

Sir Eric Woodward School Newsletter

Term 1 2020

Week 8

19th March 2020



Principal's message

Congratulations to Mr Patrick Price, the newly appointed Deputy Principal at Sir Eric Woodward School. Mr Price has a wealth of experience in varying roles within the Department of Education. He will bring his enthusiasm for student centred learning as he joins the senior executive team at SEWS. After a recruitment process that involved written application, referees and an interview Mr Price came through the rigorous merit selection process as the successful and highly qualified applicant. This permanent appointment commences on Monday 27 April 2020. I look forward to working alongside Mr Price as he takes on this new and exciting role as Deputy Principal. Please take the opportunity to join me in providing Mr Price a warm welcome as the new permanent Deputy Principal of Sir Eric Woodward School.

Last week I was lucky enough to join Class 1 and 4 at the Northcott Swimming Carnival at Ryde Aquatic Centre. What a fantastic day. We joined 8 other schools in a mixed ability swimming carnival that allowed everyone to compete in a number of fun events. I was so proud to see everyone join in and swim in multiple events. We also won a prize for the fabulous banner made by Class 1. I was very impressed with each and every student who attended this excursion. Well done SEWS!!!

I would like to thank all of our community for your ongoing support and patience at this time of uncertainty with the COVID-19 pandemic. The reports of potential school closures in the media over the weekend may have increased your concern about whether the school is operational and safe for your children to attend. SEWS is open for education as usual and children (unless unwell or self-isolating from returning overseas) can attend school.

As per the mandated directives released from our Prime Minister, Scott Morrison, any families returning from overseas are required to self-isolate for 14 days before returning to school. Additionally, any students who present with any flu like symptoms or who are feeling unwell are asked to remain at home until symptoms resolve. Schools are continually receiving updates from the Department of Education and NSW Government and Health regarding the management of our schools. We will keep you up to date with any information and email further advice regarding postponed school activities as it comes to us.

Three actions we can all take to help manage the spread



1. **Wash your hands** regularly and thoroughly.
2. **Sneeze into your elbow** or a tissue, disposing of the tissue straight away and then washing your hands.
3. **Stay home if you are unwell**

As always, the safety and welfare of our students and school community is our prime concern.

Sian



Hayden, Tadhg and PJ are ready!



Tadhg in the duck grab



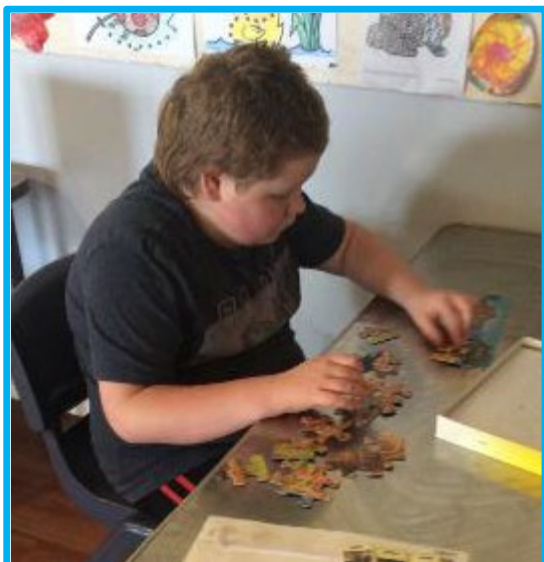
Off we go!

Deputy Principal (relieving) report

As you are all aware, we are hurtling toward the end of Term 1 2020 at a rapid rate! Across the school we are, as always, all intent on quality teaching and learning for all our students – despite the impact of Covid19! The DESU teachers and supporting assistant principals have been incredibly busy criss-crossing the state as they visited students earlier in the term. Semester 1 learning goals have been established and students are engrossed in learning to achieve individualised goals. In the face to face school it has been so exciting to see our new students settle so well into their new learning environments. As for our existing students they are thriving as they progress to a new year and a new class (for some!).

