



Lucas Gardens School

Celebrating Ability Through High Expectations

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25 March 2022

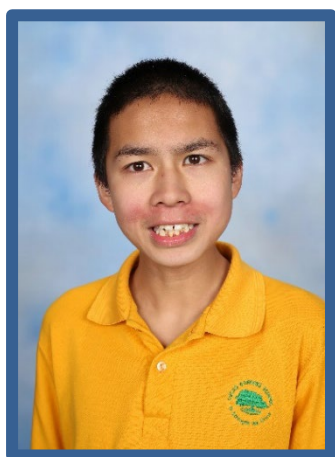
Dates for Your Diary

30 March – K-2 Easter Parade

8 April – Last day of Term 1

27 April – First day of Term 2

Principal's Award



William for moving safely around the school

Principal's Message

This year, a special milestone will be in April when I reflect on ten years since I began leading this amazing school and its community. It is an honour and privilege, and I am grateful every day that I work with a community whose values align with my own, to enhance the outcomes of all students.

Starting as a new principal can be very daunting as you are an unknown entity and have yet to share your vision. In 2012, when I was asked about my vision for the school I

stated, "I want Lucas Gardens School to be a centre of excellence in special education." I remain committed to this tenant and know that it is shared and embraced by staff and the wider community.

We were extremely fortunate in 2015 when we were granted a rebuild of the original school.

A state-of-the-art facility was built; however, I believe that what happens inside the walls is what really makes the difference. I am truly blessed to have outstanding staff in the leadership team, administration team, teachers, school learning support officers, and general assistant. Together, we have made this school a centre of excellence.

I would wholeheartedly like to acknowledge and thank the wider community for their generous donations throughout the years, and for trusting my leadership to provide enhanced resources that have benefited and supported our students.

Finally, a sincere thank you to all the parents/carers for the strong and effective partnership we have created between home and school. As they say.....

*It takes a
village to
raise a child....*



Be Safe

Be Respectful

Be a Learner

For a trip down *memory lane*, I have included some photos of a few students from 2012 and now. It has been so inspiring to witness their many achievements and growth over the last ten years.

I look forward to continuing to serve this wonderful school community.

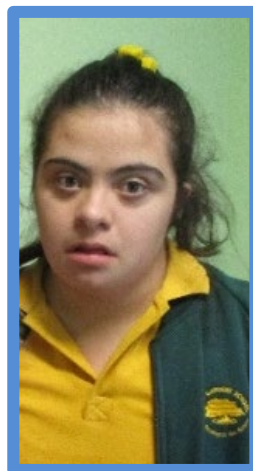
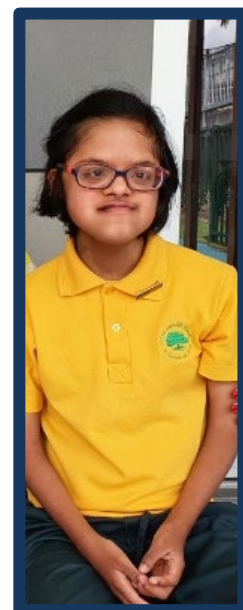
Kind regards

Jenny Zagas



2022 - Now

2012 - Then



International Woman's Day (IWD)

Imagine a gender equal world! Gender equity is essential for economic prosperity and makes the society will live in safer and healthier.

The theme for this year's IWD *#Break the Bias*, touched on this idea with some practical

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solutions including celebrating women's achievements, raising awareness against bias and taking action for equality.

Driving gender parity, which is a human right, is paramount and will occur through the collective actions of all genders.

We promoted IWD and all that it represents on Tuesday 8 March, by wearing purple ribbons and providing them to all school visitors. This provided all genders with an opportunity to engage in dialogue and empower women to retain and advance their voices to bring about true gender equity. Thank you to all staff for participating in this important initiative.



Vanessa

Primary 8

Students have been very busy engaging in different learning experiences.

In mathematics, students have been consolidating their understanding by participating in individual numeracy activities which focused on whole numbers. These activities were designed to suit their level and abilities. Students also worked on recognising different patterns in our environment and participated in 'hands-on' activities to help them understand the concept of repeating patterns.



Archie completing the pattern on his caterpillar artwork

In visual arts, students have been engaging in a variety of artmaking activities such as looking at complimentary colours, lines, circles and texture. They have created different artworks using a range of mediums, including chalk, paints, food dyes, coloured pencils and pastels.



