



FERNBROOK SCHOOL

TERM 3 2023

NEWSLETTER



TERM 4 IMPORTANT DATES

Monday 02/10 - Curriculum Day

Tuesday 03/10 - First Day of Term 4

05/10 - School Photos

Monday 16/10 to Wednesday 18/10 - School Camp!

28/10 - Working Bee

Monday 06/11 - School Closed for Long Weekend

Tuesday 07/11 - Melbourne Cup Day

Friday 17/11 - Student Free Day (Report Writing)

Wednesday 06/12 - Reports released

Thursday 07/12 - End of Year Concert

Friday 08/12 - Last Day of Term 4 (2pm finish)

ORIENTATION SESSIONS

Thursday 12th of October

Thursday 16th of October

Thursday 9th of November

Thursday 23rd of November

STAFF

Principal:

Matthew Nye

Business / Administration:

Jasmin Williamson

Kelly Winters

Teachers:

Joanna Johannes

Michelle Buckley

Elise VanDoorn

Vikki Pickering

Michelle Pepper

Denise Dempsey

Ralph Horn

Melanie Thomas

Support:

Naomi MacTaggart

Nutrition & Environment:

Rochelle Benning

Hayley Gledhill

"No significant learning can occur without a significant relationship" -James Comer

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL



Dear families,

We have arrived at the end of another term, one filled with **inquisition, hard work and smiles**. We were favoured with some great whole school activities like the Science Fair, Book Week and the Scholastic Book Fair. It was **heartwarming to see parent involvement** in these activities that honoured student learning and how we celebrate education.

At the end of last term we gathered for the **Winter Solstice** evening. It was a pleasure to be a part of such a wonderful night, organised by our Parents & Friends committee and staff. The event emanated feelings of care and togetherness that strengthened friendships and provided the opportunity for new connections to be made.

We have welcomed a number of **new families** to the community at the end of last term and throughout Term Three. To the Middle Years we have welcomed **Sam, Cillian, Tommy and Dayne**. To the High School we have welcomed **Samara**. We are so grateful to have embraced new families that adopted the role of community member so easily. Whilst we welcome new students we have also recently farewelled **Milan and RD**, two long attending students of Fernbrook School. They are wished every success in the next phase of their journeys.

A **huge thank you** to those families that were able to help with our school working bee this term. The increase in attendance was greatly appreciated and a lot of important work was completed. We look forward to the last working bee for the year.

It is with great sadness that we **farewell Sandi**, a pioneer and integral member of Fernbrook, as she moves on from our school. Her effort and care shown to the school has been a major contributor to a range of school events. We are especially grateful for her recent work on the school-wide music project, **Let Peace Sing**. At the time of writing, this music video is near completion but from the samples I have heard, we can be very proud of the finished piece that will be a special moment to look back on for everyone involved.

Lastly, a shout out to a kind and selfless member of our community, **Andrew Winters**. He purchased and donated a brand new kit of power tools for our workshop. They have been instrumental in the work of some of this term's projects. Thank you, Andrew.

Warm regards,
Matthew Nye

Matt's term highlight

This term, my highlight was attending the Middle Years' excursion to the MCG and Australian Sports Museum. We also visited Cook's cottage in the Fitzroy Gardens where I was able to capture this moment.

Happy Birthdays this term:

July

20th - Will
22nd - Cillian

August

1st - Kole
6th - Deb
10th - Marley
14th - Jayden
19th - DD & Kris

September

6th - Elise
14th - Jasmin



OFFICE UPDATE



What a bustling, exciting Term 3 we've had here at Fernbrook! The highlight of our day is being able to pop out of the office and see the happiness of the students so clearly displayed in their smiles! Or to see those smiles pop up at our desk 😊

It has been so lovely to welcome new families to our community, we're so grateful for the way they have been welcomed by you all, and by the way they have embraced us and all we do at Fernbrook! ❤️

We look forward to a wonderful Term 4 and ending a successful year with some much needed sunny weather! As always, please know that our door is open for anything you need. Jas & Kelly 🌸

2024 FEES

To streamline the payment of School Fees, and in an effort to simplify the process for both families and the school, a **Financial Commitment Plan for 2024 requires submission from each family.**

The forms were distributed this week and needs to be completed with your preferences and returned by no later than Friday 6th of October.

This will guarantee your child/ren a place at Fernbrook in 2024. Thank you in advance!

