

Sir Eric Woodward School Newsletter

Term 4 2020

Week 9

10th December 2020



Principal's message

What a year of firsts it has been!!! 2020 has certainly taught us to appreciate the simple things in life and to reflect on what we do and how we do it at SEWS.

There have been lots of great firsts this year including: the introduction of learning from home as the world faced the COVID-19 pandemic. To say that I was proud of how our students, families and staff adapted to this challenge would be an understatement. We all embraced new technology, found new ways to reach the same result and appreciated each other just a little bit more. Many families have told me that they now have a far greater understanding of what their child is learning and focusing on in the classroom and beyond and how hard the classroom staff work to support their child. For our DESU families we have had almost a year with no Field Service visits. Once again, we have all adapted to ensure our learning journey continues without interruption. Zoom has been our new best friend.

We have a new school band called the "Beat Treats" that has been led by our talented music teacher, Kiri. The band has met both virtually and on site to prepare a magnificent video production that was released on Presentation Day. Our school music program continues to be a favourite for all of our students who have weekly lessons both at SEWS and via Zoom.

Ziggy, our therapy dog is already part of the SEWS team and he is breaking down barriers every day. He has helped students overcome their fear of dogs, he has listened to students read, he has provided a hug for those who need one (sometimes that is me), he has taught students how to brush him and care for him, how to approach a dog in the community and how they can teach him to gain new skills. He has brought so much joy to our school community.

We have introduced Seesaw and School Stream to some of our classes and we will continue to introduce it across the rest of the school next year. This has opened up a new way of communication between the school and our families and has really helped our teachers see what their students are doing from a distance. I know a lot of you have told us in a recent survey how good these tools have been.

Our teaching staff took part in a state-wide trial to test different assessment methods to see what best supports our teaching and learning programs. We continue to work hard to enhance what we do to ensure ongoing improvement for all of our students at SEWS.

The school has been undergoing a bit of a makeover and I think you will be pleasantly surprised when you are able to visit us next. Our Ngalawa playground is now complete with new soft fall under our COLA, a vegetable garden and river sand area – it is fantastic. The common areas of the school have all been painted or are going to be painted in the holidays which has really brightened things up. We have just learned that we will be getting some extra temporary classroom space that will be used as a communication hub for our school.

I would like to congratulate each and every one of our students who have worked so hard this year and have continued to focus and achieve their goals despite the many challenges. We all look forward to recommencing many of the activities we were not able to complete this year - all going to plan.

Our Presentation Day looked very different in 2020 with DESU Zooming in for their awards. It was just lovely to see so many smiling faces and proud families as we celebrated everyone's achievements. Our F2F presentations were in small class groups that were recorded and sent out via Seesaw. Despite the different format the day was a big success with the children at the centre of our celebration.

Finally, I would like to wish you all a safe and restful holiday and a happy New Year. To our year 12 students, enjoy the next chapter – we will miss you!!


