



Lucas Gardens School

Celebrating Ability Through High Expectations

Cnr Queens Road & Walker Street Canada Bay NSW 2046

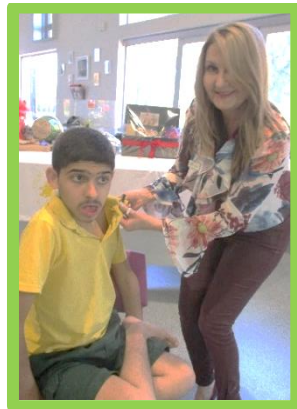
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11 December 2020

Dates for Your Diary

16 December – Last Day for students 2020

29 January – First Day for students 2021



Our 2021 School Captains – congratulations to Clare and Sehal

Principal's Message

The following is an excerpt from the speech I delivered on Presentation Day.

What a year we have had! Throughout the challenges I am proud to say students and staff were safe and well supported, with everyone remaining calm and focused on our core business of teaching and learning. Whilst the pandemic was unexpected, our school community remained united and was proactive, constantly keeping families updated and informed.

A huge thank you to our families for supporting us during this challenging year. Though the delivery of our teaching was

slightly different, our school remained opened throughout. Dedicated staff continued to work at school, following NSW Department of Health guidelines and Department procedures. I thank them for their compliance and commitment to keeping everyone safe. Our students displayed resilience as they seamlessly moved from face to face learning to remote learning then back to face to face learning. Well done to all of our students.

I would like to thank Maria Serafim our Director Educational Leadership who is here with us today. Maria I thank you for your continuous support, advice and for your visible leadership.

I am honoured to share with you some of our 2020 school achievements which include:

- *Putting effective COVID safe procedures in place to ensure students, staff and the community were safe, whilst students continued to learn at school or remotely.*
- *Leading and managing the school during these challenging times, ensuring high visibility to allay anxiety.*
- *Engaging additional SLSOs specialising in behaviour and healthcare.*
- *The installation of two shade covers funded by the P&C.*
- *Delivering an EAL/D program to support students from backgrounds other than English.*

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- *Developing wall displays in all classrooms displaying student communication, literacy and numeracy goals. This has been a show stopper, where by other schools visited to witness exemplary teaching and learning.*
- *Our technology focus with the purchase of a 3D printer and the addition of a dedicated technology hub.*
- *Purchasing whole school literacy resources including dual language books.*
- *Purchasing whole school numeracy resources and class packs.*
- *Upgrading our walkie talkies to a more reliable and suitable model.*
- *Purchasing resources for science, history and geography.*
- *Significant expenditure on new equipment for students due to the generosity of a private foundation.*
- *Purchasing two new hammocks from P&C funds which are due to be installed next week in 'Margaret's Playground'.*
- *An additional 9th class this year, with a 10th class organised for 2021.*
- *Finalising our new 4-year Strategic Improvement plan.*

Thank you to all stakeholders who provided invaluable input throughout the year, it has been a great team effort!

Wishing everyone a safe and restful summer break, I look forward to seeing you in 2021!

I announce with great sadness the departure of one of our outstanding teachers, Bec Stark. Bec has been Assistant Principal at Lucas Gardens School since 2015 and has been integral in setting up and driving many

of our innovative programs, including robotics and MOVE, to name just a few. As an accredited MOVE International trainer, Bec has a wealth of knowledge and expertise that has made a significant difference to our students. Bec is an exceptional leader who displays great integrity and a commitment to student achievement. Her tenacity and vision will be sorely missed as will her warmth and capacity to mentor and guide staff. Thank you Bec for your invaluable contributions, I know the whole school community will join me to wish you well in the next chapter of your life as you move interstate. You go with my very best wishes and an open invitation to visit anytime. Farewell Bec, you are, and always will be an inspiration!