CAR PARK



Due to some ongoing concerns about safety in our carpark at drop off and pick up times, and to accommodate our growing numbers, we ask that you please be mindful of the following reminders:

- Please **reverse** park into all parking spaces.
- Please use the **appropriate gates** to enter and exit the grounds. The top gate is for entry only, and the bottom gate is for exit only, allowing for a safe and positive flow of traffic.
- Please **only use the drop off zone** (in front of the woodwork shed) if you are **not** exiting your car, and are simply stopping to allow your child/ren in or out of the car. If you need to exit your car, even for the shortest amount of time, we ask that you park in a space provided. Again, this promotes safety and an adequate flow of traffic.
 - Please **drive slowly** at all times

We truly appreciate your support in keeping our little people (and not so little people!) safe. Thank you! 🌸

Don't forget your hats for Term 4!



Did you know?

The Sentral calendar is kept current and is full of important dates for 2023 and 2024 for your convenience



TERM 4 FEES NOW DUE

For those families that pay their fees in termly instalments, please note that the Term 4 payment is now due. This needs to be paid by the first day of term.

We would appreciate prompt payment to avoid your account falling into arrears.

Please use the same bank account details (found on your original invoice) or ask Jasmin if you require another copy.

Thank you!



ABSENCES

According to child safety legislation, and with the welfare of our students at the forefront of everything we do, **if your child is going to be absent from school, we require notification by 09:30am that day.**

It is preferred that we are notified of all absences (either full day or partial day) via the **Parent Portal on Sentral**, instead of other methods such as emails or phone calls. Emailing an individual staff member, or the office, presents a number of challenges and isn't a reliable communication source for time sensitive matters.

Please note that if your child is marked absent without notification, you will receive a **text message at 09:45am** advising you that your child hasn't arrived at school. **If this happens, please log the notification in the Parent Portal or call the school office as soon as possible.**



PATCH TO PLATE KITCHEN

This term really did seem to fly by and we were lucky to have plenty of soups, curries and warming dishes to see us through the cooler months of winter, accompanied by winter greens and of course lots of garlic bread, which always proves to be a favourite!

Italian, Indian and Mexcian have always been popular dishes on the menu each term and in Term 4 we hope to expand that by including a few popular Chinese and/or Thai dishes as well.

With a cold, wet winter there was not a lot growing in the garden this term, however our little patch still provides a wonderful space for students to explore, dig and investigate! An endless supply of purple potatoes waiting to be discovered has proven to be a great way of connecting with nature and getting our hands dirty!



Student-Lead Menu

In week 5 of this term we handed over the reins to the students to decide on the menu plan and preparations for the week! We had some great contributions and helpers in the kitchen, and the dishes they came up with were a huge success! Some may even make it onto the menu for Term 4!

A life of pancakes one day, followed by pizza the next, was such a treat!

We extend a big shout out to Oscar, James, Jayden, Indi, Tommy, Sam, Cillian, Destyn, Eden and Charlie for their wonderful help - thank you!

We look forward to another special week in term 4 to see what great menu ideas are created!



News From The Garden

Spring has finally arrived! The last few weeks of term we have been busy planting out some of our beds with Broad Beans, Snow Peas, Beetroot, Celery and Lettuce. Term 4 will prove to be a busy time as the weather gradually warms, there will be plenty of weeding, sowing and mulching to be done!



Lemonade

What to do when life gives you lemons.... Make lemonade!

The students were lucky enough to have homemade lemonade in week 6 and 7 thanks to Sam's brilliant idea and great dedication!



Mindfulness & Yoga

From Wholesome cooking to wholesome minds, bodies and souls; I'm excited to extend my passion of nourishment and whole well-being from the plate to the mat. I'm honoured for the opportunity to share my knowledge of mindfulness and yoga with the students next term!



Mayley

Indian Mulligatawny Soup

- 1/4 Cup Butter / Oil
- 1 Onion
- 1 Carrot
- 3 Garlic Cloves
- 1 Jalapeño
- 2 Tsp minced ginger
- 2 small apples
- 1 Can Diced Tomatoes
- 1 Tbsp Curry Powder
- 1 Tsp Cumin
- 1/2 Tsp Paprika
- 1/2 Tsp Cinnamon
- 1/2 Tsp Turmeric
- 1/4 Tsp Cardamom
- 1/4 Tsp Black Pepper
- 1/2 Tsp Tyhme
- 1/2 Cup Red Lentils
- 3 Cups Vegetable Broth
- 2/3 Cup Coconut Milk



Melt the butter/oil in a pot, add the onion, carrot, jalapeño, then sauté for 4 to 5 mins. Add the garlic, ginger, apples and diced tomatoes to the pot. Sauté for a few minutes then add all of the spices.

