

Sir Eric Woodward School Newsletter

Term 1 Week 5

24 February 2023



An artist's impression of the new SEWS hall

Principal's news

Welcome back everyone. We are off to a busy start to 2023. It is lovely to see all our students excited to be back at school and engaged in learning. We welcome Caroline White as our relieving Deputy Principal and Diane Date a new permanent classroom teacher working in distance education this year.

F2F Class Names

Based on feedback from a number of students we have renamed the face-to-face classes so there is no longer a number attached to a class. The new class names are highlighted below.

Class 1 – **Blue Class**

Class 4 – **Red Class**

Class 2 – **Green Class**

Class 5 – **Purple Class**

Class 3 – **Orange Class**

Class 6 – **Yellow Class**

Distance Education Class Structure

This year our distance education classes have been grouped much more closely around age, stage and ability. This will support our students to engage where possible with their peers in more online, real time learning opportunities and with class programs. Based on the success of our weekly Social Club and our end of year virtual events we will be increasing our virtual lessons throughout 2023.

School Improvements

The school hall is approaching completion. It looks fabulous, and we are looking at a finishing date towards the end of March.

The communication hub is well underway. This project is to support our distance education team deliver real time live lessons to increase online interaction between students, tutors and teaching staff. Additionally, we have had two sound-proof Busy Pods installed to provide additional space for teaching and learning via distance. These projects will be great initiatives to support teaching and learning in distance education.

Our Cab-ra-nanga playground has been resurfaced with new Softfall and is due for completion this week. We are now going to start the development of a new playground space in the Yenni-beau area. The Red Class are mapping out the area and studying the plans in class.

Class Highlights

I always enjoy any chance I get to join our classes as they learn. Today I spent time in the Blue Class to watch them present information on their special place. Suyog's special place was the beach, just like mine. This work was used to create a class book based on the story "Under the Southern Cross". I was so impressed with the clear and concise sentences and the colourful illustrations. Great work Blue Class, what a fabulous group of safe, respectful learners.

Sian



*Sian with students
from the Blue Class*



SEWS Hall external view

SEWS Hall internal view



Deputy Principal's news

It has been wonderful getting to know the students, parents and staff during my first five weeks at Sir Eric Woodward school. I have enjoyed engaging with the students on many occasions. On the playground, I have joined in with the popular outdoor games. I have taken part in some impressive and inclusive art lessons. In Blue Class students explored various ways of applying paint with a variety of different materials. The results were a spectacular array of colour, texture and patterns. With Yellow Class, I have participated in inclusive weaving activities involving adjustments to the classroom environment to allow all students to use a loom and weft technique.

I am thoroughly enjoying the Distance Education Social Club on Tuesdays. I have been able to meet many students and families. It was great to hear about the activities that people did in the holidays. Also, it was lovely to meet some siblings who were off to university.

The staff have been working in Strategic Improvement Plan (SIP) Groups to plan 2023 school activities. The focus areas are (1) Student Growth and Attainment (2) Student Wellbeing, and (3) Successful Transitions and Personalised Pathways.

This year, Sir Eric Woodward School is involved in the Department of Education External Validation process. This provides an opportunity for the school to discuss their judgements about their practice – and the evidence that underpins them – with a panel of peers. The school panel will meet in September to evaluate the Sir Eric Woodward submission. I will keep you updated on our progress.

Kind Regards
Caroline White



Blue Class



Professional Learning

As part of our professional learning, all staff engaged in after-school Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and anaphylaxis training as well as some exciting team building activities. Teachers and SASS staff were divided into two groups to participate in communication and problem-solving activities. There were certainly some challenging games and puzzles to solve! For example, groups of four each had to create a square shape using a rope while they were blindfolded. A lot of fun was had and staff cheered along for their team.