We say a sad farewell to Bec

Kind regards

Jenny Zagas

P&C Report

Thank you to all our families and staff for supporting our annual Christmas raffle. We were able to make 14 beautiful hampers and raised \$1,100. What an amazing

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achievement! Funds raised will go towards purchasing learning resources for our children.

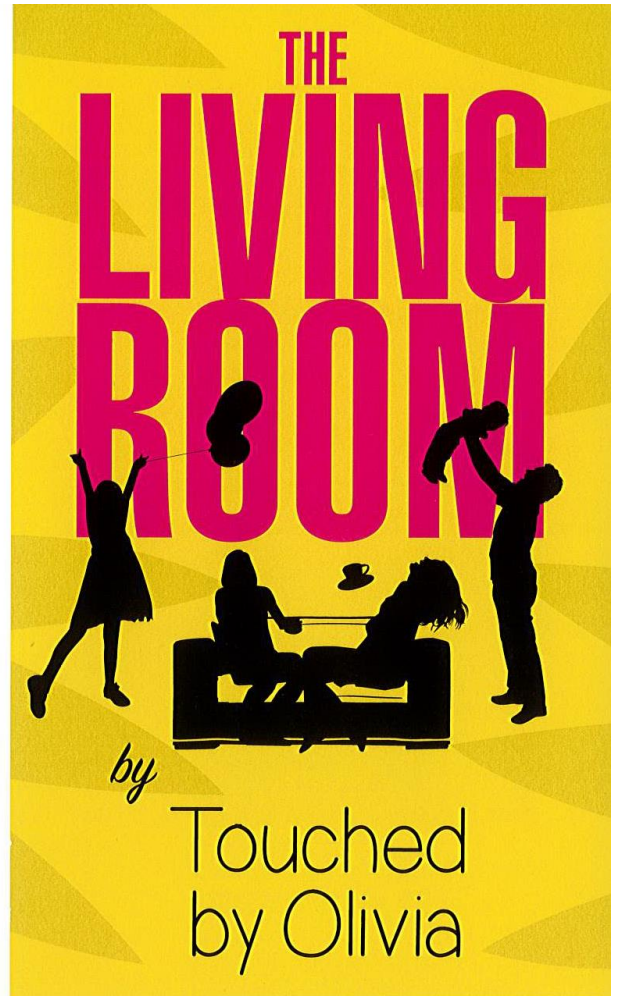
We continued our termly Zoom meetings and look forward in 2021 whereby we can have more fundraising events to support our amazing school.

Have a safe holiday!

Lucas Gardens P&C

Kindness

The dictionary meaning of the noun *kindness* is: 'the quality of being generous and considerate'. Acts of kindness can truly make a difference and this week our students and staff were the recipients of a very thoughtful and kind gesture. Our longstanding school neighbours, Jeannine and Neville, made and delivered cakes embellished with Christmas designs, for us to enjoy. Jeannine is a talented cake decorator and the epitome of kindness. Thank you Jeannine and Neville for bringing your special brand of cheer to our students and staff.



Help Touched by Olivia design The Living Room

A community space in Timbrell Park
where everyone is welcome

Learn more and have your say
collaborate.canadabay.nsw.gov.au/livingroom

Have Your Say

Canada Bay Council will be conducting workshops to develop concept designs for The Living Room – a community space. This is a new initiative from 'Touched by Olivia' and the project includes a café and a community space. For more information about this fantastic project, email sarah.corry@canadabay.nsw.gov.au

Alternatively, contact Jennifer Brankin, one of our school parents, on 0435 723 270 or email rsvp@polixenni.com

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Opening of the Wangal Reserve Inclusive Community Space and Playground

The Wangal Reserve inclusive community space project, located in Mortlake, has been completed, with the official opening occurring on Saturday 12 December, 10-11am. This \$1.7 million project provides a new nature-themed inclusive playground, accessible pathways and picnic and BBQ facilities.