Add the lentils and broth and bring to boil, turn down and let simmer uncovered for 30mins

Puree about 75%, leaving some of the contents whole and then add coconut milk, salt and pepper to taste

PARENTS AND FRIENDS COMMITTEE

Hello to our lovely Fernbrook families,

The Fernbrook Parents and Friends Committee have had another productive term supporting the school with a range of events!

We were particularly proud of the team effort to bring together our wonderful **Winter Solstice** celebration at the end of last term. Yummy soups, delicious hot drinks and scrumptious desserts made by the students were enjoyed by all!

At the beginning of Term 4 we will commence planning and preparations for our **End of Year Concert** to be held on Thursday 7th of December. **Keep an eye out for more details coming soon!**

Kindly, Katie and the PNF Team



New Members

The committee are always open to new members joining the committee, either on an ongoing basis or for just a particular project.

We know families are time poor and committing on an ongoing basis can be challenging.

Help can be ad hoc, on event days or doing a task from the comfort of your living room with your PJ's on (emails, drafting documents, making a phone call)!

We meet via Zoom at 6:45pm on Monday evenings- every week only when we have a project or as needed in between.

Whatever you can offer will always be helpful and appreciated!

We would like to extend a special thank you to **Sandi** for her enthusiasm and commitment to our Parents and Friends Committee!

She was instrumental in launching the committee and her dedication saw us deliver some fabulous events!

THANK YOU

Sandi is now turning her attention to other projects and her presence is already being missed. **We wish her all the best!**



MUSIC WITH SANDI



The music program hit this term running - with much to achieve we were busy! We needed to rehearse our song, of which we wrote lyrics for, for the **"Let Peace Sing" global project**. Our vision was to create a video clip of our song that would be submitted to the project.

The group of core singers continued to rehearse while the rest of the students would learn the chorus of the song. The idea of the **whole school signing Auslan for the chorus** was embraced by Michelle, our wonderful Auslan teacher!

We had a goal to work on the sound track first in preparation for recording day which was scheduled for August 18th. **There is much talent in the high school that we were keen to tap into.** We had backing vocalists, percussionists, a dancer and a rapper all contributing to the project! Our rapper even wrote the lyric for his piece.

On August 18th the Junior Room and library were converted into a recording studio! We needed to find a way to acoustically "deaden" the room. This was achieved by covering the windows and bringing in a gym mat, cushions and blankets. **The library had monitors, wires, cables, microphones, congas and more!**

After recess the whole school gathered in the junior room where they all sang to a pre-recorded guitar track. Our percussionists, rapper, backing and lead vocalists **experienced what a real life recording situation would feel like** as they recorded their individual parts.

Once the recording was completed we turned our attention to the video recording which was scheduled for Friday September 1st. There was much to be done in a few short weeks. The students needed to consolidate their signing and the main choir needed to polish their choreographed parts. Our professional film crew, Gary and Joe arrived at 10 a.m. on the day. **The students all worked very hard** that Friday within a tight filming schedule.

I am sure many will be excited to share the finished video clip with family and friends!

Fernbrook school were delighted to have been asked to participate in this global peace project. Not only is it an important message to share with the world, this project has brought about many learning opportunities for us.

We can't wait to share our school video clip with you all!

SUSTAINABILITY



Although we have had very few Sustainability afternoons, (due to excursions and school activities), we have achieved a lot.

During Naidoc week the students used their own symbols to tell a story, with the drawings being put together to form a large Naidoc Week sign. Students have continued to cut down the sweet pittosporums in our bush and we have started pulling out the cestrum. We planted 50 plants for National Tree Day, worked in the veggie patch, completed the worm farm, and uploaded our bill details to Resourcesmart.

Also there has been a lot of activity behind the scenes. Ralph and DD have been working hard to get help to clear the weeds and revegetate our bush, by having the president of Knox Environment Society come out for a tour. He was very excited to find a number of very old strands of plants that are indigenous to the site but getting hard to find in Knox. Melbourne Water and Knox Council Biodiversity unit were also contacted and from those discussions we have applied for a grant. We will continue to be in contact with these organisations.



If you are interested in any of our ventures please contact us for further details. Whether it be hands on, giving advice, or data entry onto the Resourcesmart website. We are working hard to be a 5 star sustainable school.

