



Lucas Gardens School

Celebrating Ability Through High Expectations

Cnr Queens Road & Walker Street Canada Bay NSW 2046

Ph: 9744 6461 Fx: 9744 1705 Email: lucasgarde-s.school@det.nsw.edu.au

19 March 2021

Dates for Your Diary

29 March - P&C Zoom Meeting

30 March - K-2 Parent/Carers Easter Parade

1 April – Last day of Term 1

20 April – First Day of Term 2 for Students

Principal's Award



Harriet for working well in learning tasks

Principal's Message

I am pleased to advise that we have almost finalised our School Improvement Plan which we will work towards over the next four years. Thank you to parent/carers who provided valuable insights and suggestions for our shared vision which is:

"Lucas Gardens School has high expectations for all students and staff and delivers quality

teaching and authentic individualised learning experiences based on evidence-based practice, ongoing assessment and feedback. Through a shared commitment, students, staff and community work collaboratively to enable our students to build essential skills needed to prepare students for successful transition to life beyond school".

Our Strategic Directions place students at the forefront of all we do, and are as follows:

- 1) Student Growth and Achievement**
- 2) Healthy Lifestyle and Wellbeing**
- 3) Inclusive Curriculum**

Student Growth and Achievement will ensure that every student demonstrates progress in communication, literacy and numeracy, with appropriate individualised learning goals and adjustments to maximise learning potential and achievement.

Healthy Lifestyle and Wellbeing will provide a whole school approach towards the delivery of the Personal, Development Health and Physical Education (PDHPE) syllabus and to promote a healthy and active lifestyle supporting the social and emotional wellbeing of students.

Inclusive Curriculum will ensure all staff have an understanding of a range of disabilities and the implications for access and participation in the curriculum. Furthermore, information will be developed outlining the disabilities, strategies and supports needed to maximise student engagement in learning through the development of tool kits to support teachers and families.

Be Safe

Be Respectful

Be a Learner

As part of the State Government initiative to ensure students emerge from additional learning challenges associated with COVID-19, the school received funding for intensive learning support. We have been using this funding for a targeted program focusing on communication skills to support student learning. Sandy Kotevski has been working with students to further develop both expressive and receptive language and I am impressed with student progress to date in this important learning area.



***Sandy working with Jayson requesting
“Robotics” using his iPad***

Harmony Day was celebrated this week, with students and staff dressed in national costume or the colour **ORANGE**. This day is a wonderful opportunity to reflect on diversity and the many contributions of multicultural communities. Social cohesion and inclusivity are central themes that I am sure resonate with all. Students participated in a wide range of art and music activities including sessions with The Rhythm Village that incorporated music from other cultures.



Today was the *National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence*. To highlight the importance of this key prevention initiative, students made a handprint that outlined who they can go to in order to seek help. Bullying and violence are **NEVER OK**, and this important conversation will help address such injustices.

I take this opportunity to wish our school community a safe and restful autumn break, as it is fast approaching.

Kind regards

Jenny Zagas

International Women’s Day

On the 8 March we celebrated International Women’s Day, acknowledging the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women.

We were delighted to honour the achievements of our school Principal, Jenny Zagas, who was selected as one of the ‘21 Women for 2021’ interview series. Jenny featured in the Greek Herald who acknowledged her Educational Leadership and was also nominated by the Mayor of Canada Bay for the 2021 International Women’s Day honour roll. Her leadership was acknowledged as follows:

‘Jenny is a dynamic educator who actively engages with a diverse school community. She is a passionate leader focused on the delivery of high-quality education for students with special educational needs.

Jenny willingly shares her wealth of knowledge in special education with other schools and wider networks and fosters community partnerships to enhance and promote the wellbeing of all students.

Be Safe

Be Respectful

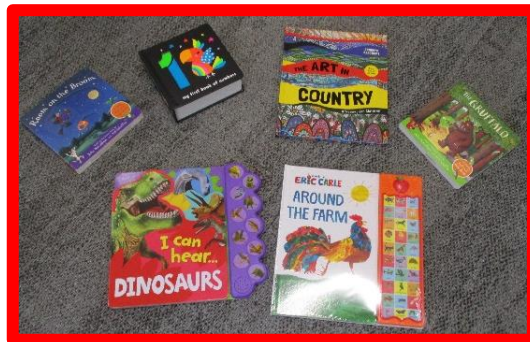
Be a Learner

Her strengths include talent spotting, mentoring aspiring leaders, as well as building alignment around innovations to engage colleagues and stakeholders in shared visions. Key to her success is her ability to create dialogue around ideas and inspire both students and staff to 'reach for the stars'.

We extend our congratulations to Jenny.



