



learning in partnership

Sir Eric Woodward School

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Sir Eric Woodward School newsletter

Term 2 2019

Week 9

28th June 2019

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Principal's report

Can you believe we are nearly half way through the year? What a great term we are having at SEWS.

As you all know I love to get into the classrooms as often as I can to spend time with our students and staff as they work together each day to achieve their personal best. I am always so impressed with the innovative and engaging programs on offer. I just watched a wonderful Tacpac lesson with a mixed aged group this morning. How lucky we are to enjoy such a variety of interactive opportunities at SEWS. With the addition of Seesaw to our school communication platforms I am thoroughly enjoying the additional way of seeing all the exciting learning opportunities on offer every day at school. It is wonderful to share these moments and welcome families into our school every day through Seesaw. A big thank you to Charlotte for continuing to support the implementation and introduction of this great communication tool.

At the beginning of Term 2 I asked staff and students for their wish list suggestions. One that was long overdue and easily solved was to implement a trial 'pop-up' canteen initially selling a limited range of items for purchase. The first canteen 'pop-up' will be held in Week 10, supported by the students in Class 3 – information will be sent home shortly. Watch this space!

Recently I received the exciting news that SEWS has been targeted to support other schools to embed Aboriginal perspectives into learning activities and programs for high support needs students. We have been identified by the Department of Education (DoE) Aboriginal Education Advisors as a leader in this area thanks to the hard work of our Aboriginal Education team led by Doug Watt. We are now supporting another SSP with this journey by sharing the expertise and enthusiasm Doug brings to this project.

The school is currently in the process of migrating from a privately run school website to a DoE website. Sarah Madden has been working closely with the DoE website team to make this happen. The new website is <https://sirericwoo-s.schools.nsw.gov.au/> we think you will find it easy to navigate and full of important information about SEWS and the DoE.

The school has been informed that we will receive a new roof as part of the DoE assets maintenance program during 2019. This work will occur in stages with the vast majority of the work occurring during school holiday periods to ensure minimal disruption. Additionally, we are expecting the work on the new covered outdoor learning area (COLA) to commence in the July school holidays. This will be such a great addition to our outdoor learning space.

Student reports are in the final phases of editing and will be sent home in the last week of term. I hope you enjoy reading about your child's progress as much as I have. I am always excited to read about the learning goals that have been achieved by everyone at SEWS.

Finally, I would like to wish everyone a safe and restful school holiday break. I look forward to seeing you all back at school in Term 3.

Sian



Tacpac is so relaxing



We love our Tacpac music session

Deputy Principal's message

Being the relieving Deputy Principal is great because you get to learn about so many students across the school. I've been finding out about our new student, Ethan who lives near the border of Victoria and also a possible new student over near Broken Hill. We really do have students in all corners of NSW. Welcome to your new school Ethan!

I see what students are up to in school by logging into Seesaw, as an administrator I can see the amazing work happening. I loved seeing the science investigations that Class 6 were working on learning about different states of matter. I also visited Class 1, in person, to see the amazing story they were retelling about Tiddalick the Frog. Such amazing drawings to explain this great Aboriginal story from the Dreaming.

As we all get ready for the winter break it is an important time to take stock of some of the amazing achievements our students have made over the first half of the year. Student reports will be sent out to families at the end of term.

For DESU families please complete and return the 'student review of placement' paperwork so we know what your views and thoughts are. Our student reviews are on the 19th of August this year, we look forward to hearing from you.

Charlotte



Class 1's Tiddalick story wall display in school



- School returns, Tuesday 23rd July 2019 (School Development Day is Monday 22nd July 2019)
- Free dental checks carried out by Northern Sydney Local Health Department, Thursday 25th July 2019
- Superhero Day, Friday 26th July 2019 - proceeds go towards supporting Bear Cottage
- Sir Eric Woodward School Fun Fair, Friday 20th September 2019

birthdays



Happy birthday to Jacob B, Ramona, Telecaster, Mohamed and Rhiannon



Save
the
Date

Sir Eric Woodward School

FUN FAIR

Friday 20th September 2019

A fun day for students, parents, carers
& SEWS Community



Sir Eric Woodward School

DESU excursion to Featherdale Wildlife Park

On Friday, the 7th of June, some of our DESU students participated in an excursion to Featherdale Wildlife Park. Alicia, Tyson, Harry and their families interacted with the birds and animals at the park. It also gave the tutors an opportunity to meet, catch up and get to know each other.

Alicia, Tyson and Harry explored the park, fed the kangaroos and saw a number of birds and animals including koalas, cassowaries, dingoes, macaws and ducks. Our students and their tutors also enjoyed a leisurely lunch at the park's cafeteria. Tyson and Harry made a fabulous attempt at reading the menus, and Harry chose and paid for his lunch.