Ralph and DD



AUSLAN



Introducing Auslan to Fernbrook has been a joy. Our students have engaged and taken on the new language in their stride, developing new ways to communicate with one another and within the Deaf community.

Our Term 3 Auslan unit focussed on 'Who am I?'. Students have learned how to share about themselves, as well as ask questions about others.

We have been learning the signs for **family members** and each student has been working on a family tree that will be displayed collectively as our **Fernbrook Community Forest**.

Students have also learned and performed the signs for the chorus words for **Let Peace Sing**, whilst practicing the **alphabet** and **some question words** to support conversation.

Our highschoolers have learned how to share their favourite **colours**, and the importance of **HOLME** - using our **hands, orientation, location, movements, and facial and body expression**.

It has been a busy Term learning all these new signs. We're looking forward to Term 4!

Some signs & phrases we have learned this term:
The Auslan Alphabet

Family signs including:

Whole school: mum, dad, brother, sister, cousin, grandma, grandpa, friend.
Middles & Highschoolers: aunty, uncle, neice, nephew, step and half family members - EG. step-sister

Manners: 'please', 'thank-you', 'sorry'.

Topic and class specific words including:

ready, yes, no, we, family tree, community forest.

Question words and phrases including:

Who, what, why, have
EG: 'How are you?',
'Your family who?',
'My family have?',
'My name what?',
'Your name what?'
'I have two brothers'

Colours

Highschool: 'My favourite colour ...'



BOOK WEEK



If we could sum up Book Week in one word it would be ... **FUN!**

We wish to extend a **heartfelt thank you** to our Fernbrook community for their **enthusiastic** participation in our Book Week celebrations this year! It was delightful to see our students embracing the joy of books and literacy! The "Book Face" competition was a real hit, as was our parade at Corroboree with some truly amazing costumes!

A special thank you goes to **Elise** for her incredible work in organising a Scholastic Book Fair that was loved by all! Through these sales, we are so grateful to have earned \$120 in vouchers, that we have used to purchase books for our library!



SCIENCE FAIR



Our inaugural Science Fair was a resounding **success!**

It was wonderful to see every student participate by preparing and presenting an experiment of their choosing. **They should be very proud of their enthusiasm and hard work!**

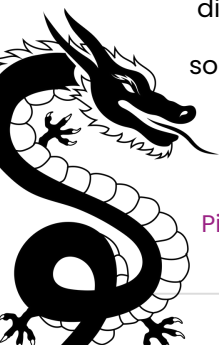


The theme was loosely about **dinosaurs**, however it was a flurry of many ideas coming together!

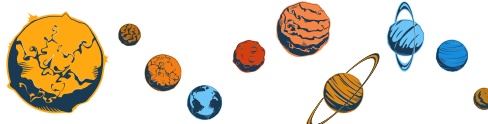
We had models of the rotations of the sun, earth and moon, floating teabags, **erupting volcanoes**, tests for acids and bases, dinosaur's toothpaste, eggs in different solutions, crystals, lots of **magical potions**, dinosaur eggs (frozen or encased in Bicarb soda!) and a **dinosaur's nest**, with an obligatory egg of course! To top it off Ralph oversaw the crowd-favourite ... an **exploding watermelon!**



3, 2, 1 ...



Pity about the black dragon - maybe next year?!



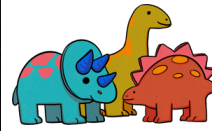
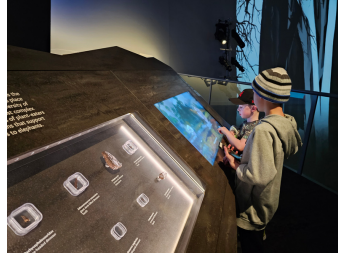
EXCURSIONS

Excursions and incursions are an important part of our learning at Fernbrook. Excursions are well thought out, providing the students with an enriching opportunity to connect with their world around them. By offering these experiences to our students we are supporting different styles of learning whilst encouraging their social and emotional development through opportunities that are not available within classrooms.



Melbourne Museum and IMAX

The 2-6 class had been studying dinosaurs for Science Week. The class visited the Melbourne Museum and had a talk about the **Triceratops** fossil that was on display. **Not a plaster mould of the bones but the real thing!** IMAX did not disappoint with amazing CGI animations of dinosaurs that lived in **Antarctica** when it was a tropical paradise. We ventured back into the museum with some students finding a **Satin Bowerbird** and a **Whipbird** in the forest exhibition. It was a great day and a big thank you to the teachers and parent helpers!



