

Sir Eric Woodward School Newsletter

Term 3 2020

Week 4

12th August 2020



Principal's message

Local Schools Community Fund

Sir Eric Woodward School has been the lucky recipient of a generous grant from the Australian Government Department of Education, Skills and Employment. This grant allowed us to purchase an outdoor sound system and interactive technology to support teaching and learning in our COLA area. We look forward to sharing this fantastic technology with our school community once we can again welcome visitors to our school. I would like to acknowledge both Lee Ridden and Nina Gouws who applied for this grant and have purchased and organised staff training for this great technology. I know our students will enjoy using this fabulous equipment.

Education Week – Learning Together 2020

This year has certainly been a year of firsts. Never before have we celebrated Education Week remotely. I do hope you enjoyed our class videos as we welcomed you into our classrooms in a different way this year. No doubt all of our families have a far better understanding of what we are doing at school after you all partnered with us during our learning from home journey earlier in the year. This is something our DESU families know well. We look forward to seeing you all in person next year.



Joshua relaxing on the swing



Daniella hard at work in the garden



Leon focused on a game during recess



Ryan showing his skills on the trampoline

SEWS P&C 2021

The current P&C office bearers are leaving SEWS at the end of this year. They are looking for new parents/community members to take over these very important roles. At this stage they have elected a new president and vice president. They still urgently need a treasurer and other parents to become members. The SEWS P&C manages two buses that provide assisted school travel for our students. Not only is this a vital service to get our children to and from school but is also a source of additional funds for the school. The P&C makes a generous donation each year that is used for a variety of programs and equipment including hydrotherapy, physiotherapy, speech pathology and occupational therapy. If you are able to contribute any time to support our school please let me know and I will pass your details on to the new P&C President, Georgina Moodie. I would like to personally thank both Daryl Perry and Angela Gourlay for their outstanding service and support to our school in the roles of P&C President and Treasurer over an extended period of time. We are so very grateful for all the time and effort you have put in to make lots of extra things happen at SEWS.



Strategic Improvement Planning

It is a requirement that all NSW government schools develop and publish a Strategic Improvement Plan (SIP). This is a working document that details the steps we will take to improve learning outcomes and growth for all of our students. This plan will reflect where SEWS is now and how we plan to further improve our learning, teaching and leading. Over the next few months we will be consulting with our school community as we develop a new plan to commence in Term 2, 2021.

Sian



Quinn very happy on Jeans for Genes Day



Class 1 splashing around

Deputy Principal's message

I would like to thank all staff, students and community members for a fantastic start to Term 3, 2020. Fantastic to see students back and achieving amazing things each and every day at SEWS.

Softfall playground space re-development

As a school we have worked closely with the Department of Education's Asset Management Unit in which we now have an approximate time frame planned for the redevelopment of the soft-fall playground space underneath the school's COLA. This is very exciting, and when complete will provide the school and students with a brand new space to play and learn from. We await development to commence in early September 2020.

Education Week

This year's event was held a little differently from previous years with all activities presented on-line via an array of fantastic class and student-centred teaching and learning activities on show. A big thank you to all our community who participated in this event. Simply fantastic.

Physical fitness programs at SEWS

This term we will introduce a gymnastics based program designed by the organisation *Moving Bodies* to enhance the physical fitness and motor skills of our student body, we commence in Week 5 and it will run until the end of term. I look forward to seeing this program in action.

P&C meeting

I would like to extend my thanks to the SEWS P&C for welcoming me to their first meeting for Semester 2, 2020. It was fantastic to hear about the initiatives and activities that have had such a deep impact upon our students and school operations. I look forward to working in partnership with this body to support and enhance the outcomes of our students now and into the future.

