

Sir Eric Woodward School Newsletter

Term 2 2020

Week 4

20th May 2020



Principal's message

Welcome back to a very different looking Term 2 at SEWS!

I would like to thank all of our community for your ongoing support and patience at this time of uncertainty.

We are very pleased to announce that all schools will be returning to full-time on-campus learning from Monday 25th May. SEWS school activities and operations will be in line with Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC) and NSW Health guidelines as applicable. Schools are safe and open for full time face-to-face learning. Online learning will not continue. All students are expected to be back at school unless they are unwell or have a medical certificate to support their absence.

The following activities are still not permitted at this stage:

- hydrotherapy
- school incursions and excursions
- volunteers
- external providers
- parents on site
- assemblies

Enhanced cleaning will continue both during the school day and before school in line with NSW Health advice. It has been so exciting to see our students returning to the classroom with such enthusiasm over the last two weeks. We are looking forward to seeing you all at school every day next week.

Our DESU families continue with learning via their usual distance mode with no changes other than the cancellation of Field Service visits for the moment. I know our DESU staff are very keen to get out to see you all as soon as we are able.

Semester 1 student assessment and reporting will adopt a revised approach to reflect the teaching and learning environment during Semester 1. This means that our reports will be sent to families a bit later than usual and will be simplified to focus on the learning that has taken place at school and home.

On Tuesday 12th May we celebrated International Nurses Day and the SEWS community recognised the amazing ongoing contribution and expertise Mary Carmody brings to our school. Her calm and kind nature, and her superior clinical skills support our education staff to deliver effective teaching and learning programs to our students. I know that all of our staff would like to join me in thanking Mary for everything she does at SEWS.

You may have had a chance to chat with or meet our new Deputy Principal, Pat Price who has joined our school team this term. Pat has settled in quickly and is working hard to get to know everyone at SEWS as a first priority. I'm sure you will join me in welcoming him to our school.

Finally, please remember to keep your child at home if they are unwell.

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

Sian



Thomas showing off his hand-ball skills against Mr Price

Deputy Principal's message

I would like to thank everyone, staff, students and community members for making my start as Deputy Principal so fantastic. I have had nothing but positive experiences thus far which I feel is a reflection of a school environment that values its students, staff and the community which it works with.

During this period of lock down challenge I have witnessed some fantastic examples of student centred programs being implemented as well as teaching and learning experiences coordinated in creative ways to meet the needs of the students and families in a face to face and distance education capacity. I have really appreciated staff inviting me into their class rooms and taking me through programs and initiatives they have in place to support their students achieving the best possible outcomes.

As we re-commence with elements of face to face teaching and learning it has been great to finally meet some of the students and take the time to build relationships with each as well as the staff at SEWS. Building strong relationships and working closely with teachers and families will be a focal point for the remainder of this term and beyond for me as Deputy Principal.

Patrick Price



Birthdays

Happy birthday to Alex, Juliette, Tadhg, Nathan, Sher, Ryan, Cruz, Kayla, Chris W, Chris Wo

Deborah's class news

Despite the Covid-19 restrictions, it's great to see my students engaging with their programs and maintaining communication through photos and messages.

Tommy has been busy with technology projects, including designing his garden. He has potted plants and prepared the soil for laying pavers.

Ramona is developing her skills in identifying vegetables and fruit in science.

Georgia is enjoying matching familiar objects to the colours red and blue, and using her fingers to strike blue-coded piano keys in music.

Jeremiah is also enjoying the piano in music, and developing his fine motor skills to strike the keys.

Stay safe and well everyone!

Deborah



Tommy laying pavers



Jeremiah at his piano

Class 6 news

We think it would be fair to say that there has never been a time quite like the last few months at SEWS and beyond. We have all watched as life as we knew it began to take on a very different shape and form. Yet, in spite of the disruption and increased challenges to our families, we have been thrilled to see the way Class 6 students have embraced learning from home. We are so proud of the team work and creativity at play!

Dan has become a true renaissance man cooking, creating and smiling his way through a vast number of artistic pursuits at home. Clearly distance from school has not dampened your enthusiasm for learning Dan!

Sophie continues to work hard at home with online learning and her physical activities. Sophie, what a pleasure to see your smiling face as you sit down to work, and so very lovely to have you back in class this week.

