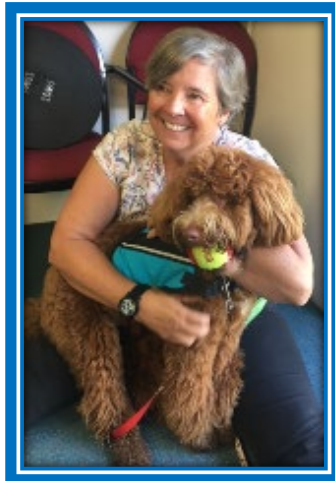


Sir Eric Woodward School Newsletter

Term 1 2021

Week 4

17th February 2021



Principal's message

What a great start to the school year. It is wonderful to see everyone back at school and excited to learn. Our new class groups are working beautifully together and we are excited to welcome a few new students to the school in both F2F and DESU.

PLP meetings

PLP meetings are well underway to plan individual learning goals for Semester 1. These meetings are extremely important to ensure that the school and home work in partnership to support teaching and learning for your child. Please use this opportunity to share any relevant information with the class teacher as we plan together.

Strategic Improvement Plan 2021–24

We are working very hard to finalise our Strategic Improvement Plan that will commence in Term 2. This plan will map out targeted improvement measures for the next 4 years. The community feedback received at the end of last year, student feedback and staff feedback have all contributed to this plan. We have also completed a self-assessment against the School Excellence Framework to identify focus areas and completed a situational analysis. All of this data and feedback will allow us to plan for the future with confidence and continually improve.

COVID intense learning support and SSP supplementary funding

All schools have been given some additional funding in 2021 to provide COVID intense learning support. At SEWS we are using those funds to provide additional 1:1 and small group support as required. We also have been given SSP supplementary funding for another year. This funding will provide increased access to therapist staff, additional SLSOs across the school to deliver literacy, numeracy and communication support as well as resource development. We will also be providing additional teacher support to ensure that we are constantly learning and enhancing our teaching skills through collaboration and observation. All of this will mean more time for each of our students to access explicit individual teaching – how exciting!!

Sian

Deputy Principal's message

Welcome back for 2021

I would like to formally welcome all staff, students and families back to SEWS for 2021. I hope you had a great break and all are refreshed and ready for teaching and learning.

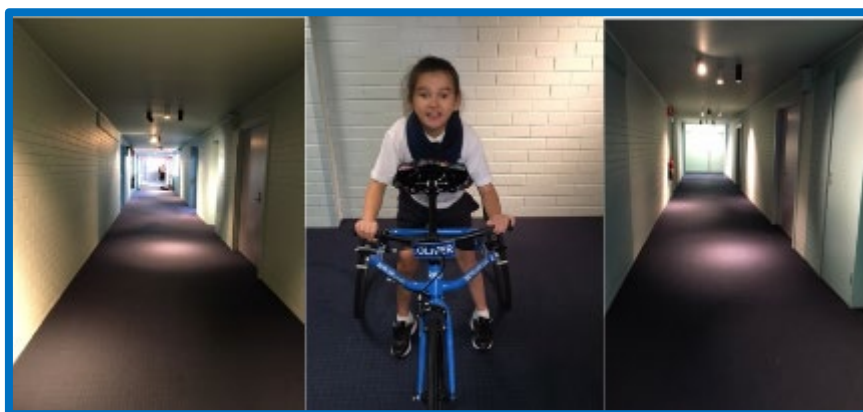
STEM and project-based learning

Upon return I have had the privilege of sitting in on classes that have been doing some amazing STEM project-based learning. Covering topics such as growing and harvesting vegetables, to the development of nature inspired creatures of adaptation. This has seen some wonderful student design, creation and modelling come to life as you can see from the photo.

Ongoing property changes to SEWS

As highlighted in my last newsletter piece, throughout 2020 and the Christmas holiday period of 2021 we have continued to upgrade the facilities and infrastructure at SEWS. Following on from the soft-fall playground space development in the Ngalawa playground, our attention has turned to upgrading the internal spaces of SEWS. In this edition I would like to highlight recent painting throughout the school's thoroughfares, in addition to specific lighting fixtures in place to support promoting a calmer sensory experience for our students as they transition throughout the school. SEWS now has some great spaces available for students to engage more freely in experiences such as riding the RaceRunner at increasing speed through the hallway.

