful school and meeting everyone.

As you all know we are getting very close to publishing our 2018-20 School Plan. After considerable consultation with the community and staff the school executive are in the final stages of plan development. The new strategic directions of the plan will allow us to focus on a number of key projects identified through our consultation phase. More information on the way soon.

All of our students now have their Personalised Learning Plans completed for Semester 1. We are excited to be working towards achieving all their learning goals over the coming months together with all of our families.

Sian



Tim, one of our school captains on a recent field trip proudly wearing his badge



We are going on a bear hunt!!!



- Easter holidays Friday 30th March and Monday 2nd April 2018 – school closed
- ANZAC commemorative service Term 1 Friday 13th April 2018
- school concludes for Term 1 Friday 13th April 2018
- School Development Day Monday 30th April 2018
- school resumes for Term 2 Tuesday 1st May 2018

Birthdays



Happy birthday to those students and staff who have celebrated their birthdays since the last newsletter:

students: Quinn, Brooke, Nadine, Alicia, Sharif

staff: Mary, Sue, Joyce

News from the classrooms

Louise's class

It has been a little like a ghost town here at the DESU with teachers coming and going as they are out visiting their students in Term 1! These visits give teachers first-hand opportunities to assess, collaboratively plan and program for student learning over the coming semester. I have had the pleasure of visiting Ned and Owen in the last couple of weeks.

This was my first visit to meet Ned and his tutor Annie. We had a really packed two days where I learnt lots about Ned, his skills knowledge and understandings, the things that he likes (and doesn't like so much), and what he would like to/ should learn about. We talked. We listened. We watched. We wrote. We read. We counted. We shopped. We cooked. We laughed. We planned for learning. This visit was in town. In Term 3 I am excited at the prospect of visiting Ned at the farm. It is great to be able to observe students in the varied settings in which they learn (just about everywhere) and where they spend their time. In this way teachers can effectively plan for maximum engagement and student learning.

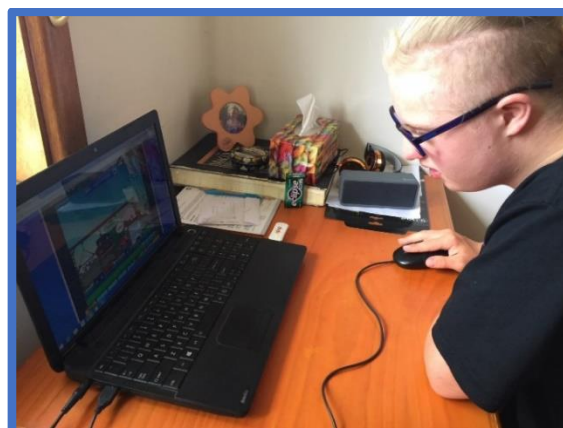
The following week I visited Owen (and Chris and Mal) at his home. It was great to once again catch up with Owen and some of his team. I loved viewing images of Owen getting out and about, and watching videos of Owen's music therapy sessions. Owen ABSOLUTELY loves participating in musical activities with his therapist. These stimulating sessions not only give Owen opportunities to enjoy music through active participation, but also to communicate as he responds and is supported to engage with various instruments. Owen now has quite a collection of musical instruments to choose from with the addition of chimes and drums for Xmas. Owen is now in Stage 6. We talked about Year 11 subject selection and content that would engage and support Owen's learning this semester. This visit was also a great opportunity to talk with members of his team to ensure that he is well supported across various areas, such as NDIS, as he transitions to adult life beyond school.

It is always a privilege to be welcomed into the homes of my students – thank you to Ned and Annie, and to Owen, Chris and Mal (and the rest of the team)!

Louise S



Ned has GREAT food preparation skills!



Ned enjoys playing computer games using his problem solving skills



Owen is gearing up for Easter



Owen loves to get out and about under his nifty new wheelchair umbrella!

Sharon's class

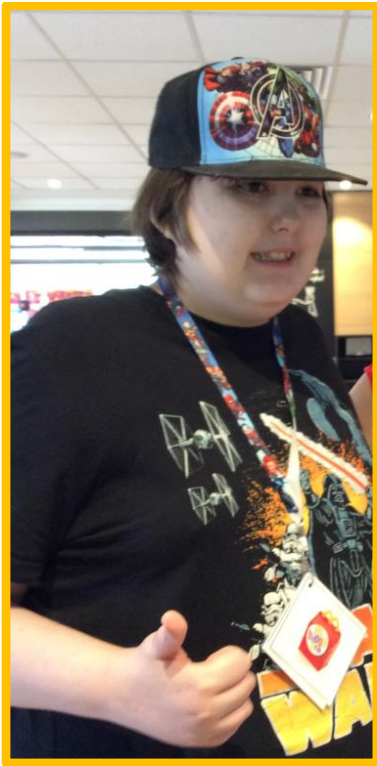
The weeks have been very busy preparing for field trip visits. I visited Leroy and his family last week and it was wonderful to observe Leroy in the community using his communication cards. He used his visuals to order lunch at McDonald's, he read a shopping list he prepared the previous evening with his parents and was able to find all the items independently on the list. Leroy was very pleased with himself as he manoeuvred the shopping trolley through Coles. At the cashier, he demonstrated excellent skills as he placed the items on the conveyor belt, helped scan the groceries, hand over the cash and wait for change. This was a most beneficial visit where I was able to observe Leroy working through many of his program goals.

