

Lucas Gardens School

Celebrating Ability Through High Expectations

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3 September 2021

Dates for Your Diary

Friday 17 September – Last day Term 3

Tuesday 5 October – First day Term 4

Principal's Award



***Hadi for his ongoing commitment to learning
and engagement in learning activities from
home***

Principal's Message

It has been my privilege to relieve in the role as Principal this term whilst Jenny Zagaz has been relieving at another school within our network.

Firstly, I would like to thank our school community for their support and for working with us during these challenging times. I am extremely proud of our students and their engagement in learning, whether this be remotely or onsite, in circumstances that are very different from their usual routines and practices.

Teachers continue to provide quality learning experiences to students, and I acknowledge the significant role that parents/carers are

playing in supporting our students with their learning. Please do not hesitate to reach out to your child's class teacher or to the school if there is anything you require to support you during this time. The Department of Education is working on a roadmap for return to school and I hope to be able to provide you with more details about what this will look like at Lucas Gardens in the next few weeks.

During these times it is important to consider the wellbeing of our students. During Week 9 students will participate in 'Wellbeing Wednesday' where they will engage in a variety of activities to support positive wellbeing. Class teachers will share activities with parents/carers through the usual channels.

In the past few weeks, there have been some notable calendar events including *Science Week* where students engaged in fun and exciting experiments based on the theme 'Food: Different by Design.' *Book Week* was another highlight and photos featured in this newsletter depict student engagement in reading and *Book Week* activities across the school.

I would like to acknowledge and thank all of our SASS as we celebrate *SASS Week*, recognising the significant role that our School Learning Support Officers, Administration Staff and our General Assistant play in supporting the smooth and effective operations of our school. We are fortunate to have such a dedicated and committed team working with us to support our students and their learning.

Stay safe everyone.

Kind regards

Wendy du Plessis

Relieving Principal

Principal's Day

Principals' Day, on Friday 6 August, was a wonderful opportunity for us to acknowledge the invaluable contribution that both Jenny and Wendy bring to Lucas Gardens School and the significant impact they have on students, staff and the wider community.

Lucas Gardens School is fortunate to have a dedicated Principal in Jenny, as well as a team of skilled Assistant Principals. Of course, Jenny's expertise is well known to all, and most of our school community are also aware that Wendy has been stepping into the Relieving Principal position on a regular basis, bringing her considerable experience and knowledge of our students to the role.

For some time, all leaders have been facing the extraordinary and unprecedented challenge of COVID-19, that has impacted our daily lives. The 'curved ball' of COVID-19 has not fazed Jenny and Wendy, instead they have responded with agility, detailed planning and a strength that has created a sense of calm collaboration and reassurance.

Jenny is skilled at articulating her vision with the ability to inspire others to work together to achieve greater goals, for the benefit of our students. And Wendy is known for her work ethic and her innate ability to consider things from all perspectives, to bring about positive change and continuous improvement.

I would also like to congratulate and acknowledge Assistant Principals, Michelle and Richard for their considerable input. Amongst many other things, Michelle is our

resident health and safety guru and NDIS coordinator, whilst Richard is our 'in house' IT specialist and experienced behaviour expert.

We are fortunate to have a leadership team whose complimentary skills and shared vision provides our students with a strong educational foundation. I know that staff and parents/carers alike appreciate the guidance and validation that our leadership team provide, underpinned by a culture of inclusivity and high expectations.

Congratulations and bravo Jenny, Wendy, Michelle and Richard!

Vanessa Mallin
Business Manager

Contact Details for Parents/Carers

It is crucial that the school has your latest contact details on file.

All contact details, including your address, email and phone numbers are important, however, in the current circumstances your mobile phone number and email address are especially important.

If any of your contact details have changed or change in the future, as a matter of priority, please email the school on lucasgarde-s.school@det.nsw.edu.au to notify us.

Thank you for your assistance with this.

Primary 8

Students in Primary 8 have enjoyed learning activities based on National Science Week, CBCA Book Week and the Paralympic Games over the last few weeks. They had opportunities to engage in science

Be Safe

Be Respectful

Be a Learner

experiments with food by making mixtures and observing chemical reactions that happen when some food products are combined. Students celebrated their favourite books through shared reading activities and by creating artworks and 'dressing up' to explore characters. They participated in some Paralympic sports and looked at how the Paralympic Games have changed over time. Students have also been practising ways to demonstrate safe behaviours in the community with a focus on road safety for PDH.