At the learning hub, students, tutors and teachers met Luigi the shingleback lizard, Chip the tawny frogmouth, Chester the koala and Winston the children's python. Our students displayed exemplary behaviour, were gentle with the animals and asked great questions displaying their genuine interest and curiosity.

Thank you to Jane, Tracey, Julie and Lester for supporting your children on the day. Also thank you to DESU teachers Barbara, Melissa, Doug, Rama, and the Community Links Team for planning and organising this excursion. We look forward to organising more such excursions and providing other DESU students and tutors an opportunity to come together.



Tyson feeding a kangaroo



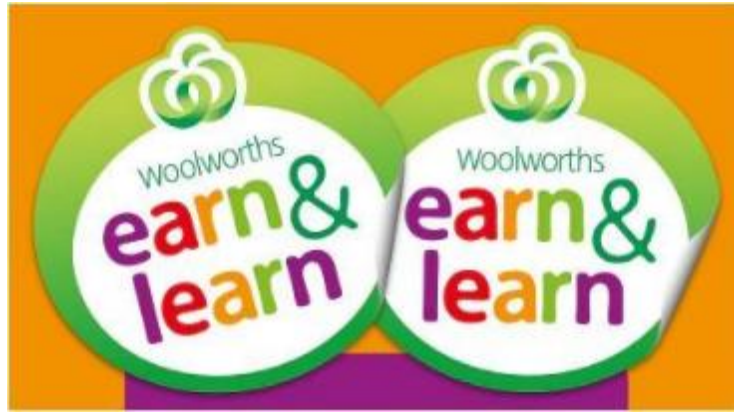
Alicia measuring her height



Harry meeting the python



The students and their families at Featherdale Wildlife Park



Woolworths earn & learn promotion has once again been a great success. Thank you to all our families and school supporters for their generosity in collecting stickers. To our staff, who have been busy sticking away during lunch breaks and to students who have shown great improvement in their fine motor skills, well done!

A very big thank you, once again, must go to our friends at Sydney Grammar Preparatory School St Ives for their generous contribution of stickers.

This year St Ives shoppers to Woolworths also filled a SEWS collection box to capacity.

Thank you again to all our school and community supporters. Your generosity will help to purchase much needed school resources for our students.



2019 NSW Premier's Sporting Challenge

SEWS is once again participating in the NSW Premier's Sporting Challenge.

More than 400,000 students and 10,000 staff took part in the 2018 challenge - the largest uptake in the history of the challenge.

The NSW Premier's Sporting Challenge is an annual program which encourages department students and staff to be physically active during the colder months of the year.

The program aims to support participation in physical activity, and promote health and wellbeing.

All students are currently actively involved in the ten week challenge which kicked off in Week 7 this Term for face to face students, and the beginning of the term for our DESU students. With the school holidays not far away, students are encouraged to keep recording their physical activity during this time. The challenge will finish for all students in Week 4 of Term 3.

the PDHPE team

Seesaw: sharing my learning fun!

Seesaw, the learning journal app, is now up and running for F2F students. It's proving to be a real hit with students and parents alike.

Seesaw is like Facebook but for student's work. Students can upload their schoolwork in photos, videos and presentations so parents at home or work can see in real time what is happening at school. Students, teachers, parents and carers can then comment and 'heart' their child's work giving the student great feedback and encouragement.

Most pleasing has been the rich conversations between teachers and families about the student's program. Teachers are learning more about their student's activities at home, eg Quinn's bedtime story choices, Jo learned that Quinn when given a choice of two stories will always pick both! Smart cookie! Then Daniel's family got to see a great shoulder stretch to try at home as demonstrated in a video with Jodie our school physiotherapist.

I can see from the number of items uploaded, the number of likes and comments and parent logins that Seesaw is really making a huge difference in the classroom and at home. Next we will start using Seesaw to complete exciting activities in morning circle time. Watch out for exciting updates to come.

Charlotte



Rock 'n roll guitar.
Seen by Joshua Jung

Joshua Jung
Joshua Jung Beautiful performance 🎸🎶 (Pending Approval)

Joshua from Class 3 in his first music video

Sir Eric Woodward School Fun Fair

September 20th 2019 is Sir Eric Woodward School Fun Fair. This event will be open to our families and local community. We ask that you keep this day free to come and join us between 10am-1pm. Activities will include an animal farm, food stalls and a variety of exciting games for the whole family to participate in.



Doug's class

Congratulations to all our students for their commitment to their learning programs throughout this semester.

Harry participated in our recent DESU excursion to Featherdale Wildlife Park where he was able to showcase the development of his skills and knowledge. He regulated his emotions for the entire five hour duration of his visit. Harry also shared his knowledge of reptiles and related it to the day and night vision of the shingleback he interacted with at the Learning Burrow. The photo shows Harry investigating a leaf-curling spider at a safe distance. Awesome work, Harry!