MCG and Sports Museum

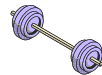
At the beginning of the term, the middle years class discussed excursion and outing ideas that connected to our topic of **community**. One of the subjects that came up was **sports** and how they are a place we can find and create our own community. This could be through our local teams, or professional clubs and national sports representatives.



From this we decided to take a trip to the city to visit the **MCG and sports museum**. We learned about the history of the MCG as well as explored some of its more restricted areas. **The kids all had a turn trying out the microphones in the news room and even Matt joined in on the fun!**



Gym Workouts



Each Tuesday in Term 3 the High School students attended the Gym for their PE sessions. They learnt about best practices of **nutrition, sleep, cardio and strength training**. The tailored program through Strong and Stable gym offered specialised classes made for our students. Megan and Curtis, the sports physiologist trainers, worked extremely well with all of the high schoolers and their needs. **It was such a valuable experience for our students!**



Off to The Basin Community

The Juniors and Middles worked together this term for their 'Community Inquiry'. As part of our inquiry we took a few visits to The Basin to explore, observe and discuss different aspects of our local community. We also had a fun play at the 'triangle park' and a **delicious treat** from the local bakery.

"I love visiting the park, it is so beautiful and we love the big swing" Gaia.

"The bakery is the best ever" Luna.

Interweaved into our Community inquiry, the Juniors explored letter writing. We each chose a 'special person' to write a letter to, we explored the process of writing a letter and all the essential components, we then walked to the **post office** to purchase a stamp and post them.



The Juniors explored who they are and what their interests are. We used their silhouettes as a boarder to draw or write our interests within, then used watercolour paint to finish our **'masterpieces'**.



Can't have a visit to The Basin without a **bakery treat**.



The students **working together** to write/draw the meaning of community with a focus of The Basin community and what we observed where the key elements.



Collaborating with different ages allows the students to explore a range of differing perspectives whilst encouraging and fostering relationships.

A fantastic opportunity for students to develop a wide range of skills that will last them a lifetime.



Our letters are ready to post.



JUNIOR CLASS



Term 3, done and dusted! What a wonderful term! We have seen so much growth in the students both socially and academically. We celebrated our Preps 100 days of school, Science Week and our love for literature during 'Book Week'. They are such a great team always looking out for each other, guiding each other and encouraging each other to give things a go. Well done on another amazing term, Juniors! Now to bring on the sunshine and enjoy discovering what our next term brings along!

Literacy

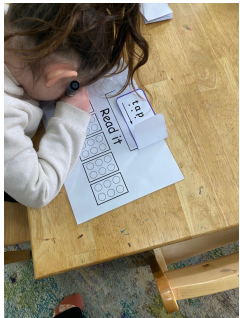
During literacy this term our class has been focusing on and revising:

- Phonemic awareness and phonics for spelling and reading
 - Handwriting
 - Reading fluency
- Vocabulary and comprehension using a variety of resources.

We use games, books, recounts and recall activities, nature, play and technology to practice our literacy skills in the Junior room. We know that providing opportunities to practice skills in a variety of ways helps to consolidate our new knowledge in a meaningful, fun way for our students. We also celebrated Book Week, which was a wonderful way to really share the love for literature and share our favourite stories with each other.



We enjoy sharing books at group times and using our new comprehension and vocabulary as a prompt for writing. Pearl Barley and Charlie Parsley are best friends, after we read this story we wrote about special people in our lives.

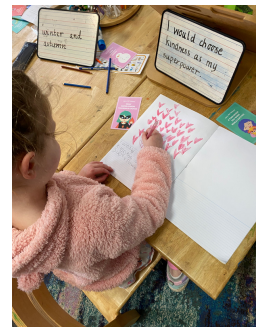


We absolutely love spelling and reading games in our class!

Such a fun way to use our knowledge and make it stick!



We have been practicing our handwriting and letter formation every day, the whiteboards make this so fun!



Sharing reading with a partner is so valuable for our confidence and reading development. The students love sharing their wins with each other!

Book Week was so much fun! We all dressed up and brought in a book to share!



We are so grateful for Oscar creating this cubby house/ cafe/ spaceship/ home for us. It has been so wonderful to watch as students from all year levels play together. Through play they have explored numerous literacy and numeracy concepts and have developed their knowledge in such a fun, natural way! As well as learning ways to resolve conflict, negotiate, use their imagination and develop and form new relationships. It has been a wonderful addition to our play space.