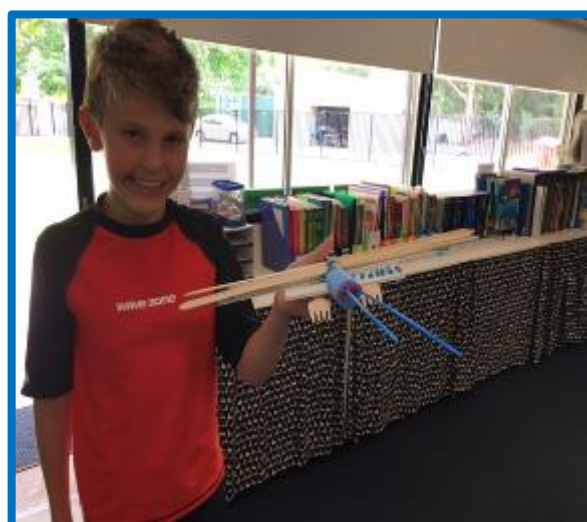
Patrick Price



Daniella riding the RaceRunner in the newly painted hallways



A beautiful art work by Class 5



Creating in the classroom



Wishing all students born in January & February a very Happy Birthday

Happy birthday to Daniella, Jacob M, Jake L, Tyson, Moustafa, Taylah, PJ, Dominic, Ethan S, Ethan N, Dylan, Isabel, Ashley, Ariel, Sam, Alicia, Corey, Nadine & Summer

Important dates

Term 1 2021

Tuesday 16th March 2021 – P & C meeting 5pm

Thursday 18th March 2021– excursion for students in ASU classes to Gibberagong EEC

Friday 19th March 2021– National Day of Action against Bullying & Violence

Tuesday 23rd March 2021– Harmony Day celebration: Everyone Belongs, students dress in orange clothing

Thursday 1st April 2021 – last school day for Term 1



School Leaders at Sir Eric Woodward School

We are delighted to welcome twenty students to our School Leader program! These students are:

Year 12: Taylah, Nikolina, Dominic, Nadine, Toby, Juliette, Nathan, Katana, Georgia and Ramona

Year 6: Moustafa, Chris, Leah, Seth, Joshua, Sam, Thomas, Tadhg, Tom and Raymond

Throughout this year, our student leaders will initiate activities to enhance a positive whole school community. We will keep you posted about upcoming events.

The School Leader Support Team



Sir Eric Woodward School has subscribed to ClickView this year.

ClickView is an education video platform. ClickView's Library comes with thousands of educational titles to support the Australian Curriculum and improve learning outcomes in our school.

All Sir Eric Woodward School students can access ClickView by following these steps:

1. go to this link: [**clickview.com.au**](https://clickview.com.au)
2. sign in with your child's school email, eg xxxx.xxxx@education.nsw.gov.au

A screenshot of the ClickView sign-in page. At the top is the ClickView logo. Below it is the text "Enter your email address to sign in to your ClickView account". There is a text input field with the placeholder "Email address". Below the input field is a large orange button labeled "Next".

3. select – sign in with your DoE account
4. sign in with your child's school email address and password
5. search for videos

Student access is restricted to videos that are rated G or E (exempt from classification), according to the Australian Classification Standards.

If students are having difficulty accessing this resource at home, please contact your child's teacher.

▶ ClickView Parent Info Guide



How can ClickView support your child's learning?

ClickView provides teachers and students access to thousands of interactive videos and related resources to support learning and teaching. All ClickView produced content is developed with subject experts, ensuring it's age appropriate and aligned to the Australian Curriculum.



High-quality resources for learning

ClickView provides a library of video content explicitly aligned to the curriculum. Students and teachers can confidently access high-quality video resources that have been purpose-made in Melbourne, or educationally curated from a selection of pay-TV or free-to-air programs.



Engaging and interactive

Teachers can find, edit and share relevant educational videos with students, including interactive learning tasks, through which teachers can monitor each student's understanding. Students can upload and share their work with teachers and other students to demonstrate their learning.



Access videos anytime, anywhere

Teaching staff can share clips with students to view at home so they can use class time for quality discussions, higher-order thinking and problem-solving.



Safe and age-appropriate

ClickView resources feature Australian content classifications to help ensure students are accessing age-appropriate materials.

Get started with ClickView at home

1. Go to online.clickview.com.au on any browser or download the ClickView app.



2. Sign in using your child's school login details.
3. Browse over thousands of educational videos.



Zooming at the DESU!

Social Club

Welcome back for 2021 to all our wonderful students. It was exciting to hold our very first Social Club session last week through Zoom, and we had a fabulous time. Jacob, Tilly, Isabel, Kye, Dominic and Tyson all logged on and interacted so well with each other and their teachers.