I am looking forward to visiting Nathan and his tutor this week for a planning session with the Support Teacher Transition (STT). A transition plan that identifies possible learning pathways for a student to engage with in their post-school journey supports the student to know what to expect as they approach school leaving age. Nice work, Nathan!

Jayden has learned some new sight words related to his interest in motorbikes. He has also been helping out in the kitchen to make his own fried eggs. Jayden's tutor uses the cooking activities as a real life opportunity to promote Jayden's numeracy skills. The photo shows Jayden including puzzles into his school day routine. Great work, Jayden!

Andrew has really excelled in his literacy activities this semester. He has even written his own newsletter to share the achievements that occur in the learning centre he attends. Andrew has cooked some super tasty lemon myrtle cookies to explore some of the properties of the Australian native plants in his garden. Well done, Andrew!

I'm looking forward to visiting our students and tutors early next term to create their Semester 2 Personal Learning Programs. All the best to everyone for a safe and restorative break.

Doug



Jayden enjoys solving puzzles



Harry looking at a leaf-curling spider

Class 6

This term Class 6 have been getting out and about in our local community, with trips to the Hornsby Westfield shops and the St Ives shopping centre. Brooke continues to squeal with delight when she sees the school bus pull up, smiling and clapping her hands with glee. Sophie also likes the bus ride, sometimes chatting and singing for the duration of the trip. This last trip, Daniel was particularly pleased to be rejoining his classmates to go out. These excursions have given us the opportunity to explore our local environment and seek out interesting activities and venues. All the students find different items that pique their curiosity from cuddly toys and battery operated hopping animals, to fish swimming around in a fish tank. Brooke always likes to get out of her wheelchair and stand or sit at the café whilst everyone enjoys a snack. Sophie enjoys the many foods offered to taste and demonstrates her excellent table manners and independent eating skills. Daniel is happy exploring the shops, touching the different textured items and laughing and smiling at everyone's banter. Altogether a great time is had by all.

Sarah, Sandy & Sophie



On the bus and ready to go.... Daniel and Katrina – the backseat bandits!



Sophie is checking up on the fresh food people



There's always time for Brooke to stop and smell the flowers



Class 6 enjoying a well-earned break together

Charlotte's class

Welcome to May on joining Charlotte's class. We are pleased to have you in Class D10 and look forward to meeting you and learning all about your life on my visit to see you early in Term 3!

Chris will once again be representing Australia at rodeo competitions in the states this year after qualifying in a tight battle for the top spot. He'll be first flying to the USA to compete in the High School Finals in North Dakota during the school holidays, I wish him all the luck in the world.

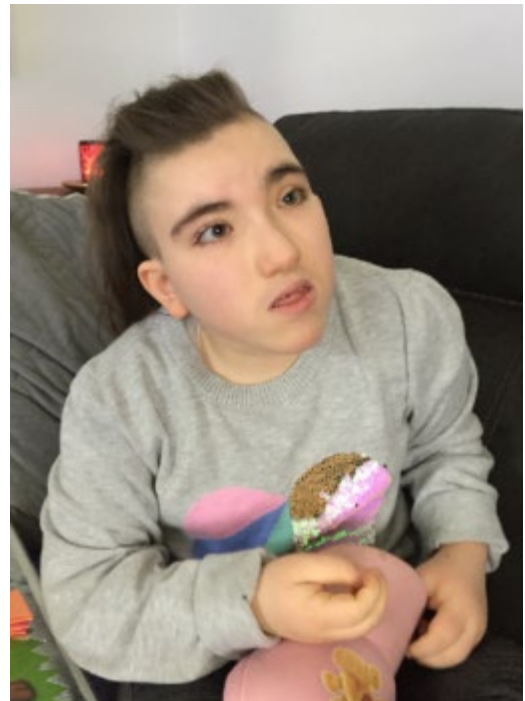
Nikolina was looking great on my visit to see her last week – see the image below for her rock star haircut! We tried a Tacpac session using the hand massage on Niki's arms to the beat of the music. I was overjoyed to see Niki really look at me and smile when one of the music pieces came to a funny part. Mum is used to seeing Niki engaging, but this was my first time and it really warmed my heart that she was communicating her enjoyment to me. Thanks Niki!

Katana made the most beautiful creative artwork last week. On her flower picture you can really see how involved she was in finger and hand-printing the leaves on her plant, the sun and the grass. This shows a lot of commitment and dedication by Katana to overcome her sensory fears and create a stunning picture!

Charlotte



Katana's amazing art work



Nikolina: the rockstar

Karen's class

Seth has been working on his personal care routine, focusing particularly on brushing his teeth. He had great fun demonstrating his brushing skills using a giant dental model.

