

Sir Eric Woodward School Newsletter

Term 3 2020

Week 8

9th September 2020



Principal's message

End of year celebrations

As we get closer to the end of Term 3 I know many of you are starting to think about our end of year celebrations. It is safe to say that these activities will look a bit different in 2020. As we have more information about how and if we will be able to celebrate these functions we will let you know. The latest information indicates that Year 12 students across NSW will be able to celebrate the completion of school with COVID-19 safe graduation ceremonies being allowed to take place during Term 4 from 12 November. Schools across NSW will receive COVID-19 safety plan guidance for Year 12 graduations shortly. Watch this space.

Ziggy our Therapy Dog

Ziggy joined us for his first visit recently and was a big hit with everyone. Our families should have received an information booklet about Ziggy this week. We are looking forward to welcoming him to our SEWS community next week on a part time basis. Ziggy is still a puppy and is continuing his training to be a therapy dog. We can already see what an amazing addition he will be to the SEWS team.



Class 1 enjoying a visit from Ziggy

Strategic Plan 2021

School improvement is a continuous process, focusing on maximising outcomes for all of our students, and sustaining this improvement over time. At SEWS we are reviewing our school's improvement journey using the DoE new situational analysis tool. This is a key component of the School Excellence cycle and will support us to develop our new Strategic Directions for the future. At the centre of everything we do is ensuring we continually improve to support our students. As you can see our new RaceRunner bike is providing independence and mobility for Brooke to move around the school. What a great addition to our physio/PDHPE program.



Brooke cruising with the RaceRunner

Around the School

We continue to have plenty of fabulous programs running each and every day at SEWS. The highlight of my day is always seeing the determination and commitment of our students as they work hard throughout the day. I hope you enjoy a few snaps from around the school.

Sian



Sian with a new hairstyle after a visit to our hair and beauty work station with Class 6



Daniella visiting the Class 6 work station – how relaxing



Yash showing us how it is done



Brooke in the garden



Lucy creating a fabulous art work



Ariel showing great focus

Deputy Principal's message

Soft-fall playground development and update

Welcome families and all to our Week 8 Term 3 edition of the SEWS newsletter, over the last few weeks we have witnessed the start of this major playground re-development project. With the soft-fall and synthetic grass surfaces being fully removed, as well as, the tree stump and all underlying roots. This area has seen huge transformations each day of the work thus far, thoroughly fascinating staff and students alike at the expansive development taking place in this area of the school. We hope to have this space ready for teaching, learning and play as soon as possible.



Construction work in the playground

Spa day in Class 6

This was a fantastic, real life teaching and learning activity with many staff members availing themselves of the services offered by Class 6 students on the day. It was great to see so many happy clients walk away from such extensive pampering services on offer.

Patrick Price



Students enjoying their spa day

SEWS Beat Treats school band

Our very exciting SEWS Beat Treats school band is now up and running. After a few technical hiccups on our first session we have had a number of face-to-face and DESU students attend our Zoom rehearsals so far.

It is great to see everyone eager and keen to participate. Each student is learning a rhythm that they will play using a household object such as a box, dustpan, pot, etc. We even have the bath plug and spoons being used as some of our instruments too.

We have had a lot of fun learning our parts, listening to each other play, and saying hello. Students have been giving positive words of encouragement to each other, which is great to see and hear as well.

In our rehearsal this week, each student was able follow a rhythm to play their part. Band members also played their parts together, which was fabulous.

Well done so far to all our Beat Treats participants and I can't wait till our next rehearsal on Monday 21st September at 11:30am.

Kiri



Positive Behaviour for Learning

We are excited to be implementing Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL) practices at school. The PBL practices aim to encourage all students to be safe, respectful learners. Key Word Sign is an integral component of PBL by promoting equity, inclusion and communication across the school community.

The PBL team have participated in two PBL digital network meetings aimed at consolidating the collection of data to best support our students to be safe, respectful learners. Importantly, the team is looking into ways of building links between our F2F and DESU students. One way will be the introduction of 'houses' based on our school totems, the dingo, stingray and wallaby. Students will be able to add points to their house. Watch this space to learn more.

PBL Team



Birthdays

Happy birthday to Jayden A-B, Ben, Toby, Alfie, Daniel, Georgia, Katana, Jacob L, Gareth, Eve

Important dates

Term 3

Friday 25 September – last day of Term 3

Term 4

Monday 12 October – students return to school

Wednesday 16 December – last school day for 2020

THANK YOU
for supporting
Jeans for Genes

Together we raised
\$ \$461.10

Every dollar raised helps
find cures for children's
genetic diseases.