Nadine celebrated her 14th birthday last week and she communicated clearly on the phone to me information about her family celebrations. This week I was scheduled to visit Nadine. Unfortunately, due to torrential local rain, the visit was postponed to later in the term. I am looking forward to catching up with Nadine and her tutor, and am keen to observe Nadine in her home environment.

Leah has been learning about living things and has participated in creating some fantastic artworks that explore the theme of zoo animals. With her tutor, Leah has listened to many stories about animals, watched YouTube clips of kittens, and even had the opportunity to observe fish, birds, cats and dogs at the local pet shop.

Ethan has engaged well with his schoolwork and has produced some great writing. He is learning how to correctly fill in forms with his personal information, write sentences with capital letters and use full stops. Ethan has made a great start to Year 8.

Sharon



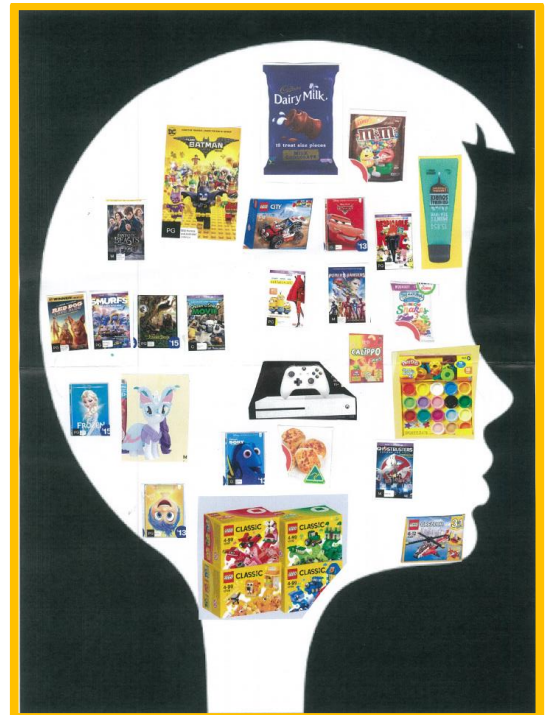
Community access is a focus of Leroy's program



Leroy shops for groceries



Leah has been creating some lovely artwork



Ethan's collage representing his interests

Class 4

The last three weeks have been very productive!

Recorder practice and music lessons with Kiri have been a lot of fun and all students are making progress learning new notes.

It was our turn to hold Friday assembly this week and our class presentation was to play 'Hot Cross Buns'. What a performance the boys gave, followed by a well-deserved round of applause.

We have been very crafty and creative making some feathered birds. The class has really enjoyed this activity which involved sculpting the birds into very individual shapes using coconut fibre and recycled fruit nets. Googly eyes and paddle pop sticks for legs completed the creations this week.

In English, we have concentrated on recount writing and visual texts. Each week we have closely examined the author's intent in placing characters in certain ways, close-ups, looking away, looking at the reader and distant images.

In Week 4 students were given an instrument to make a soundscape for one page of the book 'Tuesday'. It was amazing how the group came together to play spontaneously and harmoniously to improvise a 'score' for the still images. Absolutely amazing the talent in Class 4!

Following this activity, students thoroughly enjoyed listening to the sound effects only, in the related Pixar short film "For the birds" before watching it with sound. Students presented their ideas on what was used to make the sounds and for what reason, eg a squeaky toy was used to depict birds talking to each other.

It is hard to believe we are almost half way through Term 1!

Sue & Amber



Class 4 rock 'Hot Cross Buns'



Vice captain Luc reads the Acknowledgement of Country at Friday school assembly

Amanda's class

I have had a busy few weeks visiting all of my students. I loved meeting Sam and his dad for the first time. Sam is new to our class and has only been at SEWS since the beginning of Semester 2 2017. Charlotte accompanied me. Sam welcomed both of us, shaking hands and listening while his dad introduced us. I learnt that Sam likes listening to music and looking at photos on his phone. His favourite singer is Cyndi Lauper. He has a good understanding of safety, reminding everyone to wear their seatbelts in the car, and to not touch hot surfaces. Sam helps with household activities including the laundry, sweeping and washing up. He is studying Food Technology Life Skills and is learning to cook a range of dishes.

I had a great trip to the mid north coast to see Kayla then Tim. I met Kayla and her family at the beach. We spent two hours looking at geographical features such as the ocean pool and the break-water. Kayla loved splashing her feet in the pool. She showed me how well she can stand when she stood to look over the sea wall. Later we went to the shops and Kayla sat patiently in the car while she had a snack and we had drinks and ice-creams. It was a lovely fine day so we walked along the break-water looking for wildlife. We saw lots of birds, but no dolphins. However, we did see a fisherman catching a fish. Next day Kayla showed how well she is progressing with her school work. In her current Set of work I had given her a new challenge to stick pictures with the same initial on a poster using double sided tape. With a little help to get started, Kayla had no difficulty peeling the backing off the tape. Great following instructions and fine motor skills Kayla.