Across the school teachers are now collecting data as part of the Department's Assessment for Complex Learners trial. Thank you to all parents/ carers who returned their signed consent forms. As this is the final Term 1 newsletter I would like to say to you all - have a healthy and happy break (when it arrives!).

Louise S



Chris enjoys showing off his visual reasoning skills on a recent visit



Nadine trialling Charlotte's glasses on a recent visit



Brenda uses all available technology to keep school records up to date so that our students have the technology they need!!

**We are sorry to inform you until further notice
Monday lunch orders are cancelled.**



birthdays

Happy birthday to Yash, Seth, Quinn, Will, Nadine, Ned, Summer, Jeremiah, Lucy, Nikolina, Joshua W, Sharif

We're proud to say



**National Day
of Action** against
Bullying and Violence

Friday 20 March 2020

On Friday 20 March 2020, our school will stand together against bullying and violence to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence (NDA).

The NDA is Australia's key anti-bullying event for schools. It is a positive day of action which strengthens our everyday message that bullying and violence have no place at **Sir Eric Woodward School**.

You can visit the NBA website for more information at

Check out our school's website for our response to Bullying. No Way!

Class 6 news

What a busy time we have had in Class 6! There were smiles all round during our music lesson with Miss Kiri, everyone loved the opportunity to touch and listen to a variety of instruments as we played along to some traditional music from the Philippines.

In Creative Arts, Class 6 have continued exploring aspects of Philippine culture and geography as part of their HSIE unit of work. Each student contributed to the creation of a collage that depicted a Walden hornbill. Between the painting, cutting and gluing, there were plenty of opportunities to *'get our craft on'*.

We also had a very warming start to a grey and rainy Monday during our hydrotherapy session. It is always so exciting watching the students enjoy the freedom of the water.

Nellie, Sandy & Sophie



Sophie sitting in a beanbag enjoying music



Dan smiling during art time

Deborah's class news

Jeremiah has been enjoying the last of the warm weather with visits to the beach, and other activities in his community.

Ramona has also been engaging in long drives in her community, where she is making commendable progress with her social skills.

Unfortunately I will be unable to visit Jeremiah and Georgia until the current restrictions on travel have eased.

I trust that my students stay safe and well during this time.

Deborah



Jeremiah at the beach

Jo's class news

Andrew has had a great start to the year and has been really keen to complete his Set work. He has also spent time in the community with an excursion to Maitland Gaol and a scavenger hunt through the bushland.

Hoping all of my students stay safe and well during these coming weeks.

Nicole C (for Jo)



Andrew visited Maitland Gaol

Charlotte's class news

Moustafa and his family have really engaged with his educational program. I've seen so many wonderful activities that Moustafa is involved in through the Seesaw app. It is really helping me to get to know Moustafa's strengths and skills, and to build a program for him that will give both confidence and challenge.

Ethan has been impressing me with his conversation skills, he tells me all about his community visits and his favourite films and cartoons. He is also becoming very proficient at giving me the weather report from his window at home. I was hoping to meet Ethan soon but due to Covid-19 field trips are currently postponed.

Nikolina has been making good progress with her new switch device. She is learning to communicate her needs and will look at mum and expect her to speak when her feeding is paused. Nikolina couldn't be more clear about wanting her dining experience to continue! This 'sabotage' routine is very successful in creating a need to communicate. Great work Nikolina.

Chris is gutted that all his rodeos have been cancelled due to Covid-19 but being a sensible young man he understands the reasoning behind the move. Plenty more time for Set work Chris!

Charlotte



Moustafa enjoying story time with his carer



Nikolina enjoying a trip out

Karen's class news

During my recent field trip to see Jules, we spent a lovely morning at an animal park. We saw many animals and Jules was a veritable fountain of knowledge on the behaviours and characteristics of animals and she taught me a few new facts too! As always, Jules and her mum warmly welcomed me into their home. I had a new art app for Jules to try out on the iPad and she proved very adept at navigating her way through the different options available and created the very colourful abstract artwork shown below in no time at all.