Marcus using food dyes to paint a butterfly

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We would like to congratulate all the students who received a Marlee award this Term. Well done on following the PBL rules and expectations.

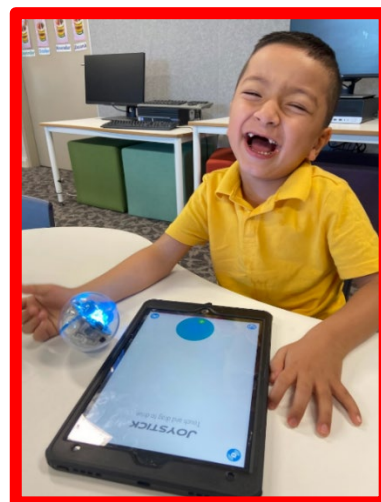
Nicole & Angela

Primary 1

Hello from Primary 1! We have been very busy over the past few weeks, engaging in lots of fun learning activities. In geography, we have been learning about people and places, exploring different areas in our school. We have focused on identifying pictures of places and making maps of our school and classroom.

In science, we have been investigating different ways to play with toys by pushing, pulling, stacking and rolling. We have been exploring how to make loud and soft sounds with different toys and instruments and how to make different robots move. We have used Sphero robots, Ozobots and Beebots to connect our learning in science to our mathematics topic about position, by moving the robots in different directions and into different positions. We have also had fun learning how to program the robots to trace letters and numbers.

We can't wait to see what exciting learning experiences are coming up in the next few weeks as we wrap up this Term.



Rhythm exploring how to make a Sphero robot move using the iPad



Leonor investigating how to make loud and soft sounds with a xylophone

Allison & Anna

Visual Arts Program

This Term for Release from Face-to-Face teaching, we taught visual arts across the school to develop students' understanding of the elements of art. Students engaged in a variety of artmaking activities, where they looked at complimentary colours, lines, mixing primary colours, colourful circles, and texture. Students created artworks using a range of mediums, including chalk, paints,

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felt markers, poster paints, food dyes, coloured pencils and oil pastels.

Students particularly enjoyed learning about mixing primary colours, where they were able to see firsthand how colours were created by mixing two colours. This was most evident using food dyes and paper towels.



Ethan seeing how new colours are created by mixing primary colours



Antonia engaging in an artmaking activity looking at complimentary colours

Secondary 4

This Term, students have engaged in a Friday music program with a focus on traditional indigenous music, exploring a variety of musical instruments with Michael from *The Rhythm Village*.

In mathematics, students have been increasing their knowledge of *Australian money* through 'hands on' sorting, matching, identifying notes and coins with sensory based activities to support learning and by using online technology applications.

Our topic for geography is *Place and Liveability*, with students investigating the different places people live. Students have enjoyed discovering the different features and characteristics each place *city* and *country* has to offer.

In PDHPE, we have been learning about Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL), focusing on the different ways we can stay **safe** at school. Students have been learning about the 'zones of regulation' with a focus on the ways we can stay calm, happy and ready for learning.



Morgan learning about how to play the guitar during his music lesson

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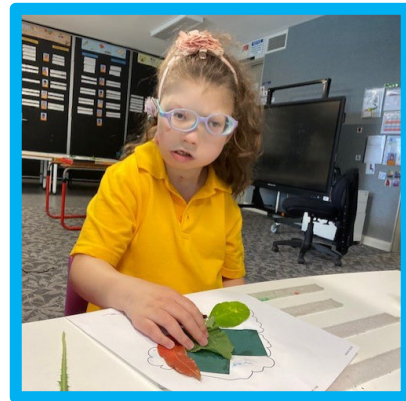
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Isaac using an indigenous drum to play along with the song "Taba Naba"

engaged in looking at pictures and matching them to relevant information.



Lily is making her tree for the orangutan's habitat

Kristine and Vicki

Primary 4

Students have had such a fun time this term. They were excited when Rhythm Village started again with the music program. Students have been listening to Aboriginal songs and have been working on some hand actions to go with the songs.