Tim is studying Technology for his HSC Life Skills. He loves designing buildings including the gardens and other aspects of the properties. This means he needs large pieces of paper. He has been using butchers paper or a small sketch book. I managed to get him a large A2 sketch book which as you can see from the picture, is enormous! The first design Tim did in the new book was of a house with large paddock for alpacas, horses, sheep and pigs. It also had a barn, swimming pool and hot tub. Tim is always careful to consider health and safety in his designs including things like a proper pool fence and secure locking front gates.

Amanda



Tim using his new giant sketch book



Kayla enjoying looking at the ocean

Melissa's class

What a busy couple of weeks we have had in my class! I can't believe that we are already in Week 6. Thank you again to all my students and families for making me feel so welcome on my recent field trips. I really enjoy spending time with you and it is so important for planning of programs.

In the last newsletter I mentioned that I had completed my field trip with Alicia and her family and then in the last few weeks I have visited Logan and Braydon. It was exciting to finally meet Indie, Logan's pet bird. She is beautiful and very much a part of the family. Logan showed me around the local area and we enjoyed a snack at a nearby town. Logan also showed me how clever he is at reading, and at building Lego creations with the Lego Education WeDo. Through the associated app downloaded to his iPad, Logan programmed the Lego to move. You will see a photo below of Lego creation that he made from the kit this week.

During my visit to Braydon and his family I was able to see his new house and I also had a chance to visit one of Braydon's favourite restaurants, Billabongs. On the second day of the field trip we toured the local PCYC and discussed the fitness programs they offer at the centre. Braydon also showed me how to use a virtual reality headset to explore the world. I joined a pride of lions in the African jungle! Braydon has been using the virtual reality headset for games and researching facts for his Set work. He will use it in the future to practise work skills.

Last but not least I hear that Alicia is very busy completing her new Set work. Alicia seems to always be busy helping around the house, whether it be in the garden or inside unpacking the dishwasher or doing a load of laundry. Keep up all the hard work everyone I can't wait to receive your completed work.

Melissa



Logan and the Lego Education WeDo

Class 1

Class 1 have been busy bees the last few weeks and have completely immersed themselves in all things books! In Week 4, Class 1 students completed their Best Start assessments and also began to explore a lovely Australian book called 'Wombat Stew.' With the help of Ms Foley, we began to investigate what it means to retell a story and identify our favourite parts of the story. With this knowledge and a few feathers, blobs of mud and creepy crawlies, the students of Class 1 created a wonderful piece of artwork which outlined their understanding of sequencing events in our story.

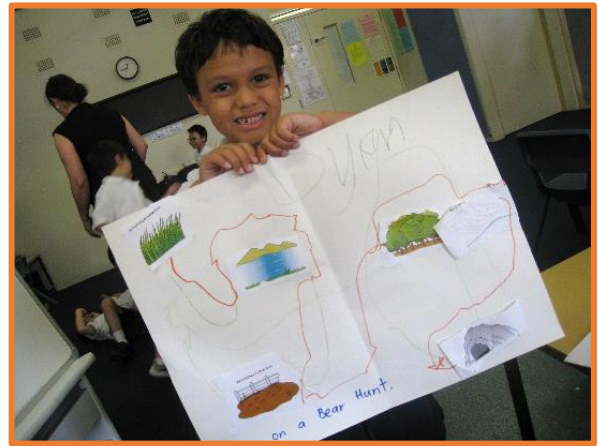
Week 5 saw us fall in love with an amazing story called "We're Going on a Bear Hunt" by Michael Rosen. The boys have been working hard at understanding positional terms (such as 'over', 'under' and 'through'), mapping the journey from the story, learning some yoga moves to combine with the story telling, and have even learnt a dance to a Bear Hunt Rap which they were lucky enough to perform with Class 2 when Executive Director Cathy Brennan came to visit this week. Class 1 have also made some lovely landscape paintings of the different areas explored in the story including the long grass, oozy mud, cold river and dark cave which are displayed on our Bear Hunt wall.

Our Week 6 focus is on turn taking and being part of group games in PDHPE. Students have been working in pairs to set new throwing and catching records (which Joshua and Heath currently hold at lucky number 7), learning to play silent ball in the classroom, waiting our turn in sack relay races and 'playing fair' in games like 'What's the Time Mr Wolf?' and 'Monster Number Bingo'.

Cassandra & Paula



Heath, Joshua & Xavier are ready for a bear hunt



Dylan shows off his detailed bear hunt map



Mrs Williams chases the boys while playing "What's the Time Mr Wolf?"



Jacob, Kai and Heath work on keeping the beat in music with Kiri

Class 2

Over the past three weeks Class 2 students have continued to observe and explore a variety of mini beasts. One of the most intriguing beats was the stick insect that Thomas from Class 3 found in the school playground. The stick insect put on quite a display for Class 2 students as it moved over a whiteboard, on a stick and even up our arms!