Patrick Price



Swimming has re-commenced



Birthdays

Happy birthday to Izack, Daniella, Cameron, Isabella, Kai and Nathan

Important dates

Term 3

Friday 4 September – Father's Day stall

Term 4

Friday 23 October – SEWS community thank you breakfast

Thursday 29 October – Sir Eric Woodward School photographs

Wednesday 11 November – Remembrance Day assembly

Friday 20 November – Year 12 Graduation Day

Friday 4 December – SEWS Presentation Day

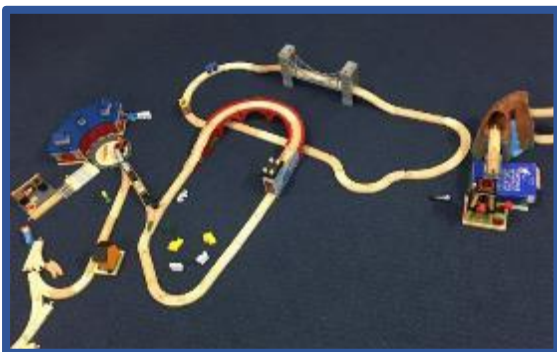
Thursday 10 December – Year 6 Graduation Day

Wednesday 16 December – last school day for 2020

Class 3 news

Class 3 are SO excited! We have just received a very generous donation from a local St Ives family. It's an amazing train track, complete with bridges, buildings, train engines, carriages and cute accessories. It has been lovely to watch our students creating, problem solving, testing designs, collaborating and having fun. This substantial gift will certainly be a wonderful learning tool that will also enable the acquisition of essential social skills. It will be 'full steam ahead' and loads of fun in Class 3 for many years to come.

Ms Lee & Ms Jennie



Class 3 sharing while they play with the fabulous train set



Class 6 news

When life gives you grey what do you do? Class 6 looks for colour! This term Class 6 are exploring the myriad of colours found in our natural world, in art and popular culture.

So far, we have enjoyed regular music, singing and TacPac sessions following a colour theme (*Yellow Submarine* proving to be a crowd favourite), embarked on an ambitious garden project, and created art work that is gallery worthy. Thank you yellow and green for your inspiration to date. We look forward to exploring the Great Barrier Reef when blue comes along.

In addition to feeding our artistic souls and sharpening our curious minds, regular hydrotherapy is back each Monday morning, much to everyone's delight. It is always a pleasure watching the freedom and joy that these sessions bring.

Finally, a big colourful shout out to our super star remote learners. We miss you in class but we love seeing you engaged with your learning, even from a distance!

Nellie, Sandy & Kelly



Brooke beaming as she enters the pool



Lucy ensuring our soil is tip top



Sophie and Sandy admiring their Expressionist style art work



Dan displaying sensational remote learning

Deborah's class news

It was great to hear that my students enjoyed a well-earned break over the school holidays.

Tommy enjoyed visiting the Dharawal National Park during the holidays, where he used his knowledge of the cardinal directions to follow walking trails.

Ramona is becoming more confident about identifying some features of the seasons, by removing Velcro leaves off a tree to demonstrate autumn.

Georgia is developing her fine motor skills and recognition of some primary colours, by striking colour-coded piano keys.

Jeremiah is developing his gross motor skills by spending longer periods sitting and standing out of his chair.

Thank you everyone for your consistent efforts. Already we are almost halfway through Term 3!

Deborah



Tommy at Dharawal National Park



Jeremiah sitting out of his chair



Georgia playing the piano

Jo's class news

Suzanna, Jayden, Harry and Andrew started the term off well and continue to actively engage in their Set work. Suzanna has been working hard in developing her communication skills. Each week she joins in the phone conversation with her tutor and her teacher, listening and taking turns to vocalise throughout the chat.

Jayden and Andrew have both been exploring their local community. Andrew has gone on an excursion to a local area of historical interest, and Jayden has practised his money skills while out shopping with his support workers.