Wendy du Plessis
Assistant Principal



**SRC representative Hermeslla delivering
P&C notes to classes**

Denise Noordeloos
SRC Co-ordinator

Student Representative Council

Due to COVID-19, our Student Representatives for 2020 will continue with their duties for 2021. We are looking forward to a busy year raising awareness and contributing to our community and school.

Thank you to all who contributed to our gold coin drive at the end of last year. We purchased a variety of sound books and books suitable to support student literacy with the proceeds, as pictured below.

This term, we are supporting the P&C with the Annual Easter Raffle.

P&C Report

It is hard to believe that we are already in Week 8 of Term 1.

Each year, we conduct an Easter event to raise funds to support Lucas Gardens, which enables the school to purchase resources that support student learning. This year, we are selling raffle tickets and have asked parent/carers to purchase chocolate Easter products as raffle prizes. The proceeds will be used to assist the school to purchase new equipment for use in the hydro pool. This will include kick boards, flotation aids, anti-slip mats and other items to be advised. If you require additional raffle tickets please contact

Be Safe

Be Respectful

Be a Learner

me. Thank you in anticipation of your support for this event.

At this stage, the school hopes to be able to recommence the Hydro Program in Term 2. As this program is very resource intensive, the availability of parent/carers will greatly assist the school to run this program. Please note that parents/carers will only be permitted to support their own child. An expression of interest relating to this, has been sent home with students.

The next P&C Meeting will be via Zoom on Monday 29 March at 8pm. If you would like to attend the Zoom meeting or have any queries please email:

Regina Ashdown:

president.lucasgardens.pc@gmail.com

Bruno Brandon:

secretary.lucasgardens.pc@gmail.com

Regards

Regina Ashdown
P&C President

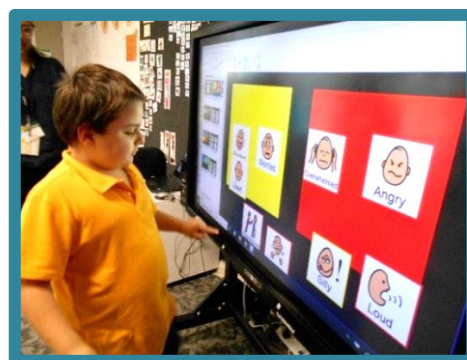
Primary 6

Primary 6 are busy! This term, we have been investigating living things. We have explored living and non-living things and classified them according to a set of rules. We have looked at the external features of a plant, and are presently looking at the lifecycle of plants. Primary 6 planted seeds and have been observing their progress from germination through to developing leaves.



Hasna preparing seeds for planting

We have also had some great sessions with Victoria, an occupational therapist contractor, on identifying our feelings and where we sit in the Zones of Regulation.



***Ryle classifying feelings
for the Zones of Regulation***

Julia, Lisa and Josh

Primary 7/Secondary 1

Students in Primary 7/Secondary 1 have continued working hard in all key learning areas. For English, they looked at the text 'A Forest' by Marc Martin, where students examined what happens to forests if the environment is not taken care of properly. They completed reading and writing activities using this text as a stimulus.

For geography, students have been looking at different landforms and landscapes in our world. They worked hard matching different landforms using a variety of learning activities, including cut and paste, matching

Be Safe

Be Respectful

Be a Learner

activities on Helpkidzlearn and exploring different landforms in our school.



Richard exploring our school environment for geography with his classmate Hadi

For visual arts, students have been creating a range of artworks linked to our science and geography units. The classroom display includes a range of beautiful artworks depicting scenes from the ocean and forests, including sea turtles, jellyfish, an autumn tree and butterflies. The artworks were produced using a wide variety of artistic techniques and materials.

We are excited to continue our learning for the remainder of Term 1.



Cara enjoying contributing to our class 'autumn tree' artwork

Michelle and Vicki

Primary 1

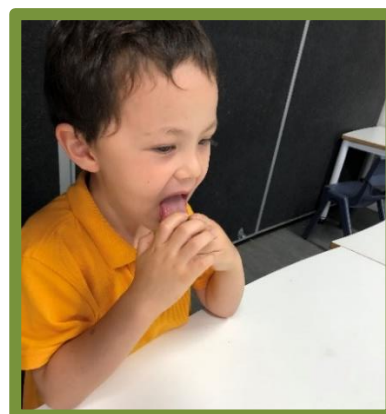
Primary one has been working on exploring the school environment and developing

friendships and social skills with peers. Students have been accessing different areas of the school and exploring what we do in each area. So far, the favourite areas are Margaret's Playground and our classroom.



Alicia and Mason engaging in social play with blocks

Students have also been working on exploring living things and different things that grow in our school. We went for a walk around the garden and picked a variety of fruits from the fruit trees. Students enjoyed watching the fruits being cut open and observing the different colours of the flesh. Students were able to smell the various fruits as well as touch and taste the lime.



