



Lucas Gardens School

Celebrating Ability Through High Expectations

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7 August 2020

Dates for Your Diary

17 August – P&C AGM via Zoom

Principal's Award



Ruby for modelling safe and respectful behaviour to her peers

Principal's Message

Welcome back to Term 3, it was lovely to see students and staff return to school safe and well after the holiday break.

Can I please once again thank our wonderful school community for working together during these challenging times. We continue to put safety at the forefront of every decision making process and I am very pleased with our progress.

Cleaning has again been enhanced throughout each day and additional cleaning and protective personal equipment (PPE) supplies are being provided to the school by the Department of Education.

Walking through the classrooms, I have been delighted to see displays outlining the strong progress students are making towards their communication, literacy and numeracy goals. The use of flexible learning spaces has also been evident with teachers using the many and varied options to traditional classroom learning environments to enhance student learning experiences.

Education Week was celebrated differently this year with the production of a video showing how we *Learn Together*. This video was uploaded to our school website enabling parents/carers and the school community to witness the achievements of our students. *Learning Together* acknowledges that learning is an exchange of information and as such, when students learn, other students take their cues from this, and they too learn. As part of this reciprocal learning process, when students learn, staff learn more about the students and how they learn. Additionally, parents/carers are a key component of this cross fertilisation and reinforcement of learning. I know if you have already taken the opportunity to view this video, you would have been impressed by the sheer quality of the teaching and learning engaging our students. Thank you to each and every student for your learning commitment and to all parents/carers. Your active participation in this process is central to our student's success! A huge thank you also to Ayse who championed this wonderful project.

Kind regards

Jenny Zagas

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SRC Report

The SRC organised another successful Pyjama Day on the final day of Term 2. Our focus again this year was a tinned food drive to support the ongoing work of the *Bill Crews Foundation*, a foundation who support people experiencing homelessness. Students and staff dressed in colourful sleepwear and onesies to remind us of the plight of others in our community who are faced with homelessness.

Thank you to the Lucas Gardens School community for your generous support and efforts to create awareness around this issue.



Students wearing pyjamas to support the Bill Crews Foundation

Denise Noordeloos
SRC Co-ordinator

P&C Report

Lucas Gardens P&C are meeting on Monday 17 August at 8pm for their AGM. This meeting will be conducted via Zoom, so you can attend from the comfort of your home. Please contact Bruno Brandon, Secretary, for the Zoom meeting link. Bruno's details are:
M: 0401 889 706
E: secretary.lucasgardens.pc@gmail.com

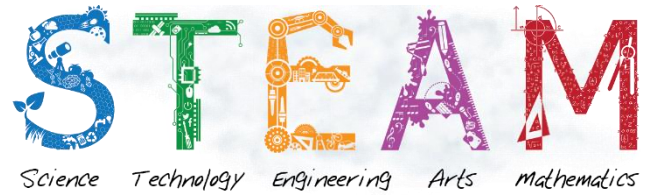
Regina Ashdown
P&C President

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STEAM Update

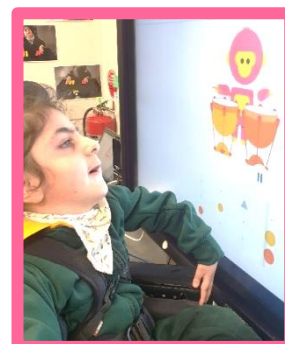


This term, as part of our Release from Face to Face (RFF) program, the team and I will be implementing an innovative **STEAM** program. You may have heard the term STEM or **STEAM** – it stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics.

In this newsletter we want to focus on the Education Week theme *Learning Together*. By working together with peers, students are provided opportunities to create and perform musical performances, respond to and create visual artworks and use vocalisations and words to sing along to rhythm and melody.

Our focus this term is on using technology, including robotics, to create music and digital visual arts. Students are able to use technology devices such as Chrome Music Lab on the Commbox (it's a free online program – have a play at home!), Garage Band and other 'cause and effect' music and visual arts apps on the iPad, as well as engineering devices like Makey Makeys to turn bananas into a piano keyboard!

We look forward to sharing what we have been doing in each class.