Nature School



The wonders of our Creek just keep getting better! Our class goes down to the creek at least once a week specifically to **connect with our natural environment**. By having regular visits to the same environment these hands on learning experiences are providing opportunities that develop confidence, motivation, language, communication and physical skills. **These experiences are an important factor in life-long learning, health and wellbeing.**

We have loved seeing the growth and confidence of our students during our visits. **The observations of their moods, relationships, risk taking, imagination and perseverance has been one to be proud of!**



Friendships, connections and support are always a big part of our time at the creek.



Tree climbing is always essential during our visits.



Developing confidence and experience opportunities that are often not presented to us in our daily lives has been so lovely to observe and watch the students embrace.



Observing the fauna in our environment and listening to the different sounds birds make. We often try to mimic these!



During the many different adventures we have, the students come up with names and roles for themselves as we explore our imaginative worlds.



Skip counting

Numeracy

Numeracy is embedded in everything we do, from the conversations we have, the walks down to the creek, to the games we play. This term we focussed a lot on writing numerals up to 100, with a big focus on our tricky numbers (those silly teens). **We had a look at measurement when we measured ourselves and took our tools down to the creek to measure and weigh different objects.** We also took this opportunity to make playdoh and cook using different measuring items as well.

We also explored doubling numbers, counting by 2's, 5's and 10's and worked together to do our 100's board many times.

The hundreds board is a fantastic tool for the students, encouraging a hands on approach that helps reinforce the students number knowledge, explores number patterns, sequencing, skip counting and number recognition, not to mention a great deal of collaboration, language skills and turn taking.

Measurement



Hundreds boards



Problem solving



100 DAYS OF SCHOOL

Celebrating 100 days of school was so much fun!

It provided many opportunities to explore and get excited about number and measurement. We counted days on the calendar to arrive at our 100 days, participated in various 100s activities throughout the day, such as, building a tower using 100 blocks, writing our names as many times as we could in 100 seconds, **building a boat that could hold 100 counters** and adding on after rolling a dice to make a unfix block line 100 pieces long! We also made **fairy bread** and took **funny photos** of us looking 100 years old!!



JUNIOR CLASS SPECIALIST SUBJECTS



Physical Education

This term for PE we have been focusing on mindfulness, fitness and working together as a team. We love to use the parachute for a variety of calming and physical activities. We also set up circuit style fitness courses to race through obstacles and stations! This builds our overall strength and fitness in a fun way!



The Arts

Term 3 for Drama and Visual Arts, the Junior class has been looking at emotions in acting and playing out different feelings. We created plays on the spur of the moment and improvised how we were feeling whilst acting.

We also danced our way through favourite songs and ducking, weaving, and moving with 'Danny Go'!

In Visual Arts the class created pictures of Iris and made her some paper bones. We made menus and paper plates for the new cafe that Oscar built to play in. We also painted Thai Buddah masks outside in the glorious sunshine and discussed colour mixing and symbolism.



Millers Homestead!

The Juniors had a lovely afternoon at Millers Homestead to visit the 'World Origami Fair'. We were definitely wowed by the amazing creations. We even got a lesson in making butterfly origami! We then had our snack in the beautiful gardens. We look forward to visiting this lovely space more in the future!



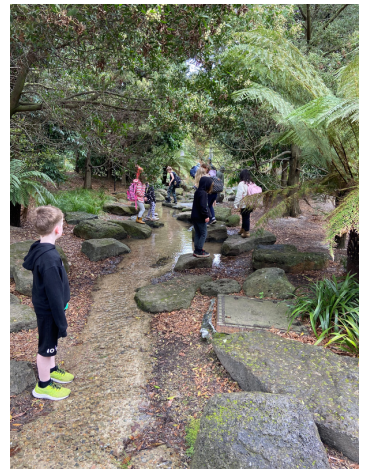
MIDDLE YEARS CLASS



This term has been a time of change in the middle years. We welcomed 3 new students to our community - welcome Sam, Tommy and Dayne! - and we are excited to welcome back another returning student next term (we can't wait to see you Ryla!)

😊 Shell has joined our classroom on Monday's and is enjoying the extra time getting to know all her students! 🌸

We are so proud of our kids in the middle years. As a collective they have regularly volunteered to participate in leadership opportunities during morning meeting. They have been doing an amazing job!