Justin recently tried his hand at baking a cake. He displayed his excellent receptive communication skills by listening carefully and following step by step instructions. He expertly mixed the ingredients together and poured the mixture into a cake pan. Justin's favourite part of food technology is sampling the final product!

Jules is, as always, a very busy young woman. She has recently begun attending a weekly cooking class and so far has made banana and choc chip muffins, sausages wrapped in pastry and savoury mince pasties. I am looking forward to trying out her creations on my next field trip! Jules has also been involved in regular physiotherapy sessions and recently tried out some new equipment. She enjoys these sessions and puts in maximum effort.

Nate continues to increase his community access and is now requesting outings to specific places. He recently attended an agricultural show in his local area, walked around and looked at the animals and bought a drink for himself – a wonderful achievement.

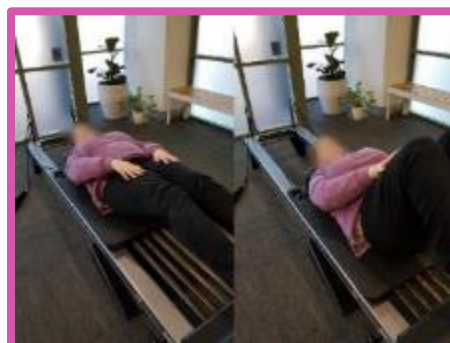
Karen



Justin mixing the cake ingredients



Seth with the dental model



Jules trying out the new equipment

Class 3

It's a goal! In response to Acting Principal Sian's invitation to students to express a wish list for their school, everyone made a written submission. Here is Thomas' persuasive appeal:

'Playgrounds should have soccer goals. Soccer goals will stop the ball. All people will love it. It will improve my goalie skills. People will feel happy. Students in wheelchairs will be safe. Our school will be great.'

We were all delighted when Sian said 'yes!'. Various options were compared. The students measured the playgrounds and estimated the impact different goals would make on the play space. When the new goals arrived the students were very keen to test them out and give a big tick of approval. Thank you Sian for our new goals!

In science, Class 3 has been investigating forces, including gravity and magnetic forces. They have been moving things around using the repelling action of the magnets and having lots of fun!

Last week we listened to a series of stories told by Aboriginal Elders. The students enjoyed watching the images on screen as they listened to the stories. Their responses show their understanding:

'The baby boy lived in a Coolabah tree with some dingoes. The boy was teasing the dingoes and they didn't like it. After a while the dingo puppies grew up and went away. The tree said to him, "You need to find food". So he found lizards and a kangaroo. He saw the dingos but he didn't share with them. They were angry and they killed him.' - Ethan

'The seven sisters tells us how the stars got in the sky. The tricky old man turned into a moon so he could see the sisters. Then he changed into a snake and made thunder and rain. The sisters ran to the top of a hill and jumped up so high that they turned into stars. We can still see them in the sky.' - Sam

It's hard to believe we are already at the end of first semester! Have a safe and happy holiday break and get ready for an even busier Term 3.

Lee & Jennie



Ethan and Tom testing the new goals



Sam hovers and flips discs



PJ magically manoeuvring magnets



Dylan making the magnets repel

Melissa's class

I can't believe that it is the end of Term 2! All of my students have been working hard and all deserve a much needed rest over the school holidays. Recently, while writing reports it has been wonderful to reflect on how much all of my students have achieved over the semester. It is a credit to them and their tutors for their successes.

Logan continues to impress with his persistence with English. He is working well, reading the texts at the higher level and completing the associated comprehension worksheets. Logan has also been busy completing an online course - Microsoft Paint 3D. I cannot wait to see his final products.

Braydon continues to be busy and achieving so much in his community access and social programs. The last few weeks have been filled with school and moving whilst still attending his part-time job.

It was lovely to be able to meet with Alicia and her tutor during the recent DESU excursion to Featherdale Wildlife Park. We had such fun as a group learning about the various animals at Featherdale. Alicia was especially delighted with the farm animals. It was a surprise to all of us when the animals appeared out of nowhere wanting to be hand-fed.

Last but not least I would like to introduce my new student Ethan. Thank you to Ethan and his family for making me feel so welcome during a recent field trip. It was so nice to finally meet everyone and really start putting elements of the program into place. While I was there we completed an investigation to show how blubber protects animals from the cold. Ethan also trialled one of our new Apple pencils with his iPad Pro and after a short time, he was able to teach me a thing or two. Ethan is a gifted writer and has many varied interests so it will be very interesting to support him and his tutor with his education program.

Melissa



Ethan hard at work!