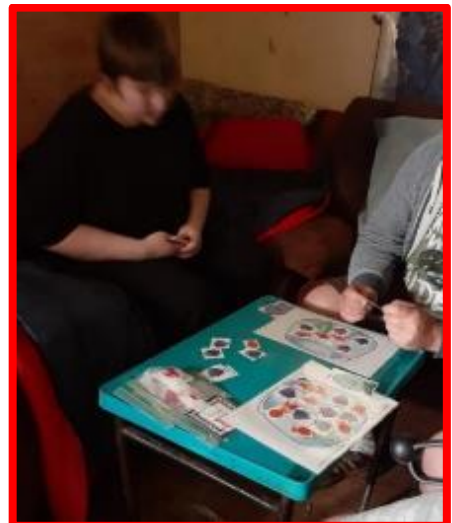
Harry has planted seedlings in his raised vegetable gardens and explored what the plants need to survive and grow as he looks after them.

Well done Suzy, Jayden, Harry and Andrew!

Jo



Suzy's facial expression shows how much she enjoys her weekly chat with her teacher!



Jayden develops his counting skills



Suzy's unicorn artwork based on the story 'Thelma the Unicorn'



Harry develops his fine motor skills while exploring Aboriginal words

Charlotte's class news

Moustafa and his family have had an amazing week at Bear Cottage, they were even on the news explaining how great the place is, and I can see why from the photos. Moustafa got involved with some great activities with his art therapist making a family tree and a super hero cape.

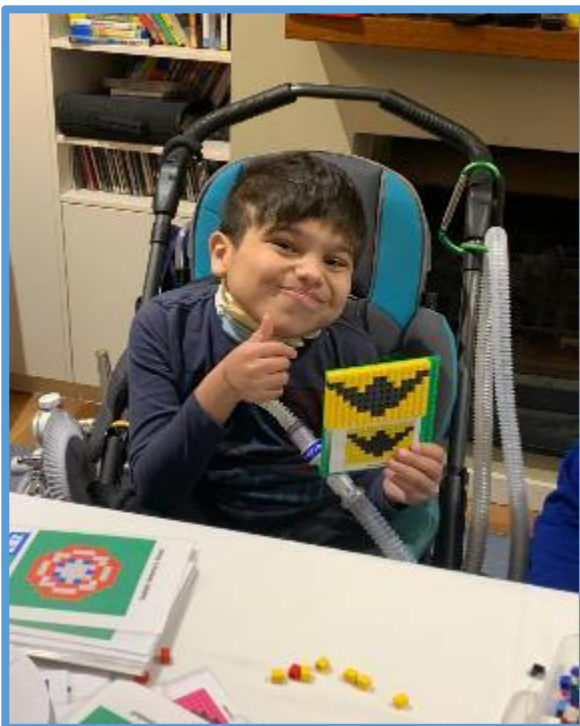
Ethan has been visiting his local service provider and hanging out with his good friend Jade. Ethan likes to share photos of his favourite aliens that he has saved onto his phone. He also shared with me his love of the Jaws movies so now he has some Jaws personalised readers.

Nikolina has been overseeing some building works at the family home. She was happy to see that her *Book of Fun* and books this Set are all about her favourite pig.

Chris is currently investigating a working holiday visa to Canada once rodeos return. We discovered that he could work on a farm for up to two years and ride at the weekend. He is very excited at the thought of getting out there to compete again.

Welcome to Taylah, my new student. I'm excited to be your teacher and see you graduate high school next year with your HSC Life Skills.

