



Lucas Gardens School

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Artwork by Michael Fardon

1 December 2023

Dates for Your Diary

7 December – Presentation Day

13 December – Communities for Communities Carols

15 December – Last Day of Year for Students

1 February 2024 – First Day for Students

achievements with parents/carers at our upcoming Presentation Day.

Jenny and I would like to acknowledge Justin Whyte, our school counsellor, who received a Strathfield Network award this week for his invaluable service to the school, supporting students and families. Justin is always willing to share his expertise and experience and is a valued team member.

R/Principal's Award



Joji, for his excellent engagement in literacy and numeracy activities



School Counsellor, Justin was the recipient of a Strathfield Network award

R/Principal's Message

As we approach the end of the year, we have been able to reflect on and evaluate our school programs. I would like to thank parents/carers for providing feedback through our parent survey, as this helps us to focus on future directions.

It has been my pleasure to read the annual student reports and see the progress that students have made across the school. This is a tribute to the dedicated teachers and school learning support officers, as well as the strong home school partnerships that have supported student learning. I look forward to celebrating our students'

I am pleased to share with you the work that Lucas Gardens School has been doing around assessment, working alongside the Assessment for Complex Learners Team with the Centre for Educational Statistics and Evaluation (CESE). This has resulted in the development of the Literacy & Numeracy Precursor Indicators, an inclusive assessment tool that is being made available to schools across NSW in Term 1 next year. I proudly represented the school and the Assessment for Complex Learners team in receiving a Premier's award for this work, as well as being a finalist for the Secretary's award.



**Winners of the 2023 Premier's
Award for Education and Training**



2023 Finalists for the Secretary's Awards

I would like to acknowledge the work of our P&C who have worked tirelessly behind the scenes to support the school through their many fundraising initiatives. They are currently fundraising for a shade shelter to enable students to use the yarnning circle in the warmer weather. If you would like to contribute or have any friends or family members who would be interested in donating, please see the flyer at the end of the newsletter.

As this is the last newsletter for the year, I wish all our students and families a safe and restful holiday break. Thank you for your ongoing support and collaboration this year.

Kind regards

Wendy du Plessis

School Bytes Parent App



Currently, I am leading a project to assist parents/carers to use and get the most out of our new School Bytes Parent App. Using this App makes life easier for Parents/Carers as it enables them to perform multiple tasks. This includes recording students planned absences, eg if your child is sick, making secure payments to make purchases including uniforms, viewing school news and much more. If you do not have the App on your phone, please contact me by phone or when you are at the school, as I would be delighted to assist you. Please see the last page of this newsletter for more information.

Pamela Ziino
School Administrative Officer
School Bytes App Project Lead

Curriculum Reform Update

It has been a busy year supporting all staff to enact or engage with the new syllabuses in English and mathematics across the school. All staff have engaged with professional learning to enable them to adjust and differentiate learning activities; we have focused on reading strategies and mathematics rich tasks that will help engage all our students.

For Primary staff, there are now completed documents which will help them to program efficiently using the new syllabuses. Secondary teachers have collaborated to begin similar documents which will support them, as the new syllabuses are rolled out next year.

I have also continued to support all teachers across the school with shoulder-to-shoulder teaching and I thank them for their welcoming and collaborative approach! It has been amazing to see the range of excellent learning activities which are engaging our



students and supporting development of their learning goals. We look forward to an exciting 2024.



Shoulder-to-shoulder teaching in literacy and numeracy

My designated day as Assistant Principal-Curriculum and Instruction is a Thursday. Please feel free to reach out if you would like to discuss Curriculum Reform further.

jennifer.angelini2@det.nsw.edu.au

Jen Angelini

AP C&I

Secondary 3

In Secondary 3, we have had a fantastic year working towards our goals and developing skills.



Santiago and Sienna reading 'Lest We Forget' in recognition of Remembrance Day

In history, we have been following on from our Term 3 study, extending our knowledge of Australian colonisation. This Term, we investigated the Australian Gold Rush period and explored iconic Australians in history during this period. We enjoyed engaging in our gold panning experience, aiming to sift out gold nuggets. This term, we recognised Remembrance Day by participating in a school assembly and completing activities looking at the history and significance of the day.