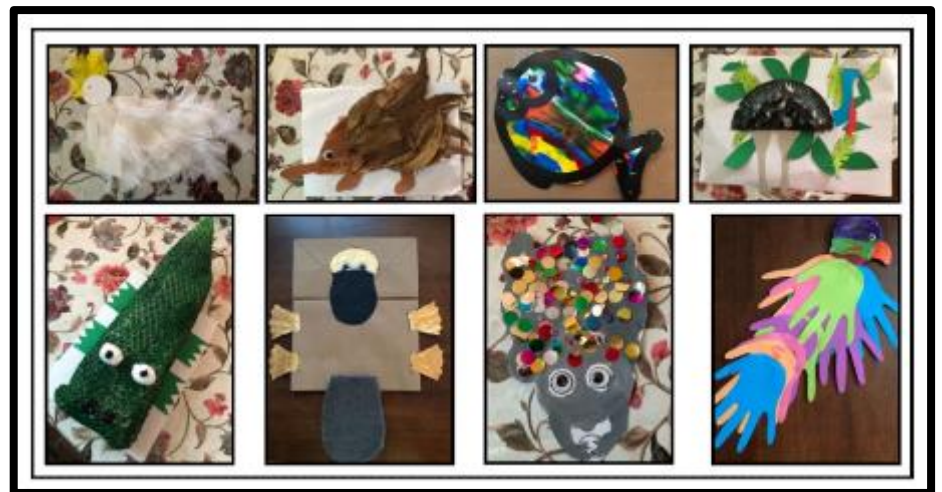
I also had the opportunity to meet Katana and her tutor, Debbie on this field trip. It was lovely to put a face to a name and the voice on the other end of the phone! Debbie and I spent some time discussing Katana's goals for this semester. Katana has been looking at Australian animals in visual arts and has produced some fantastic artworks.

Justin and Nate are both working hard to achieve their goals this semester. Congratulations to Justin on being the Kiwanis Terrific Kids award recipient this term. He has made significant progress recently and is a very deserving winner.

Karen



Jules' iPad abstract artwork



A selection of Katana's Aussie animal art

Class 3

Class 3 has been making waves in the pool at school. Everyone has suited up and adjusted their goggles to crawl like crocodiles, bubble like a bottle, float like boats, and flutter kick like super swimmers! We also have some who can glide through the water like fish. All our super swimmers have shown they can quickly get changed in preparation for the pool and shower, and dry and dress again afterwards with growing independence.

In the playground Class 3 have tried out the bikes, trampoline and stilts. Students are making safe, respectful choices whilst learning how to access the new sensory equipment, including the roller and sensory cushions and mats.

Lee & Jennie



Dylan relaxing as he floats

Gareth exploring the playground on stilts



Ethan demonstrating his flutter kick with bubble blowing



Melissa's class news

As always, the term has flown by and we find ourselves moving toward the school holidays. The newest member to our class Toby has really settled in well and is working extremely hard each week to complete his Set work and participate in his community access program. Currently we are in the process of finalising the paperwork so that Toby can start work experience in Term 2. Toby has already started learning about the point of sale system used at work experience. Toby also attended his first 18th birthday party and had a fabulous time!

Alicia has been working so hard to complete her Set work and as always it is of a high standard. It is very pleasing to see how much she has achieved and as her teacher I am excited to observe her achievements. Alicia continues to develop confidence using the iPad which she uses for both education and leisure. I hear that she is very skilled at completing jigsaw puzzles on the iPad. Additionally, Alicia's handwriting has improved significantly; she is so close to being able to independently write her name.

Since the last newsletter I have had the opportunity to visit Ethan. It was a productive visit and I was so impressed with Ethan's commitment to his education. I could not have predicted how much Ethan would enjoy learning about Horrible Histories. Ethan's knowledge of *horrible history* is extensive! Ethan's reading and spelling is also significantly developing through his love of books. He is especially enjoying the Weirdo series by Anh Do.

Since passing his learners driving test Braydon has taken every opportunity to practise driving. I hear that he is very responsible and is showing great skill. Braydon has also been thinking about his future, and possible careers. He has already completed his White Card certificate so now we are looking at other construction tickets that he could work towards and possible work experience opportunities.