If you missed my event, it's
not too late to give online at
JeansForGenes.org.au

Ben, 5
Burkitt's
Lymphoma

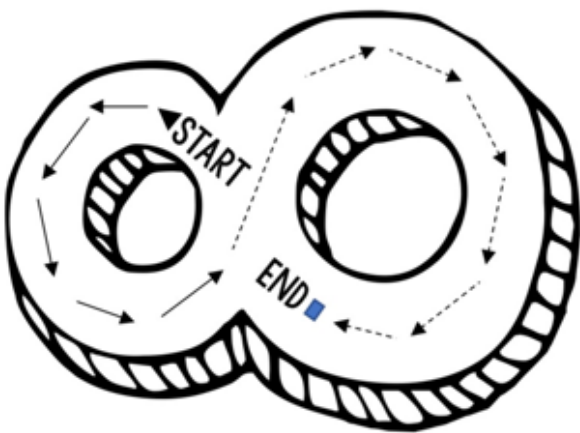
CHILDREN'S
MEDICAL
RESEARCH
INSTITUTE **Jeans
for Genes**

Class 3 news

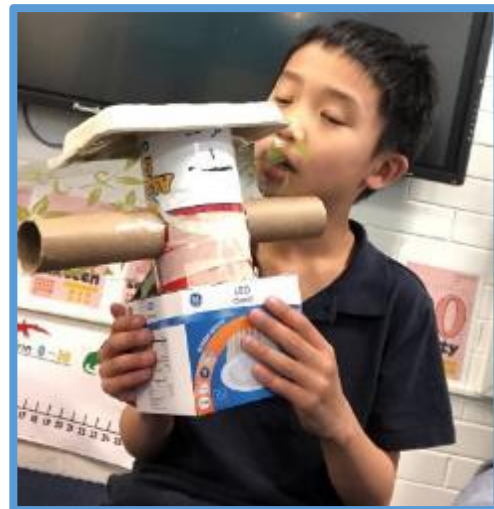
Class 3 have been having lots of fun whilst showing their understanding of the properties of materials. Early Stage 1 and Stage 1 students made a monster robot that was suitable for an extreme environment. The monsters who lived in the hot sunny setting had marvellous hats covered in shiny foil to reflect the heat. Accessories included fans and waterfalls to further enhance the monster's comfort. Rainy environment monsters were covered in waterproof plastic! Stage 2 students have been investigating how people use natural and processed materials, and the implications of our consumption on the environment.

Another opportunity to display our creative skills has been the decoration of our *calming llama* masks. Calming llamas remind us of our ability to transition between the very quiet – perhaps too quiet blue zone, the green zone where we are calm, alert and ready to participate, the yellow zone where we may be a little upset or nervous, the orange zone where we need to use some calming activity, and the red zone where we feel out of control. Students identify their preferred tools and strategies to enable them to return to the green zone. Counting our breath is the easiest and most effective strategy for all students. We have a number of visuals to prompt and guide focus. One example is the 'lazy eight'. As we trace the left side of the eight we breathe in, then breathe out as we trace the right side. This can be done with a small figure on the palm of the hand or a giant horizontal eight on the ceiling or wall.

Ms Lee & Ms Jennie



Lazy 8 calm breathing: in to left, out to right



Shaman's monster has a hat



Class 3 modelling their colourful calm llama masks

Class 6 news

Regular readers of our newsletter will remember that Class 6 took a deep dive this term into the kaleidoscopic pool of colour found in the natural world, in art and popular culture. We have painted, pressed, ripped and stamped an abundance of found and human made materials, and created some very impressive art works in the process.

Our Class 6 garden continues to grow, albeit at a delicate and slightly diminished pace. We have enthusiastic green fingers here at SEWS, and sometimes discerning between weeds and new growth is not always as clear as we might like. Nonetheless, we are hoping to harvest some veggies by the end of term. We promise to send home the results!

In between the growing and creating we continue to enjoy our time in the hydro pool, rigorous physiotherapy sessions with Jodie, and even managed a photo shoot of sorts to celebrate all the dads in our lives! We hope you enjoy the fruits of our labour and had a lovely day with your family.