If you would like to attend the opening, please visit this link to register your attendance:

<https://collaborate.canadabay.nsw.gov.au/wangalupgrades>

Virtual Art Show

In Term 3 for visual arts, every class chose a different artist, and students made their own interpretations of artworks using a variety of materials and techniques. There was such fantastic work created that we decided to compile a virtual art gallery for families to enjoy. This has now been uploaded to the school website, so please enjoy a visit to our 'Art Gallery' and help us celebrate our students' creativity!



Archie H's artwork inspired by Henri Matisse and Pierre's artwork by Andy Warhol

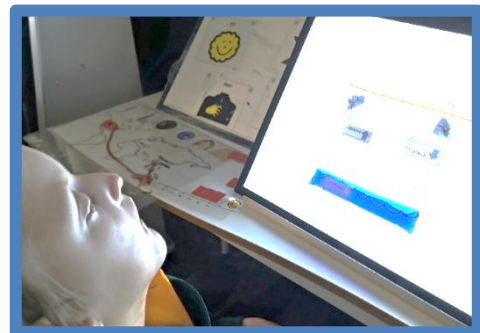
Jen

Primary 1

What a busy year it has been! Primary 1 has survived the challenges of a year where we have had to cope with ongoing changes to our lives with COVID-19 restrictions and working from home for a portion of the year. The students in Primary 1 rose to the challenge and demonstrated their resilience and adaptability throughout the year. Well done, Primary 1!

As we approach the end of Term 4, students have been enjoying ball games inside and outside the classroom. We have learned to hold, roll and bat the ball. Students have enjoyed working together as a group, practising turn-taking and active listening skills.

In science, we have continued with conducting experiments relating to water in our world. Our experiment on the water cycle using zip lock bags was a success (!), and demonstrated both condensation and precipitation in our micro climate.



Marta observing our experiment on the water cycle

Dani and I would like to thank the parents of Primary 1 students for their support and engagement in their child's learning this year, and wish you a relaxing break and happy holidays.

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Alexander batting the light up balloon ball

Julia and Dani

Primary 7/Secondary 2

This term, we welcomed Tjanara into Primary 7/Secondary 2. Tjanara has enjoyed getting to know the students and staff at Lucas Gardens and has been learning the daily routines of our class.

We have had a great year of learning in Primary 7/Secondary 2. The students have worked very hard! Throughout the year we did lots reading in English, counted and added in mathematics, explored earth and its resources for science, learnt all about Japan for history and much, much more.

Some of the highlights for the end of the year include students creating art inspired by Japanese culture and they also used clay to create their own rocks and decorated them with pictures symbolic of Aboriginal society.



Benito selecting pictures symbolic of Aboriginal culture to glue onto his clay rock

We have loved working with your children in 2020, it has been a privilege to watch them grow and make great gains with their independent living skills. We wish you all a safe and happy holiday.



Tjanara working hard on completing her learning activities

Michelle and Nobuko

Primary 6/Secondary 1

We would like to acknowledge and highlight our students' academic, physical and social achievements, learning together.



Cara looking, reaching to grasp up to ten objects on the Lightbox



Harry following a visual schedule of up to three objects, locating the biscuit

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Morgan using the Eye Gaze technology device to make choices



Morgan, Pierre and Cara on the MOVE walking outside together



Pierre's expressive language to use the walker outside



Hasna using expressive language to communicate her needs

We are so proud of our students' accomplishments throughout the year. Thank you, for a fantastic year of teaching and learning, it was our pleasure getting to

know and teach your children, as we all were learning together. Wishing you a happy New Year and a safe break.



Diane and Denise

Primary 4

Primary 4 have had another great three weeks. We are continuing to collect data for mathematics about the weather every day and have been investigating how the constantly changing 'weather in our world' impacts us and our school environment. Some mornings we record that it is cloudy but by recess time it is sunny. Following our PBL focus of 'Be Safe', our whole school is practising 'hats on' to protect ourselves from the sun, even when we're in the cool shade provided by the giant Kaffir Plum Tree on the deck.