Massimo identifying people who can help him be safe in the community

Thank you to students and families for your efforts and resilience this term. We look forward to seeing everybody back at school soon.

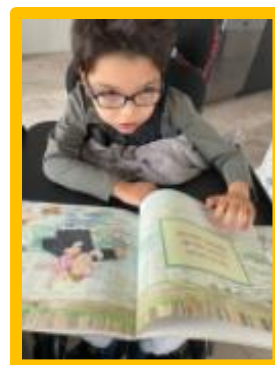
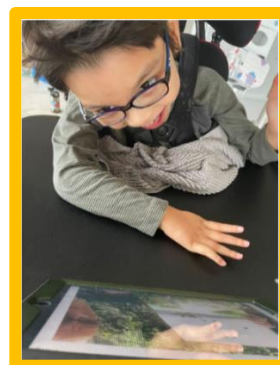


Christian selecting events from a story

Allison and Lisa

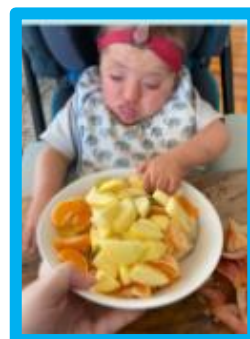
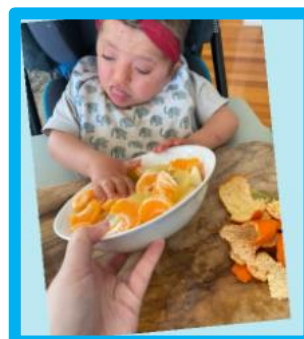
Primary 2

Students have continued to show that they are working very hard at home with a variety of special activities for Science Week, 'Food-Different by Design', and for Book Week as well. We have been learning about the expectations for 'Be A Learner' this term and all students have been doing their 'Work First' and 'Good Work' in the past few weeks!



Archie loved listening to Jen read a story and looking at books during Book Week

For Science Week, students really enjoyed listening to the Wiggles 'Fruit Salad' and then making their own fruit salads, exploring the feel and smell of different fruits that they wanted to add. They also enjoyed mixing materials and engaged in some fun experiments at home! For Book Week, students enjoyed reading and listening to many different stories. Some of these read by favourite authors, and some read by Jen! It was great to see how engaged the students were in the stories and the related activities.



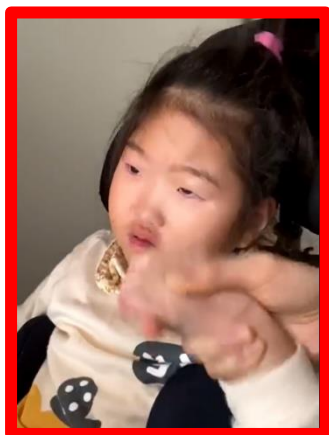
Alexander exploring ingredients he likes for his fruit salad

Be Safe

Be Respectful

Be a Learner

In PDHPE this term, we have been exploring dance by moving our arms and legs in different ways and performing movements such as twist, shake, forwards and backwards. Everyone has enjoyed dancing at home and 'working together' to perform the movements, well done everyone. Wishing everyone a safe and relaxing end of term.



Sophia enjoyed moving her arms and shaking during dance



Jen, Sandy and Denise

Primary 6

Students have continued learning from both home and school. Students have been making great use of technology to keep in contact with their teachers and engage with learning in an interactive way, via Seesaw.

Whilst we are learning from home, we have still marked important events. In Week 7 we celebrated Science Week. The theme of Science Week was Food: Different by Design. Students engaged in 'hands on' science activities at home and school relating to food production and food technology.

Students planted seeds, explored milk production, and made fruit salad.

We also celebrated Book Week by reading great books from Australian authors. Our librarian, Georgia, posted some great activities and books for students to read and enjoy during Book Week. Students have been learning to sequence a story and identify what comes first, next, then and last.