Tilly sang *Try everything*, and Jacob sang *Shotgun for us*. They both did an excellent job, and I believe Tilly might even have another song planned to sing for us this week.

Students showed us some of their pets and we learnt their names. We also talked about our holiday adventures, and how Isabel went fishing during the holidays and caught a fish.

Dominic is particularly good at using his mobile phone, and Tyson had his birthday recently and received an air fryer. He loves to cook!

We will be talking about different topics each week and would love to see as many of our students log on as we can. So even if you can only spare 5 or 10 minutes, we would enjoy seeing you online.

Just a reminder that Social Club runs on a Tuesday from 12:30–1pm. Please speak to your teacher if you did not receive the Zoom link.

Looking forward to seeing all DESU students on Tuesday.

DESU Music

DESU Music classes have recommenced, and it has been wonderful seeing all the students engaging so well in their music lessons.

I have had the opportunity of meeting some fabulous new DESU music students so far this year, with a few more to come in the coming weeks.

Angus set up his Zoom session all on his own which was great, he is lots of fun, and enjoys Parody songs which are quite funny.

Dominic loves singing and is always happy during music. He knows the melody and rhythm to lots of different songs, he is doing well and trying hard during his sessions.

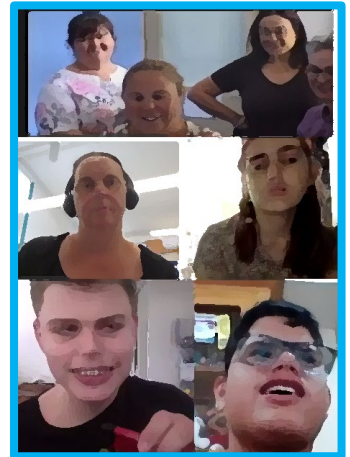
Jacob is learning about different types of music. We looked at music from Pirates of the Caribbean last week and how the same song can be changed in different ways, styles, versions, etc.

Summer is back into her singing and we are also learning about Mariachi music.

I look forward to a term of exploring and engaging in music with our students.

Stay tuned for information on our Beat Treats band, coming soon!

Kiri



Class 3 news

Class 3 have begun the new year with fabulous effort and engagement in their learning. In science we are investigating where our food comes from and are conducting an experiment on the impact of soil type on seedling growth. Each morning, students are delighted to compare and measure the growth of their plants. The students were amazed by the growth in our vegetable beds. We harvested seeds from the parsley and plan to sow them for a new generation of plants and more yummy tabbouleh. New seedlings have been planted and fingers crossed for some juicy strawberries, lots of greens and a globe artichoke!

Class 3 have also been contemplating what it means to be safe and respectful. We have identified the people who keep us safe and steps we can take to make safe choices. Everyone loves taking turns and using kind words while playing games together.

In English, we are focusing on our writing and the sounds letters make when combined. Students are trying hard to place their letters in the ground, grass or sky!

In mathematics, students are learning to work independently on their investigations into number and to talk about their understandings.

Everyone is looking forward to a fantastic year ahead.

Ms Lee & Mrs B



Gareth records his observations



Everyone loves playing together



Busy hands in the garden

Class 6 news

Class 6 has got off to a great start for 2021 and we've settled into our rhythm quickly. Every morning meeting begins with 'Here Comes the Sun' as we welcome each other to the day and there are always smiles and giggles for this song (or maybe it's my singing?!). Raymond particularly loves this start to the day and always shows his enthusiasm.

Daniella has been a great help to her classmates, unpacking bags and organising lunchboxes and drink bottles into the tub. She can be relied on to gather materials for Tele and Raymond and chats to them about what we are doing. The warm weather saw us spending time in Cabrananga playground finding soft, bright nasturtium flowers and fragrant lemon myrtle leaves to touch and smell.

Yash has created a PowerPoint presentation of family photos and he has enjoyed clicking through this slideshow as we chat about his family. We always welcome photos from home to strengthen home/school connections through conversation and social stories. Our mealtimes are a social affair, and we eat together at lunch and recess, chatting or watching topical videos.

Miriam & Sandy



Mealtimes are a social affair in class 6



Daniella is proud of her writing

Deborah's class news

It's been great seeing everyone back at school, and hearing my students' holiday stories.

Jeremiah has enjoyed time in the pool and at the beach, as well as trips to Sydney to visit extended family.