Sian

Presentation Day 2020









Sophie

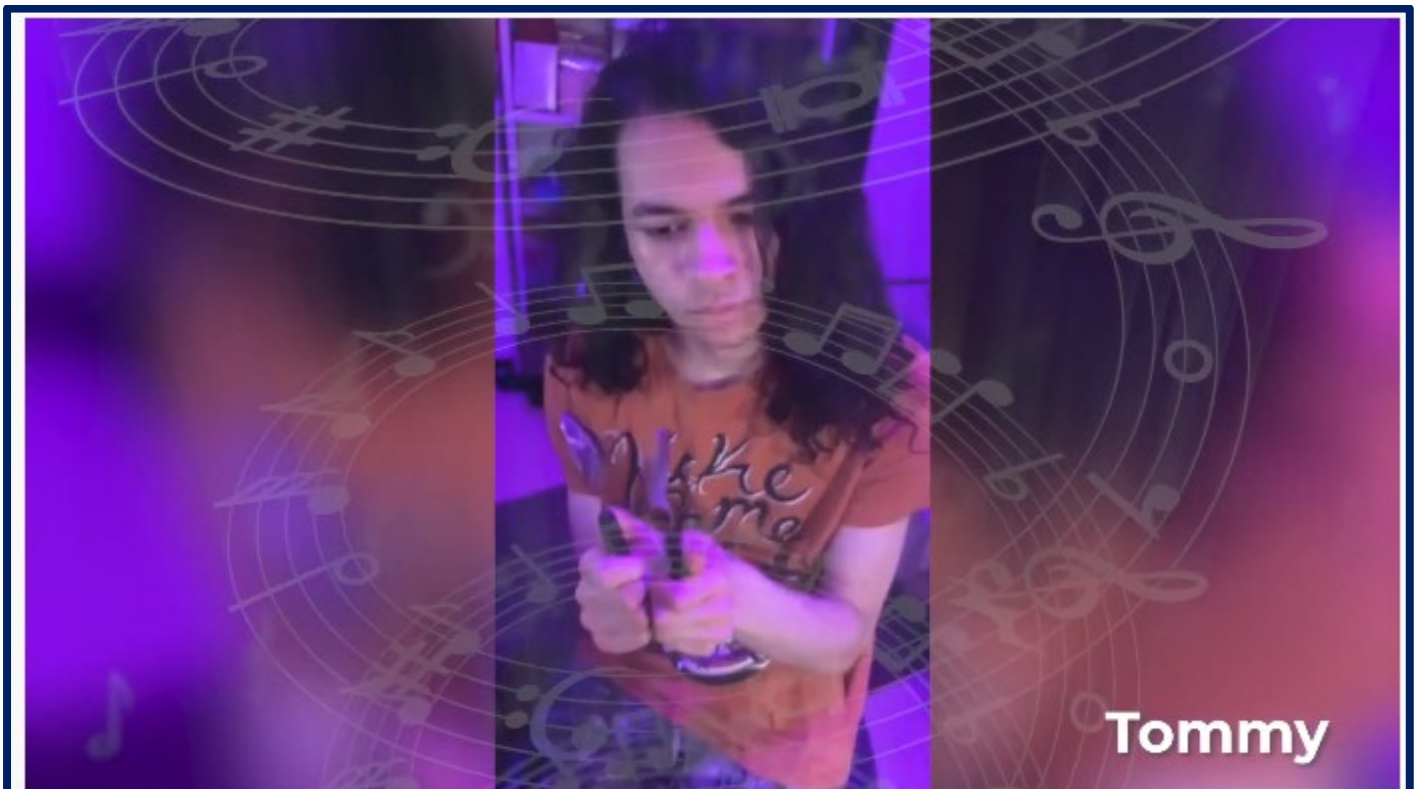
Beat Treats Stomp

31 views · Dec 7, 2020

2 0 SHARE SAVE ...

This video player shows a young girl named Sophie sitting in a chair, wearing glasses and a blue scarf. She is holding a yellow cylindrical stomp drum with both hands. The video has a white background with faint musical notes overlaid. The name 'Sophie' is written in white text in the bottom left corner of the video frame. Below the video frame, the title 'Beat Treats Stomp' and view count '31 views · Dec 7, 2020' are visible. In the bottom right corner, there are icons for likes (2), dislikes (0), share, save, and a menu icon.

Beat Treats Music Video Stomp



Tommy

Beat Treats Stomp

31 views · Dec 7, 2020

2 0 SHARE SAVE ...

Sir Eric Woodward
5 subscribers

SUBSCRIBE

This video player shows a young boy named Tommy sitting and playing a purple cylindrical stomp drum. He is wearing a red t-shirt with the text 'Take me' on it. The video has a purple and blue background with faint musical notes overlaid. The name 'Tommy' is written in white text in the bottom right corner of the video frame. Below the video frame, the title 'Beat Treats Stomp' and view count '31 views · Dec 7, 2020' are visible. In the bottom right corner, there are icons for likes (2), dislikes (0), share, save, and a menu icon. In the bottom left corner, there is a channel name 'Sir Eric Woodward' with '5 subscribers' and a red 'SUBSCRIBE' button.

Deputy Principal's message

I would like to begin by saying a big thank you to all families, students and staff members of SEWS for welcoming me into the school's community as Deputy Principal. This year we have witnessed the significant impact that COVID has had on a global and local scale and I would like to thank all families for supporting the school in the implementation of practices that have kept Sir Eric Woodward School COVID safe throughout the period of return to full time face to face teaching and learning, and up until now. Thank you once again, it is deeply appreciated.

Reflecting upon 2020 at SEWS it has been a pleasure to see such fantastic physical and site development – the completion of the Ngalawa playground soft fall surface immediately comes to mind. Coupled with really deep, individualised learning across the school strengthened by fantastic professional learning delivered by a range of SEWS staff members in support of this. Two immediate examples among many I would like to highlight are the STEM based Ozobot sessions as well as a whole staff focus on implementing the on-line program, Seesaw. Across the school the use of Seesaw has allowed informative feedback to be gathered about learning from home, and strengthened the capacity of support we as a school have been able to provide to students both in the DESU and F2F.

It has been fantastic to be a part of both the 2020 Presentation Day and the recent Year 12 graduation ceremonies. These have been a first for me and it was wonderful to see the fantastic work of the students and teachers recognised at these events. Our Year 12 leavers across the school will be dearly missed and I wish you all well as you transition to your next set of adventures.

I would like to again extend my thanks for a great year in really challenging circumstances and wish you a safe and happy Christmas and new year holiday period.

Patrick Price



You said, we listened!!

Thank you for completing Sir Eric Woodward School's Parent Survey. The information provided by you is valuable and will assist us to better support your child at school.

The results of the survey indicate that you would like more information about PBL (Positive Behaviour for Learning). We will work together as a team to ensure that you are aware of the strategies and language used at school and you will then be able to use the same supports in your child's home environment. Regular updates will be available in the newsletter and on Seesaw.

Many of you find the reporting system to be too comprehensive and exhausting to read. We are looking at making changes to our reporting system by Semester 1, 2021.

Some of you stated that notifications about events are not always consistent. In 2021 we will be introducing School Stream across the whole school. School Stream is a mobile app owned by an Australian company that enables its users to receive information about their school. This will mean notifications of events will come straight to your mobile device.

Zoom, Seesaw, React and Teams are all online platforms we have been using throughout 2020. We are keen for this technology and communication to continue in 2021.

It was also mentioned that transitions between classes have not always been as positive as some families hoped. At SEWS we have already started the process of forming a transition team and therefore future transitions will be a smooth process, whether that is between classes or to post school settings or to another school.

For our DESU families we know you have missed teachers visiting this year and we hope field trips will be able to happen once again in Term 1 2021, as long as COVID restrictions continue to be relaxed.