Charlotte



Moustafa makes a great Batman logo out of Lego



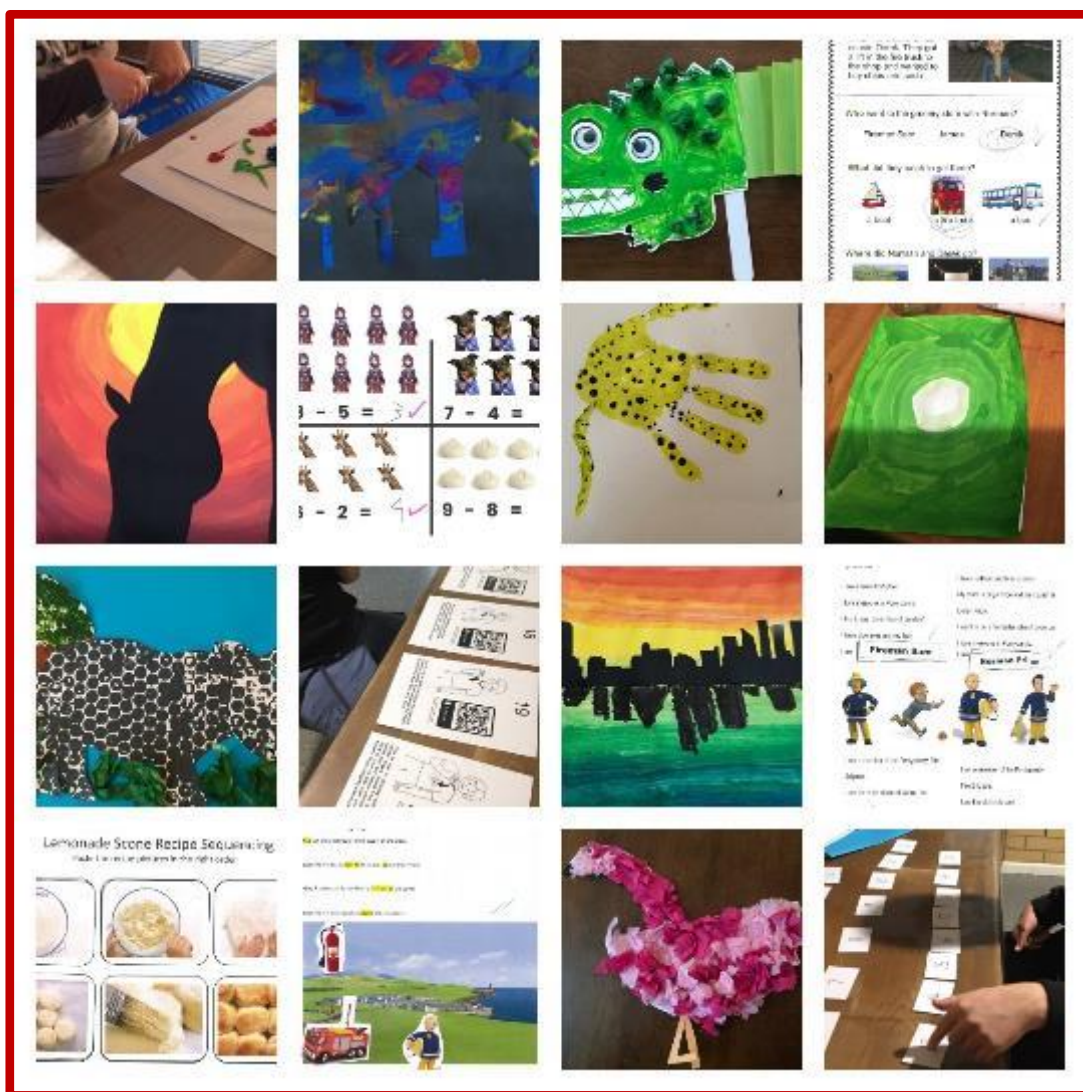
Nikolina in her day spa at home

Karen's class news

All my students have dived into their Term 3 programs with much enthusiasm and commitment to learning. I was delighted to receive multiple Set bags of completed work at the beginning of the term that had been delayed through the postal system!

Jules continues to engage with her program on Seesaw and has been trying out some new activities recently. Zoom art lessons remain a favourite. Jules has been learning colour gradation and tints and shades, and how to create them with paint. Katana has been exploring Africa through art. She has had great fun creating artworks using different materials such as bubble wrap, tissue paper and paint. Justin has been painting, adding to his repertoire of Key Word Signs, and demonstrating his knowledge of numbers. He continues to develop and improve his independent living skills such as cooking and doing laundry. Nate has been working very well on his activities across all his subjects. He recently received a new iPad from DESU to use in his program. This will open up a whole new world of possibilities for engaging Nate in his program.