Georgia also enjoys the water, and is increasing her swimming sessions to twice a week. Georgia is also developing her colour recognition skills, which she is applying to colour-coded piano keys in music.

Ramona is continuing patterns up to ten places in mathematics, and is beginning to count real-life objects to ten.

Tilly engaged her sewing skills to complete several Christmas-themed projects in visual arts at the beginning of the holidays. These included sewing and decorating a Christmas stocking. It was lovely to see Tilly and her dog Elmo in our first Zoom social group this term.

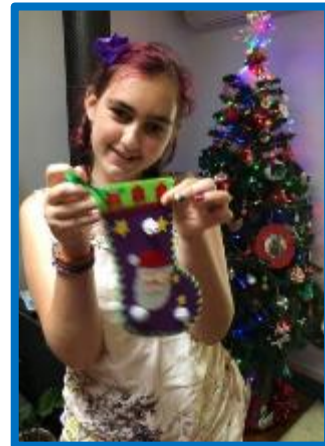
It was great to hear from Tommy this term, who graduated from Year 12 last year. He is accessing his community more regularly, and recently enjoyed a trip to the south coast.

Wishing my students and their families a fun school term!

Deborah



Jeremiah



Tilly



Georgia



Tommy

Jo's class news

Welcome back to all our students for 2021! I hope that you all have had a great holiday break and enjoyed some time to rest and relax, ready for a new term ahead.

Suzy has started off the term enjoying and exploring textures in her Set work. She has been experimenting with warm water so that she can feel the warmth/heat from the water to understand what hot is. Suzy has settled back in to Term 1 well.

Jayden has a new care dog; her name is Suzi and he has had her for about 3 weeks now. He is loving having her around and is helping with giving the dog food and water. In his garden Jayden has been able to pick some delicious tomatoes and they are growing well.

Harry has settled in nicely to Term 1, he has ventured out into the community in the last week and went to the movies with support workers. He is also loving learning about caterpillars and is preparing his vegetable garden ready for replanting. Harry is also enjoying the nice weather and getting out and about riding his scooter.

A big welcome to Eve who has joined Jo's class this year. Eve has been enjoying rainforest walks and engaging with the different rainforest sounds, smells and sights. She has also been visiting the beach and loving it, she really enjoys being out in the beautiful sunshine. Eve is also playing the organ at home and having those around her play as well. She is having a makeover this week, having her hair cut to a shorter style ... can't wait to see it!

Kiri & Jackie



Tomato picking for Jayden



Exploring warm water with Suzy



Visits to the beach for Eve



Community visits to the movies for Harry

Charlotte's class news

Taylah has been studying hard, she is just about to get a tablet so I'm excited to welcome her onboard our Seesaw app. It will be so positive to bring learning to life using the activities and get feedback on progress in real time.

Moustafa has been studying hard using his very advanced Book of Fun, this now covers a wide range of early mathematics skills, vocabulary building activities and fine motor. There is always a smile on Moustafa's face as he laps up his learning.

Nikolina has been out and about over the summer holidays, she loves to spend time at the beach. She has also taken up cycling using a peddle exercise machine at home. She does 30 minutes twice a day and loves it.

Ethan has been showing some real signs of maturity. He has also begun paired reading during his weekly calls. This is a great opportunity to share Ethan's interests and for me to ask some comprehension questions.

Dominic has started music lessons with Kiri, he is a keen singer and is great at holding a tune and copying actions. It was also wonderful to see him join in our DESU Social Club online.

Charlotte



Nikolina enjoying her time at the beach



Moustafa completing a puzzle

Karen's class news

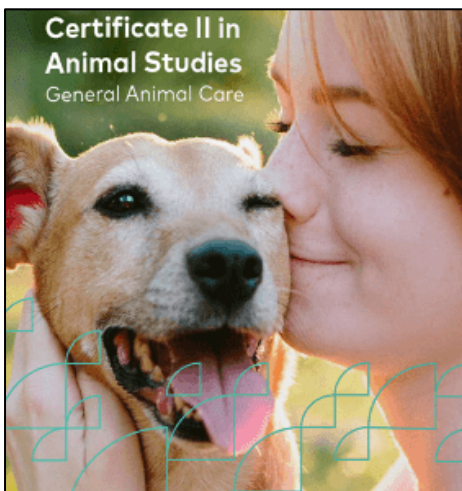
Welcome back to Jules, Katana and Nate who remain in my class this year and are all in Year 12. I am looking forward to supporting them in their post-school transition. I would like to extend a very warm welcome to Jake who is new to DESU and joins us in Year 11.