Melissa



Toby riding his bike for community access



Braydon holding his learners permit

Sharon's class news

Over the past few weeks I have had the opportunity to visit three of my students.

Leah demonstrated the progress she has made over the past few months. She is successfully using visual photo cards to make choices throughout her day. It was awesome to see her move forward in her walker, move both hands through wet and dry substances and transfer objects between her hands. I was amazed at her ability to take ownership over many personal care activities. The way Leah balances a mirror in one hand and a toothbrush in the other is wonderful to see. I think I was smiling as much as she was!

It was fabulous finally meeting Chris and speaking with his tutor about his school program and what happens during his day. We are now able to include many of his daily activities in his educational program, this includes helping Chris develop independence during personal care activity, completing chores, and at the same time identifying a communication device which will best suit his needs.

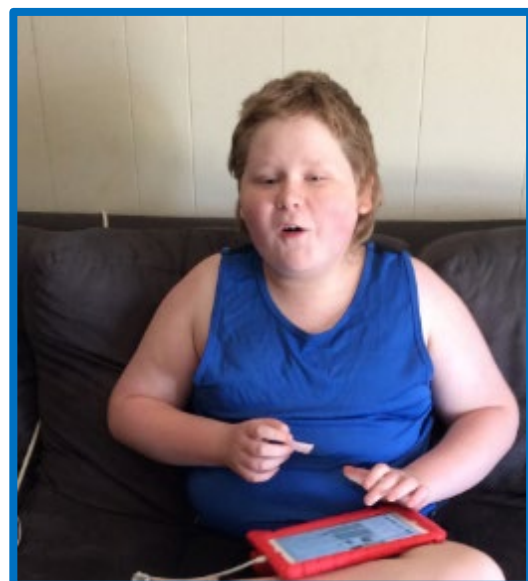
It was lovely to finally meet Cruz and her mother on my visit to their home town last week where we had the opportunity to speak about Cruz's educational program. I am looking forward to creating sensory activities for Cruz to engage with.

Tyson has had a great two weeks while his dad was on holidays. The family went on many outings, including drives and visits to the beach. Tyson has been working consistently on his school work and I'm very impressed that he uses the Seesaw app to send me photos and to upload finished pieces of work.

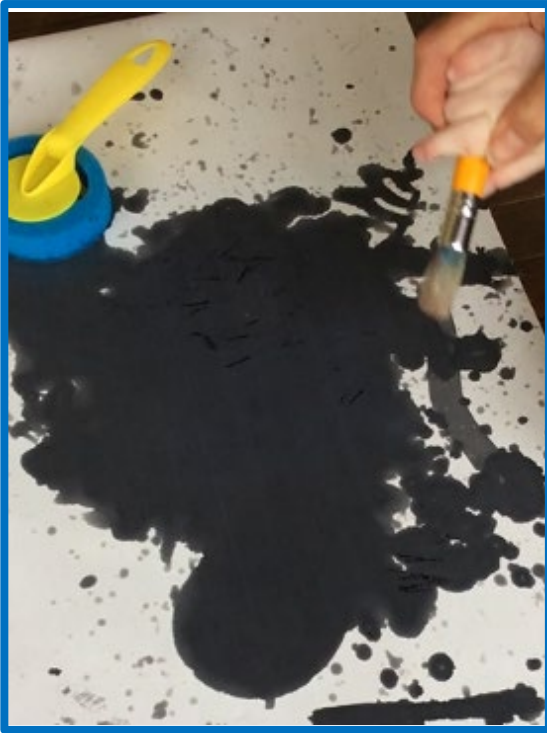
Sharon



Meeting Cruz in her community



Chris enjoys playing games on the iPad



Hand over hand Leah enjoys creating using a calligraphy mat



Tyson has been preparing meals, here he is boiling sausages

Dawn's class news

It was great to get out to visit Bethany and Nadine last week and I would like to thank both of their families for welcoming Charlotte and myself into their homes.