Mahir enjoying playing the drum

For geography, the topic has been 'Sustainability'. Students have been learning about the orangutan in Borneo. We have looked at the effects on their habitat due to deforestation and mining. Students are

As part of PBL, this Term we are looking at 'Be **Safe**'. This includes being safe around the school. Students have been learning to move safely and how to play safely with some of the equipment in the playground.



Alicia being safe on the swing

Vicki and Nobuko

Primary 7/Secondary 1

We would like to congratulate students for all of their hard work and readiness to learn. Additionally, Primary 7 have been trying to support the environment through recycling.

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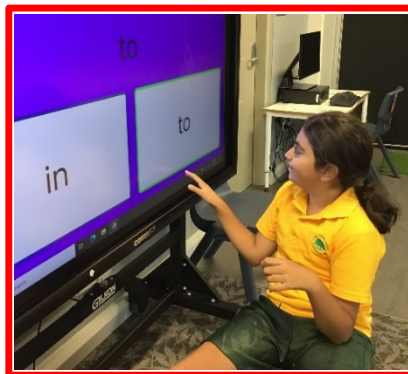
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Other classes also supported us by collecting recyclable rubbish.

In English, students continued to work on various skills through different activities. They engaged in sight word matching, handwriting, reading, and writing activities. Additionally, this term we focused on visual literacy. The students explored the text "Window" by Jeannie Baker and carefully looked at the illustrations on each page and shared what they saw.

In geography, students explored the significance of the Bornean rainforest for people, animals and the environment, and ways it is perceived and protected. Students investigated various features of trees and how they provide food and shelter and how deforestation is impacting the survival of the orangutans.

Primary 7 continued to enthusiastically engage and explore in all learning areas. We enjoyed working with all the students and we can't wait to see them grow and learn even more.



Hasna working on her sight words on Choose it maker



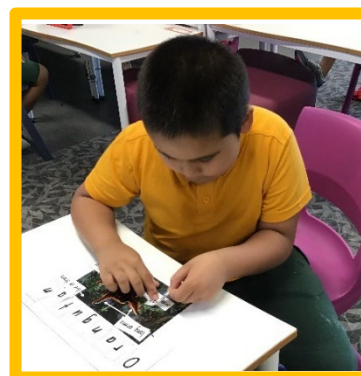
Antonia holding the Marlee Award



Antonia listening to the guitar and Ethan exploring orangutans and their habitats



Joji collecting rubbish to recycle



Paul and Belinda

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Primary 6

Students have continued working hard over the past few weeks. They have been very busy engaging in a range of learning activities.

This Term in science, we have been exploring light and electricity. We have been learning about sources of electricity and how it is created. Students have also been discovering what creates light and what happens when that light shines on other objects. We have been exploring whether the light will create shadows, pass through or reflect.

We have restarted our music program with Rhythm Village this year and the students are learning about Indigenous Australian music and dance. They have all been enjoying playing instruments and exploring Australian songs.

Our students have been working hard to remember the PBL school rules and received the PBL Class of the Week for Week 7.



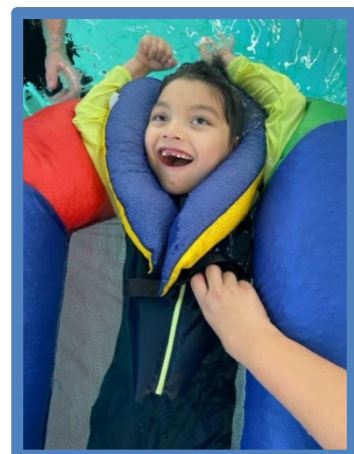
Christian exploring light and shadows in science

Primary 3

This week we began our hydro program, it was lovely to be back in the pool – all students really enjoyed stretching out in the pool and enjoying a different form of exercise. In English this Term, we have been studying visual texts. We began by reading “Brown Bear, Brown Bear What Do You See?”. Students looked at the images in the text and learned about the animals in the text by holding toys, feeling different textures and listening to the sounds the animals made. We also enjoyed reading “The Gruffalo” this term. Students retold the story by using puppets from the story sack. Jen and I would like to wish all the families in Primary 3 a happy Easter and a very relaxing holiday.