Jules has made a flying start to the year. She is enrolled in Certificate II in Animal Studies with TAFE NSW and has already submitted her first assessment. Jules is passionate about animals and would like to pursue a career in the animal care industry. It is wonderful that our students have the opportunity to attend these courses in preparation for future employment.

Nate has also made a good start to the year with his Seesaw activities. I have been told that he is doing many of these activities independently which is great to hear. He especially enjoys doing some of the online activities that support his learning in recognising coins and telling the time.

Katana is continuing with her ocean theme this set and has created some amazing artworks with the help of her tutor. She has been enjoying going out for walks and popping into the local shops.

Karen



The course Jules is studying



Nate's online mathematics activities



Katana's ocean themed artwork

Melissa's class news

Welcome back for Term 1, 2021! Over the last few weeks I have had a lovely time catching up on all the fun that my students and their families had over the holidays.

Toby continued to be extremely busy with his family's new slot car business. He loves being an active participant in the day to day running and his slot car racing abilities have immensely improved! Toby also started his TVET course – Certificate II in Horticulture. Toby has started the course off by learning about weather and climate.

Alicia had a lovely holiday spending time with her family. She was even able to take a drive to the Central Coast to spend time with her grandmother in a beach house. This term Alicia has been taking a virtual trip around Australia exploring the states through art. Currently, she is learning about Queensland.

Ethan had a restful and productive holiday. He certainly fills his days, with time spent on historical research, Lego and reading. Ethan has been learning about and becoming an expert in the evolution of animals. He is a whiz at reading the scientific language that most people would find extremely difficult.

Lastly, I would like to extend a warm welcome to my new student Angus and his family. Angus is starting high school with us and has already demonstrated his definite skill in technology as well as other Key Learning Areas. I look forward to working with Angus and his family during this year.

Melissa



Alicia's Great Barrier Reef art



Toby's TVET

Sharon's class news

It is lovely to welcome everyone back to school.

Ian is in Year 8 and is settling back into the school routine.

Leah is in Year 6 and is a school leader. Leah had a wonderful holiday experiencing different environments like the national park and the beach. Visiting the beach was a perfect introduction to Leah's learning this term about summer. Leah has engrossed herself in school activities, including reaching for different textured items in her sensory tub, splashing in water, going for walks and listening to the sounds of nature and vocalising. I am very much enjoying the many photos I have already viewed on Seesaw of Leah engaged in her schoolwork.

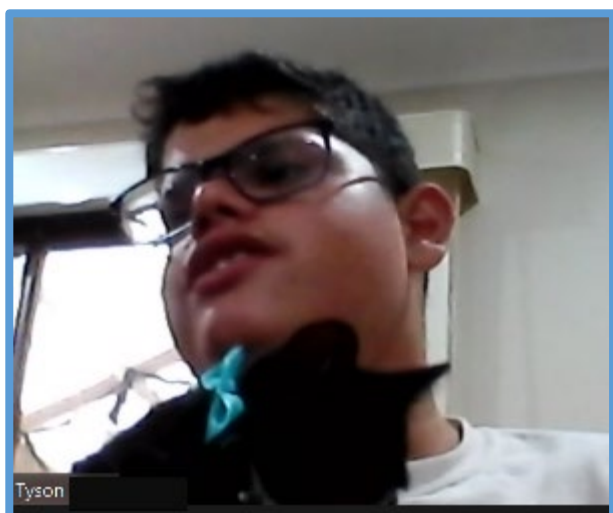
Like Leah, Chris is also in Year 6, a school leader and he has also been enjoying splashing. Chris is spending many hours each day swimming in his new pool. This has allowed him to be more active and engaged in a very worthwhile leisure activity. Chris has been using his family calendar to prepare himself for outings and changes to his routine. This is working very well. Chris is also keen to communicate his needs to his family using Messenger and Proloquo2go. These resources are providing Chris with the tools he needs to feel prepared and supported for his day.

Tyson is in Year 10 and in the school holidays he celebrated his 15th birthday. In our weekly Zoom session Tyson told me that he received an air fryer and pie maker for his birthday. I can't wait to see the photos of his masterpieces! Zoom lessons are a wonderful way for the teacher and the student to engage in face to face interactions and lessons. I have enjoyed seeing Tyson's smiling face during our sessions and also seeing him communicate with his peers during the weekly DESU Zoom Social Club meeting.