Caroline



Birthdays

Wishing all students born in January, February and March a very



**Tyson, Isabel, Alicia, Archer, Dylan, Moustafa, Ariel,
Ethan, Ashley, Suyog, Alicia, Corey, Summer, Ricky, Angus,
Melika, Harrison, Kye, Kevin**

Upcoming Events:

Week 5	Thursday 23 February Excursion: Sea Life (purple and yellow classes)
Week 6	Thursday 2 March Excursion: Sea Life (blue and green classes)
Week 7	
Week 8	
Week 9	Wednesday 22 March Harmony Day (whole school)
Week 10	Friday 31 March Excursion: Wild Life Sydney Zoo (Distance Ed Support Unit)
Week 11	Thursday 6 April last day Term 1

Ziggy's news

Ziggy has spent time with each of the classes since we all came back to school after the holidays. He has been very happy to see everyone. The students have greeted him in a safe and respectful way which shows us what great learners they continue to be. The pictures will tell the story.

Ziggy, Mrs Williams, and Mrs Norrish



Ziggy enjoying Quinn and Ariel's company



Daniel made a Lego toy for Ziggy which was such a kind thing to do



Georgia enjoys being greeted by Ziggy

D7 Class news

Welcome back to Term 1 2023! I have been busy learning all about the new students in my class, Alex, Alicia, and Eve, as well as catching up with student Isabel's holiday adventures.

During the holidays Isabel met up with another DESU student, Summer at a café in Armidale. They had a great time together holding hands, and plan to catch up again soon. On the weekend, Isabel had fun at the local show. She was particularly fascinated by the silk twirling acrobat in the circus performance, and even got to have her photograph taken with the performers afterwards!

Eve has already impressed me with her beautiful turtle artworks that she completed last week. She was also very brave and got up close to a wallaby which she fed at Billabong Zoo. I am looking forward to meeting Eve in person next month when I visit.

Alex has been making the most of the warmer weather and has been regularly cooling off in her pool. She enjoys floating and jumping up and down in the water.

Alicia had her birthday this month and she celebrated with ice cream cake. She is also enjoying sessions with her new speech therapist and is starting to use Key Word Signs a lot more to communicate with her family and carers.

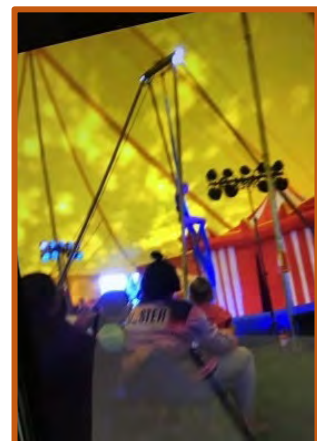
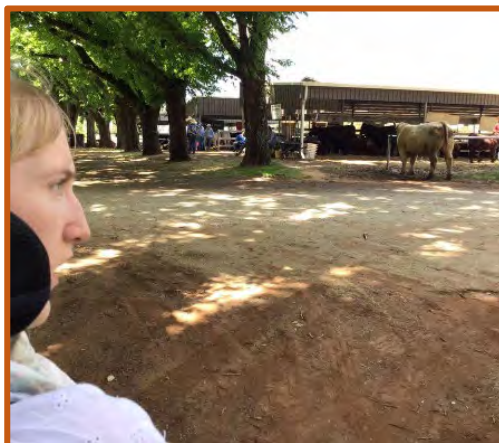
I look forward to seeing what you all achieve in 2023!

Min



Eve's turtle artworks

Isabel at the show



Orange Class 3 news

Orange class has had a great start to 2023. In math lessons, students have been consolidating their understanding of place value. We have been playing lots of games and activities that encourage the students to partition numbers that are two, three and four digits. We have also been working on our number sequences and patterns.

Orange class has enjoyed starting our swimming sessions this year. The students have been working on relaxing their bodies whilst floating and practising their kicking. The students have also been practising their teamwork skills. We have been playing board and card games and practising shooting a ball into a basketball hoop. These activities help us develop our patience and perseverance skills and gives us an opportunity to practise appropriate strategies when the games aren't going our way.

We have started our Life Skills Go lessons and learning about kindness and showing others respect. Orange class brainstormed ways to be kind to their friends and talked about how kindness makes us feel warm inside. The students also thought of ways we can be kind in the playground.