Lucy and Telecaster have engaged with the online activities. It has been wonderful to have Lucy back with us over the last week to share some art time too.

Brooke has been a consistently active and enthusiastic Class 6 member. I wish we had strapped a pedometer on you Brooke, we would love to know just how many steps you have taken each day as you have zoomed around. Slowing down to participate in art may not have been your highlight, but watching you clearly communicate your feelings on the matter was one of ours!

Nellie, Sandy & Sophie



Dan making Master Chef worthy honey joys



Lucy modelling her art work with aplomb



Sophie hard at work with her physical therapy



Brooke, only just humouring her teacher

Jo's class news

I would like to officially welcome Suzy, a new student in DESU to SEWS. Suzy is in Year 6 and I am looking forward to getting to know her as I work with her mum on Suzy's educational program. Suzy enjoys going for walks and collecting things she finds throughout her local community, apparently she comes home with quite a large collection of bits and pieces sitting in her lap! This activity has proved invaluable as Suzy learns all about the season autumn. Below you will find photos of her autumn mobile created from her collections as well as a photo of her artwork of a tree where her amazing support worker extended the learning experience by incorporating primary colours.

Andrew has returned to his school work with such enthusiasm this term that he had completed his work early. While waiting for more Set work to arrive he has been designing and making a skateboard, when I last spoke to him Andrew was in the process of sanding the board in preparation to paint it green.

Jayden has been exploring position and numbers, and taking turns while playing Connect 4 with family members. In one of my recent phone calls an injured bird flew into his back yard and Jayden patted the bird very gently to avoid getting hurt.

Harry has been engaging in an extended selection of online activities and one that I was very interested to hear about was the scavenger hunt he did around his home. One object he was asked to find was a flashlight. Harry hadn't heard this word before and requested clarification, after learning that it was a torch he reached for his mum's phone and turned on the torch app! Great problem solving skills!

Jo



A side view of Suzy's mobile



Suzy's creative autumn tree!



Suzy's view of her fabulous autumn mobile!

Charlotte's class news

Thanks to parents sending in images on Seesaw and via email, I'm feeling in touch with the excellent learning that is happening. I appreciate this as it helps to plan better lessons in the future.

Each week I speak to Ethan and learn a little bit more about my new student. I now know that Ethan has a best friend, Jade, and that he loves a trip to the local town to get a family sized hot chips. He has many interests including aliens and Lego, this week Ethan sent me a photo of him winning a game of Mouse.

Chris has been working hard and has sent back a mountain of work, which I am waiting on the postie to deliver. We are about to start his White Card course over the phone so later this year we can attend a course together in Tamworth. It will be good to gain the knowledge needed to stay safe on a building site.

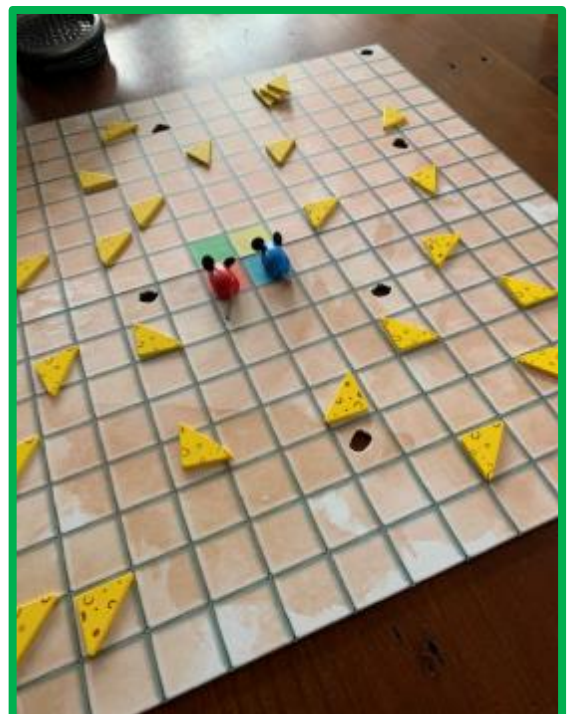
Nikolina has been very happy with the library of books she is collecting. She has been showing a keen interest in books, reaching out, holding the edge of the books and looking at the pages. This is great feedback that the books must be interesting, especially when accompanied by some fabulous voices from mum bringing the book to life.