SEWS music teacher Kiri has used the song *Creepy Calypso Crawly* to explore fast and slow tempo during our weekly music lessons to coincide with this term's theme. Raymond, Ariel, Daniella, Yash and Quinn regularly make repeated requests for this song to be played more than once and it has become a class favourite.

Hydrotherapy began last week after a delay while staff updated their CPR training. All students enjoyed accessing the pool again. We are looking forward to developing hydrotherapy skills throughout the term.

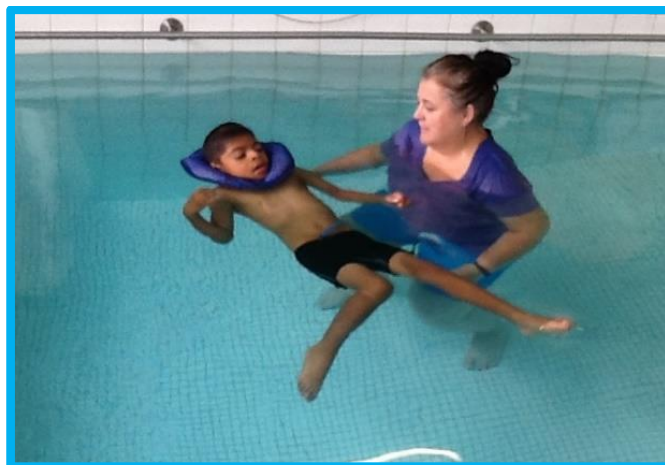
Jo C & Jennie



Quinn observes the movements of a stick insect



Ariel and Daniella play along with Creepy Calypso Crawly song



Yash shows his class mates how he floats on his back

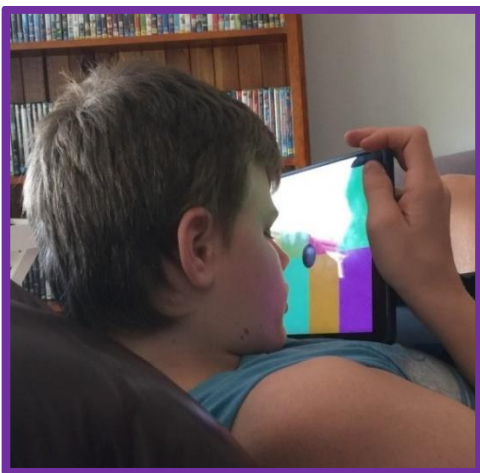
Barbara and Nicole's class

Jacob has become very good at using Siri to help manage his day. Jacob uses Siri as a timer when making his lunch. He also asks Siri to "read calendar" and then listens to the schedule for his day read out aloud. Jacob has also been busy sampling sounds and then arranging them into original musical compositions using the Keezy app.

Georgia is a great communicator. While I was speaking to her tutor on the phone recently, Georgia came up and gave her tutor a sun hat, to show that she wanted to go outside. Georgia is also now responding well to quite a few Key Word Signs. Georgia is working on looking into the camera when a photo is taken. Her sister is helping Georgia to achieve this by using face filters, which work best when the subject looks straight ahead.

Nicole travelled to country NSW to visit Chris recently and was impressed by his extraordinary technology skills. Chris loves taking photos and videos. During the visit, Chris linked his iPad to a television to show Nicole some of the YouTube videos he has created and uploaded. Some of the photos Chris has taken on his iPad look like they were taken by a professional photographer!

Barbara & Nicole



Jacob composing music with the Keezy app



Chris loves spending time on his indoor swing



Teddy bear Georgia looking at the camera



Chris using scissors

Rama's class

It has been a very busy couple of weeks in which I have visited some of my students and their amazing tutors.

I visited Tyson and his supportive family last week. Tyson loves maths and can independently complete 4 digit addition and subtraction problems! He followed a visual sequence to independently assemble a science kit which uses a gearbox to drive multiple gears. Tyson did this without any support and drew amazing patterns with this kit. Tyson also helps his mum hang out the washing every day. Fantastic effort Tyson!

I met Jayden and his supportive family last week. Jayden welcomed me into his house and offered to make me a cup of coffee. He made himself a cup of tea, adding 1 teaspoon of sugar and a little milk. He is learning about patterns and could say what came next to complete the pattern. Jayden enjoys completing puzzles and is learning to play the guitar with one of his NDIS mentors. Well done Jayden!

Fionn is learning the road rules. He went to the local youth centre to practice his skills on a car simulator. He visits the library regularly and is saving up to buy his own computer game. Fionn is a fantastic artist and is creating title pages for each of his artworks. He is also writing a brief review about the artwork. Amazing work Fionn!

I visited Isabella earlier this term. Isabella joined DESU earlier this term and has already settled well into the school routine. She is an amazing musician and loves opera. Isabella enjoys reading joke books and her favourite colour is purple. Welcome Isabella, its lovely to have you in my class.