Georgina and Anita



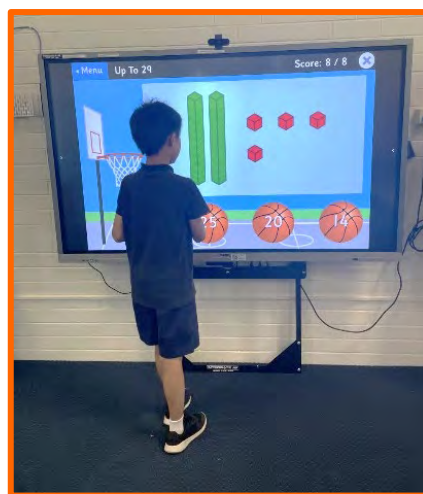
students playing noughts and crosses



Ricky working on his Life skills Go skills



Gareth working on place value



Shaman playing a place value game

Yellow Class 6 news

Yellow Class has had a terrific start to 2023. We have been diving deep into our first English text of the year, *Our Island* and there is much excitement about our upcoming excursion to Sydney Sea Life Aquarium. Daniella and Yash have really enjoyed our sensory island in the paddle pool, and Yash has particularly 'gotten into it' quite literally.

Our Weaving Wonders STEAM unit is going beautifully with lots of amazing works being created. Watch this space for our giant loom which Raymond and Georgie can weave their chairs through.

In history, we have been learning about the ancient past and what evidence has been left behind by people before us. The whole class enjoyed our archaeological dig and unearthed all sorts of evidence of an ancient civilisation. Georgia enjoyed digging and brushing her sample of a beautiful metal bracelet and Raymond unearthed some ancient pottery.

Miriam and Sophie



Yash 'getting into' our sensory island



Daniella's paper weaving



Georgia unearthing some ancient jewellery



Raymond found some ancient pottery

D5 class news

Welcome back to school! I have enjoyed hearing about my students' activities over the school holidays and meeting new students in my class, Archer and Dylan.

Matilda enjoyed travelling to regional areas with her family over the holidays. She has also been busy preparing meals and creating ceramics with her tutor and support staff.

Happy birthday to Archer who celebrated his 15th birthday during the holidays. He was very proud to receive a trophy at the end of Year 7 last year.

I am very much looking forward to another year of learning with my students.

Deborah



Archer and his trophy



*Matilda cooking veggie burgers
with her mother and OT*

D9 Class news

Welcome back to another great year of learning. It's been wonderful to hear about the numerous activities my students participated in during the holidays. They've all settled back into routine and are engaged in their school program.

Kayla actively participates in building her strength by walking daily, throwing balls in the hoop and engages in activities recommended by her physiotherapist. She enjoyed her holidays at home and had a playdate with her support worker's daughter. Kayla likes spending time with her family and is working on recognising members of the extended family. Great effort, Kayla.

Lacey regularly accesses the community by going for a walk every day. She smiles when she hears her mother's voice and when she is being moved from her wheelchair on to her bed. Lacey listens to a wide variety of music through the day and enjoys books being read to her. Well done, Lacey.

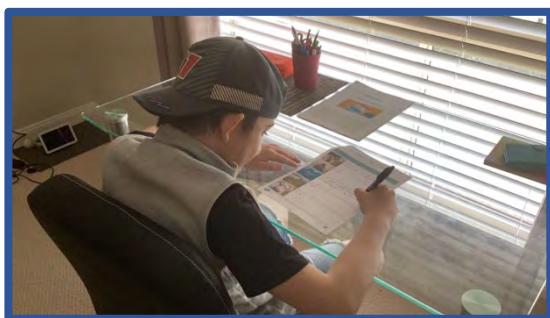
Jeremiah likes music and is a regular participant in the school's Social Club. He accesses the community regularly and recently went swimming at a friend's house. Jeremiah is increasing his expressive communication and verbalises 'mum' when he wants to eat. Superb effort Jeremiah.

Kye is an active participant in the school's social club and weekly online lessons. His favourite bird is the magpie, and he feeds three baby magpies that visit his home every day. During his weekly online lesson, Kye listened to clues and looked at the slides to guess the person's job.