We have also been using water, one of our focus topics in science, as the inspiration for activities in other key learning areas. In mathematics, we have been starting the day singing and counting *5 Speckled Frogs*, you can see our metallic frogs and their pond in the picture overleaf. For English, we are using a storybook version of *The Incy Wincy Spider* that features music and sound effect buttons such as rain. We are learning the motor patterns, colour recognition, and using fine and gross motor skills to find and press each button. These are important transferable skills we use to find buttons on Proloquo2Go, Switches, and GoTalk devices

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for communication. We are looking forward to a fantastic final week of 2020 together.



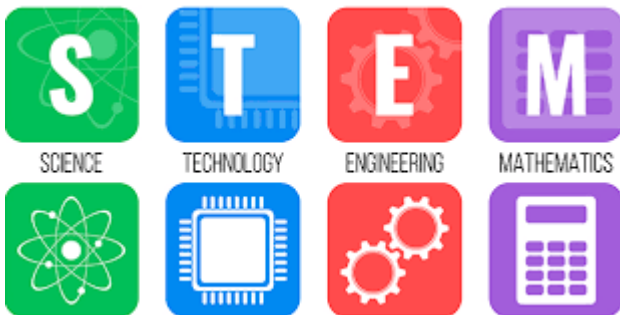
David reaching to pick up the speckled frogs to place in the pond



Juliette finding her favourite sound of the spider scurrying up the spout

Rhiannon and Zenab

STEM Update



It has been a wonderful term of learning in STEM with students creating 3D prints of their personal flags. Students worked on their design skills, using Makers Empire 3D to select their favourite shapes and colours to create a flag that represented 'them'.

Students then printed their flags and used touch to explore the raised shapes. As our 3D prints are one colour, students are finalising their flags by adding colours to the shapes and evaluating the process and final product.

It has been wonderful teaching the STEAM / STEM program this year, particularly introducing robotics and innovative technology across the school. Students have made remarkable progress with their ability to use Ozobots, Spheros, BeeBots, Makey Makeys and Makers Empire 3D to engage in design and production tasks.

Over the vacation period, if you have an iPad or touch screen at home, please encourage your child to investigate and explore their technology skills using a range of apps (search apps appropriate for your child's age and skill level), particularly focusing on creating and designing digital artworks and designs. I look forward to seeing how the students' progress in their technology skill development in the future.

Bec

MOVE Update



Hayley, who provides physiotherapy services to the school and I have been working with many students on the development of their mobility skills and are so pleased with the progress that we have seen this year. Students have been practising their skills in sitting, standing, walking and transitioning which is aided by the new equipment that we have purchased this year.

This week, our MOVE Achievement Certificate is awarded to Cara for her

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improved ability to use the Rifton Pacer to walk forward towards a preferred activity. Cara can take independent, reciprocal steps and pushes forward to walk from the classroom to the outdoor learning area to engage in her lessons.



I would like to congratulate Cara and all of the students who continue to work on their goals with determination, hard work and perseverance. I would also like to thank the teachers, SLSOs and families who continue to work in partnership to ensure that students are achieving their goals and developing skills for independence in life.

Keep on MOVEing!

Bec – MOVE International Trainer

Secondary 3

It has been such a busy, different sort of year with lots of challenges for students, their families and staff but Secondary 3 have continued to show amazing progress with all their learning goals nonetheless.

We have completed the unit work about Vietnam and students have really enjoyed finding out about special places in Vietnam using images, maps and Ozobots to navigate

from one destination to the next! Students also had opportunities to take a virtual tour of places in Vietnam using the interactive whiteboard.



William and Benito using Ozobots to move around the map of Vietnam



Andrew taking a virtual tour to Hoi An in Vietnam

Students also compared festivals and focused on Vietnamese New Year and Christmas and what these celebrations were all about. All of our students are really looking forward to Christmas and the holidays!