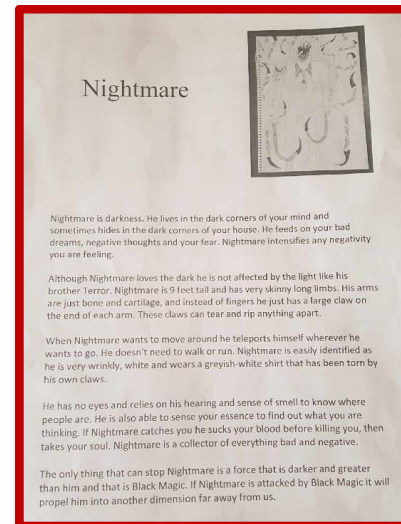
Rama



Tyson intently working on the science kit



Jayden making a cup of tea



Fionn's title page

Dawn's class

It has been a busy few weeks and I find it hard to believe we have arrived at Week 6 already! I have been keeping busy visiting students and completing PLPs. I have recently been out to visit Usman, it was great to see him in his home environment and discuss his learning goals for this semester. Usman will continue working on communicating and exploring his surroundings. Usman is set to have his new wheelchair soon, which will make getting around much more comfortable for him. I was pleased to see that alterations to Usman's family van has been complete making it easier for Usman to get out and about.

Ben has been whizzing through his schoolwork the last few weeks. He continues to impress with his creative writing, he will now start using these developed writing skills to start learning how to write for different purposes by learning about different text types. Ben has also been getting creative - just look at his lantern making!

Andrew has been working hard too and has started working towards giving and receiving change. He will have lots of hands-on practice going to the canteen and using role play with his tutor Dannielle.

Lexi's PLP meeting has recently been completed and it was great to talk through all of Lexi's goals for this semester. Lexi continues to show off her visual artworks for her current Kakadu theme. I look forward to going out and meeting Lexi for the first time in the next two weeks.

Dawn



Ben making a lantern



Lexi painting



Usman chilling out on my recent field trip

Karen's class

Seth, Justin and Nate have had a great start to the year, busily completing assessment Sets and making great progress on the Set work they have recently received. I had the privilege of visiting Seth earlier in the term. Thank you to Malina and Seth for welcoming me into their home and sharing a little bit of their life with me. Seth has an ocean theme this term and has been learning about different animals that live in the ocean. He also enjoys working out in the garden with his dad and making trips to Bunnings to buy plants for the garden.

Justin has been working very hard on his Set work and recently learnt the key word sign for 'finished' so that he can let his tutor know when he has completed an activity. Justin loves listening to music and his favourite artist is Shannon Noll. Justin has been focusing on Australian music and in particular, hit songs from the years of his life, starting with the year he was born.

Nate has only recently joined SEWS-DESU. He has been busy completing assessments and getting into the swing of things. He loves to watch YouTube and his favourite shows include Madagascar, Fireman Sam and The Wiggles (only the originals though!). Nate loves to jump on the trampoline with his friends and also enjoys visits to the local waterpark.

Karen



Seth proudly displays some of his ocean-themed artwork



Seth and his brother looking at plastic sea creatures

Charlotte's class

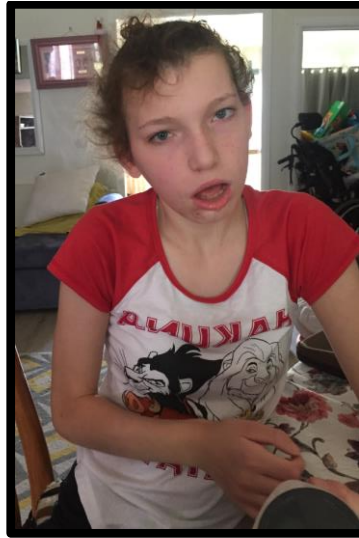
Jarrold celebrates his 18th birthday shortly. He is marking the occasion with his family and having an all-round awesome day. I recently saw Jarrold on a visit to his house where we explored one of the new DESU technical Lego kits. Jarrold was able to construct a car with ease and impressed me by independently selecting all the correct equipment for the job. We discussed the possibility of Jarrold completing a work experience placement at Afford. It was great to hear that Jarrold wants to get his own part-time job, I look forward to supporting him with this.

Katana was also visited and it was a delight to catch up with both her and her tutor Debbie. I saw lots of the artwork Katana creates, and listened to Katana playing with her favourite music instruments at home. It is no wonder that Katana has opted to continue with visual arts and music subjects into Year 9. It was great to talk through Katana's NDIS package, and a timely reminder of the challenges of finding services in rural NSW and understanding the complex NDIS language.

Nikolina has been smashing her personalised learning goal to drink independently from a bottle. Her tutor has been both demonstrating the action required whilst holding Nikolina and building her muscles up to lift the bottle. This progress is outstanding and with many other techniques to trial are sure of success, well done Nikolina.

Chris is front page news this week. I was super proud to attend his Variety scholarship presentation evening. It was great to catch up with his family beforehand to discuss his program and complete some assessments. Chris is making excellent progress!