What an awesome opportunity Social Club is! From day one, the conversation was flowing, the screen was filled with happy faces and the students were curious about their friends' holidays. I am very excited for our students to have this chance.

Wishing my students a healthy and productive 2021.

Sharon



Tyson showing me his new kitten during a Zoom lesson



Leah is busy learning

Nicole's class news

I would like to welcome into my class Mayiar, Blake and Andrew. Over the last few weeks, I have been getting to know my new students including learning about some of their likes, strengths and talents. Jacob remains in my class this year, and I have already enjoyed sharing some fun Zoom sessions with him. I look forward to working with all my students and their tutors this year.

Nicole



Jacob enjoyed catching the ferry during a day out

Jon's class news

Welcome back students to a new year, new class and a new teacher. I am excited about my return to Sir Eric Woodward School and look forward to a wonderful 2021.

Ben and Nadine enjoyed their summer holidays, and I look forward to supporting my students as they work towards achieving their educational goals.

Nadine has started 2021 well. She has helped her mother sell items at her local market and is involved with the Country Women's Association. Nadine has been growing in confidence while out in the community. She is making significant progress when purchasing items and using technology in shopping centres. I spoke with Nadine last week and she is a very friendly young lady. I look forward to working with her during our weekly Zoom calls.

Although I have not yet met Ben, I am excited to be his teacher this year. His interests are swimming, skateboarding and hot chips! I can see we both have a lot in common. The work he sent back during the Christmas period was incredible and it is evident that he has made rapid progress every year. He is excited to learn and has set personal goals that he wants to achieve this year.

2021 has certainly started well and I look forward to it being a great learning year.

Jon

Doug's class news

Welcome our students, carers and families to a new school year! I'm looking forward to supporting our students to experience achievement in their learning activities this year.

Jacob has already impressed us with his letter recognition, sequencing and spelling skills! This year Jacob will be working towards developing his expressive communication, emotional regulation and personal care skills. I'm confident that Jacob will smash these goals in the year ahead!

Ray is settling in well with his new support team. He is already interacting with some members of his team by playing ball and pushing cars together. This year Ray will be working towards using a consistent communication strategy and gaining greater independence in his living skills. Go for it, Ray!

Stay tuned to learn about some more of Jacob's and Ray's achievements in the next newsletter.

Doug



Jacob enjoys sequencing the letters of the alphabet while listening to the alphabet song

Class 5 news

Class 5 have had such a great start to 2021. Over the past 4 weeks we have been busy reading books, swimming, enjoying our playground and completing beautiful artworks. Quinn, Ariel, Alfie and Emily have enjoyed being together as a class and we love seeing their smiles every time they come through the school doors.

Our class has enjoyed getting back into the pool for hydrotherapy. We have been practising floating on our backs, walking in the pool and stretching our muscles. Ariel, Quinn, Emily and Alfie have also had a chance to enjoy the trampoline in the playground. Class 5 like to choose fun activities, such as the trampoline to help develop our communication skills to convey our needs and wants.

Quinn, Ariel, Emily and Alfie have been enjoying lots of books. One of our favourite books this term has been 'We are all here' by Oliver Jeffers. This book taught all the class about different environments, people and things that we can find on our earth. It also linked in well with our science unit which is all about the materials we find in our local environment. Class 5 are excited to continue to explore the sensory aspects of different materials this term.

Tanya & Georgina



Alfie enjoying swimming



Ariel listening to a picture book



Quinn bouncing on the playground trampoline



Emily enjoying the water

Carolyn's class news

I am really excited to have Alex and Azra in my class this year. Barbara, their previous teacher, has told me all about her students' amazing achievements, and I have been enjoying conversations with their tutors to find out more about their individual learning programs, interests and daily routines.

Alex has been starting to voluntarily use talking 'yes' and 'no' buttons to express herself. At this stage 'yes' is the more popular one! She has recently become interested in playing the family piano – this is a leisure time activity she can enjoy with her siblings.

This is a big year for Azra as she moves into Year 7. She has started off the new term reading books, engaging in art activities, and making marks on paper with her bundle of pencils. Azra is looking forward to more outings when the weather improves.

A very warm welcome to Corey, my new student! Corey lives in the Central West and is going into Year 7 this year. Corey's interests include painting and listening to music. I look forward to getting to know him better.

Wishing all my students a happy start to 2021!