SEWS staff are here to offer our support, guidance and care. We are most excited for all your suggestions and concerns to be addressed and resolved in 2021.

Community Links Project Team



Birthdays

Happy birthday to Jayden, Azra, Heath, Xavier

Important dates

Term 4

Wednesday 16 December – last school day for 2020

Term 1 2021

Friday 29 January – first school day for students 2021

Class 3 news

Everyone in Class 3 are feeling very proud. It's been a very strange year but our students have shown their strengths, resilience and sense of humour as they all continued to learn and grow. As we reflect on the year past and each student's achievements, we are extremely happy with how far they have come. Last week's Presentation Day celebrated some successes for each student in their KLAs and individual learning goals. All of Class 3 have progressed in their water safety skills and confidence, so this week we are continuing the festivities with a pool party. Ms Lee, Ms Jennie and Akram are preparing to get wetter than usual! We have also been having lots of fun dancing to some very funky tracks. Families will soon see our video clip and might feel like joining in with all the jumping, stomping and grooving. Our garden harvest yielded armfuls of parsley so we made some very tasty tabbouleh (although it wasn't a favourite with everyone). Students practised their calming strategies while they made their Calmer Llamas. They looked and felt great! We have been studying *Celebrations* with Mrs Foley and junior students recently made some lovely lanterns. We are also preparing for Christmas with letters to Santa and the decorating of our class Christmas tree.

We wish all our students, families and our extended community a happy and safe holiday and look forward to seeing everyone back at the end of January for a fabulous 2021.

Ms Lee and Ms Jennie



Shaman tasted the tabbouleh, yum!



There's a boy behind all that parsley!

Class 3 news continued



Gareth puts a little light inside his lantern



Our Calmer Llama line up

Class 6 news

It is a little hard to believe that for almost all of our class, this is the final newsletter of their schooling experience at SEWS.

And so, it only seems fitting that we take this opportunity to celebrate our students and all that they have contributed to our school and to our Class 6 – it would not have been the same without you all.

Lucy! Traditionally, the name Lucy has been linked to the idea of light. Never was a name more fitting. Lucy has always brought a spirit of kindness, gentleness and light to our classroom. Our favourite memories of Lucy include listening to her gentle vocalisations as we sit and listen to a story or sing songs together. Lucy is a young lady of great patience and grace. Thank you for all that you have contributed to our classroom Lucy.

Sophie! Broadway is missing their lead actress – full of ideas, excitement and a commanding presence. Oh how we will miss the lively chatter from this young lady in our class. Conversations with Sophie are peppered with emphatic “yes’s” and a dramatic head turn “No!” We have proudly watched Sophie make the gigantic transition from school to her post school options with aplomb. Go well Soph, we will think of you often.

Brooke! Strength, determination, physical prowess – our class Olympian. Brooke has mastered every physical challenge we have thrown at her, and always with a huge grin and her trademark good humour. Brooke has a laugh that is infectious and owns a mischievous streak that knows no bounds. Sunshine in a bottle, Brooke’s departure from SEWS will be missed greatly.

Daniel! It is hard to ask more from a student than what Daniel has delivered daily, regardless of his health, global pandemics or anything else that might have come his way. Dan has kept pace and even overtaken us in his remote learning program this year, well and truly deserving his Caltex All-Rounder award. He is a young man of smiles, humour and strength, a view shared by the whole of the SEWS community. Whether near or far Dan, you have always been an important member of Class 6.

Telecaster! Thank goodness we will see your smiling face next year Tele, and hear that joyful laugh of yours. Tele is always game to give anything a go and is just as happy to encourage others, as he is to be involved himself. A lover of rock music and a good sing-a-long, Tele has especially enjoyed our TacPac sessions this year. We look forward to having you back in Class 6 next year Tele!

Nellie, Sandy & Kelly

Class 6 news continued



Deborah's class news

My students have engaged with their programs admirably this year, quickly adapting to the changes we've had to adopt because of the coronavirus.

Congratulations to Jeremiah who was awarded a Highly Commended in the Richard Kidziak Art Awards for his painting of a dandelion. Jeremiah is able to independently press the switch on a mini keyboard to change the mode from music to letter sounds.

Tilly has been engaging with her environment by planting echinacea seeds. She has also been using her sewing skills to complete Christmas-themed projects in visual arts.

Georgia is pleased to be back at hydrotherapy, and is developing her fine motor skills on a piano keyboard to play short melodies.

Ramona is beginning to identify the difference between young and old using picture cues. She is enjoying longer drives with her family, and demonstrating recognition of familiar environments.

It was great to see Tommy attend our Year 12 Graduation. Tommy kindly presented all graduating students with a graduation bear. We will miss you Tommy, but wish you the very best for a promising post-school future!

Wishing my students and their families a fun and relaxing school holiday.