Karen



Collage depicting samples of all my students' work

Melissa's class news

Welcome back for Term 3! The year is certainly flying by and I am looking forward to another productive term.

Toby has started work experience and has already gained many skills in the three days that he has been participating. Toby has many responsibilities including, but not limited to, starting up the computer and equipment, serving customers and stocking the shelves.

Alicia continues to be an active participant in her educational program and has made a strong start to the term. While art continues to be a favourite, her literacy skills continue to improve each week including her name writing.

Ethan has been very busy writing stories about animals of the future. Ethan has impressed with his ability to turn real facts into imagined future animals. See the photo below of the future female animal 'The Florist'. The florist is a sea turtle with a rafflesia flower for a shell. She is beautiful but apparently, she is a bit stinky, emitting a sulphur type odour!

Braydon is continuing to look to the future for work opportunities post school. He is discussing options related to potential apprenticeships and future study. Furthermore, Braydon is going extremely well with this driving lessons. He is getting close to being able to go for his provisional licence.

Melissa



Toby at work experience



Ethan's future animal 'The Florist'

Sharon's class news

I am happy to report that all students have been engaged in their program and are producing high quality work. I would like to welcome a new student to our class, Ian and we look forward in getting to know him.

Chris has been speaking with me weekly using Proloquo2go. I am always pleased to see his smiling face. Returned work shows he has been keen to complete his school work. He has learnt about the nearby wetlands and how important it is to keep the waterways clean. Visiting the wetlands is a favourite daily activity for Chris, he finds the environment to be relaxing and at the same time through walking he is able to participate in daily physical activity.

Leah has embraced learning about winter as she listens to stories being read, feels the icy water in her garden, creates some beautiful art work and immerses her hands in her sensory tub. As field trips are unable to go ahead, it has been fabulous to receive photos each week of Leah engaged in a variety of activities.

This term Cruz has also been learning about winter and has shared her learning with her family, as they read to her books and watch movies together.

Tyson has been happy that all his extra-curricular activities like swimming have once again resumed. He continues to demonstrate in returned school work his growing independence when participating in routine chores and personal care activity. I continue to be pleased to hear of Tyson's efforts when completing his school work with minimal assistance. I enjoy reading Tyson's weekly emails and receiving Seesaw posts from him.

Sharon



Chris in the hammock during our weekly call



Tyson swimming



Leah enjoying her sensory tub

Dawn's class news

I cannot believe that we are already in Term 3. The class has been continuing to make great progress in their learning and it has been wonderful to see their development so far this year.

Izack has fully embraced Seesaw and it is exciting to see all the wonderful activities and videos that he has uploaded to demonstrate his learning. In maths, he has been completing a lot of hands-on work with money. It has been fantastic to see Izack's confidence grow counting coins, and making up different amounts of money using different combinations of coins. In English, he has been doing very well typing his own name and address, and then reading it back out loud. Excellent job Izack!

Nadine has been very engaged during her weekly Zoom lessons, even with a change of teacher for a few weeks. We had a fun game of unicorn bingo using numbers from 1 to 30 which she won. She took great pride in showing me her new toy, Rainbow Monkey, and her favourite rainbow crystal which she described to me in detail, accurately naming all the colours. She has embraced Seesaw and I have been particularly impressed with her number tracing work. Keep up the great work Nadine!

Bethany has been confidently making choices between two characters with her favourite, Peppa Pig, winning every time. She has also enjoyed watching, engaging with, and moving to Disney Frozen music with her sister. It was wonderful to see a video of Bethany laughing, smiling and having fun on Seesaw whilst playing a game. Super effort Bethany!

Ben has been continuing to do very well with his program, particularly in maths, English and history. He recently completed an English Set on 'Sustainability: The Dream of the Thylacine' for English, with impressive results. Ben wrote an amazing poem about Australia using the same form as Dorothea Mackellar's famous poem. Brilliant work Ben!