Nellie, Sandy & Kelly



Lucy getting the ultimate workout from our physiotherapist Jodie



Sophie giving us her very best modelling for our Father's Day portraits



Our resilient remote learner and cheery chef, Dan



Brooke lighting up our class (as usual) and the interactive whiteboard

Deborah's class news

Happy birthday to Georgia, who turned 17 last week!

Jeremiah is learning to pedal his bike, and enjoys the company of his dog Gosha.

Ramona is confidently identifying vegetables and fruit in science, including three different coloured capsicums – red, green, and yellow.

Tommy has used his interest in genetics to produce a model of a strand of DNA on his 3D printer.

It's fun to hear the creative sounds being played by Georgia, Jeremiah and Tommy in Zoom rehearsals for the SEWS Beat Treats school band.

It's wonderful to see what you have all achieved this term. Enjoy the school holidays!

Deborah



Georgia playing a rhythm with a dustpan



Jeremiah and his family's dog Gosha



Tommy's 3D DNA strand

Jo's class news

Suzanna has engaged in a variety of learning experiences based on circuses throughout this term. One of her fabulous artworks is a circus collage created with different textures and shapes. Suzy has also been working on a stunning 3D model of her representation of Thelma the Unicorn based on the book of the same name by author Aaron Blabey.

Andrew has been researching the needs of indoor plants in science and purchased a devil's ivy plant to nurture and grow. He has also used lemon myrtle leaves from the garden to make a lemon myrtle cake.

Harry has also been engaging in cooking activities and followed a sequence to make some delicious pancakes with his sister. He has also been exploring new taste sensations by trying different recipes such as Moroccan meatballs and American tacos.

During weekly phone calls to Jayden and his tutor he has been sharing exciting news about things happening in his life with his teacher. He announced that his uncle had bought a new ute and that he will be getting a remote-controlled car for his birthday. Jayden did really well at communicating and answering questions about his news. Happy birthday for next week Jayden!

Jo



Suzy's circus collage



Suzy's papier mache version of Thelma the Unicorn



Jayden counting and matching numbers



Harry learning all about mosquitoes

Charlotte's class news

Moustafa has been working very hard using his *Book of Fun*, he has been demonstrating improved fine motor skills and very excitingly Moustafa is improving his spoken vocabulary. He is being given the knowledge and the words to answer questions. There is no doubting Moustafa's love of learning.

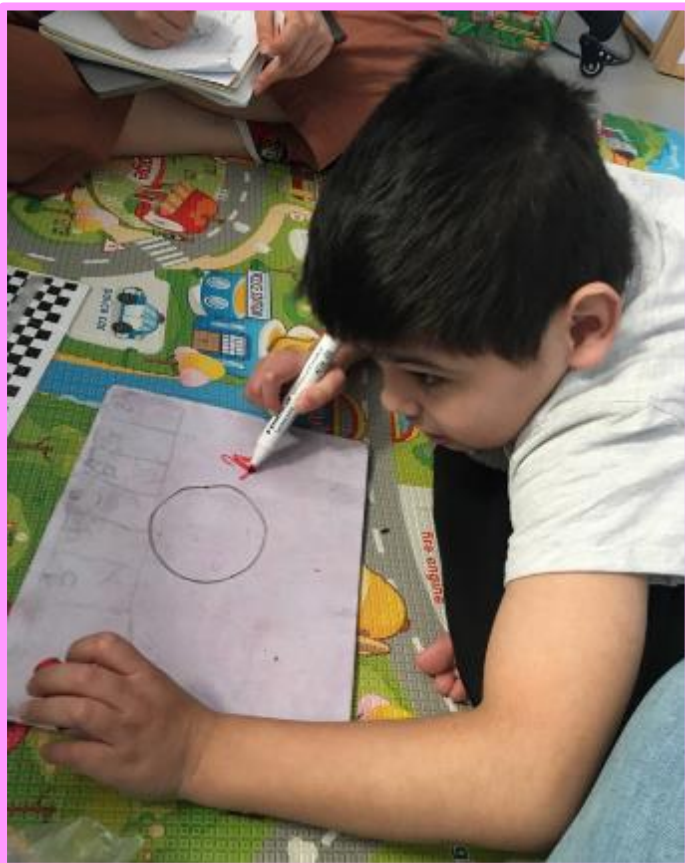
Ethan has been conducting an investigation during his local community visits, he has been on the quest to find the best hot chocolate around. After several visits to fast food outlets he worked out that his homemade hot chocolate is the best!