Deborah



Tilly



Georgia



Jeremiah on his keyboard



Tommy at the Year 12 graduation

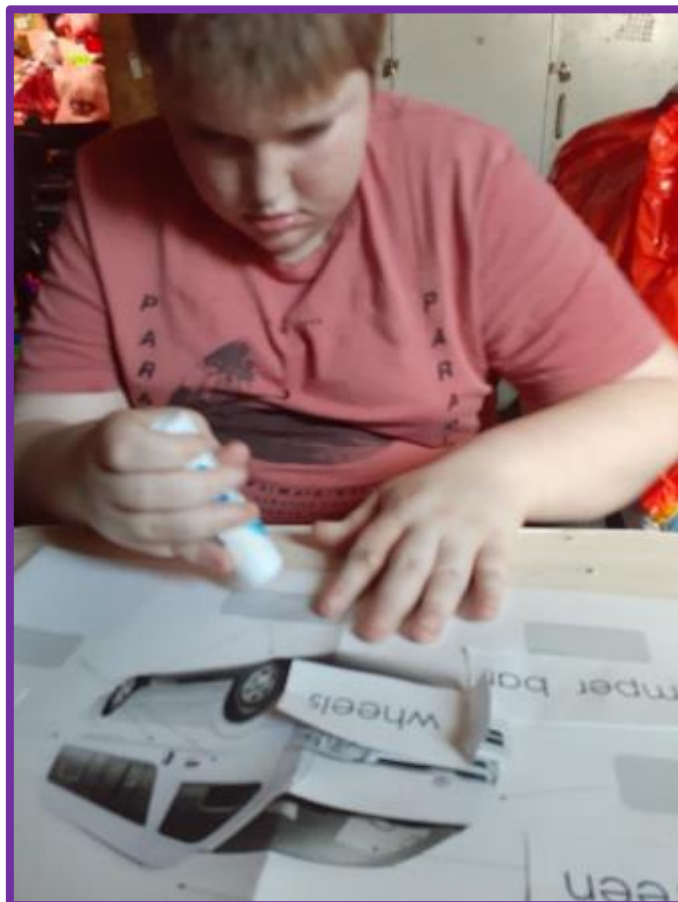
Jo's class news

Wishing all my student and families a safe, healthy and happy holiday. Thank you for all your support and enthusiasm this year.

Jo



Jayden made Christmas chain decorations



Jayden is labelling the parts of a car

Charlotte's class news

What an end to the year. I'm so proud of my student Chris for achieving his HSC Life Skills, as he graduates this year. He will be the first in his family to achieve this awesome feat. He won the NSW Premier Sporting Challenge medal for all his efforts in rodeo riding. He is leaving school to enter full-time employment working on properties building fences, and he told me that he is now welding! Chris is still planning to head to Canada at Easter to take up professional rodeo riding once the vaccine gets rolled out. Best of luck Chris, it's been a pleasure to see you learn and grow into a lovely young man.

Nikolina and Moustafa have been given the role of School Leaders, well done to you both. This is an exciting responsibility.

Nikolina has been keeping busy with big family celebrations and practising her history skills of recognising key family members.

Moustafa has been making lots of new friends in 2020. So far, he has got a new little sister, a kitten, and now a dog! Lucky he still finds time to be an ace student!

Taylah has been busy cooking meals and caring for her guinea pigs. She demonstrates a mature attitude by cleaning up after herself and wiping down surfaces and loading the dishwasher. Well done Taylah.

Ethan has been doing an excellent job of answering questions over the phone and keeping on topic. He has told me all about his nest and the games he likes to play, it's great to learn more about him.

Charlotte



Nikolina smiling away at the thought of birthday cards



Chris with his world title buckle

Karen's class news

This year has passed in the blink of an eye! I am so very proud of all my students' many successes this year. They have all shown dedication and commitment to their learning and as a result have achieved their goals. I would like to wish my students and their families/carers a restful holiday and I look forward to working with them again in 2021.

It was wonderful to see Nate on Zoom for the very first time for our Presentation Day. He looked pretty excited to be there too and I hope this is just the beginning of a new means of communication with him. Nate has been extremely motivated and engaged this term and as you can see he is becoming a whiz in the kitchen!

Katana is the undisputed Queen of Craft and has been tearing, scrunching, painting and gluing her way through a phenomenal number of craft activities. She has recently enjoyed learning about cause and effect through a reindeer and penguin singing duo!

Jules' achievements this year were celebrated during our Presentation Day session where she was a most worthy recipient of the Reuben F Scarf Award for Commitment. She also scooped a highly commended in the Richard Kidziak Art Competition with her artwork that was featured in the last newsletter.

I would like to wish Justin a farewell as he comes to the end of his journey at SEWS. He has made so much progress in the last few years and is to be commended for all his hard work. A big thank you must also go to his dedicated team leaders and support staff who worked with me to deliver his program.

Congratulations to Jules, Nate and Katana who are all school leaders for 2021.

Karen



Nate making Christmas Florentines



Katana's singing reindeer/penguin duo

Melissa's class news

I cannot believe that it is the end of the year. The year 2020 has flown by and although this year has been unique all of my students have continued to flourish in their educational and social programs.

Toby continues to be extremely busy with his family, with their new slot car business. He is an active participant in all aspects of the day to day running of the business. In addition to this, he continues to work towards achieving his learner drivers licence, and he has again outdone himself, producing the most amazing Christmas lights display! Have a look at the beautiful picture below.

Because of all of Toby's hard work this year he was recognised and presented with the Ku-ring-gai Rotary award, during our recent DESU online presentation day. The Ku-ring-gai Rotary award is awarded to a student for continued effort and achievement in a variety of areas. Toby was an obvious choice due to how much he has achieved this year over his entire program.

Alicia was also recognised during our DESU online presentation day with a special award for her ongoing hard work and achievement. Alicia received the Patricia & Peter Stiles award which is awarded to a student for achieving outstanding results in their PLP goals. Alicia is such a worthy recipient as she continually works hard to accomplish all her PLP goals and we could not be prouder of all her achievements.

