



# Lucas Gardens School

***Celebrating Ability Through High Expectations***

Cnr Queens Road & Walker Street Canada Bay NSW 2046

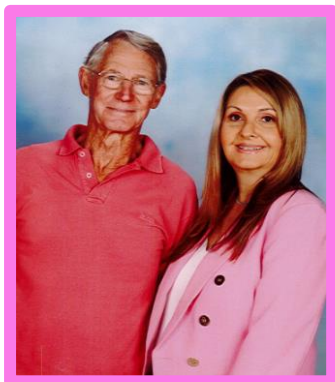
Ph: 9744 6461 Fx: 9744 1705 Email: lucasgarde-s.school@det.nsw.edu.au

26 November 2021

## Dates for Your Diary

Thursday 16 December – Last Day of Term 4

Tuesday 1 February – First Day of Term 1 2022



***Thank you Don!***

## Principal's Message

What an unprecedented year we have had! As a school community we have pulled together and united to ensure safety, continuity of learning and a focus on wellbeing for all. During these challenging times, our students have been at the forefront of all of our decisions, and I would like to wholeheartedly thank the amazing staff at Lucas Gardens School who played instrumental roles in meeting the various challenges. Students and staff seamlessly transitioned from face-to-face learning to remote learning and then back to face-to-face. Everyone demonstrated resilience, commitment, and dedication to providing outstanding teaching and learning for our students.

Our school-based therapists continued throughout the year supporting students,

staff, and families. Thank you Jess, Hayley, Victoria, and Sarah.

Unfortunately, Presentation and Graduation Days will look slightly different this year with parents/carers and special guests unable to be onsite, however, students will still receive their certificates and special awards. Thank you for understanding that this year we have to prioritise safety and adhere to regulations.

The senior students are organising a whole school disco to acknowledge our 2021 school captains Clare and Sehal. I wish them both all the best as they venture into post school options. Staff will take photos to share this occasion with you.

My sincere thanks to outgoing P&C President, Regina Ashdown, for her leadership and congratulations to Mona Joseph on being elected as P&C President for next year. I look forward to working with all committee members in 2022.

Finally, I would like to thank our wonderful General Assistant known as *Mr fix it*, Don, who will be retiring at the end of the year. Don has been part of our school for 16 plus years and we will greatly miss his creativity, sense of humour and most importantly for the way he makes our school look spick and span as well as safe! We wish him well as he sails into the sunset and the next exciting chapter of his life with our very best wishes.

Wishing you all a safe, relaxing, and enjoyable summer break.

Kind regards

**Jenny Zagaz**



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***Thank you to the P&C and SASS staff for making our teachers feel special on World Teacher's Day***

## **P&C President's Report**

My name is Mona Joseph and I am the mother of Isaac Israel. My son is in Year 9 this year and I have been part of this wonderful school community for the past 11 years.

It is both an honour and a privilege to be elected as the P&C President for 2022. The P&C is made up of supportive parents and carers of students at Lucas Gardens School. Our mission is to work with the school and help raise much needed funds to further enhance the teaching and learning programs.

Currently with the continual support of Canada Bay Council, we are fundraising to enhance the established Yarning Circle. The school is keen to explore and educate our school community to promote cultural awareness and sensitivity and foster inclusion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Regina Ashdown for her leadership and hard work as the previous president and hope as the new president I can follow in her footsteps and lead the team into further success for our school and our students.

I look forward to this unique opportunity and as in the past, look forward to your continued support.

Regards

**Mona Joseph**

## **World Teacher's Day**

On Friday 29 October our teaching staff were treated to acknowledge our work on *World Teacher's Day*. On behalf of the teaching staff I would like to say a huge thank you to our very supportive P&C for the delicious cupcakes! Also, a big thanks to our amazing SASS staff for the bag of treats given on the



day. It was a lovely acknowledgement after some challenging times this year!

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## From the Teaching Staff

The Lions Club *Mobility Supports Funding Lecture* presented by Greg English, will detail what the Lions Club is funding – mobility and standing solutions, who is eligible and how to access it.

**Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2021**

5-6pm Zoom Please email Cara at Full Potential Physiotherapy [cara@fppphysio.com](mailto:cara@fppphysio.com) to obtain the Zoom link details. Healthcare workers are also encouraged to attend.

## Primary 7/Secondary 1

Students have been working well across all key learning activities since returning to school. In mathematics, they have continued learning about numbers by ordering numbers from highest to lowest, identifying numbers, interacting with numbers on the lightbox and engaging in cause-and-effect games using technology. Students have also been working well in mathematics on position. They listened to instructions on where to place items, using paper-based activities and Seesaw, with the support of the teacher.