Sophia looking at the duck in “Brown Bear”



Archie rejoicing in the return of hydro

Julia and Jenny

Sophie and Bree

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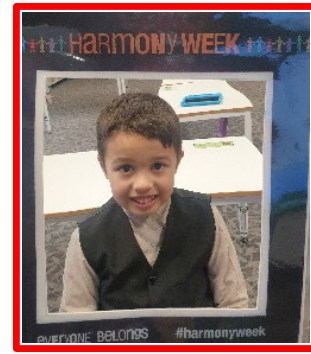
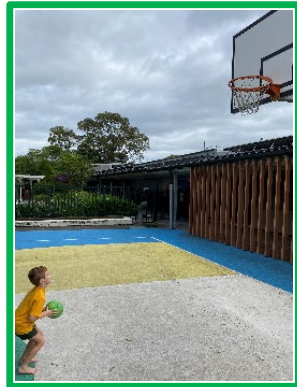
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Primary 2

We cannot believe how quickly the Term has flown by! We have been very busy over the past weeks, engaging in different activities and having fun along the way. We have been enjoying geography as we explored our school, creating our own map back to our classroom.



Kai and Massimo exploring the school as we create our class map



Mason dressed in traditional clothing for Harmony Day



Isabel using the Commbbox to investigate whole numbers

We have been doing very well learning and practising our PBL skills. Our class have been practising so much that we earned the Marlee Award for Week 6 with the focus on keep our hands and feet down. We have also been developing our skills in using choice boards for regulation activities.

We enjoyed Harmony Week this week and explored different cultures and stories, to celebrate cultural diversity and inclusivity. In numeracy, we have continued to consolidate our understanding of whole numbers and number ordering through activities for student ability.

Mitch & Zenab

Secondary 3

It has been an excellent first Term. We have found a great balance of work and play and have had many achievements in our learning. This week, we were able to resume our hydro program. This was a very enjoyable and valuable experience.

We have moved on to investigating 3D shapes for mathematics. Students have enjoyed this topic and have made some great links between 3D shapes and objects found within the classroom, playground and their homes!



Sienna creating a sequence using 3D shapes in mathematics

Primary 5

It has been a busy couple of weeks in Primary 5, and students have continued to work hard. In mathematics we have been focusing on improving our skills in understanding time, using our timetable objects and symbols to think about what we are doing and what is next. We have also thought about special activities that occur on different days and are all looking forward to hydro lessons.



Johan shows what he has chosen 'next' when he has completed mathematics



Ava connecting the final link for her simple circuit in science

In science, we have been learning about energy and thinking about different forms of light, heat and sound energy, and how energy can be transformed from one type to another. We engaged in some experiments with using electricity to cook homemade playdough, using a microwave. Students loved feeling the warm playdough after it had been cooked. Students also really enjoyed watching different ways light could be reflected or refracted using lights, colours and cellophane.

Alex & Sandy

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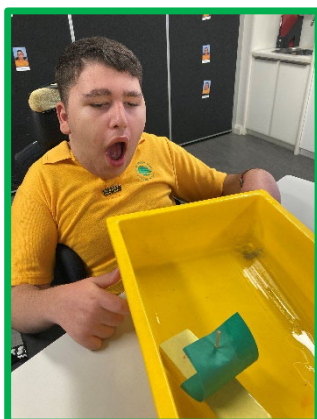
Marta felt the warm playdough after we cooked it and recalled the process - first microwave, then warm playdough!

In PE, we have been engaged in mindfulness and movement. We have engaged in a daily ten-minute session of stretching, movement and calmness which has helped us get to the **green** zone, ready to learn! We hope everyone has a safe and relaxing Easter break.

Jen & Toula

Primary 9/Secondary 1

Science is our favourite subject this Term. We began by learning about different forms of energy and then completed a practical investigation into how wind energy works by making pinwheels and wind powered boats.



Hadi uses wind power to move his boat

Last week, we started learning about how energy transforms and changes. We investigated how the microwave uses electricity and turns it into heat, by making popcorn. Ask Hadi, Pierre or Richard and they will tell you that the microwave makes your food hot!



Pierre enjoys the popcorn we made in the microwave using heat energy

We also practised our safety skills during our jelly experiment. We were very careful when stirring the jelly crystals into the hot water, making sure not to splash the water. And once we put the jelly in the fridge, we saw how the fridge turns electricity into cold energy! This was a successful and delicious experiment.