William creating an artwork inspired by Sidney Nolan's Ned Kelly

We enjoyed a more practical and experimental side of science this term, engaging in several activities looking at landforms and features of our Earth and environment.



Tjanara simulating a volcanic eruption

We would like to wish a safe and enjoyable holiday period to the entire Lucas Gardens School Community. We look forward to another successful year in 2024.





Areeqa and Daniel enjoying the MiniFit program, focussing on kicking and aiming



EJ playing parachute games during MiniFit

Mitch and Vicki

Primary 3

All students in Primary 3 have worked hard this year to achieve their goals.



Massimo working on his PLSP goal

We have really enjoyed our lessons with MiniFit this term. They have been helping us improve balancing skills and eye hand coordination, through a range of games. These lessons have been both engaging and fun for students in Primary 3.

In PDHPE, Primary 3 have been looking at procedures on how to make simple, fun foods. Some examples of these have been fairy bread and jelly. Students have been involved in the whole process of making these foods and particularly enjoyed the eating part!



Saige beginning the process of making jelly

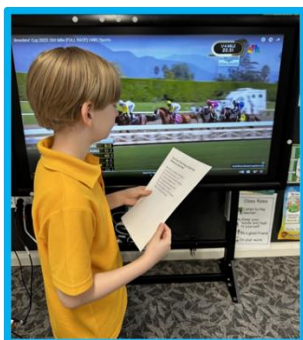
Jack and Bree

Library

In conjunction with their English studies, students have been exploring poetry during the library program in Term 4. We have dedicated each week to exploring a different poetic device. So far this term we have learned about rhyme, alliteration, repetition, onomatopoeia, simile, and assonance, through a variety of texts and activities. Additionally, students have engaged in poetic



texts relating to current events and celebrations (for example, Remembrance Day, Halloween, Diwali) that occur in the world during this time of the year.



Oscar confidently reads the poem 'The Race That Stops a Nation' to his peers

As we move towards the end of the 2023 school year, I would like to thank all the students at Lucas Gardens for their efforts and engagement in the library program this year. Wishing you all a fabulous summer break!

Melinda

Secondary 2

This year has been fantastic for all students, achieving goals and growing our knowledge and skills through learning.

In history, we have been learning about Australian colonisation, as well as a variety of historical periods of Australia. We have enjoyed learning about a range of key moments in Australia's history, from both Indigenous and non-Indigenous perspectives. We also had the opportunity to take part in an Indigenous performance and a Remembrance Day assembly to acknowledge and take part in Australia's history.



Ashan receiving face painting, following our Indigenous performance

In music, we continued our appreciation of a variety of musical genres. We practise performance skills and explore sound every week, using a range of instruments, including drums, shakers and guitar.



Benito rocking on his guitar

On behalf of the Secondary 2 team, we wish all our students a safe, enjoyable, and restful holiday break. We are looking forward to seeing you all back in 2024!

Dennis and Lisa



Primary 2

Primary 2 students have had a happy and productive year. All students have worked very hard on their PLSP goals with wonderful success. Many of their goals have been achieved and it is so pleasing to see students continue to develop communication and independence skills.

In mathematics this term, students have been busy exploring data. They have organised objects into simple data displays according to their characteristics, such as colour. They then created data displays and interpreted that information, for example, which column has the most.

We have also been fortunate to have Natasha, a pre-service teacher from ACU, with us for the last six weeks. Tash has really enjoyed working with the students and they have enjoyed participating in her engaging lessons.

Sandy, and I would like to wish Primary 2 families a very restful break and thank you for your great support this year.



Isabel creating a data display



Rhythm using LAMP at mealtimes

Julia and Sandy

Primary 8

Primary 8 have continued to explore the Earth and the Solar System in art. We have been having fun exploring what it would be like to be an astronaut and be out in space and have created artworks to depict this.