Moustafa is missing his carers and therapists who visit during the week, however he has his siblings to keep him busy. Plus, his therapists call in via Zoom each week to say a big hello. He loves to play games and he has been enjoying his new Super Book of Fun with extra tracing, dot to dots, and story pages to practise program goals and to keep him busy.

Charlotte



Moustafa playing catch



Ethan's Mouse game

Karen's class news

We have had a very different start to a new term but I am thrilled to hear that all my students have taken our current unusual circumstances in their stride. They are all coping well with the restrictions on their community access and continue to engage in their school work on a daily basis. Well done everyone!

Jules has been completing much of her work on Seesaw and has adapted well to the different format. I have been thoroughly enjoying our weekly Zoom lessons, working through some of her Seesaw activities and more recently doing an art session together. I demonstrate different techniques and then we work on our pieces together. Jules also practises her conversation skills while doing her art and sometimes we listen to her favourite music.

Katana has been exploring musical instruments in visual arts and music. She loves to use everyday objects to create different sounds. Her nan has been doing a fabulous job supporting her in making various different musical instruments.

Justin has been coping well during isolation due to his consistent routine. He has especially been looking forward to his daily schoolwork sessions. Justin has been experimenting with different materials in visual arts. He recently completed an artwork using shaving cream and paint, the result is shown below.

Nate has made use of his time during lockdown in out of home care by engaging in sporting activities with support staff and peers – following social distancing guidelines of course! He has also been able to continue with his daily walks, keeping up his exercise regime. Nate started a new subject this year, Society and Culture Life Skills, and has been learning about how food, musical instruments and clothing can differ between cultures.

Karen



Jules' artwork



Justin's shaving cream art



Sorting food, clothing and instruments



Katana's musical instruments

Class 3 news

What a lot of changes our students have experienced this year! The Coronavirus pandemic caused concern, however throughout this time Class 3 have tried very hard to continue their learning from home. We stayed in touch via Zoom, Seesaw and phone-calls. Jennie and I thank all our parents for their tireless commitment to maintaining routines, and their patience, persistence and ability to wear so many hats!

With the support of their parents and some older siblings, our students have sustained their engagement with the tasks set. Along with the regular reading, spelling, handwriting, geography and algebra, students were engaged in some fun and active work including cooking, building models and measuring. Creativity shone through in the many artworks that were created and the music made.

Mother's Day presented opportunities to show the mums some gratitude and love. Gareth's recount of how he recognised the day sums it up beautifully, "*I drew mummy. I gave mummy flowers. I said, I love you mummy.*"

The students' musical talents were spotlighted with shared performances by Ethan on the piano, Dylan on the drums, and other students on created instruments.

Ms Lee and Ms Jennie



Iya-Rose's colourful monster painting



Ani has been counting at home



Sher's family at home



Dylan with his rainbow rain painting



Gareth's drawing of his mum



Ethan played an Easter tune

Melissa's class news

Welcome back for Term 2! Due to current circumstances we all had a different type of holiday this time but it was an excellent opportunity to spend time with family. Even though we are in isolation it hasn't stopped Toby from socialising, completing his amazing projects and going on long bike rides. Toby has been participating in a weekly Zoom social catch up with friends, one being a fellow DESU student. He is part way through completing a race track in his backyard where he races remote control cars (and beats everyone!), and he is becoming increasingly fit with his weekly bike riding sessions. Toby is hoping to complete an even longer ride over the next few weeks.

Alicia is using this time to really practise her skills completing jigsaws. Impressively, she is now up to 100 pieces which she completes independently on the iPad. Her tutor has sent me videos and it is amazing to see how quickly Alicia can identify the pieces to complete the puzzle. Alicia continues to work hard to complete her Set work and is really showing improvement in her ability to use Key Word Signs to communicate.