Juliette using Chrome Music Lab on the Commbox to create music for her friends



Richard and Andrew working together by racing Sphero in the Robot Arena



P2 Learning Together to code Ozobots using line codes and Ozoblockly

Bec, Aoife and Nicole

English as an Additional Language/Dialect (EAL/D)

We aim to develop classroom environments that value the diverse linguistic and cultural experiences of our students. We are currently supporting students for whom English is an additional language or dialect (EAL/D) through the allocation of funds to support explicit instruction in vocabulary development. Learning experiences involve students being supported through shared reading experiences to make connections with their home language and English and to

develop and expand their vocabulary. This program commenced at the beginning of Term 3 and is being supported by our School Learning Support Officers, Zenab and Dennis, and it has been wonderful to see the engagement of students in these sessions.

We are currently purchasing additional bilingual books for our library collection to enable parents/carers to engage in reading at home with their child in their home language.



Amaan engaging in vocabulary building activities through shared reading

Kicking Goals in Literacy and Numeracy

Students continue to work with teachers on their individual literacy and numeracy goals. We were very pleased with the progress made during Term 2 with a considerable number of students achieving one, or more than one goal in literacy and/or numeracy. Students will be bringing home their 'Kicking goals in literacy' and 'Kicking goals in numeracy' certificates to share their progress and achievements with parents/carers.

Communication Matters

It has been wonderful to see the progress students are making in communication. Teachers have been tracking students' progress on our whole school data mapping wall and have been sharing and collaborating

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with colleagues to ensure all students are known by all staff.

Wendy

Literacy and Numeracy Co-ordinator

Primary 7/Secondary 2

Students in Primary 7/Secondary 2 have had a great start to the Term. On Monday, we celebrated Education Week by watching the school video showcasing the learning at Lucas Gardens, as a class.

In English, we have been *Learning Together* about the experience of Anh Do by engaging with the book 'The Little Refugee'. This book is also linked to our geography units on 'Australia as a Nation', 'Migration' and 'The Asian World'. The students have really enjoyed looking at the illustrations showing what life in Vietnam and Australia looked like in the past.



Ruby and Sienna engaging with the book 'The Little Refugee' by Anh Do for Education Week

For visual arts, we have been looking at the work of Wassily Kandinsky. The students learned about what inspired his artwork, then created their own pieces of art based on

Kandinsky, which we will be using as book covers. It was wonderful observing the students create artwork that reflected the colours and shapes that they like.

Michelle and Nobuko



Amaan working on his Kandinsky inspired book cover

Primary 5

Primary 5 has had a great start to Term 3. The students would like to welcome Allison Scragg who is now teaching P5 every Monday and Friday. Students have enjoyed working with Allison to complete their learning activities. Thank you Allison for creating a fun and engaging learning environment in P5!

Students celebrated Education Week on Monday by viewing a school video, which highlighted the students *Learning Together*. This Term, students have continued *Learning Together* by working hard on their literacy and communication goals. In English, for literacy stations, students have been working on reading and identifying their sight words and symbols. For phonics, students are producing initial letter sounds with verbal prompting and identifying words and visuals that start with the focus initial letter sound for that week. During shared reading, students are developing their book skills and trying

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their best to read their sight words in texts. For handwriting, students have continued to work on their pencil grip while tracing or copying patterns, lines and letters. The students and staff in P5 would like to commend Joji for working extremely hard, as he is now independently writing his name. Well done Joji!



Joji writing his name!



Archie and Allison are Learning Together working on his book skills

For communication matters, students have been working towards their learning intentions. These are their individualised communication goals and success criteria to track the skills to support the achievement of the overall goal. Students in P5 would like to congratulate Ryle for achieving a success criteria as he is now able to independently

press the message window and listen to the voice input on Proloqu2go, using his iPad. Joji and Archie are working towards using 3 to 4 word sentences to make requests, comments and answer questions. Rhys is working towards expressing his feelings and requesting breaks or activities with the use of sentence strips.



Ryle and Rhys working on their communication matters learning intentions

Ayse, Allison and Grace

Library

Announcing that **Book Week 2020** will be held in **Week 2 Term 4!**
The theme is:



In library lessons, we have just about finished exploring the 2020 short listed books and have had a lot of fun following our character's adventures. Borrowing has also started this term and students will be borrowing every

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fortnight so please don't forget to send your child's library bag to school.

All students are looking forward to Book Week celebrations! Books are an important part of students developing lifelong literacy skills, they engage and foster creative thinking and enable students to learn and make sense of the world around them.