Bethany was enjoying her favourite programs during our visit and showing us how she can make choices between two items and how she can watch and follow actions her tutor makes whilst looking in a mirror. It was great to see Bethany engaging in anticipation games using her favourite bumble bee and laughing in delight when her tutor made the bumble bee re-appear over her shoulder. She also showed us how she can pull herself up to join in activities at the dining table.

It was lovely to finally get to see Nadine in her home and meet all the animals they have on the farm that Nadine talks about during our weekly REACT lessons. Nadine wowed us with her enthusiasm for her learning and in particular her engagement with Seesaw activities. Nadine completed writing, number and drag and drop activities on Seesaw, and with support used the microphone to record her responses. I look forward to all the wonderful learning activities she will be able to instantly share with me using Seesaw.

Izack came to school to visit us last week and made all of us proud with how well he did to access the school, and to complete several learning activities. Izack thoroughly enjoyed using TinkerCad to complete a 3D design and watching the 3D printer in action as it printed his design.

Ben has been learning all about the Vikings in his favourite subject History and is definitely an expert in all things 'Viking'. Ben has now completed his novel study on *Hatchet* by Gary Paulsen and his written responses are very impressive. I have shared an example of Ben's diary writing from one of the character's point of views. I hope you enjoy reading it as much as I did.

Dawn

Date: / /
Dear Diary,
I yearn to tell you how steering the plane was terrifying in the eye catching Canadian wilderness. The landing at the exceptionally confusing dash sent harrowing events into even worse terror to heart. In long sth ste otherwise fearful descent I thought I was destined to die. I knew I would tolerate operation I knew history and estimated I would survive if I could land the plane. I screamed as stony landing happened and lost my mind to fear. Its a miracle I survived. I hope I'm rescued soon.

Signed
Love Brian

✓ Wow! Great diary writing Ben.

Ben's diary writing



Bethany making choices between books



Izack's 3D printed design



Nadine working on Seesaw

Nicole's class news

Over the last few weeks, I visited two of my students, Usman and Jacob on field trips.

It was great to meet Usman and his family at their home. I was able to observe Usman requesting a cuddle from his carer by moving and leaning into her. It was also great to see Usman's wonderful smile as he viewed programs on the TV. Usman recently visited Melbourne, where he had the opportunity to get up and close to some fairy penguins and experience the largest shopping centre in Australia.

During the same week, I visited Jacob for the first time. Jacob gave me a guided tour of his house and impressed me with his amazing video editing skills. I was able to observe him completing some of his school work and make a purchase in his local community.

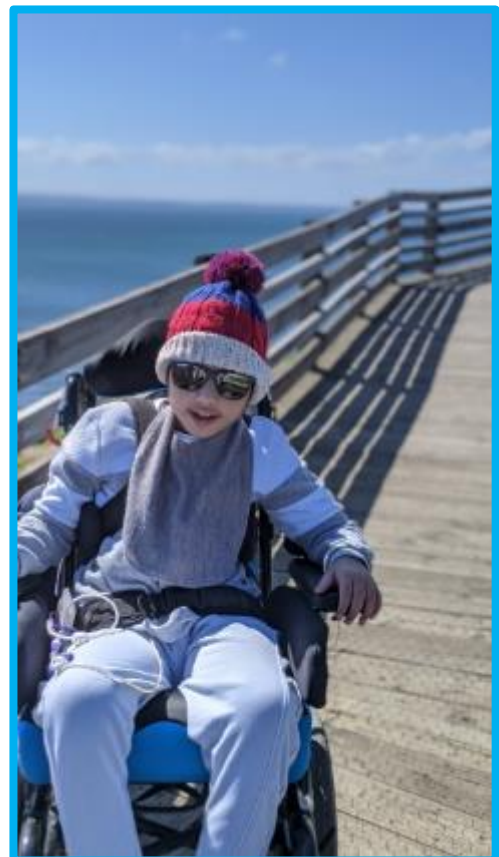
Thank you to both Usman and Jacob's families for welcoming me into their homes for the field visits. Unfortunately I have had to postpone my field visits to see Jayden and Eve at this time.