Carolyn



Alex has been using yes and no buttons to express herself



Azra will be visiting the beach again soon

Class 4 news

2021 sees some new faces to Class 4. Ethan from Class 3 has moved up to join us and we welcome new student, Tom, to SEWS for his final primary school year. We also have a new SLSO, Mini, or 'Miss M', as she is known in class. Mini is no stranger to the boys, having worked as an SLSO across the school over the past couple of years. Last but not least, we welcome Sofia Teh to class on Wednesdays. Sofia has taken on the role of relief teacher previously held by Mrs Foley. Mrs Foley will now take library with Class 4 on Tuesdays. Mrs Williams continues to provide valuable scheduled additional SLSO support across the week.

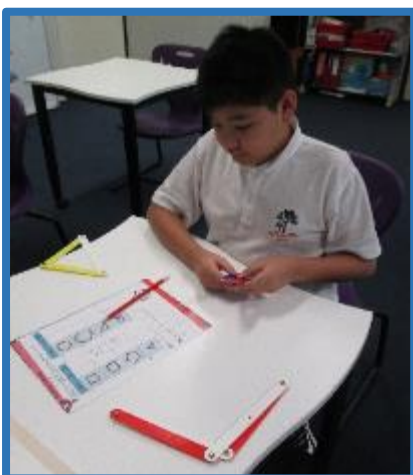
The Year 6 School Leaders wear their badges with pride and grow in confidence daily by taking on greater responsibility, for example helping younger students on the playground and reporting respectfully to staff when they feel there is a need. Providing all Year 6 students with the opportunity to be leaders has certainly been a confidence booster and something the Year 5 students aspire to.

This term in science we are studying Salt Rising by examining sustainable farming practices. In technology the class has been busy on a number of projects using the class STEM kits. Last week students were tasked with creating a fictional creature with physical adaptations that would allow it to survive in the wild, eg claws, teeth, fur and spikes. Often being creative with tooth picks, bits of foam, cotton reels and Blu Tack is challenging, but with perseverance we get to see some amazing results.

The class has also started on a short morning personal fitness program involving either skipping or running laps. There have been some very impressive results with all students showing progress in their skipping skills. Thomas J. has set the benchmark: 100 continuous skips. Swimming on Fridays continues to be a winner with the boys. This term apart from continuing with basic stroke development, we are focusing on being able to float as a survival skill. This important skill will be practised each week.

It is hard to believe we are almost half way through Term 1!

Sue & Mini



Mathematics, I can do this!



STEM lesson, look no hands!

Class 2 news

Class 2 has had a great start to 2021. We have been doing a lot of fun things in class.

We are learning about ourselves, through a topic called 'All about me'. We have been reading a story called 'Same, same but different'. We have completed different artwork through painting, cutting and sticking different facial features on our own faces, they looked very funny.

We have been going outside a lot and enjoying the different play equipment, through jumping on the trampoline, swinging and riding the bikes. We even have mini traffic lights and street signs so it feels like we are on the road.

There have been many activities put out in the morning for us to choose from. These activities include a range of different puzzles, books, matching activities and things we need to build.

Last week we went in the pool for the first time and it was a lot of fun. We had boards, noodles and buckets for us to play and swim with.

Danielle



Class 2 during our first morning circle together



Ashley exploring different colours and shapes



Shaman painting with his hands



Ryan painting with a range of different colours

Rama's class news

Welcome back to a new school year. I'm lucky to welcome two new students, Freyja and Jayden to my class.

Freyja loves spending time with her family and going for walks in her community. She enjoys art activities and will be learning to use eye gaze technology to communicate her choices. I look forward to working with Freyja on this amazing form of communication. Amazing effort Freyja.

Jayden loves animals and the beach. He visited Muttonbird Island in Coffs Harbour and took a keen interest in the area's Aboriginal history. Jayden knows the importance of money and earns pocket money for chores that he does at home. He has a debit card and checks his bank balance to see if he has money to pay for a product. Fantastic work Jayden.

Kayla had a lovely holiday with her family and spent time exploring her garden. I am looking forward to seeing photos.

Seth is vocalising more and named some of the products when he went shopping with his mother. He is more communicative and thanked his grandparents for making his lunch. Well done Seth.

I'm looking forward to working with all my students and their fantastic tutors this year.

Rama



Jayden visited Muttonbird Island



Freyja with her cat Hendrix

Class 1 news

It was great to welcome our Class 1 students back to their 'new look' classroom for 2021. We are also delighted to have Dylan join us on our learning journey. We were able to celebrate a belated birthday for him with some delicious cake prepared by him and his mum!