Ake making Christmas decorations

Last week students and staff celebrated International Day of People with Disabilities

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with the theme 'Building Back Better'. We enjoyed some group activities including playing basketball together. It was a lovely way to celebrate all our achievements and socialise together.



It has been such a pleasure teaching all the students in Secondary 3 this year. Lisa and I wish our students and their families a very relaxing, enjoyable festive season and all the best for 2021!

Jen and Lisa

Primary 5

Students in Primary 5 have continued to work hard as we get ready to wrap up a very busy and exciting year.

We have been learning about 'changes over time' and 'water in our world' for science this term and have recently investigated natural disasters, using a shaker table to simulate an earthquake and exploring a hurricane bottle.



Ryle, Mahir and Ethan
exploring the hurricane bottle

The students have created artworks and engaged in reading experiences to learn about celebrations including Pasko (Christmas) traditions in the Philippines as part of our study of Filipino culture.



Archie engaging in an activity
about Pasko celebrations

Thank you to all of the Primary 5 parents and families for your support this year. It has been a pleasure to see the amazing progress students have made in 2020. We would like to wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season.

Allison, Nicole, Grace and Bree

Primary 2

It has been a very busy term for Primary 2, with students continuing to work hard even though Term 4 is almost coming to an end. Students continued to work on their communication, literacy and numeracy goals demonstrating significant improvement and for some achieving them as well.

For science, students continued to learn about the weather, seasons, and how wind and water changes our environment over time.

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Massimo learning about the four seasons of the year

For PDHPE, students have been learning about and participating in a variety of games which include soccer, tee-ball and basketball. Students were highly engaged and enjoyed participating in these activities as they developed their kicking, throwing and hitting skills.



Antonia working on her hitting skills by playing tee-ball

Primary 2 have had an excellent year, they have grown so much and learnt so many skills. We have enjoyed working with all the students and it has been a great privilege to be their teacher this year. We wish you all a safe and happy holiday.

Paul and Jen D

Secondary 4

On Thursday 3 December, Secondary 4 celebrated International Day of People with

Disability. We reflected on all progress and achievements we have made this year, especially considering just how challenging 2020 has been!



Secondary 4 enjoy watching a video of their 2020 achievements

In Secondary 4, we have accomplished many of our goals this year in: PLSP and communication, as well as literacy and numeracy.

We would also like to make a special mention to Hadi. Hadi is now the proud owner of a new power wheelchair and has made fantastic progress with his driving skills. In just a few short weeks he is now able to manoeuvre his way around corners, through gates and down ramps. Keep up the practise during the holidays and we cannot wait to see your independence grow!



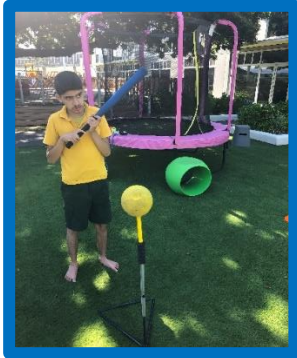
Hadi driving from the playground to the classroom

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Congratulations to Clare, Sehal, Isaac, Jayson, Richard and Hadi. It has been a pleasure to have you in Secondary 4.



***Sehal is ready for anything
2021 can throw at him!***

We wish you a happy and safe holiday and we look forward to seeing you again in 2021!

Sian and Toula

Primary 3

Primary 3 students have been working hard all year. We have enjoyed our unit on weather in science and exploring the different conditions we experience with rain and wind. Students have enjoyed hands-on learning activities in science through conducting our experiments. We have also engaged in many different literacy and numeracy activities to support students' understanding of their sight words and numbers.



Trung with his science experiment

In celebration of the holidays, Primary 3 have been using their visual arts lessons to create Christmas crafts. We have proudly displayed our work all throughout the classroom.



Our Christmas crafts



Lilu making animals in history



Becki finger painting

We wish all families a very happy holidays and a safe and relaxing break.

Jess and Vicki

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Presentation Day 2020