Melinda



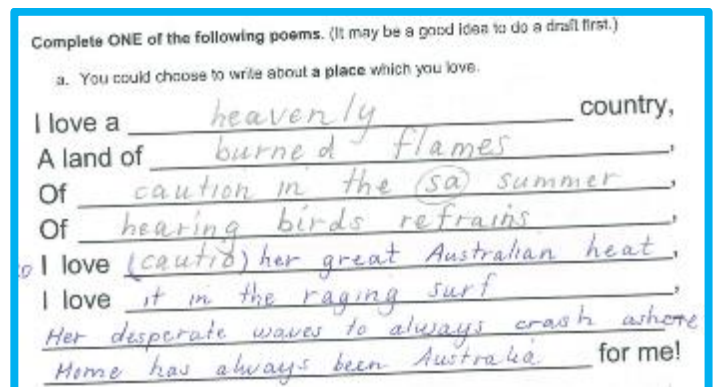
Bethany playing a game



Izack's Seesaw money activity response



Nadine's bingo board and number tracing work



Ben's poem about Australia

Barbara's class news

Alex has been really getting into music this term. She enjoys playing with her electric keyboard, pressing random keys as well as playing pre-recorded melodies. Alex's preferred musical style on the keyboard is 'rock'.

Azra is exploring the theme of 'vegetables' this term. She is creating artworks by printing with vegetables and watching new vegetables grow from scraps and off-cuts. Recently, Azra visited her grandmother to celebrate Eid. While there, Azra enjoyed reaching out and choosing her own treat from a bowl of special chocolates.

Barbara



Azra is growing vegies from food scraps



Alex's keyboard

Nicole's class news

All my students have been working very hard with their school programs this term. Eve has been rugging up and heading outside to explore her garden lately. She loves crunching fallen leaves and helping her mum in the garden. Jacob has been investigating volcanoes in science and has participated in an experiment about them. In the holidays, Jayden was fortunate enough to be able to have some animal encounters at a wildlife park. I wish all my students a happy Term 3!

Nicole



Eve enjoying spending time outside



Eve using a sponge to create an artwork

Nicole's class news continues



Jacob participating in a volcano experiment



Jacob staying safe by wearing protective equipment



Jayden getting up close to Australian wildlife



Jayden looking very comfortable with a galah perched on his arm

Class 5 news

This term Class 5 have been exploring colours throughout our world in both our natural and man-made environment. Yash, Quinn, Ariel and Raymond have used their switching skills to turn on appliances such as the kettle to boil water for lemon and ginger tea, and to make blue spaghetti. In creative arts, we have used textures and sensory items to create intricate collages for our colour wall. Class 5 have loved looking at different pictures and listening to stories about mixing and using colours.

Class 5 have been enjoying our hydrotherapy sessions; we especially like having Jodie to help us stretch and work our muscles in the pool. Yash, Quinn, Ariel and Raymond enthusiastically participate in weekly dancing lessons where we listen to music and enjoy dancing outside in the sun (when it is about!). We are also lucky enough to dance with our friends in Class 6.

Georgina & Tanya



Ariel exploring the feel of blue spaghetti



Yash using his senses to explore lemon ginger tea



Quinn using a switch to turn on technology



Raymond enjoying his hydrotherapy session

Amanda's class news

Both Ray and Jacob have enjoyed getting back out into the community this term. For Jacob this has meant a return to swimming which he loves. The local school pool that he uses shut down in March but is now up and running again. It is located at Jacob's old school and he enjoyed checking out his old classroom and seeing friends when he visited for the first time this term.

Ray is happy that he can get out of the car when out in the community. For a while he could only watch the world go by through the car window. He loves to run around the park or along the beach. It is very calming for him and he is 'chilled' for the rest of the day.

Ray is showing great skills caring for the environment. He is careful to dispose of any rubbish from his morning tea in the bin when eating in the park. Good work, Ray.

Jacob has been helping make a sandwich for lunch. He is practising spreading bread with butter and Vegemite. He is also practising home care skills such as putting rubbish in the bin and wiping up spills. Thank you for helping, Jacob.