Charlotte



Katana showing her musical shaker



Rodeo champion Chris and teacher Charlotte at the scholarship awards night

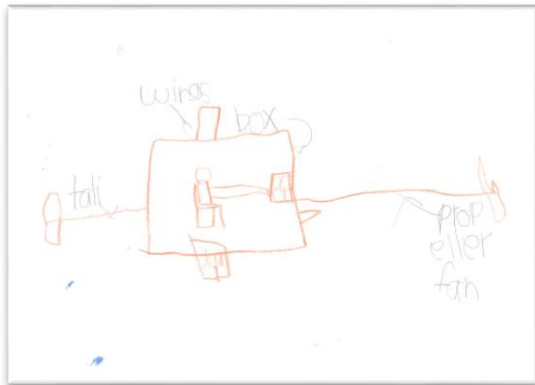


Jarrod's Lego model making success

Class 3

Class 3 were motivated to design and create some amazing, incredible, original and stupendous inventions after we read the story 'Ingenious Jean' by Susan Chandler. As well as considering the importance of the design process, purpose and use, students used new vocabulary to describe their inventions. After editing, each student typed their proposal in a Word document and printed copies to be displayed alongside their plans. They were all so ingenious! Please respect the pending patents on the designs announced below!

Lee & Anita



My ingenious invention is a fantastic plane that flies very high.

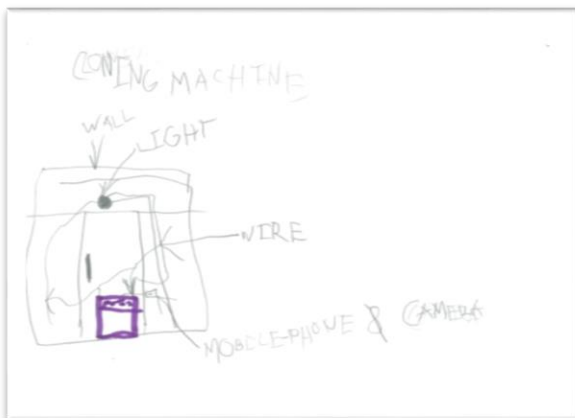
It has an incredible propeller and an amazing tail. PJ

My ingenious invention is a Robot Boy. It can fly and it can see in the dark. It protects people. It's an amazing Robot Boy. It looks incredible and cool. I like it because it's fantastic. Archie



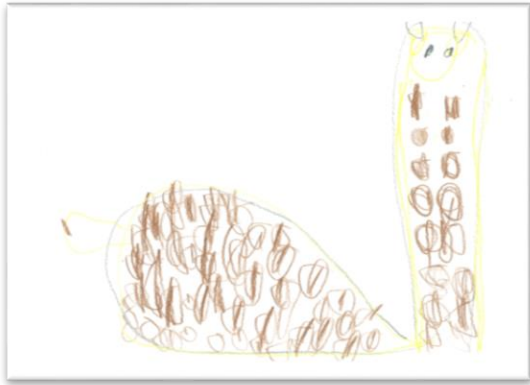
My ingenious & great invention is a cloning machine. First you take a picture of something wonderful you want to clone. Next you plug your smart mobile device into a plug which lets you clone anything from the picture. Then you press print on your mobile device. Amazingly it clones anything you want.

Cameron.



My ingenious invention is a car named Ultimate Car. It can fly because it has incredible wings. The special wings can grow big. It's very good. Thomas





My ingenious invention is a spotty robot giraffe. It has a long neck and a big body to sit on. The giraffe runs very fast.

Joshua

My ingenious invention is a farm train. It has a fantastic engine and an original water tank for watering the plants.

Sam



My ingenious invention is a submarine. I used fans to make a propeller and built the body using a bus.

My submarine can take people into the ocean to see rare and amazing sea creatures. When the special propeller under water goes fast it goes very deep.

Ethan



Class 6

Class 6 have been busy going on a community access visit to the Hornsby Bowling Centre and an excursion to Westfield shops. Bowling was a great activity and the students were very animated and excited by the balls rolling loudly down the alley. Sophie being a determined bowler, showed great skill when she had to push the ball down the ramp. Nathan enjoyed the bowling but was more interested in the delicious spring rolls we purchased for his morning tea from the coffee shop. It was a first time visit to the bowling alley for Lucy. We were very pleased that Lucy was able to overcome reacting to the many loud and unexpected noises that are common in a centre such as this. Our excursion to Westfield shops was to purchase resources for our Harmony Day art display. Students enjoyed looking at the different products and helping to choose particular items.

Sandy & Mary-Ann



Nathan rolling the bowling ball



Sophie showing her bowling skills



Lucy getting to grips with the bowling ball

Deborah's class

I have enjoyed visiting students Toby (Year 9) and Tommy (Year 10) so far this term.

Toby shared his extensive knowledge of cars when we met at the Gosford Classic Car Museum. This semester he is learning about the history of car racing as part of his History, Geography, English, and Maths Life Skills programs.

Tommy has produced a calendar using computer apps in Design and Technology Life Skills, featuring some of his favourite shapes and characters such as the hexagon and mosquito.