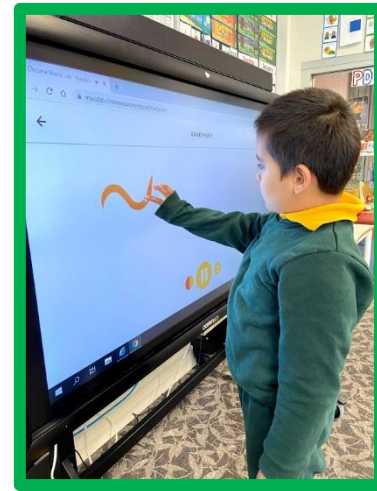


Book Week – the same amount of fun just different dates!

Georgia and Nicole

Primary 3

Primary 3 is off to a great start this term. The students have been **Learning Together** using technology to create music using different apps in Chrome Music Lab and performing for one another. They have also been having fun incorporating drama into English lessons and acting out scenes from Cinderella. In geography, students have been learning about families and different stages of life. We are looking forward to many new engaging learning activities this term.



Ethan creating music through art



Lilu acting out Cinderella trying on the glass slipper

Jess, Allison and Vicki

Primary 1

Class Primary 1 have been engaging in activities that promote **Learning Together** in celebration of Education Week. Students have been learning about food that is healthy and food that is not so healthy. We have been exploring object representations of different types of food and sticking on pictures to create a healthy plate of fruit and vegetables.

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Class Primary 1 Learning Together about healthy food

In English, we have been exploring poetry and listening to action songs and rhymes. We have been creating our own list poems too. This week, we created a poem called 'The Garden' by going on a learning and sensory walk to explore the school gardens. We enjoyed listening to sounds, smelling the different herbs and looking at the plants and flowers. We then returned to the classroom and selected visuals to create our poems. We look forward to sharing these with you.

In mathematics, we have been exploring the concepts of a whole and a half and have engaged in practical and sensory activities to support our understanding of these concepts.



Alexander and Eleanor exploring the features of the garden



Class Primary 1 on a learning walk

Julia and Dani

Primary 2

It has been a busy first few weeks of school for Primary 2, the students have enjoyed participating in a variety of learning activities and also continued to work on developing their communication skills.



Hermeslla counting forwards by 2's and making groups of 2

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To celebrate Education week, the students viewed a video demonstrating collaborative learning within Lucas Gardens.



Antonia and Massimo playing on the piano during music

For English this term, Primary 2 have been focusing on fairy tales. We have been ***Learning Together*** about the story 'The Three Little Pigs'. The students enjoyed reading the story and trying to repeat repetitive sentences for example, *I'll huff and I'll puff*. Furthermore, we have been working on identifying, creating and writing CVC words that rhyme.



Marcus writing CVC words

For mathematics this term, we have been learning about multiplication and division. We have been learning how to count forwards by 2's and making groups using different objects to help our counting skills.

We look forward to continuing ***Learning Together*** for the term.

Paul and Jenny D

Primary 4

Primary 4 have had a busy start to Term 3. We are ***Learning Together*** about products from farms and integrating this with English through compiling our own books based on 'Old MacDonald Had a Farm'. We have also started to collect seedlings to plant in our garden at school. In mathematics, we will be graphing the growth of our produce to use for our data collection. In visual arts, we have been inspired by Vincent van Gogh and have commenced our artwork inspired by 'The Starry Night'. This past Monday saw the commencement of Education Week and we watched the school video showcasing our learning at Lucas Gardens.



P4 Learning Together about farm produce in science



Alicia learning about numbers on Pyjama Day

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David choosing his photograph from a discriminator



Pierre and Denise Learning Together making 'equal groups' using healthy fruit

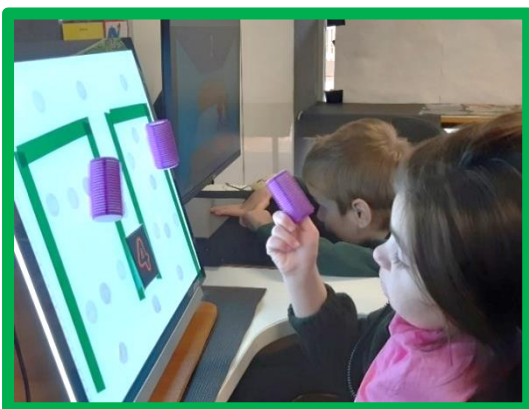
Jan and Zenab

Primary 6/Secondary 1

Welcome back! We started this term looking forward to showcasing our students to our families and wider school community, during Education Week. *Learning Together* is exciting, engaging and acknowledges how our students achieve their personal best when they are known, valued and cared for. Learning the same content looks different as various objects are used, making adjustments to motivate and engage students to learn.