Alicia with farm animals

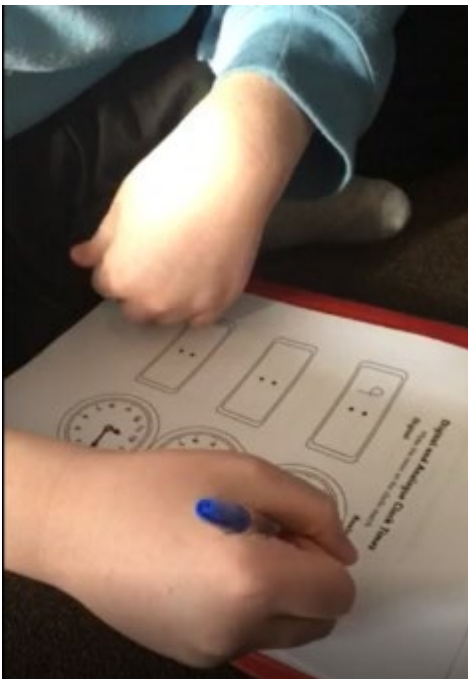
Dawn's class

Izack has settled in amazingly and has been working hard towards achieving his learning goals. He has been working on telling the time and can now skip count by fives to tell the time on an analogue clock. Izack enjoys using ICT to learn and is getting very good at using Siri to navigate his phone, he even recently used Siri to send a short text message. Fantastic work Izack!

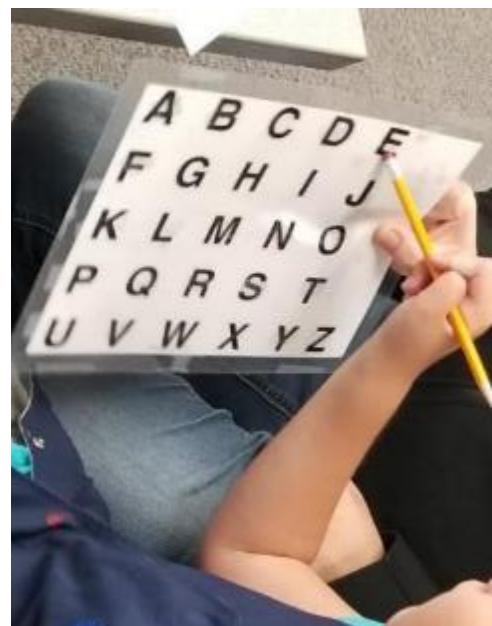
I was very fortunate to recently attend a professional learning session and watch Ben participate in a Rapid Prompting Method workshop. Ben, once again impressed us with recalling information that he had recently learnt, and handwriting answers directly to paper without the need of the support of his letter board! Ben also came out with some quick witted comments about getting his lunch delivered by Uber Eats that put a smile on all our faces. It was great to see Ben's communication continuing to develop and a glimpse of his sense of humour - keep up the great work Ben!

Nadine has continued to work hard and been engaging well in weekly REACT lessons. She impressed her tutor and myself when she showed off her number recognition skills using flash cards to 30! Nadine works hard on developing her communication and loves to share what she has been up to over the previous week, and to talk about items she has in her room. Well done Nadine!

Dawn



Izack practising telling the time on an analogue clock



Ben using the Rapid Prompting Method

Deborah's class

Tommy has had a great crop of pumpkins and herbs from his garden, and is using some of his produce in food technology. He has constructed a herb garden in his favourite hexagon shape.

Bethany has been creating flower patterns using a cardboard stencil dipped in paint for visual arts. She has been engaging in outings in her community, including a parade where she enjoyed looking at the animals.

Ramona is developing her understanding of number in maths, and has been adding 'one more' using pictures of familiar objects such as bananas.

Deborah



Tommy's garden



Bethany's stencil art



Bethany and her sister Chelsea

Nicole's class

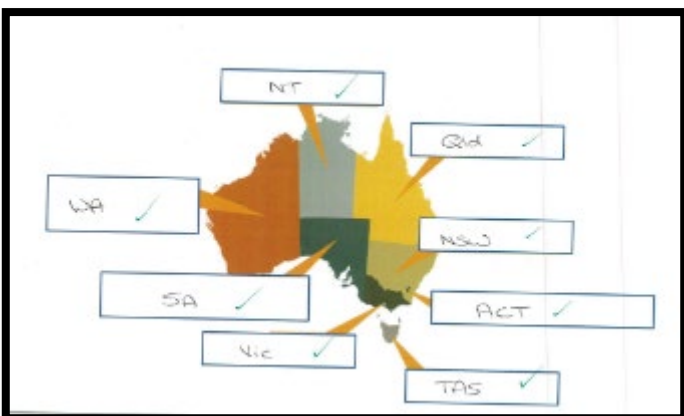
We are nearly at the end of Term 2 and hasn't it been busy!