Jayden and Eve have both been working well on their programs, and as with all my students, continue to amaze me with their developing skills in many areas.

Nicole



Jayden beside a kangaroo mosaic he made



Usman enjoying views of the ocean near Melbourne

Class 5 news

Class 5 has had a busy and active couple of weeks. We have been enjoying the warm weather and making the most of the sunshine in the morning with some PDHPE activities. Raymond, Yash, Quinn, Ariel and Oliver have enjoyed visiting the swing and taking turns to see how high they can go. All of Class 5 have been working hard in our hydrotherapy program, and we are so fortunate to have Jodie in the pool with us to help implement our programs. Yash, Oliver and Raymond have been practising their floating skills; whilst Ariel and Quinn have been working on stretching out their legs and standing up in the water. There has been lots of smiles and laughter in the pool.

Class 5 have continued to learn through our theme of 'Australia'. We have recently been listening to facts about snakes, and have created a colourful snake artwork. The class created this artwork by placing paint under plastic sheets and moving the paint around the paper. The students in Class 5 enjoyed the sensory aspect of this task.

Georgina & Tanya



Quinn admiring his snake artwork



Ariel enjoying the swing



Yash enjoying riding a bike outside in the morning sunshine

Amanda's class news

In the last few weeks I have been to visit both Ray and Jacob on different occasions. It was lovely seeing them both as Jacob has moved house since I last saw him, and I have not previously visited Ray's home.

Ray loves water. He enjoys hosing down the deck which is a great way to help keep the backyard clean. He has a hammock which he finds soothing to lie in. He has a trampoline and climbing equipment both good activities to keep fit. Ray has been making choices and selects the kind of food he wants to eat on Wednesday takeaway night. He recognises the day as Wednesday and looks forward to having take-out. He makes a choice from cards showing the local options. Great choice making Ray.

Jacob's new house has a swing. Jacob loves being pushed but can make the swing move independently as well. He has a trampoline but prefers to have someone with him to help bounce. Jacob has begun to explore his community. He has been swimming at a local school where he had a wonderful time swimming and playing games. One of his PLP goals is preparing to go out. He is learning to put on his shoes and pack his bag. Jacob, it was great to catch up with you when I visited.

Amanda



Jacob having fun at the swimming pool



Jacob showing how well he can use the swing



Ray's hammock on the deck

Class 4 news

Busy as ever, that's what we've been!

In class we have been practising our fundamental movement skills of catching, throwing and the two-handed strike. Everyone has shown progress over the weeks of practise, using these skills in small games.

In maths students have really enjoyed using IXL Math for targeted practise and have used the interactive platform to improve on many areas, if not to master them.

In English, all students have been working hard in their reading groups to master reading for meaning skills. Repeated reading and an emphasis on collaborative learning has meant students are increasingly learning from each other by listening to explanations given by other students, rather than working independently on a text.

In science and technology, all students have continued to use the STEM kits to find new ways of joining components to make objects and to understand in greater depth the properties of materials according to such things as their strength, durability, flexibility, and texture among many others.

Our Healthy Harold incursion seems so long ago, but the messages of daily hygiene have proven to be very timely. All students are working on washing their hands thoroughly, coughing into their elbows, and washing hands before eating.

Last Friday, members of Class 4 attended the Northcott Swimming Carnival at the Ryde Aquatic and Leisure Centre. It was a great day of fun and competition. We will certainly be attending again next year!

With only a few weeks to go before the end of term we will be even busier!

Sue & Paula



All the boys are showing off their two-handed strike

Barbara's class news

It was wonderful to see Alex so happy and relaxed during my visit a few weeks ago. She made excellent eye contact, smiled and used gesture to show that she wanted the social contact to continue. Rather than retreating into her room, Alex chose to spend time in the new schoolroom area in her home with her siblings and the new puppies, even though there was a lot of movement and noise. I was even able to see Alex swaying and tapping to a song she selected herself on the iPad. Now that Alex's 'gravity' chair is located in the schoolroom on a smooth floor, she is able to put her long legs to good use and scoots around the room in the chair (which is on casters).