Josh and I would like to thank students for being so flexible with learning this term. A big thank you as well to parents, grandparents, siblings, and carers for the wonderful support you have given students this term to continue learning from home, it is very much appreciated.



Joji creating his Picasso Cow, a science week artwork

Julia and Josh

Primary 4

Despite the changes, students of Primary 4 continued to engage with their learning whether it be at home or at school. Thank you to all the families and staff for your continued efforts in supporting students with their learning.

Be Safe

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Be a Learner

Our focus for mathematics this term is money. Students engaged with real objects and interactive activities on Seesaw to help them identify and sort Australian coins and bank notes.



Trung matched Australian coins and banknotes using the Seesaw class app

We celebrated Book Week last week! The theme for this year's Book Week was *Old Worlds, New Worlds, Other Worlds*. Students celebrated by participating in Seesaw activities, dressing up as their favourite characters, learning more about Australian authors and reading their favourite books with their family members.



Lily with her favourite book

Have a restful and safe school holidays!



Becki exploring Australian coins through her senses

Nicole and Bree

Primary 7/Secondary 1

Students have continued to work hard on a variety of activities during learning from home. They have been engaging with morning circle activities, during which students have been able to identify what zone they are in, from the Zones of Regulation. It has been wonderful to see that students have been feeling happy when engaging in different activities throughout the day. Students completed different activities to celebrate Book Week. For one of these activities, they listened to a story called *Moonwalkers*, by Mark Greenwood, around the theme *Old Worlds, New Worlds, Other Worlds*.

Be Safe

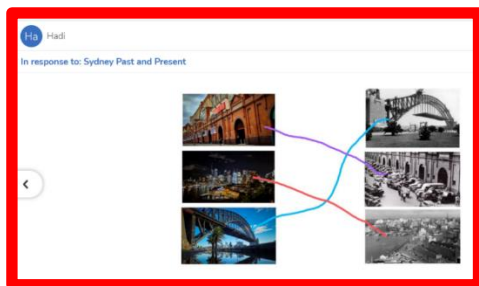
Be Respectful

Be a Learner



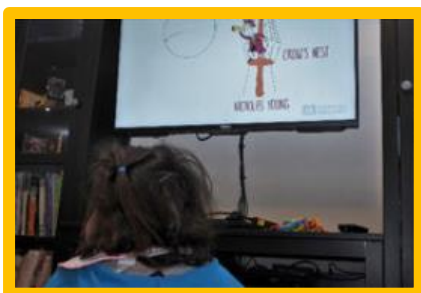
Richard interacting with a morning circle activity

Students learnt more about Australian history by identifying and matching past and present photographs from Sydney. They really engaged well in this activity, and it was pleasing to see how students were able to match landscapes from then and now.



Hadi matched pictures for history while exploring past and present for Sydney

Students have been engaging with different art activities for Australian art. Students explored how different techniques, for example, pouring paint, can be used to create unique artworks, such as the artworks by Dinah Wakefield.



Cara engaging with a history activity for past and present Australia

I am looking forward to sharing in some more learning activities for the remainder of the term.

Michelle and Vicki

Primary 3

Another term is almost coming to an end. Primary 3 have continued to work hard at home and at school. I would like to once again thank all the parents and carers who have been working extra hard to support students.

To celebrate Book Week, Primary 3 explored a variety of texts and participated in different activities at school and on Seesaw.

For mathematics this term, students have been learning to share and make equal groups. Everyone has been completing great work, sharing different objects into equal groups based on their colours or shapes.



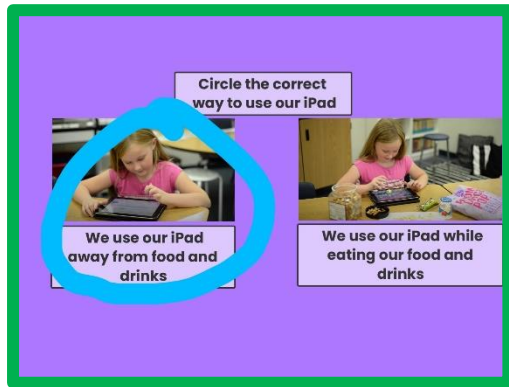
Harriet making groups based on the objects colour

For science this term, we have been learning about digital technologies. Identifying different parts and how to use the different forms of technologies. This week we have been learning about how we can use our iPad safely and appropriately.