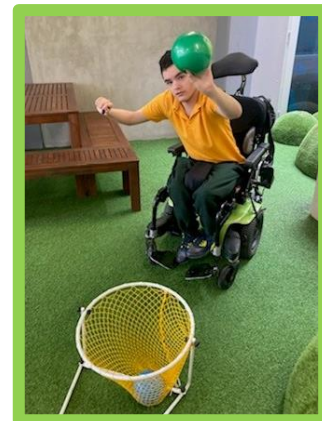
In physical education, students have continued playing a variety of ball games, such as basketball, which they have really enjoyed.



***Cara engaging in position activities for mathematics***

In visual arts, students completed a class art piece for *Remembrance Day* and created their own piece of art inspired by the artist Vincent van Gogh.

We are looking forward to some more great learning for the remainder of the year.



***Jayson playing some ball games for physical education***



***Juliette appreciating artwork inspired by Vincent van Gogh***

**Michelle and Vicki**

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## Primary 4

Students really enjoyed returning to school and have settled back into their school routine very well.

In science this term, we are learning about Earth and Space. Using practical activities, we have investigated the interaction between the Earth and the sun, and how the Earth's rotation can cause regular changes, such as day and night.



***Lily learning about day and night using the torch to represent the sun***

In history, we have continued investigating elements of Aboriginal culture such as exploring native foods. Students learnt about bushfood by participating in *hands on* activities such as baking our own bush bread.



***Becki mixing the dry ingredients of our bush bread***

We are very lucky to have weekly sessions with our school-based occupational therapist,

Sarah. Continuing with the Zones of Regulation framework, Sarah has helped the students of Primary 4 explore different activities to help them stay in the 'green zone.'



***Antonia doing activities on the medicine ball***

We are very honoured to have each and every one of you in Primary 4 this year! What an amazing year we have had! Thank you.

## Nicole and Bree

## Primary 3

We can't believe that the term is already coming to an end. We would like to congratulate Primary 3 for all their hard work and readiness to learn, despite some changes. I would like to also thank all the parents once again for their hard work and their support.

In English, students explored a variety of texts written by Australian authors. They engaged and explored the illustrations and created simple sentences to share what they could see or remember and if they liked the story.

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***Ethan creating a sentence by selecting and matching visuals***

For PDHPE, students continued to focus on looking after themselves. This includes identifying healthy foods, personal hygiene such as washing our hands, and sun safety. They continued to engage in PBL and Zones of Regulation activities to be safe, be respectful and be ready to learn.



***Hermeslla learning about the importance of wearing a hat while playing outside***

Despite all the changes, Primary 3 continued to grow and learn. We are very proud and enjoyed working with all students. It has been a great privilege to be their teacher this year.

## **Paul and Belinda**

### **Primary 2**

This year has gone so fast, and we would like to commend Primary 2 students for such amazing work throughout the year. Students

have shown amazing progress in their goals despite the challenges presented.

In PDHPE, students have shown progress in understanding the Zones of Regulation, particularly with their focus on the colours or textures associated with the zones. Our students now respond well to the use of their own tools to calm and get into the green zone, which is helping them achieve their learning goals.



***Sophia getting into the green zone with Sandy!***



***Alexander is happy (in the green zone) to be at school!***

In English, we have continued working on sight words, with a particular focus on words, gestures and symbols used within our communication systems. It is great to see all students letting us know when they want 'more', are 'finished' an activity or indicating whether they like an activity by looking to 'yes' and smiling! These activities have all

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supported our students to make progress with their communication goals.



***Archie indicated 'yes' using his head-switch to say he wants more Wiggles!***



***Karim loves using the switch to request 'more' games and to answer questions***

It has been such a pleasure teaching Primary 2 this year and seeing students develop and become more confident learners. We are excited to see how our students continue to grow in the coming years. Many thanks to our supportive families over the year and we wish you a very happy festive season!

**Jen, Sandy, and Denise**

## **Primary 6**

Primary 6 are getting back into the rhythm of coming to school each day. This term, we have been enjoying playing a variety of games for PDHPE. We have been learning to listen to the rules of the game and then waiting for our turn. Games enjoyed this term include hitting a balloon and keeping it in the

air for as long as possible, hitting a ball with a pool noodle at a target, and running and hitting a ball at the same time. It has been wonderful to see students' skills improving and to see them enjoy playing a game together.

In science, we have been exploring Earth and Space. We have studied what moves and what stays the same. Students have identified that the moon and clouds are things that move. We have explored the planets and set up a galaxy in the nook of Primary 6's classroom using coloured lights. Students had great fun making telescopes and looking at the stars on the ceiling.

Primary 6 are looking forward to lots more learning in the last weeks of term, and a well deserved break at home with family!



***Joji displaying his ball skills***



***Hasna exploring the planets***

**Julia and Josh**

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## Secondary 3

Sid the Seagull regularly visits our classroom to support the PDHPE program to be safe in the sun and Slip, Slop, Slap, Seek and Slide. Staying healthy and safe is practised and encouraged at school by slapping on a hat in the playground and seeking shade, regular hand washing and daily personal hygiene activities. Daily physical activities keep everyone busy either dancing, playing ball games, exploring the garden, orienteering or exercises.