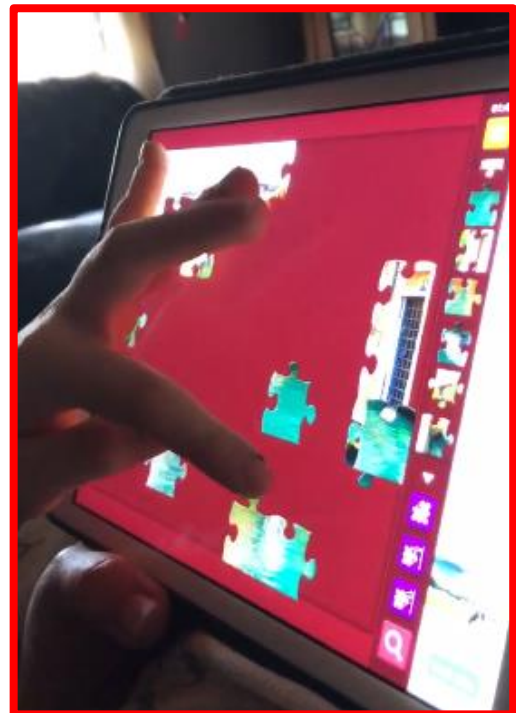
Ethan has proven that he is an expert historian with his extensive knowledge of Horrible Histories, even recounting gruesome facts to guests at a family gathering earlier in the year. Ethan is now turning his attention to science. He is thoroughly enjoying a show on Netflix called 'Oh Yuck!' Through watching this show Ethan has learnt about symbiosis, Charles Darwin and evolution, and the Emerald Cockroach Wasp. We certainly have interesting phone calls. I never know what I am going to learn next!

Braydon continues to take any opportunity to practise his driving skills and I hear that he is continually improving. As Braydon is in Stage 6, we have been focusing on preparing him for transition to post school. Braydon and his tutor have been talking about various career paths and opportunities for further training including possible apprenticeships or traineeships. Braydon is an active participant in these discussions.

Melissa



Toby's outdoor racing track



Alicia completing a jigsaw on her iPad

Sharon's class news

I am happy to report that my class have dived into their Term 2 school programs and are producing some amazing work. I appreciate the Seesaw posts and emails I regularly receive showing me footage of my students participating in a variety of activities, please keep these coming!

Chris celebrated his 11th birthday and was very keen to show me the phone he received to assist him communicate his needs to his family. I was so pleased to hear how Chris sends his mother messages throughout the day using Messenger, or communicates to her using Proloquo2go.

Cruz has had increased opportunities to interact with her siblings as they self-isolate at home. Cruz has enjoyed listening to her family read to her and help her participate in her 'winter' themed Set work.

It has been terrific hearing about Leah's achievements as she has engaged in an assortment of sensory activities. Leah has enjoyed feeling different substances in her sensory tub, she has smeared yoghurt over the surface of a mirror, listened with great interest to her personalised stories and relaxed to the sounds of classical music.

Tyson is cooking up a storm, he has combed through his cookbook collection looking for a range of sweets to bake. The photos of his finished dishes look absolutely delicious! I was full of smiles when I heard that Tyson is working well through his Set work and now completes many more activities with minimal prompting, well done Tyson!

Sharon



Leah busy at work, moving her hands in yoghurt



Cruz enjoying time in the sun



Chris smiles as he shows Sharon his new phone



Tyson baked choc-chip ricotta doughnuts

Dawn's class news

During these trying times, it continues to be a pleasure to hear how all my students are powering through and tackling learning goals with success.

Ben has been thoroughly enjoying completing English, history and maths work from Sydney Distance Education High and I have been able to log on to eLearning to mark and see some of his responses. I was particularly impressed with his inferential comprehension of poetry. See the example in the photos below and enjoy this little funny poem, as well as Ben's impressive comprehension skills.

Bethany has been engaging in all of her program and has taken to moving house like a dream. She has settled into her new bedroom and continues to move around and make sure her mum knows when she is hungry or thirsty. Great work Bethany!

Nadine continues to engage in weekly video lessons and is enjoying her creative arts program this year. She plans on painting her unicorn models this week and I look forward to seeing the final pieces. Nadine has also been engaging in digital art and as seen below, she had fun turning herself into a Dr. Seuss character using drawing tools on Seesaw.

Izack has been cooking up a storm and putting his maths skills to good use to create delicious treats including brownies and cookies. He has also been enjoying using Seesaw to complete work and asked if he can do all his work this way. Izack recently impressed me with his money skills, he is finding making amounts using notes straight forward and showed me he can make amounts with a decimal, such as \$20.50. Way to go Izack!