Ethan continues to work hard with all his set work as he has all year. This year he has built up an extensive knowledge in the areas of history, geography and science. This term Ethan has been learning about the evolution of animals. It is impressive that he can read so many challenging scientific words, as well as explain the meaning of the words. Well done Ethan!

Thanks to all my students and tutors for their tireless work throughout the year. Have a safe and relaxing holiday. I look forward to hearing about all your holiday adventures in 2021!

Melissa



Toby's Christmas lights display



Ethan in the Beat Treats band

Sharon's class news

What an exciting year 2020 has been, filled with many fabulous achievements for all my students.

Leah has continued to progress and further develop her gross motor skills and core strength. I am so proud of her engagement in a variety of sensory activities and am so excited to see the Seesaw posts showing her interaction and engagement in school activity. Congratulations on being a 2021 Year 6 School Leader!

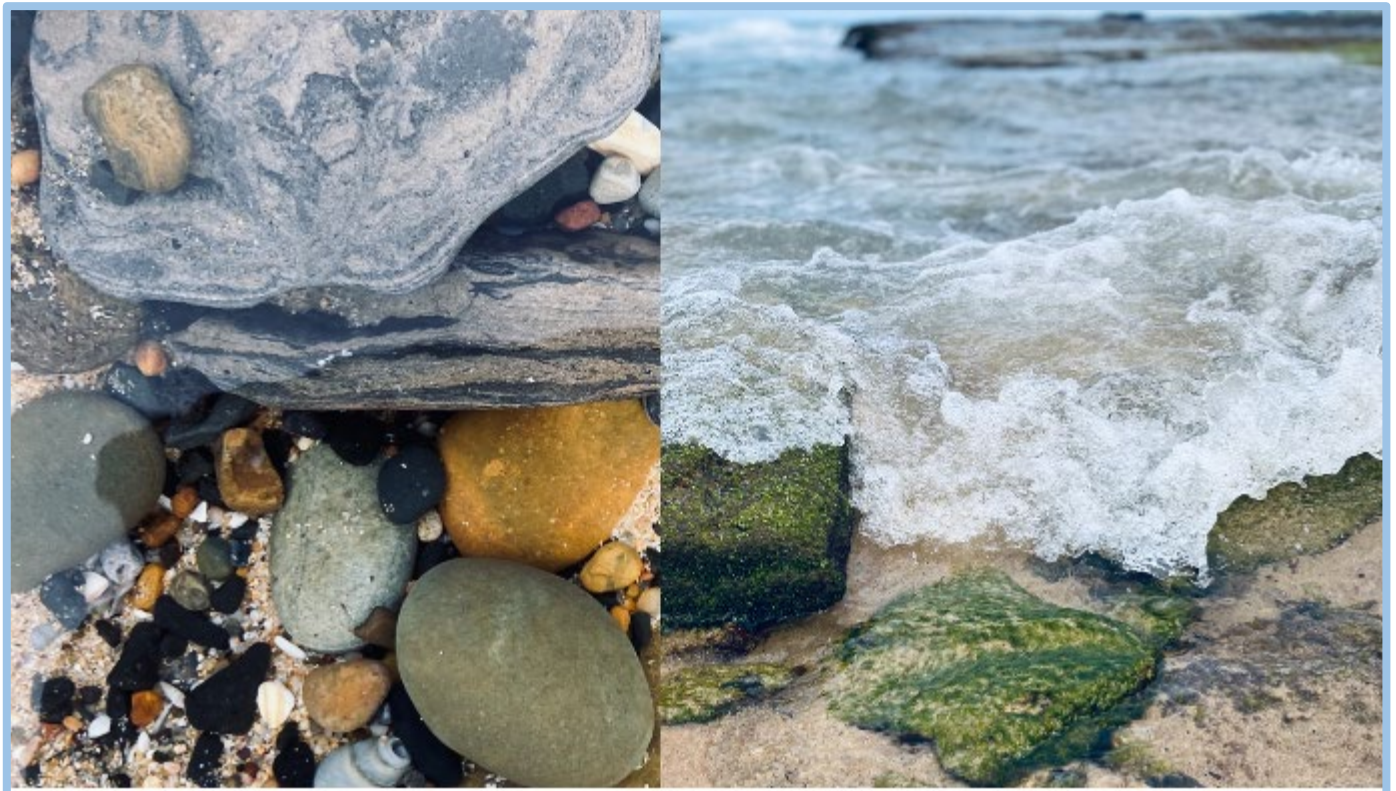
Tyson must be congratulated for not only developing his computer skills, but also his independence in the home. Tyson likes to email photos weekly, and these photos allow me to see the week that was. A huge development for Tyson is his ability to access Teams for program work. Congratulations Tyson on receiving the Richard Kidziak award for digital media. Also, wishing you a fabulous 15th birthday in January.

This year has seen Chris confidently using Proloquo2go to text family and friends using Messenger. This has been a wonderful achievement. I have also been very pleased with Chris' determination to take care of many of his personal care needs with minimal or no assistance. I cannot wait to hear of what else Chris will be able to achieve in 2021 at home and as a Year 6 School Leader!

Cruz has had a year filled with family time activity. Cruz has bonded with her family, as well as with animals on her property. She has reached out towards them, wanting to feel and be close to their warmth. This is a beautiful achievement Cruz.