**Secondary 3 slipping on hats**

The most recent special event was *Remembrance Day*, where students used a variety of skills to create artwork and relate to the prose, *In Flanders Fields*.



**Sienna's artwork for Remembrance Day**

We wish all families a wonderful summer break during which time students can put into place the life skills practised at school.

## Allison and Nobuko

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## Primary 5

We are reaching the end of the year and the students in P5 are still busy with their learning. Students are enjoying reading and touching our tactile books on Australian animals. We have finished composing our own information book on the Quokka. In sport the students have been playing with different ball games and deciding if they like them. It looks like bowling is popular with our class.



**Marta reacting to the redback spider in our book**

In mathematics, students are learning about time and contributed to making their routine timetable. We looked at different activities that we do during different times of the day. Students responded well to eating and feeding time. We have also been engaging with learning about positions. Students are having fun finding their toys and placing them in different positions.



**Eleanor and David trying to make the balloon go 'up'**

We have been very *hands on* with our visual arts activity learning about the artist Joseph Villanueva. Students chose nice, bright colours for their artworks and had fun using the sponge to imprint shapes onto it. For *Remembrance Day* this year, students helped scrunch up some tissue paper to make poppies for our wreath.



***Emmarisa holding our finished poppy wreath***

P5 would like to thank everyone for the year's efforts and wish everyone a safe and relaxing break.

**Vicki N and Toula**

## **Secondary 2**

What a year it's been in Secondary 2! Seeing the growth of our class through all the challenges in 2021 has been a spectacular honour, and we are extremely proud of what everyone has achieved.

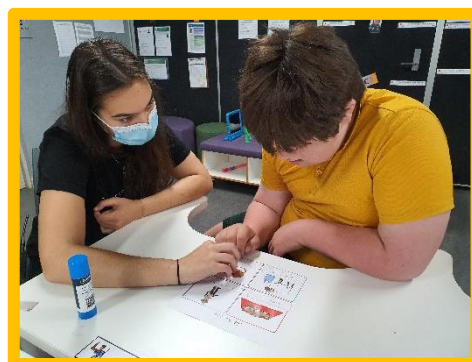
As the year is ending, we haven't slowed down at all in our class, and recently have been enjoying "tech-free" afternoons as part of our PDHPE program and focus on healthy lifestyles. Students engage in the Zones of Regulation and pick sensory activities to

accompany mindful practices. Safe to say, the bubbles remain a big hit!



***Tjanara enjoying bubbles to support her sensory regulation***

In English, we have had an increasing focus on sight words to support text decoding. Not only have students focused on their ability to identify these words, they have also worked hard to develop essential word-image associations.



***Benito identifying sight words with Bella***

Well done everyone in Secondary 2 on such an amazing year! Enjoy the well-deserved break and we look forward to seeing everyone refreshed next year!

**Richard and Grace**

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## Secondary 4

In our last newsletter for the year, Secondary 4 would like to say a huge congratulations to Clare and Sehal who are graduating this year.



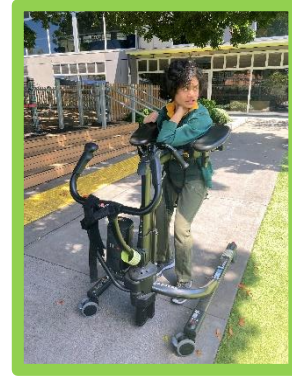
***Sehal doing some work with his teacher when he was younger***

It has been an absolute pleasure to have been Clare and Sehal's teacher for the past two years. It has been incredible to see how much they have grown and to see the goals they have achieved during their time here at Lucas Gardens School. We are so proud of you and wish you all the best for your life after school.



***A young Clare having fun on the swing!***

We will have a great time celebrating together at the graduation disco here at school on Friday 14 December. There will be lots of dancing and lots of Taylor Swift playing!



***Clare walking to do some errands at school in her Rifton Tram***

Zenab and I hope you have a great holiday and that you get lots of rest, ready to take on everything that 2022 has to offer!



***Sehal identifies the number two during a mathematics activity***

**Sian and Zenab**

## Primary 8

Students in Primary 8 have been hard at work settling back into classroom routines. In mathematics this term, we are focusing on data collection, learning to give information about ourselves and others and tracking the weather each day to collect data about the environment around us. We have also continued working on our counting skills and making groups.

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***Christian making groups of counters***

In English this term, we have continued to build our reading and writing skills using factual texts and stories by Australian authors.

In history, we have been learning about families and events past and present in Australia. We had a class assembly for *Remembrance Day* and we each painted poppies to make a wreath. As we near the end of the year we are looking forward to engaging in more fun learning activities.



***Mahir with our Remembrance Day wreath***

**Allison and Lisa**

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COVID-19



Check in



Wash



Test

**I still check in wherever I go.**

**> HELP NSW STAY COVID SAFE**

For COVID safe information visit [nsw.gov.au](https://nsw.gov.au)



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