After a busy day on her farm, exploring her environment, using her sense of smell, touch and sight, helping to muster sheep and riding horses, Cruz likes to spend time with her family and relax by watching a movie.



Cruz relaxing in her bed watching a movie

Jayden has been taking more ownership of his schoolwork this year. He chooses a new country to study every few weeks as well as learning all about Australia. He is a champion at identifying the abbreviations for all the Australian states and territories.



Jayden can name the abbreviations for all the Australian states and territories

Chris has been doing many fun activities with his support worker lately, including playing with shaving cream.



Chris having a blast with shaving cream

Chris has been doing a great job at identifying a range of words he sees in and around his community. Recently, he has been looking at words associated with emergency services, so when he had the opportunity to get up close to a fire engine he was eager to climb aboard!



Firefighter Chris!

I hope all my students and their families have a well-deserved, restful and happy break over the school holidays.

Nicole

Class 5

Class 5 has had a productive, yet fun Semester 2. Following our unit of work theme 'society, culture, history and geography of China and the United states of America' Class 5 decided to showcase their work to the whole school. Previously, Class 5 completed a project of building the Terracotta Army, on this occasion we chose to design a SEWS soldier of peace and friendship. It was a great opportunity for Class 5 to present their work, as well as create an occasion for a whole school event. Students of Class 5 had fun making the play dough. They particularly enjoyed mixing the ingredients with their hands - even Yash who doesn't normally enjoy getting his hands dirty.

This semester has been so enjoyable for all, especially me, the teacher. We have lost, as well as gained students, but as a whole group we have made progress and created memories that will be cherished forever. This sadly is my last couple of weeks teaching Class 5 but I can whole heartedly say I have loved every single minute working with the students, parents and staff of SEWS, and I will miss everyone dearly.

Clare & Tanya



Telecaster needs to knead



Flour power



I smell salt



Building our army of peace

Amanda & Kiri's class

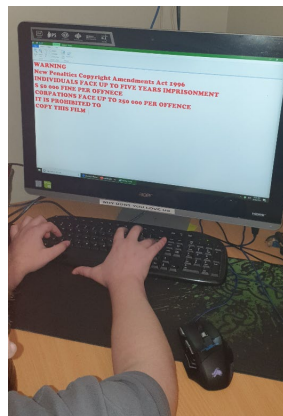
Jacob likes using the computer and his family's mobiles to clearly communicate his needs. He also uses the computer to look up information using keyword searches. Sometimes he types up the words to his favourite songs and in the picture below he is typing the information from the back of one of his DVDs. In this case he was typing from memory. An amazing feat, Jacob!

Ray has been out and about exploring his community. He likes walking on the beach and having picnics in the park. He has been practising using a fork to push food onto a spoon and has almost achieved this goal. Well done, Ray.

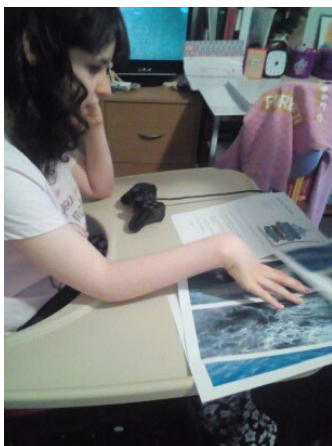
Kayla has been trying out a new wheelchair. Her old chair will be adapted so she can go onto the sand at the beach. In HSIE Kayla is studying how places change and has had to get used to lots of modifications at home as new furniture has arrived, that will make life easier for her and her parents. This includes a new posture chair for her to use when she is doing her schoolwork.

Toby has been on an adventure to Byron Bay. He learnt about the bridge over the Clarence River at Harwood, the Byron Bay lighthouse that was built in 1904, and also found a Sand Bubbler crab at the beach. Toby took some great photos of wildlife and scenery, took a ride on a solar powered train and also had a try of a stand-up paddle board on land. He was able to follow instructions for packing and unpacking, and practised his driver education skills with all the road signs on his way to Byron Bay.

Amanda & Kiri



Jacob typing with confidence



Kayla doing her school work



Toby trying out the stand-up paddle board

Sharon's class

Term 2 has seen students working towards achieving their Personal Learning Plan goals and I look forward to visiting them early next term to review and develop new learning goals for the remainder of 2019.

Leah has had a brilliant few weeks. I am so happy to hear that Leah has finally received her new chair and this means she can comfortably sit in it while she investigates the outdoors. Her tutor has sent me some great photos of Leah viewing herself in front of the mirror engaged in activities as she explores objects of various textures and shapes. It was wonderful to hear that Leah is full of smiles and curiosity as she sees herself involved in all kinds of activity.

Leroy has been assisting his parents to declutter the family room and create space for a computer desk. It has been lovely hearing of Leroy's acceptance as he removes and packs up his childhood belongings.