Dawn



The words in *Little Pig*

When a poet writes a poem, the words are chosen carefully. The words in *Little Pig* are a good example.

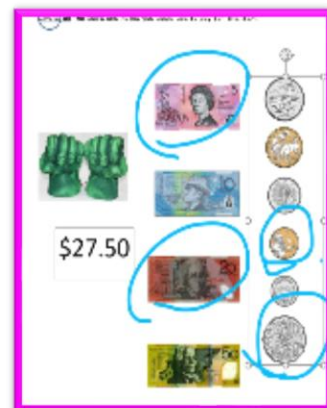
The lightning crashed
The thunder roared
Around the homestead station.
The little Pig curled up his tail
And ran to save his bacon.

Which expression in the poem means 'to save his life'?

Select one:

- curled up his tail
- to save his bacon ✓ well done!
- the thunder roared
- around the homestead station

Ben's poetry comprehension work



Izack's money work on Seesaw



Nadine as a Dr. Seuss character

Nicole's class news

Term 2 is well underway and although it looks a little different from usual, my students have been continuing to make great progress with their programs. Even with the small changes in some routines such as no hydrotherapy or being able to practice money skills when shopping in the community, my students have continued to show dedication to their learning programs. I have been very proud of all of their efforts in these unusual circumstances.

Jacob has continued to participate in weekly Zoom sessions with me this term. These sessions give Jacob an opportunity to practise his conversation skills while amazing his teacher with some of his knowledge. Lately we have been discussing the TV program Lego Masters each week. I do believe, The Voice TV series will be our next major topic of conversation now that Lego Masters has finished.

Eve has been engaging with her creative side lately and has created some masterpieces in visual arts. She helped hold a pencil, to create a rubbing of a butterfly and has also created other textured artworks. During this time, Eve has been enjoying going on drives and walks around her neighbourhood. She especially likes to visit the beach where she enjoys listening to the wind and waves.

Jayden has been investigating features and structures of living things in science, particularly the systems in an animal body. It was exciting to hear that over the weekend one of his guinea pigs had three tiny babies. This event, will now give Jayden a real-life opportunity to investigate and observe how living things grow and change over time.

Usman has been enjoying spending time with his family at home, especially listening to stories with his sister. One of his great loves is going for drives with his family. Night time drives are always a favourite, as Usman loves to look at the lights.

I wish all my students and their families a safe and healthy Term 2!

Nicole



Eve's butterfly artwork



The new additions to Jayden's family



Jacob has been participating in weekly

Zoom sessions with his teacher every week

Class 5 news

Class 5 have had a good start to Term 2, even though it has been an unusual start to the term. Yash, Ariel, Quinn and Raymond have enjoyed following their personal interests when learning from home. We have seen some great photos of all of the students working on their individual personal learning goals.

In Week 3, we had our first day back at school in the classroom for Term 2. It was safe to say from the smiles from both the students, teacher and SLSO we all loved being back in class. It was a very busy day. In art, we used a stencil to paint a love heart for our mums on a calico bag. We were also lucky to have Debbie, our Itinerant Teacher - Vision, come in. Yash, Ariel, Quinn and Raymond loved working with Debbie where they strengthened their eye muscles while playing some interactive games and tasks.

We can't wait to have many more days like this at school!

Georgina and Tanya



Quinn listening to a story and smiling



Yash using a stencil in art



Ariel smiling about being at school

Amanda's class news

Both Ray and Jacob have been back on their programs since the beginning of term. Ray has moved house. He has adapted to his new home well and I'm looking forward to hearing more about what the house looks like. Ray is enjoying going out in the car for a drive but hasn't been able to get out and exercise on the beach or in the park as he normally would in non-COVID19 times. Ray will be very happy now regulations are easing.

Jacob has been enjoying art activities. His tutor shared the pictures below on Seesaw over the holidays. Jacob helped make an Easter bunny artwork and loved the feel of the cotton wool on his face. Jacob likes the texture of paint so this is a favourite activity. He also likes the feel of the bristles on the brush both when dry and when wet.