Kai exploring his senses by tasting the lime

We have also been learning about the *Zones of Regulation* with Victoria, and have enjoyed using a mirror to make different faces to express how they feel.

Be Safe

Be Respectful

Be a Learner



Kai displaying what his 'green zone' looks like to Victoria

Jessica and Dani

Primary 2

Primary 2 have had a busy few weeks and have worked particularly hard in some of our core subjects, English and mathematics. All students have new goals to work on covering English – speaking and listening, and reading and viewing, and mathematics - number and algebra, and measurement.

In English, students have focused on our 'letter of the week' in phonics, their sight words, including recognition of their own photos and names, and on guided reading by listening, looking and turning the pages in a book.

In mathematics, we have been working on counting and looking at each object or numeral in turn. Students have enjoyed focusing on a different counting rhyme each week.



Karim feeling a group of objects and pressing the switch to hear the numbers

All students have also worked hard in measurement, learning more about the concept of length. This has included feeling and looking at the whole length of an object and also exploring near versus far, using toys to push.



Alexander enjoying pushing his toy 'far away' in mathematics



Sophia watching the Beebot move a short distance

Be Safe

Be Respectful

Be a Learner



Primary 2 receiving a class of the week award!

Primary 2 were very excited to receive the 'Class of the Week' award in the past few weeks, and displayed the school mascot 'Marley' all week. It has been such a busy year so far and we are looking forward to finishing the term with lots more fun and learning.

Jen and Denise

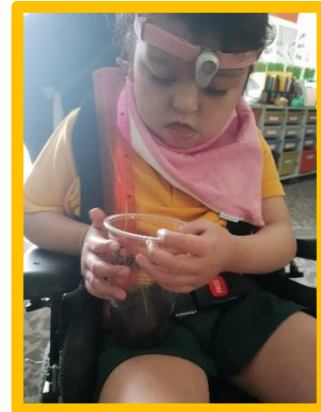
Primary 5

Primary 5 have been working diligently in English to reach their goals in speaking and listening, and reading and viewing. Our focus has been on the book 'The Tiny Seed' by Eric Carle. Students have been looking and listening to their key sight words each week, which integrates our science topic 'It's Alive'.



Marta looking and feeling the pictures in 'The Tiny Seed'

In science, we started learning about living and non-living things and have moved onto the lifecycle of a plant. To assist us with learning, we have been gardening using the knowledge of what a plant needs to survive, which we have learned from our English text. Hopefully it will grow as big as the plant in 'The Tiny Seed'.



Emmarisa holding her plant and assessing it's growth

While watching our plants grow, we have also been learning the important parts of a plant such as the root, stem and leaves. Our celery experiment taught us how water travels through a plant. It was a success, as we observed our green celery turn a different colour.



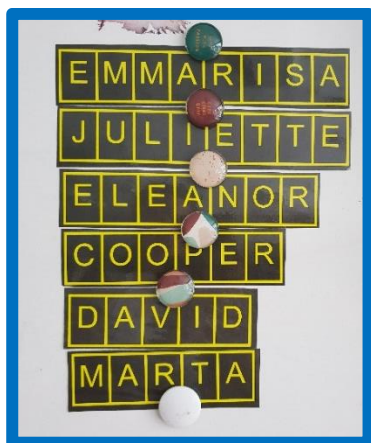
Eleanor excited with the change of colour in our celery experiment

Be Safe

Be Respectful

Be a Learner

In mathematics, we have been working on algebra and measurement. We've been measuring our plants' growth and other things around our classroom. It was fun measuring the length of our name, with Juliette and Emmarisa having the longest names in our class.



Working together as a class to measure the length of our name

Vicki and Toula

Primary 4

Primary 4 have been very busy in class. In music, we are listening and responding to traditional Australian songs. During these lessons, we played various instruments along to the beat. Our favourite song is 'Waltzing Matilda'. We love when the music teacher plays it very fast. In mathematics, we are continuing to focus on numbers and measurement. Each day we engage in a number song, where students count forwards and identify numbers. During our measurement lessons, we are using non-standard measurements by using lollipop sticks to measure our books, tables and puzzles.



Antonia is assisted by Victoria to match the appropriate feelings to the correct zone

During our PDHPE lessons, we are focusing on the Zones of Regulation. Students enjoy listening to songs, illustrating the different feelings in each zone. We are learning to use breathing as a calming tool when we feel mad, sad or silly. Students have also had the opportunity to engage in matching activities, to deepen understanding.



Lily completing an activity during our Zones of Regulation lesson

Eimear and Bree

Secondary 4

Welcome to Week 8! Secondary 4 has been working industriously this term!