Class 1 have been very intrigued by how much our veggie garden has grown over the holidays and we are looking forward to seeing our first batch of eggplants develop. We have been able to harvest cucumbers, strawberries, carrots and beetroot so far.

During our first technology lesson we were able to code 'microbits' to display our names and/or selected messages. We are well on our way to coding more complex images in the lessons to come. In mathematics we have been learning how to explain our thinking when working through mathematical concepts. Although this has been challenging, we are all up for the task and look forward to extending ourselves this way. During our writing lessons we have been focusing on persuasive texts and the boys are currently trying to convince their teacher to reward them with a pizza and popcorn party...let's see what happens!

Our first drama lesson was very successful and the boys loved choosing a character, acting it out (using movement and voice) and getting the rest of the class to guess who they are. We had a couple of very interesting and amusing approaches. We were also able to spend some valuable time with Ziggy.

We are looking forward to a great 2021.

Nina & Darcy



Heath playing a 'security guard'



Will coding his microbit to display 'carrot'



Dylan reading with Ziggy



Eggplant flowers, taken by Kai

Min's class news

Welcome back to the new school year! I cannot wait to see what my students, with the support of their fantastic tutors, achieve in 2021.

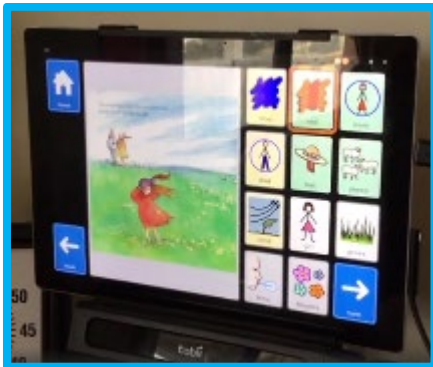
I have been lucky to have a new student join my class this year. Kye is in Year 8 and I am so excited to see how enthusiastically he is already engaging with his school work, especially mathematics. Even though art is not his favourite activity, he created an awesome Minecraft inspired pixel portrait of himself.

Summer has started Year 7 and is learning Spanish this year. Therefore, this term many of her subjects have been themed around Mexico - she will be cooking Mexican tacos, learning about Mariachi music and completing Mexican poncho and maraca art activities. She has already learnt how to pronounce a, b, c, d, e and f in the Spanish alphabet. Go Summer!

Isabel is continuing to develop her eye gaze proficiency and this will be an even bigger focus in her program this year. She will be engaging with picture books and sentences through her eye gaze technology each Set to assist in increasing her stamina and skills. Even after the long break during the holidays, Isabel is completing two 20–25 minute sessions using eye gaze already in Week 2. Amazing work Isabel!

Ned is now in Year 11 so this year he will be increasingly accessing the community and building on his independent living skills in preparation for post-school life. Ned attended a week-long program during the holidays with his service provider where he completed fun activities such as playing beach cricket, travelling by ferry and going to a disco. Ned also has been continuing to cook his family delicious meals, and work on the family's farm.

Min



Isabel engaging with the picture book 'Rosie's Hat' on her eye gaze system



Ned on the ferry at his holiday program



Summer practising the pronunciation of a, b and c in Spanish



Kye's awesome Minecraft inspired pixel portrait

Live Life Well @ School

GET ACTIVE: NATURE SCAVENGER HUNT

- Write a list of things kids might find outside.
- Try to find them all and tick them off the list.
- Some items may be found in your backyard, but for others you can try your local outdoor areas.
- Encourage children to not touch or collect all items, but record their findings on their hunt sheet.

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- 1 A heart-shaped stone
- 2 An animal's footprint
- 3 A bird's nest
- 4 A clover (find a 4 leaf clover for good luck!)
- 5 The perfect climbing tree
- 6 The Southern Cross
- 7 The name of a neighbour you haven't met yet
- 8 Paper bark
- 9 A mushroom or fungus
- 10 Spot a creature that lives underwater
- 11 A sunrise or sunset over the horizon
- 12 A large feather
- 13 A gumnut
- 14 Driftwood
- 15 A waterfall
- 16 A herb garden
- 17 Nature pushing through concrete
- 18 A farm animal
- 19 A tree that reminds me of me!
- 20 A geocache

For more tips & resources (including this list), visit:
www.natureplayqld.org.au/nature-play-scavenger-hunt

For health benefits, children aged 5-12 years need at least 60 minutes of moderate to vigorous physical activity every day. Variety is important.