Ethan has worked consistently completing his school work. It has been fabulous hearing about his weekly outings into the community where he has been able to swim in the indoor pool and visit the cinema to watch the film *Godzilla: King of the Monsters*. Ethan followed up his visit to the movies with an informative written movie review.

This term Sharif was introduced to the sensory communication resource Tacpac. As his tutor incorporates both touch and music into the daily activity, I look forward to hear more about Sharif's responses.

I am wishing all a happy, relaxing and hopefully warm holiday.

Sharon



Leah happy to explore and touch

I watched a movie on the weekend ^{Wednesday 5th}

The name of the movie I watched on the weekend was
godzilla 2 - King of the Monsters

A character in a movie is playing a part. ✓

A character in the movie that I watched was:
king godzilla ✓

An actor in a film is the person who is acting, or pretending, to be a character. ✓

An actor who played a character in the movie I watched was:
Willie bobby brown

An action scene I liked in the movie was:
the final battle

The best part of the movie was:
writhing godzilla

I would like to see this movie again?

Yes No

Would you recommend this movie to Sharon?

Yes No

*Ethan's review of the movie, *Godzilla: King of the Monsters**

Class 4

We are almost at the end of another very busy and productive term.

One of the most engaging and eagerly anticipated activities has been coding. Coding has given students the opportunity of learning a new computer language, and for some to brush-up on old skills. While earlier in the term coding was accessed using the class computer lab, more recent lessons were completed using the school and class iPads - a new and valuable school resource.

Seesaw has proven to be a very useful and fun tool allowing parents greater access to their child's learning. Whether it was seeing and hearing the week's spelling rule, or how a maths problem was solved, it has definitely made an impact and is here to stay! Next term students will be encouraged to select the work they would like to send home, or reflect upon, to increasingly take responsibility for their learning.

The Premier's Sporting Challenge started in Week 7 and all the boys are keenly recording their physical activity in their log books. Participation in the St Ives Park Public School Athletics Carnival in Week 10 will round out our physical activity program for the term.

Our school's Positive Behaviour Learner expectations of being safe, respectful learners has resonated with students. This term all the boys have been active learners to the best of their ability and understood what was expected of them and when.

Have a safe and restful term break, Class 4. You deserve it!

Sue & Paula



Working together using Scratch



This is so much fun!



I think this will balance?



Roald Dahl's 'Matilda' read in the sunshine

Barbara's class

Alex is learning how to control her new motorised wheelchair. With some assistance to use the joystick, Alex has travelled beyond the house yard, past a paddock and down to the shed on the family property. She has also used it to enable her to participate in outings into the community, such as watching her brother play soccer.

This term Azra has investigated the various ways people express their culture in her community. She has visited the grounds of a local Buddhist temple and rang the 'Gratitude Bell', celebrated Eid with extended family and listened to stories from The Dreaming. Azra continues to work hard to develop her fine-motor skills, in particular, she will be working on isolating her index finger to help her with iPad use, and picking up food.

Georgia continues to increase her participation in her community. She is developing great leisure skills for the future. This term, Georgia was very excited to go the cinema to see an animated movie that went for one hour, and was able to sit through to the end! She continues to enjoy her regular swimming and music lessons. These outings often include lunch at a venue in town where Georgia practises waiting patiently for her food.

Jacob has finished his work on the history of jazz and is now looking into the history of rock, with music teacher Kiri. Jacob's love of music led him to a jazz festival in a nearby town. Although, the festival was a bit disappointing, Jacob turned the day around by going into a café, and independently ordering and paying for his lunch!

Barbara



Alex using the joystick on her new motorised chair



Jacob is proud after independently buying lunch



Azra independently making marks



Georgia excited to be at the cinema

Class 1

We have been working very hard in history and geography the last couple of weeks; finding out where we live, where we are from and what early Australia was like. As part of this inquiry, we have been looking at Aboriginal Dreamtime stories and games. After reading 'Tiddalick the Frog', we decided to illustrate our own book for the classroom library. We also wrote about the story and made leaf rubbings as a background for our presented work. So far we have tried two traditional Aboriginal games: 'Goree' and 'Koolchee'. It was great fun playing these games!

During swimming, the class have been busy learning the correct style of kicking to propel themselves successfully through the water. We have been doing so well that we have also started swimming together as a 'team' in an attempt to beat the clock, which at the moment shows us completing a lap in 16 seconds.

To finish off the term, we have been working on our problem-solving skills and are honing our skills following the 6 D's of solution fluency (define, discover, dream, design, deliver and debrief). We have built structures to save a cat trapped in a tree, planned and built workable mazes, and tried to build the tallest tower that can stand on its own. We look forward to doing more of these projects.

Have a wonderful break. We will see you again in Term 3!

