



Lucas Gardens School

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Artwork by Michael Fardon

23 February 2024

Dates for Your Diary

15 March – School Photos

Week 5 – PLSP Meetings

R/Principal's Award



***Ake for increased engagement
in learning programs***

R/Principal's Message

It has been wonderful to welcome our students and families to another school year. It has been with immense pleasure that I have observed students settle back into school routines and expectations and commend the staff in facilitating such a smooth transition.

Parents/carers had the opportunity to meet class teachers and school learning support officers at our recent *Meet and Greet* event. This was a huge success, and I would particularly like to thank the P&C who hosted the barbeque enabling parents/carers to socialise after classroom visits. The P&C also presented the school with a cheque for the amount of \$14,000 raised by our school

community to enable us to purchase a shade cloth over our yarning circle. This will enable our students to have more access to this wonderful space. Thank you to our P&C and community for your support.



***P&C presenting the school with a cheque for
the shade shelter over the Yarning Circle***

Congratulations to our 2024 school captains William and Richard who have already taken up their roles and will be representing the school across the year.



2024 School Captains Richard and William

Personalised Learning and Support Plan (PLSP) meetings are taking place across weeks 4 and 5. I strongly encourage all parents/carers to actively participate in these meetings with class teachers, as collaboration between home and school is key in setting goals to enable student growth and success.

It was my pleasure to be able to highlight the work being done at Lucas Gardens School in a recent visit from Professor Kathleen Tait, from Macquarie University and Professor

Shigeru Suemitsu, from Kawasaki University of Medical-Welfare in Japan.

We value the connections we have with universities in supporting preservice teacher programs and in engaging with professional learning opportunities.



**Professor Suemitsu and Professor Tait
visiting Lucas Gardens**

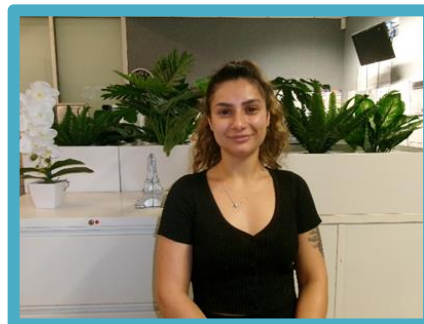
2024 Staffing		
Class	Teacher	SLSO
P1	Julia Morgan	Nobuko Nguyen
P2	Paul Kim	Dani Nicolaidis
P3	Jack Tolnay	Brianna O'Bree
P4	Sophie Amos	Jenny Doumanis
P5/S1	David Seelaus	Grace Izzard
P6/S2	Jen Angelini Melinda Broadbent	Angela Cameron
P7/S3	Dennis Anastasiou	Lisa Karaspyros
P8/S4	Tracey Roberts	Sandy Kotevski/ Bella Leighton
P9/S5	Mitchell Oxley	Vicki Stamatopoulos
S6	Elizabeth Hayes	Zenab Zayed
S7	Daniel Mendonca	Brice Dwyer
S8	Connor Cullen	Toula Mihalatos
RFF	Janice Barrett	Joshua Vo-Beh Sup
Healthcare SLSO	Denise Noordeloos	
Administration Staff	Vanessa Mallin	Pamela Ziino
	Bridget Diab	
Assistant Principal	Wendy du Plessis	Richard Manchee
	Michelle Gray	Jen Angelini – Curriculum & Instruction
General Assistant	Adrian Crump	
Counsellor	Justin Whyte	

Kind regards

Wendy du Plessis

Welcome Bridget

I am delighted to introduce Bridget Diab, a new member of our administration team. Bridget comes highly recommended and is already taking great strides in her role as School Administrative Officer.



Bridget is fast becoming proficient in the many aspects of the role, including using school Bytes. I know you will join me in making her feel welcome as a valuable member of the administration team and the wider school community.

Vanessa Mallin

Business Manager

School Bytes How To...