Amanda



Ray loves going to the beach and park



Jacob helping make lunch

Class 4 news

It has been a dynamic few weeks of learning, culminating in Education Week. The theme: 'Learning Together' has certainly been evident with students posting evidence of their learning on Seesaw.

When asked if they would like to make a post there is always 100 percent take up and parental feedback is always greeted with a smile. This demonstrates the importance of learning being a collaborative undertaking.

All students are enjoying a return to the pool as shown by completing drills and playing cricket whenever possible. There are some budding fast bowlers and batsman honing their skills.

Students have been immersed in hands-on activities in the science topic: 'Change Detectives' and various STEM activities using the class kits. Providing explanations for their choice of materials, how they fixed a problem and reflecting on others work has thoroughly engaged all students.

We also celebrated Joshua's 11th birthday last week. Happy Birthday, Joshua.

Sue, Hilary & Merle



Making the tallest tower-STEM



Friday swimming



The tower withstood an 'earthquake'

Class 2 news

Welcome to Semester 2, it's been a great start for all, starting the semester off on a positive note. Each student cut, coloured and glued to create their personal reward chart. The charts are being used daily to celebrate success.

Class 2 have been very lucky to secure another swim lesson, this takes places on a Wednesday morning. You can only imagine how excited the students were to receive this.

Another celebration that took place in Week 3 was Daniella's 10th birthday. SEWS has had the pleasure of watching Daniella grow over the past five years. We had cakes, lollies, chips, music and balloons. It was a fun occasion for all. Happy 10th birthday Daniella.

Hopefully, the remainder of Term 3 will continue be rewarding.

Clare, Doug & Trish



Milan admiring his effort in completing his Superhero Reward Chart



Class 2 exploring shapes, and matching colours



Daniella is 10!!

Rama's class news

We are in Term 3 and the weeks are flying by. It's been a very exciting time in my class with Seth moving to a new house and Kayla receiving her new wheelchair. Mohamed and Isabella turned 18 years of age over the last couple of weeks, so it's been a time of celebrations, celebrating their many achievements and welcoming them to their exciting new adult life.

Seth moved into his new house last week. He handled the move with maturity and went to see his new home a few times prior to moving. Seth identifies commonly used words and plays games to reinforce his knowledge. He is learning about lifecycles and completed artwork to reflect this theme. Excellent effort, Seth!

Kayla is very excited to receive her new electric wheelchair this week. She had to move out of her room as she is having modifications completed at her home. Kayla handled the move with maturity and chose items that she wanted to take with her. She effectively uses her communication board to communicate. Well done, Kayla

Mohamed recently celebrated his 18th birthday with his family. He likes basketball and, on his birthday, ate basketball shaped cookies and received Michael Jordan sport shoes. Mohamed knows the importance of physical activity and follows his physiotherapy program. Mohamed enjoys watching the news and current affair programs, and is very aware of events happening locally and across the globe. Happy birthday Mohamed and wishing you the very best for your future endeavours.

Isabella celebrated her 18th birthday last week. Her special area of interest is America and she had an American themed party, complete with food, cake and decorations based on the USA. Isabella's growing maturity was demonstrated recently when she got her eyes tested, and again when she went shopping. She waited patiently and followed the optometrist's instructions. At the shops, she scouted the shop before choosing the items that she wanted to purchase, trying to work within the given budget. Happy birthday Isabella and best wishes for the future.

Rama



Seth's artwork on the life cycle of a butterfly



Seth played a game of Snakes and Ladders and identified everyday words

Louise's class news

The year is rolling along nicely with all my students engaging in their very diverse learning programs. We have started the term off by completing Personal Learning Plan (PLP) meetings where a teacher works together with families and students to identify and plan for Semester 2 teaching and learning. The students in our class have very individual PLPs:

This semester Summer will continue to work on her communication skills. Summer has made amazing progress in Semester 1 to appropriately gain another person's attention, to wait to take her turn in a conversation, and to ask for help when she cannot work out a problem. In Terms 3 and 4 Summer will be continuing to develop these skills, and will also be focussing on learning and applying strategies to be a more active listener.