Physical Education

This term the 4, 5 and 6's have been honing their soccer skills, practising drills and playing games futsal style. The 2's and 3's have been having fun learning t-ball. They have been practising their batting and fielding skills as well as mastering the art of making a home run!



In literacy this term we explored persuasive writing and what strategies we can use to convince someone your opinion is the right opinion. Students chose something they were passionate about to argue. Some of the students even gave their arguments to Matt, to which he has dutifully replied.

We finished off our magical sea creature creations from last term and also wrote a descriptive report about them too! And apparently our magical sea creatures are going to continue into term 4 with the creation of the Magical Lake and Island where they live.

The 4, 5 and 6's have been reading "When You Reach Me" this term, while the 2's and 3's have been reading 'How to Train Your Dragon' which will be continuing into Term 4.



Bushcraft

In Bushcraft this term we have enjoyed every session on our beautiful bush block, starting by protecting our indigenous species by controlling invasive plants. Students loved chopping down feral trees which gave us plenty of branches and trees for our dragon nests. We've also used the timber to start building bridges over the creeks and plan projects for next term.

We recently learnt to track animals, particularly invasive species by following the footprints of deer and spotting the damage they do. Students had most fun following and setting bush trails through our trail network.



Maths

In Maths, students have been learning about multiplication and its connection to area and measurement. We presented multiple opportunities to solve multiplication problems, using concrete tools, as well as written or drawn examples. We have also had fun playing team games incorporating multiplication and division.



Board games is something we regularly encourage in the classroom, as they are such a valuable source of numeracy. They provide a rich and enjoyable way to interact with chance, addition, subtractions, which are all areas of Maths.

Science

Grades 2-4: Our theme this term was **Dinosaurs** in our study of Chemistry and Biology. **What would happen if we had teeth like Tyrannosaurus?** We experimented by putting eggs in different solutions. We tried making elephant's toothpaste, but in the end **the most popular experiment** was using different quantities of acetic acid (vinegar) and Sodium bicarbonate (Bicarb)! Students chose to make volcanoes and erupt them during the Science Fair. Students also drew their own animal that was adapted to a make believe environment

Grades 5 - 6: The focus this term was **Chemistry** and specifically reversible and irreversible chemical reactions. Using sugar, salt and water as the reactants, the products were varied. From sugar or salt crystals, toffee, rock candy to burnt sugar at various stages. Students used hydrogen peroxide, soap and yeast to design a **scientific investigation** using different concentrations and amounts. They presented their findings at the **Science Fair**.



Personal Learning Projects

As usual, **PLP's have been a highlight for the children!** This term we have seen so many collaborations where we have witnessed cooperative learning, sharing of knowledge, skills and amazing team work. We have been designing and building Battle Bots, finding out how to make the best squishy, experimenting with different slime recipes, cooking foods from different countries, researching the medieval times, creating salt crystals, learning about famous artists and creating artwork in their style, studying our own family tree, designing and building a deck chair....and the list goes on!



Mentor Led Projects

This term our focus for MLP has been **community**, with the build up being our own community event, the **Spring Fair!**

Over the term, students have learned about and discussed what makes a community and who is a part of their community. We have explored our local community in The Basin, learned about our government system and experienced how our democratic voting system works through planning and organising our Spring Fair stalls.

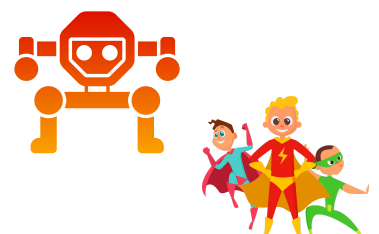


In Term 3 we looked at the theme **'How to be a Hero!'** We learnt about the **MONOMYTH** journey and created our own hero stories. We varied in our responses from writing a script and improvising, to sewing super hero plushies, making a live action BattleBots, and **stop motion stories - one including Elon Musk battling with Kiwi's!**

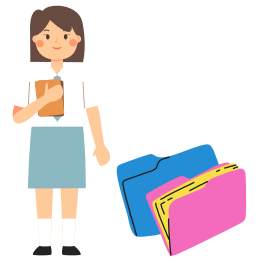
The class have been really creative in their responses to the 'Heroes Journey' theme and I have been **incredibly proud** of the work they have achieved this term!