Richard stirs the jelly crystals into the hot water during our science experiment

We would also like to wish everyone Happy Harmony Week! We feel so grateful that we

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spend our days with people from so many different cultures. Ma'a salama!

Sian & Rebecca

Secondary 2

Secondary 2 have had an exciting few weeks learning and exploring the Stage 4 and 5 curricula. Particularly in science, S2 have been busy exploring various forms and sources of energy, as well as their uses. Students have showed an extra special interest in learning about Mechanical Energy and the concept of Kinetics. During the last weeks of Term, we will be investigating 21st Century Energy and ways we can reduce our usage in class.



Ashan and Benito made a catapult and worked together to explore how it functions using mechanical energy

In English, we continued our studies of the text "Where the Forest Meets the Sea," and have been paying particular attention to creating our own multimodal representations. Students have worked hard using technology to create photography and videography representations and have even begun to use

digital manipulation tools to create digital collages and graphic pieces.



Santiago using an overlay tool and adjusting opacity to create an image

Melinda and Lisa

PBL NEWS

Students have been working hard at demonstrating our school PBL expectations by being **safe**, **respectful** **learners** in the classroom and around the school. The focus this Term is 'Be **Safe**,' and Students have been learning about **safe** and unsafe situations and how to make **safe** choices. Congratulations to Primary 2, Primary 6 and Primary 8 for receiving a class PBL award and to all students who received a Marlee award this Term!



Ferris and Isabel participating in PBL activities

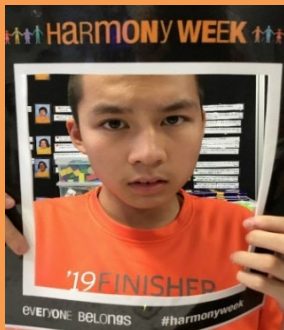
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Harmony Day

On March 21, students and staff celebrated Harmony Day. The theme was 'Everyone Belongs', and everyone had a chance to participate in a range of activities at school. There were lots of great costumes and many staff and students wore orange, the colour of Harmony Day. Students enjoyed class activities based around shared stories from different places, and created beautiful artworks based on the stories. Students in all classes also joined in for a whole school artwork- creating a school banner for Harmony Day- 'Celebrating Harmony'.



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Project Title: Sensory Concerts (HREC Approval Number: H14471)
Researcher: Grace Kim



We are looking for children aged 5-16 years with sensory sensitivities.

What will my child be asked to do?

Your child will be asked to attend a group concert performed by professional musicians, and parents/carers are asked to observe their child's responses and fill in questionnaires.

When is it and how long does this take?

It is scheduled for 27 March 2022. Participants are asked to attend 1 x 30 minutes session either at 10.30am or 11.30am.

The session will be held in the new Building U of the Westmead Western Sydney University campus (opposite the Westmead Hospital), corner of Hawkesbury and Darcy Roads. Parking is available for participants under the building and participants can follow the signs to the room via the lifts.

Your child will receive a sensory gift bag for participating.

Please contact G.Kim2@westernsydney.edu.au for more information.

Vacation care program at Allowah



Are you looking for care for your child during the upcoming school holidays? Concerned about the level of care your child needs to attend a holiday program?

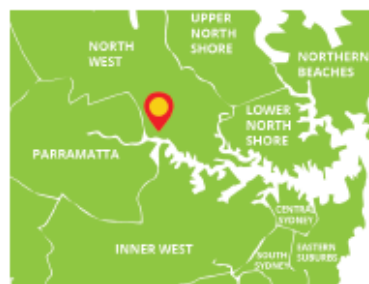
Look no further than Allowah!

We run fun and engaging school holiday activities for children with complex medical needs and disabilities.

Our team of nurses and support staff are especially trained in caring for kids with complex needs.

Our programs are undertaken in a fun, caring and supportive environment.

The sessions can be claimed from your child's NDIS fund or paid for privately.
Enquire today or book your child's spot by contacting our friendly team!



We are centrally located in Sydney
at 8 Perry Street, Dundas Valley

Themes for the April school holidays are:

Easter



11 - 15 April '22

Tutti Frutti



18 - 22 April '22

Kids take part in games, craft, songs,
stories and other fun activities!

Start a
conversation
today!

02 8877 3400

admin@allowah.org.au

Come visit us on social media



www.allowah.org.au



Why not
chat to us
about booking
an overnight
stay!


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