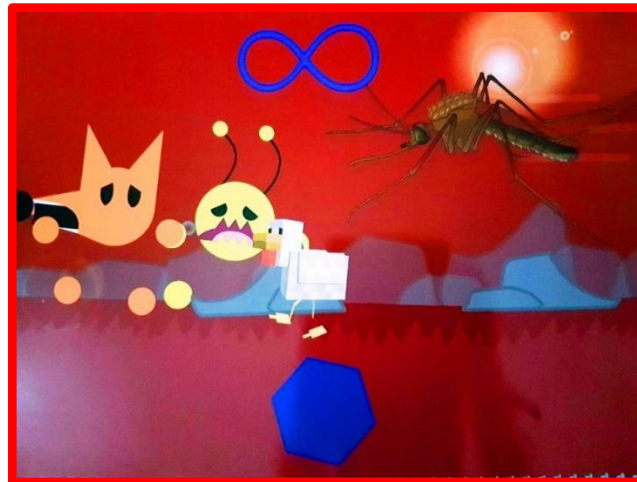
I was really looking forward to visiting Bethany (Year 6) this term. Unfortunately, due to heavy local rain, this trip has had to be postponed to early next term. I have therefore completed a phone personal learning plan meeting with Bethany's tutor where we planned for Semester 1 learning goals

and program content. I am really looking forward to meeting Bethany and her tutor for the first time ASAP!

Deborah



Toby at the Gosford Classic Car Museum



A page from the calendar that Tommy created

Doug's class

It's great to know all the students in our class are back on program and experiencing achievement.

I was fortunate to visit Azra in her new home last week. As you can see from the photo below, Azra was happy to engage in communication exchanges to express her preference for various resources. In this photo we were taking turns to use my iPhone. I would take a photo, then Azra would use the Trope app on the iPhone to provide visual, auditory and tactile sensory input. It was also a very productive visit as we worked through the NDIS planning process, in addition to planning for her educational program. Thank you for your patience, Azra. Well done!

Harry, May and Tyson have been getting out in their respective communities and participating in a range of activities. Harry has worked with a new physiotherapist, May has been out sailing, and Tyson has started some voluntary employment.

The transition from school to post-school is a significant change for students and their families to experience. Tyson is participating in all the best sort of activities to make his transition successful. Meaningfully engaging in authentic workplace activities will provide many opportunities for Tyson to experience achievement and reduce potential barriers in the transition to post-school. Great work, Tyson!

I am looking forward to our class continuing to achieve their goals throughout the rest of Term 1.

Doug



Azra enjoys exploring all the resources in her activities box

Jon's class

It has been a busy couple of weeks in our class.

In the last newsletter, I mentioned that I completed my first field trip to Jacob and his family. Since then, I have had the pleasure of meeting Mohamed. I look forward to meeting with Jayden this week.

Meeting Mohamed and his family was a pleasure. I thank Mohammed's family for being so welcoming. I met a young man with a friendly demeanour and a thirst for learning. Mohamed enjoyed asking and answering questions, and he and his sister read a story to me without hesitation. I most enjoyed Mohamed's enthusiasm for the mighty Rabitoh's rugby team!

As mentioned in the previous newsletter, Jacob is new to DESU. I have been busy adapting his work to suit his learning needs and style. Jacob's tutor has been very supportive providing feedback on work sent and informing me of what activities Jacob has enjoyed. Jacob's family has been encouraging him to sit and work at his new school desk at home. This at times can be a difficult task as the excitement of playing with his brother, dancing with his aunt, and feeding the family dogs are attractive distractions! Fine tuning Jacob's learning program to fit into his daily routines whilst encouraging him to participate in desk work is our next step on the ladder of Jacob's learning goals.

I am yet to meet with Jayden in person although I have enjoyed receiving emails regarding his interests and day to day activities. Jayden's tutor, Samantha, clearly has a passion for Jayden's learning goals. Tutor feedback and communication have been much appreciated and are hugely beneficial as we plan for an engaging learning program. I am excited to meet with Jayden and his family this week, and meet the new additions to the household - several baby guinea pigs.

Jon



Jayden's day at the beach

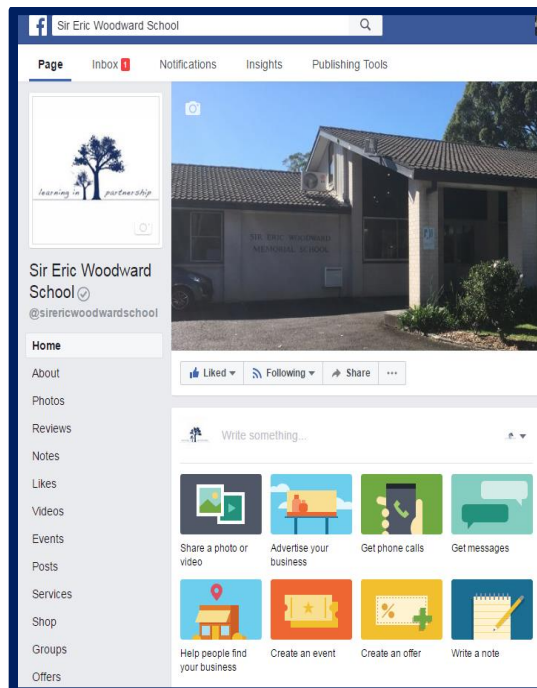


It's clear why Jayden loves his Guinea Pigs



How to weigh a Guinea Pig

attachments









Like us (or just come for a visit) on Facebook **PLEASE** at:

facebook.com/sirericwoodwardschool



Coles Sports for Schools is back to help Aussie kids stay fit and healthy. When you shop at Coles, you will receive Sports for Schools vouchers that Sir Eric Woodward School can exchange for sports gear. The more vouchers you collect, the more sports gear we can receive. Please remember to ask for vouchers when you shop in store or online and send the vouchers to school with your child.