Azra took advantage of some of the clear days we had last month to explore the outside environment, both in her community and in her own backyard. Azra enjoyed moving in the Liberty swing in a local park, and feeling the breeze during a stroll along a pier.

With help from her talented father, Azra has completed some beautiful artworks for an Australia-themed Set.

Barbara



Azra helped scrunch paper to make the flag



Moving gravity chair with feet



Azra enjoying a swing in a local park



Azra experiencing sun, shade and breeze in her backyard

Class 1 news

We had an extremely busy four weeks since our last newsletter. First we had our eagerly awaited visit from Healthy Harold, which is always a great hit with the students. During the session we learnt all about how to be a good friend.

In science & technology we made dinosaur fossils and printed small toys using a 3D printer and Tinkercad designs. The fun didn't stop there as we also crafted dinosaurs out of salt dough, learnt all about ferns from long ago and today, and even built two robots, Sammy and Hammy.

We were able to attend the Northcott Swimming Carnival on the 12th March and it was a smash hit! Not only did we have a wonderful time competing against other schools, we also won the 'Best Banner' award – a brand new remote control Ferrari!

Let's hope Term 2 can live up to our expectations.

Nina & Anita



Making 2D shapes with our bodies



Xavier with his 3D printed 'Bat mobile'



Textures



English – writing our own story using a wordless book from Kids A-Z



Our visit from Healthy Harold!



Northcott Swimming Carnival
Let's see what you can do

Class 2 news

Congratulations to all our students for an excellent Term 1 in Class 2.

Alfie has smashed his mobility goals already by travelling over 300 metres in his walker... and that was all achieved before lunch! He has also developed his skills in operating a variety of switches to modify his environment independently. Well done, Alfie!

Daniella has used her KWS to make observations and requests throughout this term. She has also increased her strength, as demonstrated by the distances she is covering on the big red bike with Jodi (our amazing school physio) each week. Go for it, Daniella!

Milan has been developing his literacy knowledge using an online learning platform. He has also experienced much achievement in reading a variety of books each day. Milan is learning how to safely explore the school environment to discover new activities. Great work, Milan!

Ryan has become familiar with our class routine and often leads the way to our next activity. He is also consistently using his AAC to request his preferred activities. Ryan has started to participate in activities alongside his class mates, indicating that he is comfortable and happy in his new school. So good, Ryan!

I am looking forward to supporting our students to continue to experience achievement in Term 2.

Doug & Trish



Alfie ready to go for a walk



Milan demonstrating addition



Daniella completed a U-turn on the bike



Ryan taking turns to play on the slide

Rama's class news

The term is flying by and my students are working very hard on their programs. With the impact of Covid19, it's important to remember to follow personal hygiene and stay safe.

I visited Isabella last month and she welcomed me into her home. Isabella enjoys completing puzzles and completed a puzzle of the world with 300 pieces! Isabella reads a catalogue to compare between 'cheap' and 'expensive' products. She is trying new foods and participated in making a salad. This term Isabella is learning about mummification, and excavated her very own Egyptian mummy!

Mohamed is adept using Google maps. He is moving to a new house later this week. Mohamed already knows his new address and used Google maps to find the route to take to his new home. Mohamed can find Australia on a world map and identifies both the Australian and Aboriginal flags. Mohamed enjoys using an abacus to complete simple addition and subtraction problems.

Kayla uses her Accent 1000+ to communicate and make requests. She is learning to read picture books and sequence pictures. Kayla went to the beach with her father and enjoyed feeling the cold water on her feet.

Seth has settled into his new home and enjoys swimming in the pool with his siblings. He uses his gym ball to complete his OT exercises. Seth demonstrates good personal hygiene and is learning to brush his own teeth. He practises road safety as a pedestrian and observes the traffic rules.