Wishing students and families at SEWS a very healthy, happy and safe summer break.

Sharon



Tyson's winning digital entry in the Richard Kidziak Art Competition

Dawn's class news

I would like to congratulate all my students on all their achievements this year. This year has been different and come with its own challenges but all my students have worked extra hard and there have been many highlights as they have strived to achieve their goals.

Bethany has moved interstate and we wish her and her family all the best in the next chapter of their lives! It has been great working with you this year, good luck!

Nadine has been getting all festive and is very excited for the Christmas holidays. She has been listening to and giving her opinion on Christmas songs and engaging fully with her Christmas themed Set work.

It was awesome to celebrate all of the achievements of DESU students during our very first DESU Zoom presentation day. Ben joined in and was able to show off his Proloquo4text skills by writing messages directly to us and in the chat box available in Zoom. Ben has impressed us this year with his engagement and completion of Stage 5 English, maths and history work, developing his communication using Proloquo4text on his iPad and increasing his wellbeing by accessing his community with support workers and developing new hobbies and interests. Take a look at Ben's piece of writing about not wasting time, it really is a moving piece of writing! I know I will be using my time wisely this summer Ben.

Wishing everyone a fun, restful and well-deserved summer break!

Dawn




Nadine feeling festive



Ben skating into 2021

Time Waits for No-one

We should not waste our time on regretting the past. Humans have the understanding of their mistakes often without the yearning to forgive themselves. There is no point in the constant, utterly pointless punishment of oneself.





Life is too short to have regrets and how terrible to waste it on trivialities. Tension in our lives only harms ourselves, not the other person. Time ticks on and on and the next hour is gone. That time could yearn to be spent on something else, such as loving each other. We could spend our time together doing utterly enjoyable things, like taking a trip to the beach in the summertime to search for dolphins and whales. That would stem the regret!

Most of all, the loved ones have too much to lose. They miss out on loving the best version of us. Hourly love is needed in the world to cancel out hatred in our hearts.

The worst thought in the story of our lives is regret. Nothing in the past can be changed. Talk to your loved ones with love and kindness. Time is precious!

Benjamin Dowding 7th December, 2020



Ben's writing

Amanda's class news

Jacob has been working on his physical skills and communication this term. He loved walking in the bush with his mum. They walked a long way, showing how fit Jacob is now. Jacob also loves running in the garden or park and swinging high on the swing. Jacob has tested out a new communication device. He helped the speech pathologist prioritise words and phrases such as 'Go out.' Jacob is hoping to get his own communication device next term. Jacob has chickens and a rooster in his garden. He likes watching them and helping feed them. He also has a new outdoor water tank where he can take a dip on a hot day. This means he can watch George the rooster while staying cool. Perfect!

Ray has visited a number of familiar and new places recently and is quick to find a suitable picnic spot even in unfamiliar venues. Ray loves listening to music in the car including Led Zeppelin and Pete Murray. He sways and rocks in time to the rhythm. Ray has been learning to throw and catch a ball. Initially he used a Velcro ball and glove but he can now catch any sized ball with two hands. Well done, Ray!

I have enjoyed having Ray and Jacob in my class over the last couple of years. They will move on to a new teacher next year and I will be retiring. I wish them both all the best for 2021. I hope you all have a good holiday.

Amanda



Jacob cooling down in the garden



Ray exploring Kangaroo Valley

Nicole's class news

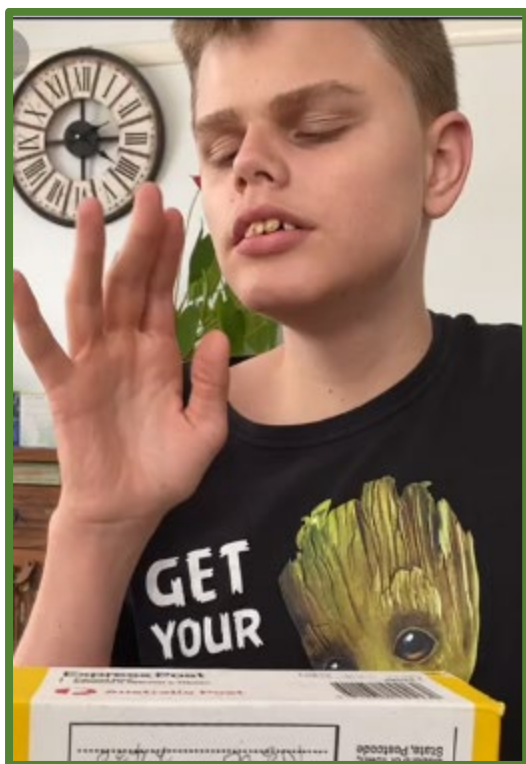
Wow! Term 4 is nearly at an end. Although this year has been fraught with many challenges, I would like to thank all my students for all the hard work and dedication they displayed this year to their school programs.

Recently the DESU celebrated Presentation Day virtually via Zoom. It was wonderful to be able to acknowledge all our students and their achievements. All my students received a trophy, class certificate and Premiers Sporting Challenge certificate. Eve was also awarded a Premiers Reading Challenge certificate for engaging in a range of quality literacy and reading experiences.

Jacob received a special award during Presentation Day. He received the Kiwanis TERRIFIC kids award. This award was well deserved as Jacob has not only made a consistent effort with his school work all year but was also an active member of the school band.