Nikolina has been working on her PLP goals as you can see from the photo below, she is pleased as punch with her efforts. Re-learning how to drink independently is such an important goal for Nikolina to give her her own independence and dignity.

Chris made me smile during our shared reading activity last week. He has outstanding comprehension skills as he independently reads to me, he will interact with the text and make comments about the storyline. I will miss Chris' lessons as he soon graduates Year 12.

Taylah, my new student, has made an excellent start completing her first Set in record time. I shall now be racing to prepare an exciting new Set filled with activities on cooking, cleaning the home, learning about friendship and money skills.

Charlotte



Moustafa focusing on tracing shapes



Nikolina working on her PLP goal

Karen's class news

Only three weeks left of Term 3! Where does the time go? I am very proud of the effort all my students are putting in to achieve their learning goals. Their ongoing engagement, enthusiasm and willingness to try new things is a delight.

I am super excited that Nate has engaged in and completed his first group of assigned Seesaw activities. I have a feeling I'm going to have trouble keeping up with him! It is fabulous that our students have access to these wonderful resources and have the opportunity to engage with their programs in different ways.

Justin has been working very hard on his independent living skills in preparation for his transition to post-school life. In particular, he has enjoyed participating in the process of cooking many different recipes. He recently assisted in preparing a dish of classic spaghetti and meatballs, and then enjoyed the fruits of his labour.

Katana has also jumped on the Seesaw bandwagon, using a choice board to indicate a preference between two video stories. She remains the 'Queen of Craft' and has been making musical instruments, continuing with her theme of Africa. Watch this space for photos of her creations!

A new support worker has meant that Jules has been engaging in different experiences. One on one cooking sessions have expanded her culinary skills and she has made pancakes, fried chicken, pasta dishes, spinach and feta rolls, muffins and mini Oreo cheesecakes. Yum! I have had the pleasure of sampling Jules' creations on previous field trips and know that everything tastes as good as it looks!

Karen



Justin making his classic meatballs



Nate's Seesaw activities



Jules' culinary creations



Katana's video choice board

Melissa's class news

I can't believe that we are in Week 8 and we are heading towards school holidays. It has been a busy term for all of the students in my class.

Toby continues to excel at work experience and has learnt so many new skills over the past seven weeks. Toby's responsibilities at work now extend to turning on lights, computers, monitors and tracks. As well as the day to day running of the business, stocking the shelves and fridge, taking out the bins and serving customers.

Alicia spent a lovely Father's Day with her extended family sailing on a houseboat. The houseboat cruised around Bookers Bay where Alicia had the opportunity to disembark and explore the local beaches in the area.

This week Ethan and I participated in our very first Zoom lesson. Ethan was able to show me his impressive collection of Lego creations, assembled over the last few months. Ethan also shared many interesting facts from the series of Horrible Histories. He loves watching Horrible Histories so much that he has now purchased and watched all seven seasons.

Braydon was not content with having just one licence, now he has two licences. After gaining his learner drivers licence last year, he has now been successful in passing the test component of the motorcycle licence. Once Braydon completes the two-day training course he will be eligible to get his motorbike licence. I am sure that his provisional driver's licence will be achieved soon after his 17th birthday. Braydon has also been looking into possible apprenticeship opportunities and will start work experience with his uncle painting in the next few weeks.

Melissa



Ethan's impressive Lego



Braydon getting ready for a driving lesson

Sharon's class news

The sun is shining once again and the students in our class are taking advantage of the lovely weather.

Cruz has had first-hand experience learning about spring as she has been lucky to have seen lambs and foals being born on her property.

Chris has been active outdoors and continues to enjoy his daily walks in the nearby wetlands.

Tyson has visited the beach and taken the opportunity to take some lovely photos for his entry in the annual SEWS Richard Kidziak Art Award.

A few weeks ago, when the weather was icy cold Leah went for a day trip to the snow. It was wonderful seeing the photos of Leah in the snow, this fitted in beautifully with her winter theme.

Sharon



Leah's day at the snow



Another of Tyson's photos for the art competition



One of Tyson's photos for the art competition



Chris exploring the wetlands

Dawn's class news

Many thanks to Min for teaching my class during my recent leave, she has done a fabulous job in creating fun engaging learning activities for everyone!