In one of our science lessons last week, we learnt about the life cycle of a butterfly. We went for a walk through our sensory garden and collected leaves and flowers to make a sensory tray, along with fuzzy pipe cleaners

and polystyrene balls to represent caterpillars and their eggs.



Clare and Isaac explore the sensory tub that represents the life cycle of a butterfly

In our mathematics lessons, we are practising counting. As part of our morning circle routine, each day we make sure we count how many students are at school. Our favourite new way to count this is to count to the beat of a drum! We also practise counting using sensory objects and felt boards.



Sehal counts five sensory objects

As part of our PDHPE lessons and movement program, Secondary 4 make sure we move about in our equipment as much as possible. Ensuring that we are moving with purpose is so important. Morgan sets a great example by getting up and out of his wheelchair to help prepare his morning tea every day!



Morgan goes for a walk through the school grounds during a science lesson

Wishing you all the best for the end of Term 1 – see you back again in Term 2!

Sian and Zenab

Secondary 3

In recent weeks, we have been meeting parents and specialist therapists to begin writing PLSP goals for students. It's been a great opportunity to provide students of S3 with a voice in setting their learning goals for this semester. The collaborative approach has been invaluable in establishing student plans that will help guide their learning. Thank you for the cooperation of all involved.



Daniel hula hooping during PE

Be Safe

Be Respectful

Be a Learner

In PDHPE, students are increasing their self-awareness and identity through daily guided meditation, personal hygiene routines and the strengthening of postural muscles with activities that require balance. They are exploring a variety of self-regulation activities, spaces and objects throughout the day in order to maximise learning time.



Abstract portraits from S3

For visual arts, students have been studying the life and work of Picasso. Using the collage technique, students made a whole class mural and individual abstract portraits. Self-portraits have allowed students to further increase their self-awareness, by using mirrors, selfies and photos of themselves to construct self-portraits.



Amaan contributing his collage to the S3 wall

Mathematical concepts are practically applied every day, our focus is to use fractions to fold things, share items and to measure ingredients. Students in S3 made playdough by measuring the ingredients, cooking and kneading the dough. The whole

piece was then shared by dividing the dough into equal parts.



Ashan and Ruby creating their own playdough

The class made delicious apple tarts in food technology. We used our mathematical skills to once again divide and share amongst the class.



Sienna making apple tarts

Wishing all of our families a safe and happy holiday.

Allison and Nobuko

Secondary 2

What a fast-paced term it has been! Secondary 2 has been making progress

Be Safe

Be Respectful

Be a Learner

across all KLA's, whilst also keeping a focus on our PBL goals.

Music on Fridays with *Rhythm Village* has been a hit with our class, and all of the students are engaging with the program. Australian songs are our area of exploration this term, and students are enjoying learning about the musical history of Australia.



Ake playing the guitar

The school has recently purchased some new Dash and Dot robots, and the class has enjoyed learning how these work. We have worked our way through obstacle courses in the room, and began to learn how to do block coding. This involves giving step-by-step instructions to the robot on an iPad, then watching to ensure it completes the task. Our Dash robots show fun and happy emotions, and are always excited to see the students.



Benito driving Dash the robot

As we reach the end of Term 1, our class will continue to work hard and develop our skills. We wish all families a happy and safe holiday, and look forward to the challenges and adventures of Term 2.

Richard and Grace

Primary 3

It has been a very productive term for Primary 3, continuing to work hard even though Term 1 is almost coming to an end. Students have worked on their communication, literacy and numeracy skills, demonstrating significant improvement.

For English, students have continued to work on their reading, writing and comprehension. They have been practising tracing different shapes and letters, reading exciting books from the library and answering questions based on different texts we have been reading.



Yohan reading his library book

Be Safe

Be Respectful

Be a Learner

For PDHPE, we have been working on the Zones of Regulation. Students have been learning about how they feel, which zone they are in and what strategies they can use to get back into the green zone.



Hermeslla learning about the Zones of Regulation

Primary 3 have had an excellent term, we look forward to continuing our great work.

Paul and Kate

Primary 8

The students in Primary 8 have settled into their new class and enjoyed some exciting learning experiences over the past couple of weeks. They have engaged in phonics and sight words activities in English based on the story, 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar'. This ties into our science unit about the needs of living things in the garden. They have looked at the life cycle of a caterpillar and created artworks inspired by butterflies.



Mahir sorting out what the Very Hungry Caterpillar ate each day

Students have been learning about places in geography and working on identifying similarities and differences between places. They have investigated our classroom and worked on identifying objects and places within. We are looking forward to more opportunities to explore and practise our skills as we near the end of the first term.

Allison, Roisin and Lisa

Be Safe

Be Respectful

Be a Learner