Congratulations to all my students for 2020. I wish all my students and their families a safe, happy, relaxing and well-deserved summer holiday.

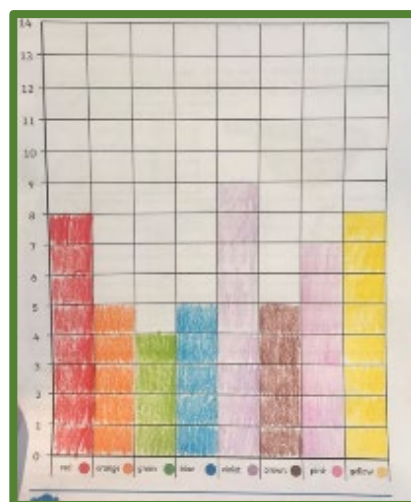
Nicole



Jacob was a star in the Beats Treats school band



Eve was very happy to meet the piglets at a local farm



Jayden created a graph to display how many Smarties he had (before he ate them)

Class 5 news

Class 5 have worked hard over the last term on their social and Personal Learning Plan (PLP) goals. Yash has made incredible progress in his PLP goals working towards his independence when moving around the classroom and throughout the school. He has particularly enjoyed our weekly hydrotherapy session. Yash has loved learning new skills in the pool.

Quinn has excelled in his ability to communicate his wants and needs. He greets people with a smile and has enjoyed talking to his peers. He has loved working with Brooke developing his switching skills and always loves an afternoon full of giggles.

Emily has shown us her kind and compassionate nature when interacting with her classmates, teacher and SLSO. She has made amazing progress with her physio goals. Emily loves to be involved and engaged in all activities trying to achieve her personal best.

Raymond has made wonderful progress when communicating and self-regulating his behaviour. He is such a happy member of Class 5 and always loves to give a high 5 to visitors with a big smile.

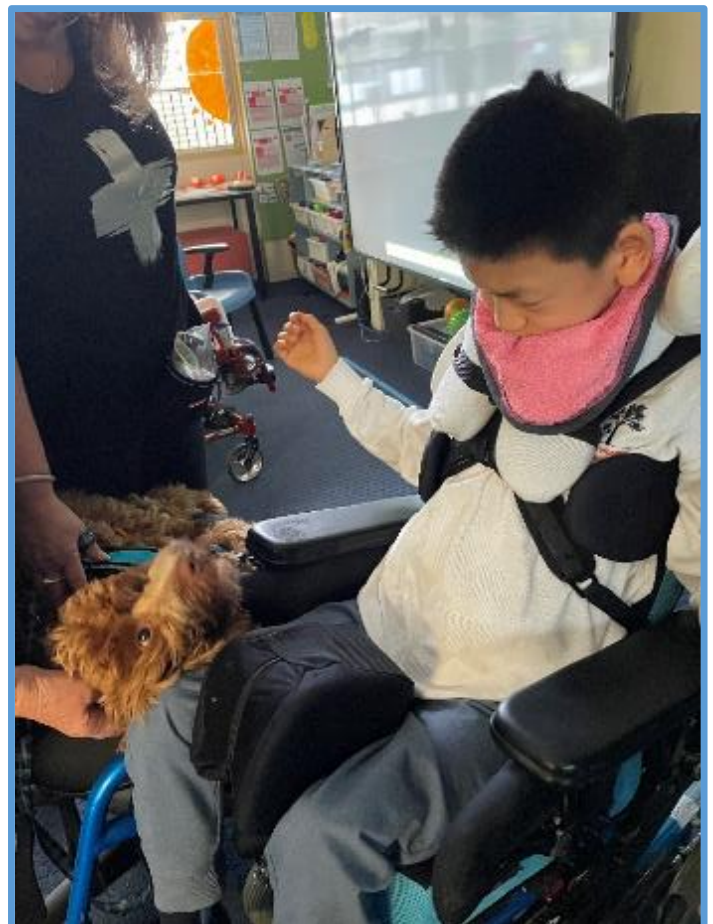
Ariel has continued to make eye contact with her communication partner. She enjoys working with Jodie on her physio goals and continues to share her love of music with the rest of the class.

Yash, Quinn, Emily, Raymond and Ariel all turn up to school willing and ready to learn, making it such a lovely class to work in. We have had such a fantastic year!

Georgina & Tanya



Emily smiling at her classmate's giggle



Raymond looking at Ziggy laying down

Barbara's class news

Alex enjoyed a short trip to the south coast recently, which opened up some great new opportunities for learning. Alex worked on her balance and mobility skills by getting in and out of the new family car and walking along the wet sand on the beach. Being at the seaside also introduced a range of interesting sounds, smells and textures that are very different from the Central West environment Alex is used to.

In the last couple of weeks of this school year, Azra will pass two major milestones. She will turn 13, officially becoming a teenager, and graduate from Year 6, officially becoming a high school student. Hopefully, Azra will be able to put some of her greatly improved fine-motor skills to good use at her party by helping to open her presents and picking up the largest piece of cake!

I feel so privileged to have had the chance to work with these two amazing young women and to have watched them go from strength to strength. Even though, after 30 odd years of teaching, it is sad to say goodbye to my last ever class, I'm also very excited by what the future holds for these two students (and all the other remarkable students I've been lucky enough to work with), and look forward to hearing about their wonderful achievements in the coming years!