Learning Together supports Hasna to stay engaged and on task



Learning Together provides Cara and Harry a sense of friendship and belonging

During English, students are viewing and listening to texts and exploring poetry such as Japanese Haiku. Haiku is a short three-line poem that usually follows a 5-7-5 syllable structure.

Diane and Denise

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Morgan and his peers showing how they are Learning Together



We also engaged in lots of class activities where we were **Learning Together**. In English, we have begun a new unit on 'Poetry and Texts from Other Countries and Times'. We began with a story called 'The Magic Paintbrush', by Julia Donaldson, which is based on a classic Chinese tale. S3 have focused on rhymes in the story and making our own rhymes. We listened together to the rhymes we could hear and found some the same.

Secondary 3

Secondary 3 have enjoyed being back at school after a relaxing holiday. For Education Week, the focus has been **Learning Together**. Our class gathered each morning and really enjoyed seeing all our friends and staff members across the school **Learning Together** in the school video. Andrew contributed by saying 'Hello' and "Warami" (Dharug for Welcome) to all his friends before the video.



Andrew greeting his friends in Dharug



'The Magic Paintbrush' by Julia Donaldson

In history, we thought about how people came to Australia from all over the world. We explored a world map as a group and pointed to places where our families were from, to share this knowledge with each other.

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***Pointing on the world map -
'Where are we from?'***

In science, we have been focusing on food technology as we shared our healthy eating practises by showing the group what we had in our lunchboxes.



Richard and Hadi showing everyone their healthy lunches and drinks!

Jen and Lisa

Secondary 4

Secondary 4 welcome you to Term 3! As we begin Semester 2, our Year 11 and 12 students begin a new subject called 'Society and Culture Life Skills'. This subject is part of the Human Society and its Environment

stream. This course provides opportunities for students to develop an understanding of themselves, their own society and culture, and the societies and cultures of others.

We began by conducting 'interviews' with our parents/carers and teachers about their cultural backgrounds. We've learnt things about Sehal's family and his Pakistani background, as well as more about Clare and her heritage and family from the Cook Islands. This is the perfect subject for S4 to explore how we are ***Learning Together***.

We also explored the flags that belong to our different cultures and used lightboxes and clear film to paint our own flags. Using a lightbox helps us to see and focus on the work that we are doing – plus it gives a very cool effect!



Sehal looking at the Pakistani flag

We look forward to learning more about each other this term.

Sian and Toula

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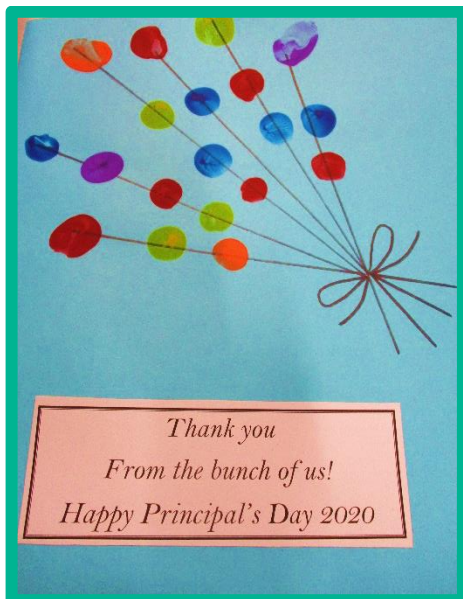
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Principal's Day

Today we honoured and recognised our school leader, Jenny Zagas, as part of our Principal's Day celebrations. On this day we take time to reflect on the value

of great leadership. The events of this year have tested many leaders and our school community recognise this and appreciate the strong leadership Jenny has provided. Jenny leads with authenticity and heart, making decisions that place the requirements of our students at the forefront of all we do. Jenny's leadership and collaboration with staff, students, families and the school community is why Lucas Gardens School is a leading special education setting. Students presented Jenny with a special handmade card, staff gave Jenny a personalised book reflecting on her leadership and the P&C surprised her with a special delivery of beautiful phalaenopsis orchids and more. Our school sign visibly heralded Jenny's leadership to our community as part of the celebrations. Congratulations Jenny!



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