Amanda



Jacob enjoying the feel of cotton wool



Jacob painting a dinosaur cut-out

Class 4 news

What a busy, productive, resilient and creative group of students and parents we have in Class 4! Navigating this testing period could have been much more difficult, however, together we have kept learning happening.

It has been a joy to watch and hear our students as they read, danced, exercised, played and made music, worked on their spelling, comprehension, maths, science, history and geography.

Mrs Williams and I have learnt new skills to navigate new platforms of learning, and have embraced new modes of delivering teaching and learning. Mind you, we can't wait to return to the old-fashioned notion of actually having students in the *real* and not virtual classroom!

Once again, thank you to our Class 4 parents and carers for your fabulous support.

Sue and Paula



Class 4's first day back together, but with safe distancing!



The boys were quick to get a game going

Barbara's class news

Alex has been fortunate during this period when we have all been staying at home, because she lives on a big property in central NSW. Here she has been able to move around freely, enjoying the sunshine and observing the paddocks, the animals and the autumn trees as they change colour. Alex has been spending more time outdoors in her motorised wheelchair lately, and is becoming good at using the joystick to move herself a few metres up the driveway. Alex has also been trying out a new electric toothbrush, which has made teeth cleaning a bit quicker and easier! Alex is choosing to listen to music more often these days and is able to independently locate her favourite songs on the iPad, Alex then enjoys 'bopping' or rocking in her chair to the tune.

Azra has been making up for not being able to visit the seaside by creating her own ocean world through exploring an underwater theme. Azra has been making and decorating scaly fish, jellyfish and starfish using a variety of materials. Her clever tutor found a squishy 'ocean' mat to fit the theme, and Azra has enjoyed pressing and pushing it with both her hands and feet to make the fish shapes inside move around. Azra has also been exploring her new yellow balls (a favourite colour!). She has focused on their textured surfaces, feeling the spikes, grooves and holes with her fingers.

Barbara



Azra exploring her new yellow balls



Azra explored the ocean mat with her hands ...



... and her feet!

Class 1 news

It seems like forever since we were back at school full-time and it has most certainly been a very interesting ride for everyone. Term 1 came and went, the holidays came and went, and now we are already in the fourth week of Term 2! It is going to be great having a school full of students again after the quiet weeks behind us. Thanks to videos and voice recordings we were at least able to hear everyone and together experience some of their learning. Class 1 is exceptionally proud of all their students for producing quality work, and all their families for going the extra mile in accommodating student learning from home. We have seen awesome responses to activities, clear thinking, teamwork between families and honest self-reflections. Well done to everybody!

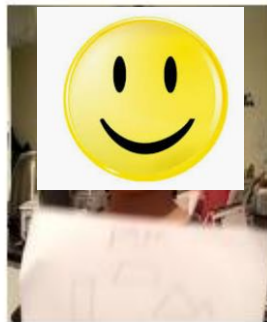
Nina & Anita



Kai making playdoh for his STEM challenge



Leon acing his spelling!



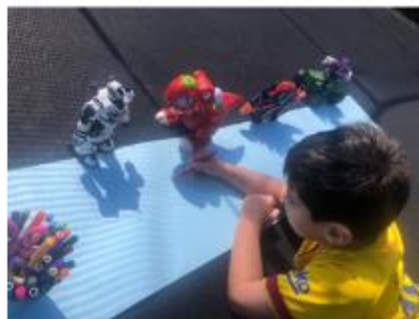
Jacob showing his polygon drawing skills in math



Joshua's 'dino shield' Science assessment



Will making yummy Brownies for 'reward time'



Heath doing some outdoor art: shadow tracings



Xavier conducting experiments with his sister

Class 2 news

Welcome all our students, parents and carers to Term 2!

Alfie has been maintaining his fitness and mobility while learning remotely. After walking 300 metres he still requested 'more' walking! Alfie has explored some new activities as part of his school program, including the 'EDA PLAY' application as shown in the picture below. Well done, Alfie!

Daniella has been engaging in many activities on her iPad while learning remotely. She was a kind and supportive friend upon returning to school last week. Daniella has maintained her KWS communication skills during her time at home. Nice work, Daniella!

Milan has been developing his emotional regulation skills. He has demonstrated his ability to incorporate strategies to maintain calm throughout the day. Great work, Milan!