Be Safe

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Be a Learner



Student work example

We hope everyone stays safe and hope to see everyone soon.

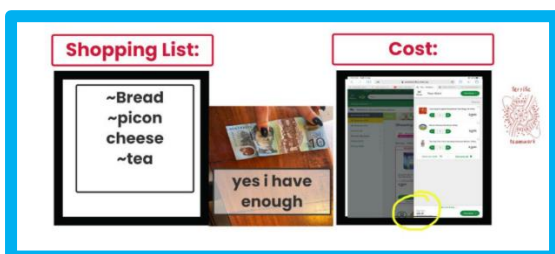
Paul, Belinda and Dennis

Secondary 4

Hello to everyone who is learning from home and learning at school!

Secondary 4 is doing some incredible work through our online learning platform, Seesaw. The best part of my day is logging on to Seesaw and seeing all the amazing work that students and their parents, carers and siblings are doing together.

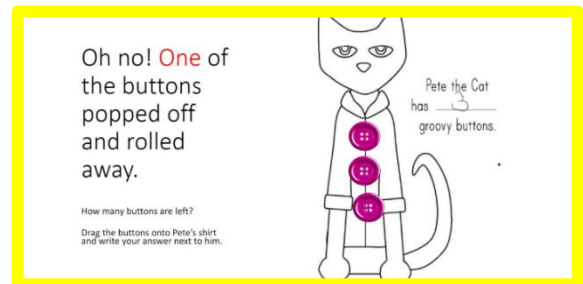
One of the subjects that we are studying this term is mathematics, and we have had lots of fun learning all the coins and notes, as well as writing shopping lists, and thinking about what we might buy if we won the lottery!



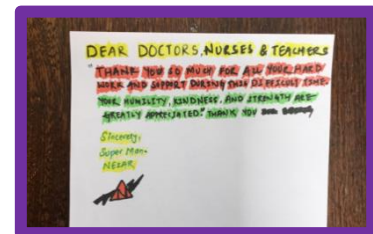
This is Mariam's shopping list – does she have enough money? Yes, she does!

We have also been practising addition and subtraction. We've used some amazing

resources from ABC Education to help us too! Last week, we had fun taking away the buttons on Pete the Cat's shirt after listening to the story, *Pete the Cat and his Four Groovy Buttons*.



Clare worked out that Pete only had 3 buttons left!



Nezar wrote a thank you letter to all the doctors, nurses and teachers who are working so hard right now

But most importantly, we are remembering to look after our wellbeing. It is such a topsy-turvy time for us all, and we have to make sure we take the time to do the things that make us happy and take a moment to think about everything we are grateful for.

Until next time, take care of each other and stay safe!

Sian and Zenab

Primary 5

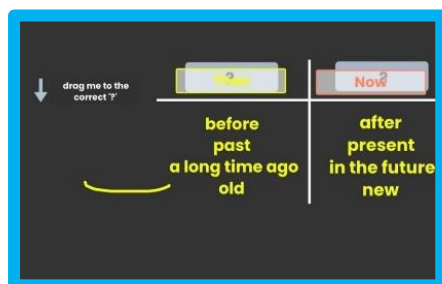
We have been busy this term! We celebrated and learnt about the Olympics and the Paralympics. We also did some fun food experiments for Science Week and had a chance to listen and read to award winning

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Be Respectful

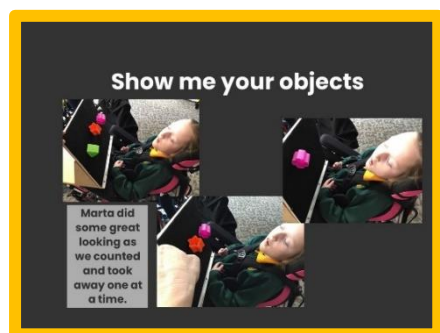
Be a Learner

books for Book Week. This term in history, we also have been looking and comparing the past and present. We looked at how we have changed, how Lucas Gardens has changed, and how Australia has changed.