Izack has been making lots of progress in all areas of his program. He has been reading Marvel readers with increased fluency, and most importantly enjoying doing so! Izack has been using speech to text to write short messages and learnt to use text to speech to read an article to find out about the latest Xbox and Halo updates. Watching Izack's face light up when he independently operated his phone to read part of an article to him made me so proud of his achievements this year!

Nadine has been tackling 'dollar more' activities by selecting the note she would pay for an item at the shops. Nadine has really enjoyed playing bingo games with Min during weekly video lessons to develop her number recognition to 30. Good work Nadine!

Ben has been enjoying community access with his support workers and is proving to be quite the thrill seeker. Ben often asks to be taken on unsealed roads in four-wheel drives and laughs as he goes over the rough terrain. He has also been trying new activities such as card games, skateboarding and kicking a football. Nice to see you developing your hobbies and wellbeing Ben!

Bethany continues to work on her communication cues and will move to the back door and verbalise to let her family know when she wants to go outside. Bethany's family have recently purchased a horse and Bethany has been observing the horse with her sister; she hopefully will be able to engage more with the horse in the future.

I would like to wish everyone a safe and happy holidays, and hope everyone has time to take a well-deserved break.

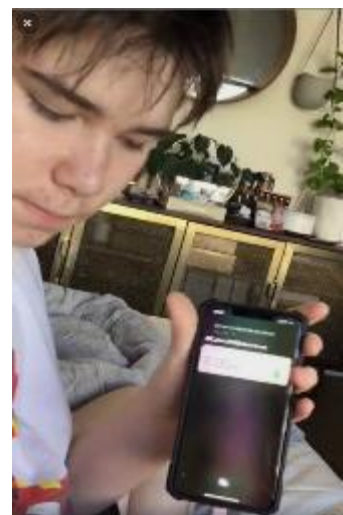
Dawn



Ben enjoying the beach



Nadine's 'one dollar' more work



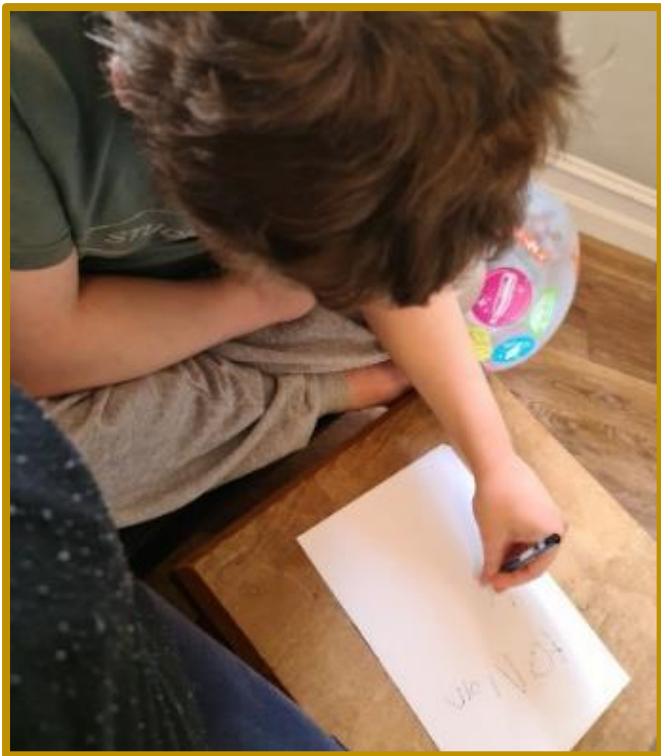
Izack setting his alarm

Amanda's class news

This week Jacob has made great progress with the steps involved in making himself a Vegemite sandwich. He is good at scooping the Vegemite out onto the bread, and is now working on his spreading technique. Jacob also demonstrated his skills in writing by spelling out 'Kate', the name of his speech pathologist, on his letter board to show that he remembered she was due to visit that day. Jacob must have been in the mood for writing because on the same day he wrote some notes for a visiting relative.

With the warmer weather and more relaxed restrictions, Ray has enjoyed being out in the community lately visiting some of the local parks. At home, Ray has helped to make cakes and cookies, and continues to put his plate in the sink when he is finished eating. Ray is now working on putting his dishes away once they are clean.