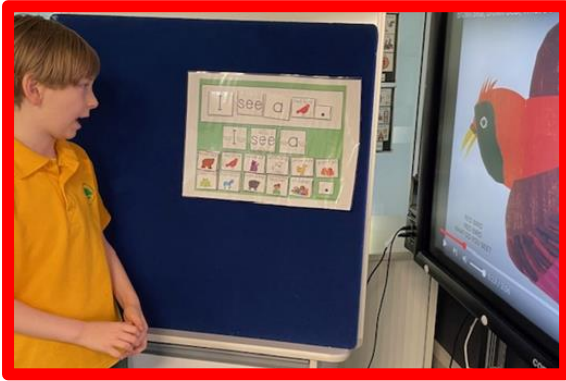
Archie gluing on planets



Harriet painting glitter on the stars

In English we have been focussing on poetry and play, specifically the texts *Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?* by Eric Carle and *Last Tree in the City*, by Peter Carnavas. We identified the rhyming words, practised signing the different colours and explored how those colours make us feel.





***Oscar making a sentence
and reading what he can see***

We continue our history unit on First Contacts and the Australian Colonies, looking at the journey of the First Fleet and the arrival of new settlers. We explored the life of the bushranger, Ned Kelly and what it was like to be part of the goldrush.



Christian with his WANTED poster

Tracey and Anna

Secondary 1

Secondary 1, have grown, worked hard, and have achieved so many goals in all learning areas throughout the year.



***Harry achieving his PLSP goal to stand
with the assistance of his walker***

For English this term, our class have been learning about poems. The students all engaged and enjoyed reading, listening, and viewing a variety of different poems. They especially worked hard on identifying different rhyming words.



***Ake reading and identifying rhyming words
in the poem "Going to school"***

In mathematics, students continued to work on number recognition skills, identifying and tracking time during their daily activities, measuring and comparing different objects, categorising them into heavy and light and collecting data on various topics.



***Morgan answering questions to
help collect data***

We are so proud of the students' growth and the outstanding achievements they have made this year. It has been a great privilege to work with them and we look forward to the wonderful work they will continue to do next year.

Paul and Zenab



Primary 7

Primary 7 have had a great term and have been participating in a wide range of engaging learning activities. In English, we completed work on poetry and have begun exploring fairy tales. All students enjoyed thinking about the characters in popular fairy tales and what they are like. We read the book *Wolfie: An unlikely hero*, by Deborah Abela, in which the Big Bad Wolf isn't a bad wolf after all! We also constructed our own fairytales using words such as 'Once upon a time' and pictures and symbols of the characters.



Ryle made his own fairytale based on 'Goldilocks'

In history this term, students have been thinking about how colonial people in Australia lived a long time ago. They enjoyed learning about 'bushrangers' and fossicking for 'gold,' using gold panning equipment. Students also learnt about places in Australia's past and present and explored Uluru, The Sydney Harbour Bridge, and the War Memorial.



Joji dressed as a Bushranger

In creative arts, students have been creating artworks related to our science theme 'Earth and Space'. They made 3D models of planets, moons, the sun and stars, using collage materials to explore their features.



Rokhya helped make the 'moon' and its craters using glue, flour and paint

In PDHPE, students really enjoyed using their knowledge of healthy eating to choose fruit and make a healthy snack.



Ethan making his healthy 'Rainbow Kebab' snack

It has been a fantastic year in Primary 7, and we have enjoyed watching students develop skills and gain confidence in their learning across all subject areas. We wish our students and their families all the very best for 2024 and hope everyone has a relaxing and enjoyable festive season.

Jen and Brice



Primary 4

In Primary 4, we have continued working hard as this year draws to a close. All students have shown excellent improvement towards their goals, and we are all very impressed!

In history, we have been studying the colonisation of Australia continuing from Term 3. Students have been exploring the perspectives of all people and how they were impacted by the events. They read *What's Your Story?* by Rose Giannone and tried to understand what emotions the characters might have been feeling throughout the story, using the Zones of Regulation. Students learned about Indigenous Australian connection to the land and how we can care for our environment by tidying our space and caring for the plants.