Ryan has been completing online learning activities every school day while learning remotely! He has also consistently used his AAC to request his needs and wants throughout the day. Amazing effort, Ryan!

I am looking forward to working together to support our students to experience achievement throughout Term 2.

Doug & Trish



Alfie worked on his vision activities



Alfie asked Milan to play 'more' bells



Ryan enjoyed playing on the equipment



Alfie, Daniella, Milan and Ryan at morning circle

Louise's class news

It has been absolutely wonderful to be back on my class this term! I know that Carolyn has greatly enjoyed her time as the class teacher over the last year (ish). I have REALLY loved talking again with my students and tutors, and catching up on what has been happening in their lives. Despite our topsy turvy lives at the moment all my students are continuing to shine bright!!!

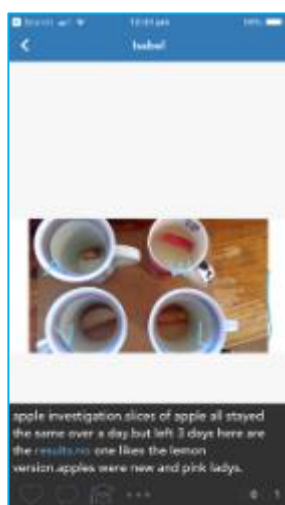
Whilst I am unable to currently visit students there are still many ways that we all can be connected including phone calls, REACT lessons, and through Seesaw app images and videos. It has been truly fabulous to hear about and observe via Seesaw the progress that Isabel and Summer have made since I was last on class. I have viewed some great images and videos this term including – yes, a truly fabulously eclectic and long list follows: scissor use, problem solving, communicating using a PODD book, investigating oxidation, cause and effect switching, electric keyboard playing, following a procedure to make fluffy slime, exploring outdoors, sight word learning, investigating shape attributes, using a tablet device pencil, creating and reading sentences, counting and adding numbers, spelling, hands-on learning of positional language, and participating in physical activity programs! So much engaged learning - no wonder Summer said: 'That was hard work. I'm puffed!'.

I have also enjoyed talking with other students and hearing about what they are getting up to. As we all know, being in the community currently brings its challenges with limited opportunities for practising learning in real life settings away from home. However, Ned made the most of being in town recently to practise his social distancing skills at the supermarket. Ned also impressed a new acquaintance with his manners and his helpfulness. These are key work readiness and in the community life skills that Ned excels at, and should be VERY proud of!

Louise



Isabel and Summer are using Seesaw to show off their great work!



Isabel carefully observed the changes in an oxidation investigation



Summer loves a good workout!

Rama's class news

We are already in Week 4 and through these uncertain times, my students are safe, healthy and engaged in their school program.

Seth has been very engaged in his school program and is developing his personal hygiene skills to independently brush his teeth. Seth follows safe rules as a pedestrian and knows the importance of following the road rules. Seth has started using the Seesaw app and uploads photos of his school work. Fabulous effort, Seth!

Happy birthday Kayla! Kayla recently celebrated a very special teen birthday and is now officially a teenager. She received a number of presents and chose the present that she wanted to open first. Kayla is getting adept at using the remote control to choose and view the movie that she would like to watch. She has been using her communication device to communicate her choices and wants. Kayla is also learning to recognise some common Key Word Signs. She enjoys gardening and helped plant broccoli, carrots and spinach by sowing the seeds and watering the plants. Well done, Kayla!

I look forward to my weekly conversations with Mohamed. During these conversations Mohamed tells me about all the activities that he has completed through the week. He enjoys his physiotherapy sessions and practises these exercises every day in his backyard. Mohamed practices personal hygiene by washing his hands. Mohamed has moved to a new home. He knows his new address and can find it on Google maps. Amazing effort, Mohamed!

Isabella made a beautiful card for Mother's Day and chose the words to put in the card. She is taking age appropriate responsibility at home by doing laundry and emptying the dishwasher. Isabella enjoys cooking and helped make damper and lasagne. She chose the beads to make a beautiful necklace. Isabella worked with her father to create a vegetable patch and is growing carrots, spinach and cabbage. Well done on developing excellent life skills, Isabella!

Rama



Kayla planting carrot seeds



Isabella made damper