Amanda



Jacob writing a note



Scooping out Vegemite

Nicole's class news

As Term 3 is nearing an end, I would like to congratulate all my students on all their hard work this term.

Jacob is enjoying being part of the SEWS Beat Treats school band. During a recent band rehearsal over Zoom, he sang a song for those attending the rehearsal, which really was a treat!

Jayden has been completing and creating patterns in maths. He has been using coloured dot stickers, and can create a pretty impressive pattern using them. Jayden's tutor uploaded some of his pattern work onto Seesaw, so I could instantly see it.

Usman has a new pair of glasses and is getting used to the feel of them on his face.

Eve has recently celebrated her birthday. Happy birthday Eve! She has been spending lots of time in her local environment and community, using her senses to explore and experience new places.

I hope all my students and their families have a happy, healthy, safe school holidays.

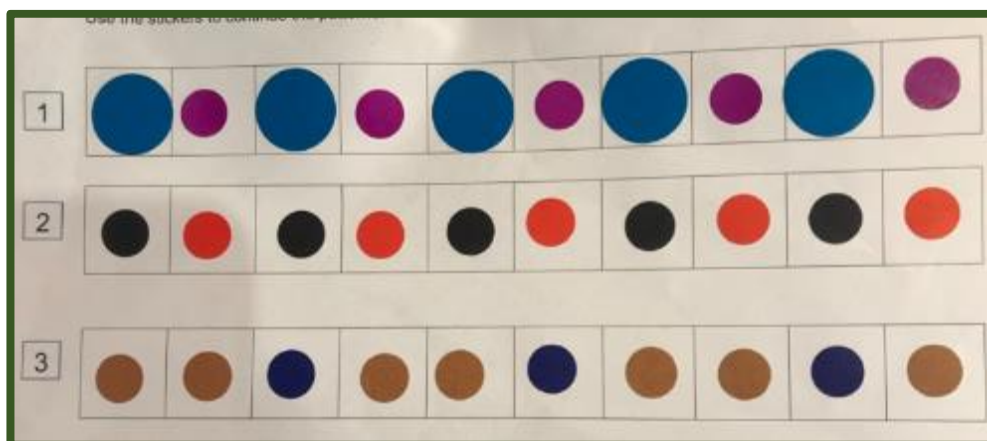
Nicole



Usman looking cool in his new glasses



Eve exploring her local environment



Jayden's impressive patterns

Class 5 news

Class 5 have had another busy few weeks. In English, we have enjoyed listening to stories about colours. Our favourite story was *Mixed*, a colourful story by Arree Chung. This funny story is about the colours red, yellow, and blue all thinking they're the best until they realise they aren't all that different from each other. In art, Yash, Quinn, Raymond and Ariel have looked at different collage techniques using a specific colour palette.

Class 5 have been very lucky to have another swim lesson on Thursday afternoon. All of Class 5 are excited to swim twice a week. Yash, Quinn, Ariel and Raymond have also been enjoying the spring sun in the morning when we go out to the Liberty Swing. Class 5 has been working extra hard on PLP goals and making fantastic progress. We have been doing lots of switching, stretching and physical activity to continue to improve our skills. Go Class 5!

Georgina & Tanya



Raymond standing outside in the sunshine



Yash on the bike with Jodie



Some of Class 5's beautiful artwork

Barbara's class news

Alex has been amazing her family lately with her clear and confident communication skills. In the last few weeks Alex has suddenly started to use the 'finished' sign regularly. On one occasion her tutor asked her three times if she had finished, just to confirm, and Alex did the sign each time. After the last sign, Alex initiated a high-five, as if to say "yes, you finally understood, Mum!". Alex has been working on receiving high-fives from her siblings to celebrate achievements and sometimes uses a high-five to say "yes" in a definite way. A week ago, Alex requested a drink by pointing at a water bottle with her finger extended for the first time!

A few weeks ago, Azra demonstrated her improving hand control and ever-present curiosity, by reaching over and picking up a glass (that had recently contained coffee) and lifting it to her lips. Azra smelt and tried to sip the contents by tipping the empty glass slightly. Azra usually drinks from a glass, but does so with full physical support. Although Azra can't visit her local parks at the moment, she hasn't missed out on exploring a wide variety of plants. Recently, Azra watched as her backyard was planted out with loquat, lilly pilly, persimmon, fig trees, and a grape vine. Azra will also be continuing her science investigation, by planting the veggie scraps she has grown on the kitchen window sill out into a garden bed.