Ned's learning program focuses on preparing him for life after school. Ned loves to be with people, to be active and to participate in activities in the community. Ned's Semester 2 PLP goals include working with money to take real-life age appropriate responsibility for how he manages his own money. A further important goal is for Ned to extend his skills to follow simple verbal instructions when undertaking less familiar tasks. Ned will also be developing an understanding that he has responsibilities in the home - as an individual, AND as a family member.

The team to create Isabel's Semester 2 PLP is a little larger than that of our other class students – it also includes teacher consultation with Jess, our school OT, and with our new SEWS speech pathologist, Brooke, on two of Isabel's PLP goals. Isabel's focus in Terms 3 and 4 will include maintaining purposeful hand and arm movement. We are very excited that Brooke will be part of our team as Isabel works on developing her eye gaze technology skills and understandings to support communication. Isabel will also be continuing to develop her sight word vocabulary, and to begin to read some familiar words in phrases.

Ashainte will be moving house soon and will be busily exploring new environments and meeting new people!

As you can see – our class has a fabulous semester of learning ahead!

Louise



Isabel made a beautiful window decal made from natural materials she gathered in her environment



Summer enjoys exploring the attributes of objects using her CCTV magnifier

Class 1 news

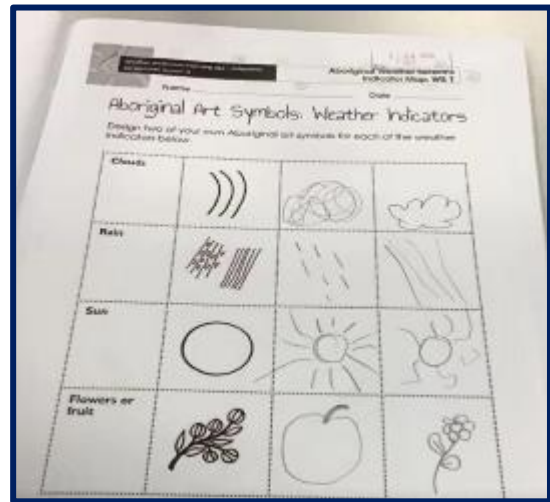
Class 1 have been really busy over the past 4 weeks. In science we have been looking into chemical mixtures and have gotten our hands dirty mixing together things like: Rice Bubbles, corn flour, water, cacao powder, oil and food colouring. It was fun to see our predictions take form whether they were accurate or not!

In HSIE we have been learning about the weather and climate in different places and how weather instruments and predictions have changed over time. We will be choosing, planning, creating and testing our own weather instruments soon... so watch this space.

Ms Nina & Mrs B



Chemical science: all mixed up!



Class 1 exploring Aboriginal weather symbols

Live Life Well @ School

GET ACTIVE: MAKE AN OBSTACLE COURSE



Whether you are indoors or outdoors, you can **still get active** with an obstacle course.

- Find items around the house that you can safely use to create an obstacle course. Be creative! Use chalk, sticks, leaves, toys.
- Incorporate as many skills as you can e.g. Jog on the spot, hop, throw, catch, roll, balance, skip.
- Time yourself to see how fast you can complete the course.

For more tips visit:

www.makehealthynormal.nsw.gov.au



Live Life Well @ School

BREAKFAST IS THE BEST ROUTINE



Breakfast is important for a student's blood sugar levels. It helps them to concentrate while learning, moderate behaviour and have the energy to engage in physical activity.

Breakfast also reduces the desire to snack on high sugar and high fat foods.

Quick and easy breakfast ideas:

- Cereal with milk, yoghurt and/or fruit
- Wholegrain toast or raisin bread
- Smoothies made with fresh, frozen or canned fruit

For more ideas,
search 'breakfast' at
healthy-kids.com.au

TIP:

Help kids be in a better frame of mind for school work by discouraging them from eating in front of the TV.