Rama



Isabella made salad



Isabella excavated her own Egyptian mummy

Louise's class news

Ned's regular visits to Grafton have been continuing, giving him opportunities to meet new friends, participate in ten pin bowling, and go grocery shopping with a support worker. He is learning how to use pre-packaged ingredients, such as salad mixes and pasta sauces, to put together simple and nutritious family meals. Ned has also been working on making healthy food choices, selecting 'every day' foods most of the time, and saving 'sometimes' food for special treats. Ned recently celebrated his birthday with an active day out surfing, swimming and scooter riding. Happy birthday Ned!

Isabel enjoys cooking, listening to music and participating in fun activities with friends. She recently took part in a very messy colour run! Isabel contributes at home by making sure her puppy has fresh water every day. She is learning how much our pets rely on us to keep them healthy and happy. Isabel visited an assembly and joined in an art class at the local school where she enjoyed interacting with students and staff. Looking at family photos has been an interesting way for Isabel to learn about 'past' and 'present' – dad has changed quite a lot since he was a baby!

Summer has adapted very quickly to her new Apple Pencil, and enjoys using it to interact with drawing apps on the iPad. Summer is making great progress with answering 'why' questions, and is now starting to pose her own questions. This will help Summer in her goal of more confidently communicating with unfamiliar people. Summer has been consistently completing her strength and stretch program, including some new exercises where she balances a bean bag on her head while walking a straight line or catching a ball – challenging!

Ashainte has recently, unfortunately, been unable to work on her learning program. I am looking forward to Ashainte participating in her schoolwork in the future.

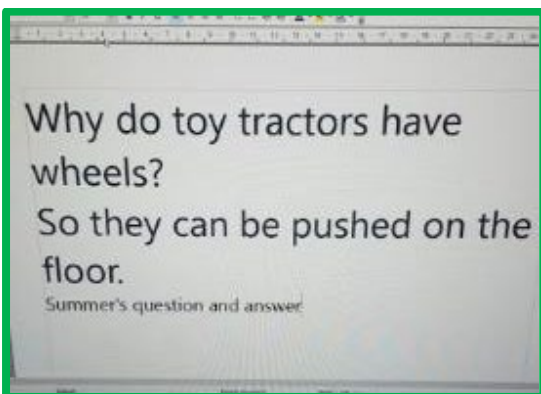
Carolyn



Isabel makes sure her puppy has clean water



Ned enjoys playing soccer



Summer types her own question and answer

AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM YOUR P&C ASSOCIATION

We're looking for an introduction to companies we can approach to discuss sponsorship opportunities.

Everyone knows of companies, or has friends or family who work for an organisation who fall under one or more of these categories....

Companies or individuals with Charitable Foundations

Many corporations and wealthy individuals have their own foundations

Organisations involved in fundraising for charities

Rotary, Lions, RSL and sporting clubs all have causes they sponsor so why not our school?

Companies and or individuals willing to donate their time

It's not all about money, we're always on the lookout for people who can volunteer their time

Companies and or individuals who make donations to charities

Did you know that many of the charities people donate to only receive a fraction of what is donated? 100% of donations to our charity go directly to our children, making it a good investment and a tax deductible one too!!!!

If everyone can provide us with at least a couple of contacts, we can get this project moving and start attracting sponsors.

To help is easy, all you need to provide is the following information for each organisation or individual and email the P&C Association at....

sewmspandc@gmail.com

All we need is....

1. **Your name**
2. **Name of the organisation or individual**
3. **A contact name, phone number and or email**
4. **How you know them** – (if we can say something like "I was given your name by Joe from cricket" it makes it a lot easier to connect)
5. **If you want to be involved when we contact them** – entirely up to you whether you simply provide the information or want to get involved

The more companies we can contact the more money we can raise to help our children

Thanks for participating,

Daryl Perry
P&C President



HELP PREVENT THE SPREAD OF NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)



Novel Coronavirus is a new virus that causes respiratory illness in people. Symptoms include coughing, sneezing, runny nose, fever and shortness of breath. To help prevent the spread of the virus and protect yourself, follow Dr. Rita's recommendations!



Wash your hands often with soap and water



Avoid close contact with people who are sick



Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue or sleeve



Avoid touching your face



Stay home when you are sick and get lots of rest



Eat healthy foods and drink plenty of fluids