Karim identifying what the characters in *What's Your Story?* might have been feeling



Becki exploring a tactile map of Australia

In mathematics, students have been learning how to collect data. They collected data by sorting objects into groups by colour, texture, and size. Students also added to data displays by choosing their favourite animals and songs. They answered questions to identify which groups were more or less.



Johan Sorting objects into bumpy and smooth

This term, we have been very fortunate to have Michelle, a pre-service teacher from ACU, join us in Primary 4. She has done a fantastic work with students and they have enjoyed participating in her engaging lessons.

We are so proud of how well all students have worked to achieve their goals and develop their skills. We hope that everyone has a nice break and thank you for your support!

Sophie and Jen D



Primary 5

Our students have beautifully engaged in all learning activities and continued to develop knowledge and skills.

In science, students learned about planets in our solar system and became active by painting a planet each. In between, they participated in Bird Count Australia and identified birds in our backyard.

In mathematics, we continued with lots of matching and sorting activities in the 1-5 number space. Students were busy identifying colours and shapes.

In English, we continued the bush turkey story by building a nest and writing about our experiences. We read the book *Yuko-chan and the Daruma doll*, about a creative, blind Japanese girl who helps her fellow villagers. We explored the different characters of the story and their actions.



Lily places balls through the hole whilst the teacher counts



Eleanor creates the surface storms on the Sun, with a sponge

Looking back on this term, all students have improved sitting in a group and sharing staff attention in the morning circle activities and story time. They have improved their independence and communication and have developed a strong sense of safety in the classroom. We wish our students and their families all the very best for 2024 and hope everyone has a restorative and connecting festive season.

David and Grace

Primary 6

This year Primary 6 students have worked very hard on all their goals. All students have also made excellent progress in their communication goals this term.

In mathematics, we have been sorting objects into two groups and focusing on colours. We have continued to count objects 1-5 and have looked at the numerals to match.

In science, we have been learning about planets in our solar system. We painted our own planets and watched how the earth orbits the sun.

In English, we have been reading the text *Last tree in the city*. We have been looking at the contrast in colours and shades, leaves, and flowers and have created our own artworks of the city.

Students have thoroughly enjoyed MiniFit this term and have participated with huge smiles on their faces.

We are so proud of our students progress towards their goals this year and we wish you a lovely break!





David rolling a ball into the net during MiniFit



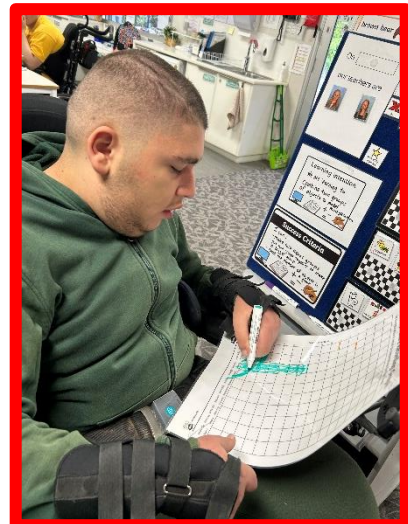
Emmarisa exploring the letter A in phonics

Amy and Toula

Secondary 4

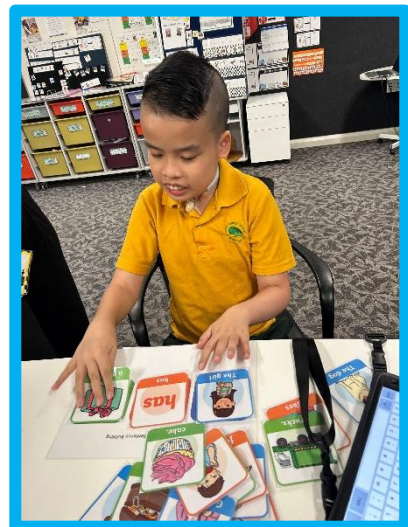
As the end of the year approaches, it is always good to reflect on the success of the class and the incredible growth we have seen in every student.

Term 4 has been a busy one and it has been fantastic to see all students take it in their stride. In mathematics, students have been collecting data and reviewing the findings to help determine chance and probability. This has included tracking the weather across a week to review trends and plan appropriate clothing choices.