Barbara



Azra holding a glass



Azra learning to swipe through trial and error

Class 4 news

All students have been hard at work learning about writing explanation and procedure text types. Making a paper aeroplane by following another's procedure or using a map to give directions from one location to another has proven why it is important to be accurate with the details!

Our science theme, *Change Detectives* continues with more investigations that really engage students in small group work. STEM activities have also brought out the creative and analytical side of the students as they reflect on their design, including problems they encountered or overcame and how they might do their design project differently in the future.

In PDHPE, we have been perfecting the 'dodge' movement skill and over the past two weeks have been involved in a movement skills program which will take us until the end of term.

Last week, Mr Ziggy, buddy and therapy dog, visited us and was an instant hit with all the class. Many requests have followed to know when he starts. I think Ziggy will be on high rotation, if Class 4 has their say.

Sue, Hilary & Merle



Mr Ziggy



STEM, getting creative



Movement skills program in action



Father's Day preparation

Class 2 news

Congratulations to all our students for their achievements throughout Term 3!

Alfie has been learning how to use the 'GoTalk20' as a communication device. He is developing his skills to request when he is hungry, or wants to go for a walk. Nice work, Alfie!

Daniella has been improving her strength and skills in the water. She has definitely made the most of having two swimming sessions each week. Daniella has demonstrated her ability by swimming at least three laps of the pool each week. Great work, Daniella!

Milan has been showing us how well he can follow the daily class routine. He is also doing a great job at working towards developing his independence in his personal care. Amazing effort, Milan!

Ryan has led the way in his consistent and independent use of his communication device. He has also engaged in more and more types of learning activities throughout the year. Well done, Ryan!

Lyndon is working on his transition to full time attendance at school. We look forward to supporting Lyndon to spend more time with Class 2 each school day.

Wishing all our students, families and carers a safe holiday period in the weeks ahead.

Doug, Clare & Trish



Alfie using his AAC to say his is hungry



Milan using the play equipment safely



Ryan using the Cab-ra-nanga communication board to say he likes the lemon myrtle leaves



Daniella enjoyed a visit from Hercules the Therapy Dog

Rama's class news

We are nearly at the end of Term 3 and the weeks are flying by.

Seth is settling into his new home and he has a new pet dog, Saffy. Seth knows the importance of regular physical exercise and accompanies his siblings as they walk the dog every day. He is learning the place value of numbers and can sequence numbers to 50. Seth enjoys music and will be developing and exhibiting his musical skills as a member of the school music band, SEWS Beats Treats. Fabulous effort, Seth. We can't wait to hear you play in the band.

The modifications are completed at Kayla's home and she and her family are looking forward to moving back this week. One of the modifications included a ramp to the garden. Kayla enjoys gardening and has been learning about push and pull forces. She tries to independently push her wheelchair up the ramp when she returns from her garden. Excellent effort Kayla.

Mohamed knows the importance of personal hygiene and sensibly wore a mask during a recent visit to a shopping centre. He is a passionate supporter of the Rabbitohs and is very interested in Aboriginal art and culture. Mohamed helps at home by wiping the table after eating food and putting the used cutlery in the sink. Well done Mohamed.

Isabella's special area of interest is the USA and she celebrated her birthday with an American themed cake. During a Zoom conversation with her teacher she conversed about the Statue of Liberty and why there are 50 stars on the American flag. Isabella also enjoys cooking and recently helped cook meatballs. Well done Isabella.

I thank all my students and families for all their effort this term and wish them a safe and happy holiday.

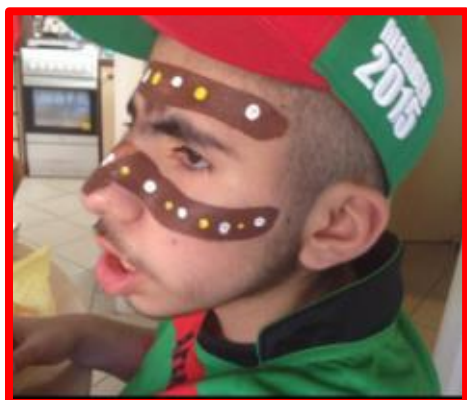
Rama



Isabella's American themed birthday cake



Kayla's ramp leading to the garden



Mohamed had his face painted



Seth sequencing numbers

Class 1 news

As discussed in our previous newsletter, we created our own weather instruments at the end of our HSIE unit on weather. We had a barometer, anemometer, thermometer, wind sock, weather vane, compass and rain gauge. We had such fun creating and testing them!