The Arts



HIGH SCHOOL



English

The Year 8 students have been Comparing and Contrasting the book and film of 'Coraline'. We read the book in class and each student learnt how to discover important quotes and cite them into their work. We discussed the themes of **bravery** and **adventure** and learnt about foreshadowing in texts. Students analysed both of the texts and created their own responses showing how they understood the theme changes in the 'Coraline' texts.

The novel and movie of 'Holes' by Louis Sachar has provided a rich vein of ideas and concepts for the Year 7 students in term 3. We have explored themes, symbolism and character analysis while exploring the relationship of **fate, destiny and co-incidence**. We have had great fun building our own replica of Green Lake, the main scene, in Minecraft and digging our own holes in which to bury books containing our essay responses!



Scan for the murder mystery writing challenge, if you dare!



Humanities

Students have researched Viking history and how they used nature to be successful invaders. Students then investigated personal Viking project areas such as mythology, farming, longships, weaponry, Viking legacy or longhouses. We created a website to showcase this information and then recreated a Viking settlement in Minecraft. We are finishing the term with a delve into Japanese Shogun history and after investigating Bushido, the Way of the Warrior, together, we are now pursuing individual projects.



Kamikaze - Ancient & Modern. By Destyn



Scan for our Viking website

Cherry Blossom By Indi



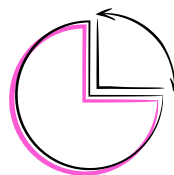
Maths

This term the Year 8 students reviewed and explored new algebraic thinking and expression. It is notoriously a challenging learning area and the students did well to improve their understanding of this strange mathematical language!

We will circle back next term and cover expansion and factorisation. The fun didn't stop there when we moved on to plotting algebraic expressions on cartesian planes. We finished the term off learning about congruence and exploring features of triangles.

The Year 7 students have investigated, integers, angles, 2D and 3D shapes. We have enjoyed putting the concepts into practice by building shapes in Minecraft and calculating their volume and surface area. Some amazing buildings took shape, including an Egyptian pyramid, the World Trade Centre and a very large water tower with giant tap.

$$y = ax^2 + bx + c$$



Haiku for you, from Elliot

When the morning comes
Sunlight seeps into my bones
And I feel alive





Science - Chemistry

The class discovered all the physical and chemical changes in cooking pizzas and of course eating them! We investigated the properties of magnesium salt under various conditions, made elephant's toothpaste, designed experiments using cabbage juice as an indicator of acids and bases, and discovered what happens when potato pieces are put into hydrogen peroxide and a match lit!



We dabbled in Minecraft to find out what elements make up everyday objects, studied the periodic table and made plasticine models of molecules and compounds. Students also chose their own investigations for the Science Fair. We are ending the term with a project on light and sound.



GOOD LUCK MILAN AND RD!

We said goodbye to two of the high school students and wished them much luck on their new adventures into Adult Education. We will miss RD and Milan and their exuberance in the high school.

Healthy Cooking

The High School students have had great fun going to a gym every Tuesday and cooking has reflected our healthy direction! Learning to roll sushi was one of the most popular days in the kitchen and they tasted amazing! Other dishes included mac cheese and foccacia.

The burger competition was hotly contested and there were some fantastically crafted burgers. We also took in a short barista course to learn our mochas from our lattes and keep our teachers caffeinated!



Mentor Led Projects

For MLP the High School students have learnt how to conduct research online. They have learnt about the different website codes and how to cross reference the information they have sought. They learn how to analyse their research using the university CRAAP method (currency, relevance, authority, audience, purpose) and how to decipher if the websites are useful and scholarly, or not. They also learnt how to not plagiarise their work, the reasons behind plagiarism, and how to write a bibliography following the various referencing methods.



PERSONAL LEARNING PROJECTS



The high school students have continued their project work with enthusiasm and seeking to learn more skills! Projects are becoming more tailored and the students have been seeking to learn more about specific topics. Our fantastic students' projects include -



Researching building and joinery techniques to build a pergola outside for school usage.



Embroidery stiches, sewing a tote bag and designing an embroidery patch for the bag.



Sirens and the mythology of mer-people, and designing mermaid costumes.



Creating and building a puppet theatre that can be transported and used to design shows.



Researching and building a storage shed, made out of pallets.



Researching and creating optical illusions, the Thatcher effect and Esher.



EZ guide to keeping Ants website.



Writing, recording and designing rap songs.



Investigation into 1940s millinery and making a Cloche hat



The High School students are really beginning to display their varied interests and we have been getting a real glimpse into their bright and burgeoning futures!