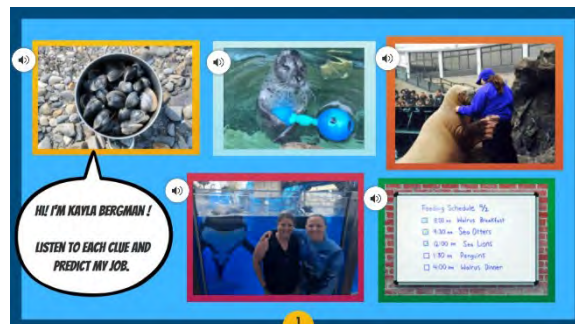
He found the animal trainer to be an interesting job and said that if he was an animal trainer, he would like to train tigers. Kye enthusiastically engages in weekly conversations with another student, and during the conversation displayed his knowledge of zoom filters to adeptly change the filters on his profile. Awesome effort, Kye.

I'd like to welcome Danny to my class and I'm looking forward to working with him and his supportive tutors.

Rama



Kye writing sentences



Kye participating in an online lesson

D1 Class news

Welcome back to the school year. It has been wonderful hearing about the holidays from the students in my 2022 class, as well as getting to know the new students who joined my 2023 class.

Chris, Leah and I, welcome Cooper, Kevin, and Moustafa into our Year 8 class.

Chris is very much enjoying learning about how to stay safe on the internet and why it is important to have a powerful password. Chris is finishing his activities very quickly and asking for specific learning activities for the next Set rotation.

Leah has been having a great time learning all about water as she engages in her learning activities for the term. It has been marvellous seeing photos of Leah completing activities posted on Seesaw, submerging her hands in her sensory tub to feel assorted objects and textures.

During our weekly Teams lesson it has been terrific seeing Cooper's smiling face. Cooper likes farm animals and farm machinery and is always keen to show me his farm toys and to answer questions about them. Cooper is engaging well in his learning, which includes completing some activities on Seesaw.

Kevin is a very busy student, joining in many physical activities which support his gross motor and fine motor development. During weekly conversations, I have learnt a lot about Kevin and the various activities he completes with his team. A favourite activity is cooling down by swimming in the pool.

Each week on Seesaw I have seen many videos of Moustafa engaged in his learning activities. He is a most enthusiastic student and completes his tasks with a big smile on his face. Moustafa has been happily counting, writing, pasting, painting, matching, and answering many questions on his learning.

Well done to all. I wish all students, their families and tutors a fabulous 2023.

Sharon



Leah splashing water and exploring various textures in her sensory tub



Chris hard at work!

D4 Class news

Welcome back to Term 1 2023! It has been fantastic to hear all about what my students did during their summer break. I am proud to see how keen they have all been to commence their new learning programs.

Tom had an active and exciting holiday. During the holidays and continuing this term, Tom has been exercising regularly and choosing healthy meal options. It has been pleasing to see his physical health has improved during our weekly Zoom calls. Well done, Tom!

Angus has demonstrated his amazing knowledge and fantastic reading skills during our video lessons. I am looking forward to getting to know Angus this year and learn more about his favourite topic, the World Wrestling Entertainment (WWE).

I am very excited about working with Blake this year as his number one hobby is video games. He has been learning about video game history this term and I am sure I can teach him a thing or two from my expertise.

Makye had a busy holiday traveling through the outback. He has been enjoying this term's work and showed increased enjoyment and participation during his weekly music therapy classes.

Jon

Purple Class 5 news

It's great to be back for 2023. We've had a busy start to the year, with everyone back and settled into the school routine.

Students have been working hard on phonics and letters, reading some beautiful books and generally having lots of fun. We've begun redecorating our freshly painted room with artworks on a nautical theme to reflect an island setting and to reinforce letter knowledge. This week we are going to the Sydney Aquarium to support our learning of context and the diversity of animals. Make sure you check our posts on Facebook for an update.

Our Maths focus has been recognising numbers and making quantities. One of the most popular activities saw students build on their understandings while building some cool constructions with a given number of Duplo pieces.

Everyone has resumed their physical challenges, including standing, climbing, walking, ball skills and fine motor skills, and we've been enjoying the pool for hydrotherapy sessions with the support of Jodie and Sherryn.

Lee, Irene and Hilary



Ariel loves painting



Quinn multitasking – standing, counting and building



Ashley is working on representing numbers



Chace loves stretching and racing in the pool



Emily enjoys counting on the felt board

D8 Class news

I would like to welcome everyone back to another exciting year of learning. So far this term, it has been wonderful to get to know the students in my class. All my students are in year 12 this year - Ben, Ethan, Jamila, Thomas and Tyson.