Cooper's history work sample on Seesaw

In mathematics, we have been looking at Australian money. We have listened to songs about the features and value of the Australian coins and notes. Some other activities include shading on top of the coin to reveal the pictures and putting together a jigsaw puzzle of a note. Students have also been trying their best at addition and subtraction. They enjoy adding and taking away objects from a group.

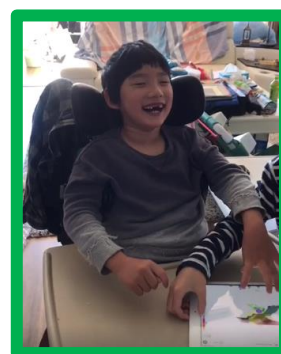


Marta looking at a group of objects



Eleanor taking objects away for subtraction

We can't wait to learn together with everyone and hope you and your family are staying safe!



David enjoying his learning with his family

Vicki and Toula

Secondary 3

Learning from home has provided students with opportunities to engage in a wide variety of learning activities, especially life skills, stories, games, and online tasks.

Using Seesaw encourages student independence through their interaction with their devices, providing both valuable and enjoyable learning. Nobuko and I like to see the amazing videos of students dancing and making things in the kitchen. It's especially nice to see them express their ideas, give us a wave or a lovely 'Hi'.



Ashan - The story of 'The Green Apple Bird' on video

iPads and the function of how to use these. Students have been taking a range of pictures from items around the house and learning different forms of technology.

Students have also been working on different letters of the alphabet and learning to trace, write, say and find objects that start with a beginning letter or sound.

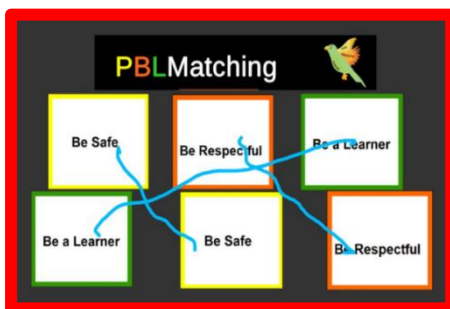


Ruby's Library – Australian Author study



Alicia tracing letters

We celebrated Book Week and students engaged in a range of activities from reading books, colouring pictures and 'dressing up' as their favourite Book Week character. We also used seesaw for fun Book Week activities.



Positive Behaviour for Learning

Please continue to interact with the materials and watch the videos we make for you all.

Allison and Nobuko

Jessica and Dani

Secondary 2

What a term it's been! Our families have done an amazing job of continuing with learning from home, and the class have engaged and applied themselves exceptionally well.

Primary 1

Students have been working on different forms of technology including cameras and

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Be a Learner



Tjanara completing a Seesaw activity

This Term, we have focused on learning about money and how we can use it to purchase essential items in our lives. The class have been completing Seesaw activities to replicate combining notes and coins necessary to make a purchase of groceries and other items. It has been wonderful to see how well students have adapted to completing their learning on the iPads and the independence they have demonstrated in doing so!



William matching coins

As we reach the last few weeks of Term, we will be focusing on wellbeing, with our wellbeing Wednesdays, where we ask families to take some time and complete some fun, yet functional activities together. Please enjoy these, and make sure you share with us all that you get up to! We hope

you have a restful break and look forward to seeing everyone when we return to face-to-face learning.

Richard and Grace

Premier's Reading Challenge

Lucas Gardens School students have been able to attend all library lessons, both at school and at home. We have officially completed the 2021 Premier's Reading Challenge. Certificates will be given out late Term 4 to successful students. I look forward to being able to present these certificates to students in person.

Library - Book Week

Last week, the whole school celebrated Book Week and the theme *Old Worlds, New Worlds, Other Worlds*. As part of their library program, students explored the 2021 shortlist categories:

- *Picture Book of the Year and*
- *Early Childhood Book of the Year.*

We were excited to find out that the following were the winning books:

No! Never! by Mel Pearce

How to Make a Bird by Matt Ottley & Meg McKinlay

This Small Blue Dot by Zeno Swords.

Staff enjoyed the photos flooding in from library lessons last week and were pleased that students were able to celebrate the joy of reading.



Georgia

Librarian

Be Safe

Be Respectful

Be a Learner

Book Week Gallery