Hadi tracking weather trends

In English, we have been exploring and analysing classic Australian poetry, with a focus on the meaning within these poems. Students created their own poems using rhyme and rhythm, through a combination of words and images.



Trung creating a sentence strip

Orla, Richard and Dani



Primary 1

Students in Primary 1 have continued to work hard this term and have enjoyed playing different games in our MiniFit Sports program. Students have been developing skills in balancing, kicking, catching, rolling, and taking turns. They have enjoyed playing games such as basketball, soccer, parachute games and catch ball, with their peers.



Adam taking turns to roll and return the ball to the teacher

Students have engaged in hands-on learning activities for our class science topic focus 'Our Changing Planet', by exploring a sensory landscape of the moon's surface using materials such as, foil, egg cartons, paint salt and flour. They looked at a model of the Earth and the sun, and how the Earth revolves around the sun.

In English, students explored poetry and play through texts, *Room on A Broom*, by Julia Donaldson and *Thelma the Unicorn*, by Aaron Blabey. They created story related artworks such as, make your own magical broomstick, with handprints and using craft paper. Students created a witch's potion by using baking soda, vinegar and plants they found in the garden. Students also engaged in many different literacy and numeracy activities to support their understanding, for example, letter and number of the day!

We wish all primary students and their families a happy holiday and the very best for 2024!



Sophia pressing a switch to hear parts of a poem

Kristine and Nobuko





LUCAS GARDENS EOY RAFFLE



help us make a difference in our childrens' lives!

Share in a prize pool of over \$7,500!

1st Prize:

18ct Yellow Gold Cubic Zirconia earrings

Adorn yourself with the epitome of elegance from Nader Jewellers. These hoop earrings are a blend of elegance and simplicity. The cubic zirconia gems are neatly set in a channel, adding a touch of sparkle to the warm 18ct yellow gold. **Value: \$1,225**

2nd Prize:

Premium wine package

Kick start the holiday season with 4 cases of premium red wines. **Value: \$950**

3rd Prize:

Burberry sunglasses

Enjoy this summer in style with his and hers Burberry sunglasses with thanks from Central Eyecare Punchbowl. **Value: \$850**

4th Prize: Wine Lovers Delight Accommodation Package

One night accommodation and Wine Tasting donated by Goodwill Getaways + Six bottles of premium wines
Value: \$725

5th Prize: At home package

Propress portable mini hand held Garment Steamer clothes iron, Thermolux Elite electric blanket and Jute slouchy bag.
Value: \$700

6th Prize: Beach & BBQ pack

Enjoy summer at the beach with a \$200 Voucher from Joe's Gourmet Poultry, 2 x Coco Republic Beach pack 26L, Alexa smartspeaker, Chilla Hard Cooler Esky donated by Bunnings Ashfield, case of 4 Pines Beer and 6 bottles of premium wines
Value \$550

Plus many many more prizes to win - see our website for more details bit.ly/lgsraffle2023

Your support will:

Help us fund a shade cloth for our
Aboriginal Yarning Circle

This year we are raising funds for a shade cloth to cover our Aboriginal Yarning Circle, a harmonious place where the students gather, share knowledge and build lasting friendships.

Tickets:

\$10 1 TICKET	\$25 3 TICKETS	\$40 5 TICKETS	\$75 10 TICKETS
\$110 15 TICKETS	\$140 20 TICKETS	\$330 50 TICKETS	

Buy your tickets here:



bit.ly/lgsraffle2023

Raffle closes 6 Dec 2023

Winners will be drawn as part of the
Lucas Gardens Presentation day

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS



Invites you to

Carols at Halliday Park

McGrath Avenue, Five Dock
Wednesday 13th December,
from 5.00pm

Principle Sponsor



City of
Canada Bay

Community Supporter

CANADABAYCLUB 



School Bytes

Parent App

Available now!

Download on the App Store or Google Play.



Key Features

- Get real time push notifications from your school
- Stay signed in and save your card for secure payments for fees and excursions
- Give consent, sign forms and respond to attendance alerts
- View the school calendar and news



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