I speak with many of my students online via video lessons each week. I particularly enjoyed Ethan showing me his Lego collection and favourite books in one of our sessions.

Tyson will be continuing work experience each Friday. Jamila who is new to our school this year, has joined Social Club and is already becoming an active member in our school community.

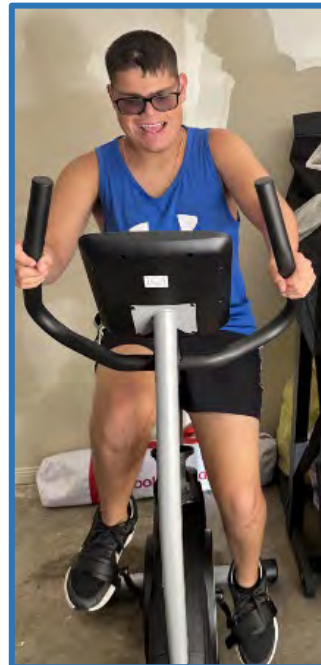
This term, all my students will be meeting with their local support teacher transition (STT) to create transition plans and think about some goals they would like to work towards when they finish school.

I am looking forward to sharing in my students' educational journey, especially in their last year of schooling. I am sure it will be an exciting and fabulous year.

Nicole



Ethan is an avid reader



Tyson is very committed to his fitness routine

D2 Class news

Welcome back to my students! It has been great to hear all about your holidays.

Corey continues to be fascinated by cookbooks and takes responsibility for choosing what to cook. Corey then participates by passing and adding ingredients, as well as stirring mixtures, making sure everyone in the family has a turn to stir. He recently made scones, biscuits and pancakes,

and even a baked dinner. Corey celebrated his 16th birthday with family and friends last week. Happy Birthday Corey!

I am excited to have Yasmin in my class this year. I have been enjoying conversations with her tutor to find out more about Yasmin's individual learning program, as well as her strengths, special interests, favourite activities and daily routines. Looking forward to working with Yasmin to achieve her learning goals this year.

Carolyn



Corey participated in making pancakes

Red Class 4 news

Red Class 4 has had a fantastic start to the school year and has been working very hard.

In History with Ms Teh, Red Class has been learning about human rights, needs and wants. The boys started the term with an activity that explored the concept of fairness and justice and how the world's food supplies are not divided equally. Red Class has had some very interesting and thought-provoking discussions about the topic.

In Science, Red Class is learning about living things and recently started an experiment investigating the impact that salt has on the growth of living things. The boys enjoyed planting, measuring and monitoring their plants' growth and are starting to see some interesting results.

In Creative Arts, Red Class has started their study of built Australian icons and Australian artists. The boys recently completed an artwork inspired by the Australian artist Ken Done, which features an Australian built icon.

Louise and Mini



Red Class's Ken Done inspired artworks and science experiment

Green Class 2 news

Green Class has had a fun and productive start to the year. I am so proud of the way all the members of the class have returned to school.

As part of our PDHPE program we have been safely exploring our environment such as the multi-purpose room, play equipment and trampolines. It is safe to say that everyone in Green Class enjoys being outside, moving our bodies.

As part of our literacy program, we have been studying the book *Our Island*. We have been exploring objects we may find on an island, as well as creating artworks that represent the story. One of our lessons included creating an island during our hydrotherapy lesson.

I for one am overly excited about the school year 2023 and working with such great individuals.

Clare and Kelly



Ryan is ecstatic about creating his island



Lyndon creating a turtle



Alisha chasing the octopus



Seejan exploring his island



Danny glueing his ocean

Blue Class 1 news

Welcome to the 2023 school year. It has been so wonderful to see all students back onsite and learning. Blue Class has settled in beautifully and we are enthusiastic about kick-starting year 1 together!