We were also lucky enough to meet our new therapy dog, Ziggy, on his first visit to school. The boys loved feeling Ziggy's soft fur. Judging by his wagging tail, Ziggy enjoyed meeting the boys just as much as they enjoyed meeting him. We are looking forward to spending more quality time with Ziggy in the future.

On Friday, we started our first gymnastics session with Ms Kelly (from Class 6) and our skills were looking pretty good! We will be continuing these sessions for the rest of the term. In PE we had a lot of fun practising the 2-handed strike, which we are getting much better at.

They have started resurfacing the area outside Class 1 and Class 2 and we have been watching the excavations, tree-chopping and surface preparation with great interest. Class 1 is going to be super happy to enjoy the outdoor learning space once the project is complete. Term 4 is going to be exciting!

Wishing everyone an awesome spring break!

Ms Nina & Mrs B



Our first gymnastics lesson



A visit from Ziggy and his buddy Hercules



What is this space going to look like?



Weather instruments

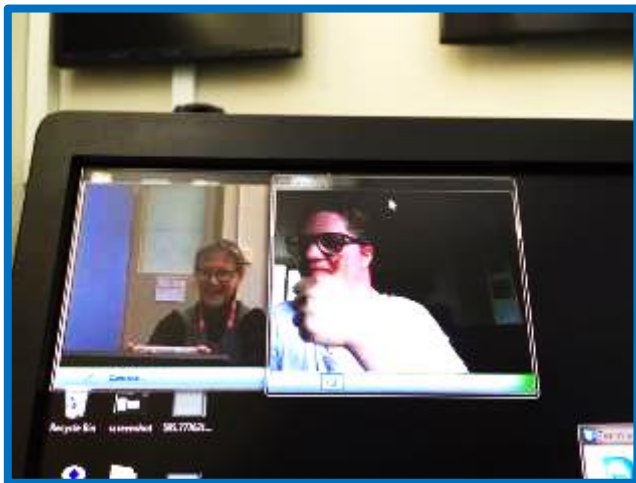
Louise's class news

Term 3 2020 is drawing to a close, as is my time as classroom teacher on class 'D5'. The new D5 teacher in Term 4 2020 will be Min Burton (also known as Melinda Burton!). Over the last few weeks Min has been getting to know my students, their tutors, and each student's individual learning program.

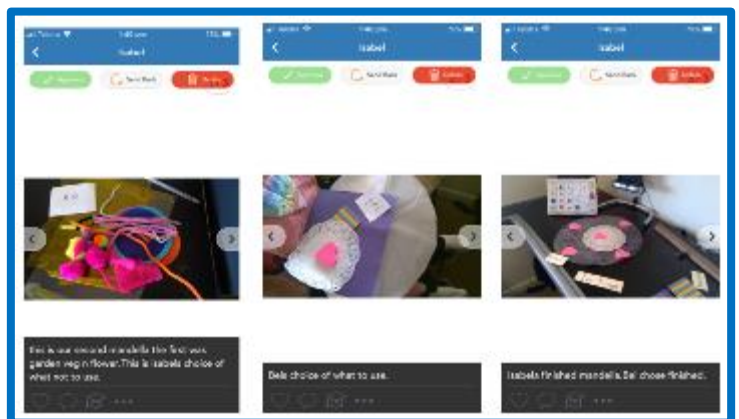
It is my intention that by Week 2 Term 4, my students and their tutors will all be saying 'Louise who???' as they seamlessly slip into working with Min. As students move from one teacher to the next over their school life, they are learning that there are lots of people in their lives who will support them, and that people come and go (and that that is perfectly OK).

I know that Min is very excited to have the opportunity of teaching such amazing students who all have an incredible joy for learning. All of my students are unique individuals, yet share the same characteristics of curiosity, passion and kindness. Equally, my tutors are collectively characterised by their unflinching commitment to support their child's learning, and their efforts to be strong advocates for their child's wellbeing. I wish all my students and their amazing families all the best for the future!

Louise S



Ned enjoys learning and sharing via REACT



Isabel sharing, via Seesaw, how she communicated her choices when creating a window mandala



Summer classifying emotions according to the Zones of Regulation