Nina & Anita



Swimming against the clock



Learning to play 'Goree'



Our first solution fluency project: tallest tower

Class 2

This term Class 2 students have had a lot of fun learning and exploring in the classroom, and, when weather permits, in the outdoors too.

Jo, Trish & Kaitlyn



Ariel collecting winter leaves



Daniella is full of smiles as she swings high



Quinn is excited to be playing in the sun

Rama's class news

We are already in Week 9 and the term is flying past.

Tyson is learning to type and uses his iPad to send a weekly email. He attended our DESU excursion earlier this term, displayed appropriate behaviour, and interacted with all the animals during the learning session. Tyson is learning to use the Coles Click and Collect online portal to shop for products. He follows visual sequences to make yummy recipes. Tyson begins by listing the ingredients and checks if he has them in his pantry. He then shops for the ingredients and follows the procedure to prepare the recipe. Tyson also calculates the cost per unit of the product! Fantastic effort, Tyson.

It was lovely to visit Mohamed and his family earlier this term. Mohamed enjoys reading Bangers and Mash books and playing rhyming word snap. Mohamed likes music and has started taking vocal music lessons. He listens to different genres of music and his favourite band is U2. Mohamed is adept at using Google Maps to find places of interest close to his house. Well done Mohamed.

Isabella is proficient at using a search engine to research and build on her knowledge of the subject at hand. Isabella knows that Antarctica is a continent and independently logged on to the internet to look up information on emperor penguins. Isabella is learning to communicate when she is unwell, and articulates and practises strategies that will minimise her anxiety. Isabella helps around the house by unloading the dishwasher, taking down the washing, vacuuming the floors, stripping and making the beds. Amazing effort to take age appropriate responsibility Isabella.

I visited Fionn and his welcoming family last week. He is preparing for his post school transition by gaining a work placement at the local grocery store, and attending his local high school as per the requirements of his SVET course. Fionn is a good communicator and communicates articulately with his peers, teachers and his workplace manager. He is empathetic and displayed resilience when recently faced with a challenging situation. Fionn reads restaurant menus and can correctly calculate the change that he will receive. Fionn is an avid gardener and planted a guava and a chestnut tree in his backyard. He is interested in geology and the formation of rocks. This term, Fionn made his own high bounce ball using different moulds, and varieties of crystals. Awesome effort, Fionn.

I congratulate all my students on their achievements this term, wishing all of them and their families a safe, healthy and restful holiday.

Rama



Fionn paid for his lunch



Tyson met Chester the koala

Louise's class

It has been great to return to my role as a classroom teacher in the DESU. Thank you to Carolyn for teaching my class in my absence – I know that she did a great job!

I have really enjoyed catching up with my students and seeing how much progress they have made in their learning in a relatively short time.

It has been very exciting to get back into REACT lessons with Ned. Ned always tries his best in these sessions and it is great to see his enthusiasm and his joy of learning! I was really blown away by the progress that Ned has made with saying, reading and writing his personal details – this must be down to Carolyn's fabulous teaching!

We have recently had some excitement in the DESU with a visit by Summer to school. This was the first visit to our school by Summer who only enrolled at the DESU in March of this year. Summer had come to the 'big smoke' for a few days and we were fortunate that she could come for a visit. Summer enjoyed meeting the teachers and exploring the school. Summer particularly enjoyed the sensory equipment in our multi-purpose room and investigating the outdoor learning equipment. Summer demonstrated her excellent singing and drumming skills to independently play 'We will rock you' at the drumming station – very impressive Summer!.

Rhiannon has been spending some quiet time at home on these chilly wintery days in the country.

May has left our class and has joined Charlotte's class. I know that Charlotte is really excited to meet May and her tutor on her Term 3 visit.

I have already locked in a week long field trip in Term 3 to the Northern Tablelands to visit Rhiannon, Summer and Ned. I am really looking forward when I visit to catch up with my students (and tutors) in person, to assess student learning, and to have quality discussions about learning goals and programs.

Louise S



Summer enjoyed exploring the school when she came to visit



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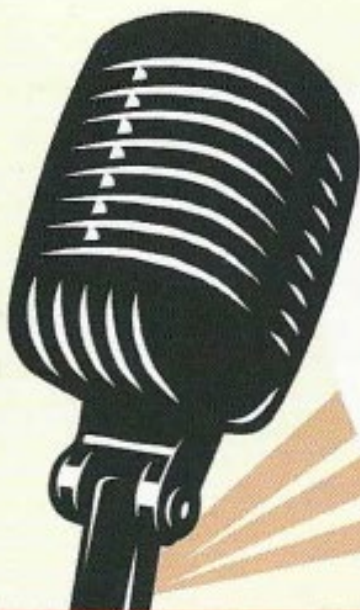
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