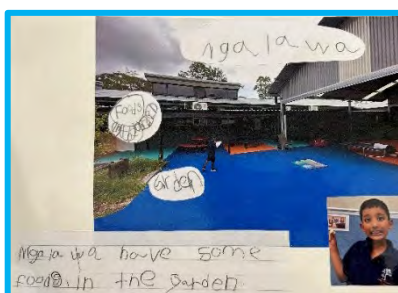
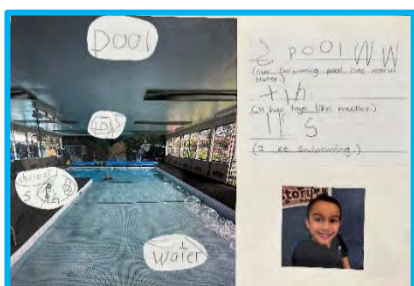
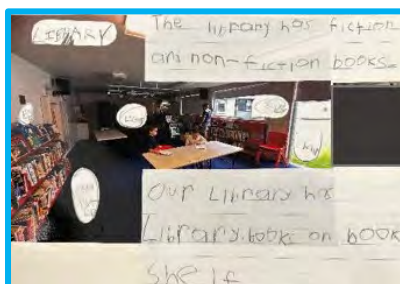
This term, Blue and Green Classes are visiting The Sea Life Aquarium at Darling Harbour to broaden their understandings of aquatic creatures and their environments. This excursion will strengthen their vocabulary and concepts introduced in our study of the text *Our Island* by children of Gununa and Alison Lester; one of the few books we are focusing on in English. This experience will also cross over with our focus on Living World in Science and Human Society and its Environment (HSIE).

Blue Class has created their own version of the book mentioned above called *Our School*. This book is written and illustrated by students Theo, Daniel, and Suyog. It concentrates on an area of choice within our school and gives the reader information through text and labelled drawings.

In mathematics, Blue Class is exploring counting forwards and backwards, making equal and unequal groups, and identifying the characteristics of shapes and numbers, using resources such as dominos, blocks and counters.

Students in Blue Class have shown their eager engagement in learning by playing nicely with each other and growing as a class. We look forward to continuing the positivity in the second half of Term 1.

Ms Nina & Darcy



D2 Class news

Welcome back to Term 1 2023! I am looking forward to getting to know my students Roki, Suzanna and Ryan and finding out what they are interested in and would like to learn more about. I feel privileged to be working with such wonderful families and tutors.

Roki has been creating amazing artworks of mythical creatures. I am looking forward to seeing what you create Roki!

Suzanna has been enjoying Jackie French books such as *The Goat Who Sailed the World*. Suzanna listens to a wide variety of music through the day and enjoys books being read to her. Well done, Suzanna!

Ryan is learning about various forms of transport this term and has been enjoying sensory books on transport and pressing buttons independently to hear different vehicle sounds. Well done, Ryan!

I look forward to seeing what you all achieve in 2023!

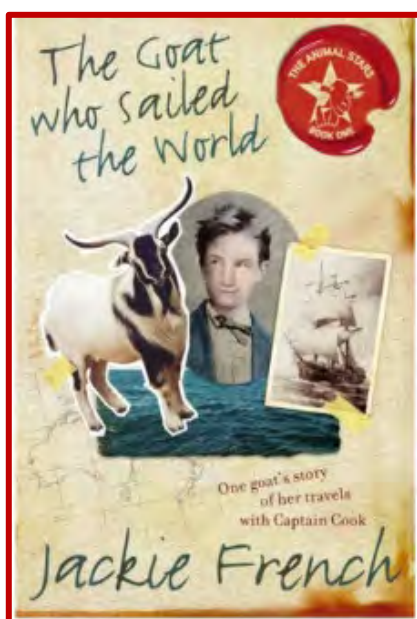
Kate



Ryan exploring a helicopter



Ryan enjoying a hand-held fan



Suzannah's book



Roki's dragon



Term 1	Friday 27 January – Thursday 6 April <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ School Development Days (no school for students) Friday 27 January, Monday 30 January
Term 2	Monday 24 April – Friday 30 June <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ School Development Day (no school for students) Monday 24 April➤ ANZAC Day Tuesday 25 April (no school for students)
Term 3	Monday 17 July – Friday 22 September <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ School Development Day Monday 17 July (no school for students)
Term 4	Monday 9 October – Tuesday 19 December <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ School Development Days (no school for students) Monday 18 December, Tuesday 19 December