How does it work?	
Shop In-store	Shop Online
 <p>Step 1 For every \$10 spent at Coles, you will receive one Sports for Schools voucher.</p>	 <p>Step 1 Select your school to donate your voucher.</p>
 <p>Step 2 You then bring vouchers to your school, placing them in the collection bins provided.</p>	 <p>Step 2 For every \$10 spent on Coles online, a digital voucher will be sent to your selected school.</p>
 <p>Step 3 Every voucher you donate to your school can be redeemed for leading brand sports equipment.</p>	 <p>Step 3 Every digital voucher you donate to your school can be redeemed for leading brand sports equipment.</p>

SAVE THE DATE!

Enhancing the Links

Date: 30 May 2018

Time: 9AM-3PM

Venue: Sydney University Business School
133 Castlereagh Street, Sydney

A seminar for school teachers, service providers, people with disability and their families on post school pathways for students with disability.

Ticket price:

\$88 for teachers and service staff

\$30 for families and students

To register go to:

<https://cgs.org.au/event/enhancing-the-links-2/>

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE NDCO PROGRAM IN SYDNEY AND NORTHERN SYDNEY





ROAD SAFETY INFORMATION

YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUR CHILDREN'S SAFETY WHEN THEY ARE TRAVELLING TO AND FROM SCHOOL.

Drive and park safely near schools

The beginning and end of the school day are busy times for pedestrians and drivers outside schools.

You can help keep children safe by remembering the following:

- drop off and pick up children on the school side of the road
- never call out to children from across the road – it is very dangerous
- always take extra care when driving in 40km school zones
- follow all parking signs – these help keep children as safe as possible
- park responsibly even if this means you have to walk further to the school gate
- never double park – it is illegal and puts children at risk
- never do a U-turn or three-point turn outside the school as it puts children at risk of harm
- model safe and considerate pedestrian and driver behaviours to your children.

For further support

Go to the department's Road Safety Education program at education.nsw.gov.au/road-safety-education or visit education.nsw.gov.au and search for road safety education.

When travelling in a car ensure your children:

- use a booster seat if they are aged between 4 and 7 years old – it's the law
- are correctly buckled up in their seatbelts
- always get in and out of the car through the 'safety door' – the rear door on the footpath side of the car
- are never left alone in the car.



Up to 6 months

Approved rear-facing child car seat



6 months to 4 years

Approved rear- or forward-facing child car seat



4+ years

Approved forward-facing child car seat or booster seat



145cm or taller

Suggested minimum height to use adult lap-sash seatbelt

YOUTH PHOTO COMPETITION



A MOMENT IN THEIR LIFE

1ST PRIZE
\$500

We believe in bridging the gap between generations, and we want you – the youth of Ku-ring-gai – to show us how it's done. Send us your portraits (candid or posed) of local seniors for the chance to be featured in an exhibition at St Ives Shopping Village.

Submissions close Monday 26 March

ENTER ONLINE

➔ kmc.nsw.gov.au/youthphotocomp

📞 9424 0981 📱 [kcyouthservices](https://www.facebook.com/kcyouthservices)

@ youth@kmc.nsw.gov.au

This event is part of the NSW Seniors Festival



**Ku-ring-gai Youth Services and
Ku-ring-gai Aged Services**

kmc.nsw.gov.au/youth kmc.nsw.gov.au/seniors

SPONSORED BY:



DISCOBILITY

SPOOKY SOCIAL



Friday 13 April

St Ives Community Hall, off Memorial Ave

A dance party for young people aged
12 to 30 years with special needs.

- 5.30pm till 7.30pm (for ages 12-17 years)
- 8pm till 10.30pm (for ages 18-30 years)

**Only
\$5!**

** Carers, friends and family welcome at no charge!*

Ku-ring-gai Youth Services invite young people with special needs to attend our Discobility - Spooky social event. Come and join in a night of laughter, celebration and new friendships!

A light dinner and snacks will be available. Carers, friends and family welcome!

(Note: Carers, friends and family do not need to pay an entry fee.

However, please email us at youth@kmc.nsw.gov.au how many would be attending for catering reasons.)

Bookings close: Friday 6 April (no ticket sales at the door)

☎ 9424 0981

@ youth@kmc.nsw.gov.au

➔ kmc.nsw.gov.au/discobility

f facebook.com/kcyouthservices



Ku-ring-gai Council
Youth Services