Barbara



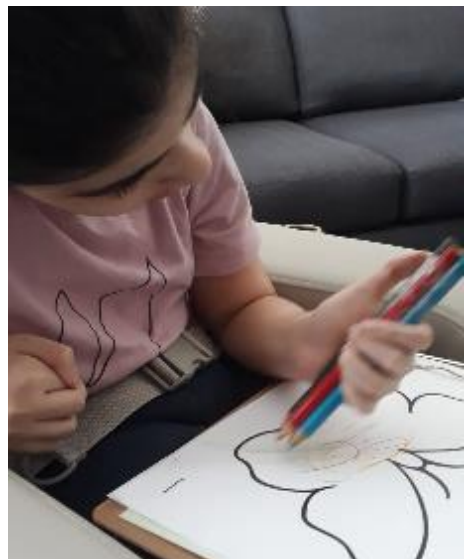
Great balance, even on the sand!



Azra opening presents



A very special cake!



Azra getting a better grip on a bundle of pencils

Class 4 news

It's now time to celebrate!

Last week's Presentation Day was the culmination of a challenging but also rewarding year. The class awards for each student reflected just a small glimpse of their many achievements over the year.

In the week prior to Presentation Day, much excitement was caused thinking about who might be the next School Captain from our class. When four new School Leaders were announced on the day the pride on each student's face was wonderful to see. A big congratulations to Tadhg, Thomas, Sam and Joshua, our first School Leaders. PJ was also announced as the winner of the Richard Kidziak art competition in the Paint, Print & Draw category.

As this is the final newsletter for the year we would like to wish Cameron and Hayden all the very best as they enter Year 7 at their new high schools next year. The Year 6 Graduation will be held during school time this year to give the boys a suitably fun send-off, keeping in mind covid safe restrictions.

To our families, we wish you all a very relaxing, safe and fun break. For those of you who celebrate the season, Merry Christmas!

Sue, Hilary & Merle



Getting in the festive mood!

Class 2 news

Congratulations to all our students for achieving their program goals this year. Many thanks to the dedicated parents and carers for their consistent commitment to support students to participate in a range of learning activities throughout a tumultuous year.

We look forward to celebrating our students' achievements in the next stage of their education journeys.

Thanks for a great year working together, and best wishes for a safe and restorative break.

Clare & Doug



Class 2 exploring the playground



Class 2 participating in morning circle



Ashley enjoying the play equipment



Ryan is our AAC star!

Rama's class news

We are in Week 9 and almost at the end of the year. I would like to congratulate all my students and their supportive tutors on another great year of learning in 2020.

Seth enjoys the regular walks with his family and walks down to the beach close to his house. He follows the road rules and is a safe pedestrian whilst on the road.

Kayla is effectively using her PODD book and AAC communication device to communicate her needs. She listens to different genres of music and bobs her head and tries to vocalise the songs that she enjoys.

Mohamed loves music and had an opportunity to meet Channel 9 *A Current Affair* reporter Brady Halls.

It's time to bid adieu to my two amazing Year 12 students Mohamed and Isabella.

Mohamed and Isabella, I've been very fortunate to have the two of you in my class over the couple of years and watch you both develop some fantastic life skills. I'm continually impressed by your resilience, diligence and always striving to do your best. I would also like to thank Mohamed's and Isabella's families for their continued support over the years. Wish you both the very best for all your future endeavours and I'm looking forward to hearing about the wonderful activities that you both participate in next year. All our year 12 students received graduation bears which were generously donated by Tommy's (DESU School Captain) mum.

I would like to thank all my students and their families for all their hard work this year and wish them a very happy and safe holiday.

Rama



Mohamed with A Current Affair reporter, Brady Halls



Year 12 graduation bears

Class 1 news

Class 1 eventually got their long-awaited PPC (a.k.a. pool, pizza and cupcake party)! They had fun playing games in the pool and delighted in spraying their teacher with water. The pizza and cupcakes were eaten in style around the table in the staffroom.

During their music lessons, Class 1 students practised hard to master playing Boomwhacker instruments. They have been able to play a variety of songs in an ensemble using coloured tubes of different lengths (each representing a different note), by following the instructions on the interactive whiteboard.

Our recent study in art was focused on cubism and the works of Pablo Picasso. Students drew self-portraits and used coloured paper and crayons to decorate their pictures. The results were stunning and unique pieces of art.

Presentation Day gave us another reason to celebrate (and eat lots of snacks). Well done to all the students in Class 1. They have worked really hard through a very difficult year and have made great strides in their learning.

We would like to take the opportunity to thank all our parents for working with us through this difficult year. Have a fantastic holiday season, stay safe and we will see you in the new year!

Ms Nina & Mrs B



Yeah, it's pizza party!



The Class 1 Boomwhacker Ensemble



Presentation Day celebration



Self-portraits Picasso-style

Melinda's class news

I just want to start by saying how proud I am of all my student's achievements in 2020. It has been a challenging year but it didn't stop them from being enthusiastic and committed learners, and achieving incredible results. I also want to say a big thank you to their tutors, who without their amazing support, none of this would be possible.

I wish all my students, Ned, Summer and Isabel, and their families a wonderful holiday season. I look forward to working with you all again in 2021 and hearing all about your holiday adventures. Merry Christmas!

Melinda



Melinda as a reindeer

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