Order and Pay for Uniforms

1. Log into your Parent Portal Account
2. Press *Statement of Account*
3. Press *Add Other Items*
4. Key the purchase amount. If you want multiple of the same item, select the amount required from the drop-down menu

Pay a Voluntary Contribution

1. Log into your Parent Portal Account
2. Press *Statement of Account*
3. Press *Add items*
4. Select *School Contribution Charge*
5. Key in amount to pay
6. Press *Pay Now*



Create Planned Absence – Full Days Only

1. Login to your Parent Portal Account
2. Navigate to Attendance
3. Press *Create*
4. Key Student Name
5. Key Duration type e.g. All day or Multiple days
6. Upload File if applicable
7. Key Comment if applicable
8. Press *Submit*

If you do not have the App on your phone, please contact us by phone, or when you are at the school, as we would be delighted to assist you. Please see the last page of this newsletter for more information.

Pamela Ziino and Bridget Diab

Primary 1

Welcome to 2024. It is week 4 already! Students in Primary 1 have settled into the new year very smoothly and are working hard. It was lovely to see parents/carers at the *Meet and Greet* in week 3. It is always a pleasure to welcome parents/carers into the school.

In English this term, we are studying books relating to home and community. Through the stories, we will be exploring how imagery enhances the story. Students are enjoying daily shared reading with their teachers. We spend time exploring objects relating to the story and talking about the illustrations. Students enjoyed participating in *World Read Aloud Day*. We had fun reading *Too Many Cheeky Dogs* and following their antics.

In geography this term, we are studying a unit of work on people and places. We are looking at Australia's location in the world.

For the next few weeks, we are focusing on our map making skills.



Adam reading Too Many Cheeky Dogs



Sophia enjoying shared reading time

Julia and Nobuko

Primary 8 / Secondary 4

We have started the year full steam ahead and I am delighted to be teaching the class. Our SLSOs are Sandy, Monday to Thursday and Bella each Friday. Students have settled well in their class and routines.

Our topic for art this term is A World of Colour (2D art). We have been learning about the colour wheel, naming the colours, and experimenting with which colours go well together. This has led us to the complementary or opposite colours on the colour wheel. We focused on red/green and blue/orange. Using these colours, we painted



an artwork of a watermelon, showing how striking these colours are together.



Christian using a sponge to paint

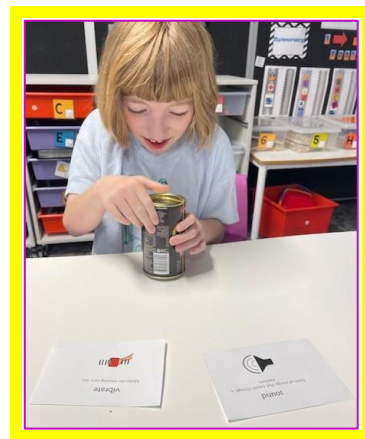


Oscar using a paintbrush

In science, we are exploring Forms of Energy and learning the vocabulary associated with sound energy. We did an experiment where we placed an elastic band around a tin and then strummed it so we could see it vibrate and hear the sound it produced at the same time.



Archie experimenting with sound



Harriet watching the elastic band vibrate

Tracey and Sandy and Bella

Primary 7 / Secondary 3

Welcome back to school Primary 7/ Secondary 3! It is great to have students back in class. Students have settled in well and are excited to learn. This term, students will be learning about various forms of energy and how heat, sound, and electricity allow us to live the lives we do every day. We have engaged in various texts, worksheets and have begun experiments, both in and out of our classroom.



Mahir sorting types of energy into their categories





Secondary 7

Welcome to Secondary 7! It has been an incredibly positive start to the year. The students settled in very smoothly and we soon started refining our routine and forming strong connections between teacher, SLSO, and students.

In English, we have focused on phonics and rhyming, and in mathematics on whole numbers. In science, we will be exploring energy and in geography we will be looking at settlements and liveability. In visual arts, we have been exploring colours and textures. Students had lots of fun engaging in a colour/texture scavenger hunt and doing printing with different fruits and vegetables.

We are looking forward to a busy and fun Term 1!



Secondary 7 painting

For mathematics, this year we will be looking at 'Representing number.' We have been working on addition strategies and procedures. In English, we are continuing to improve on handwriting, phonics and reading. For art, our topic for this term is 'A world of colour' 2D art.

We have been learning about the primary colours and organising varied materials into colour categories. The students engaged in printing using different fruits and vegetables.



Students creating prints

Daniel and Brice

Eabha and Vicki

Primary 9/Secondary 5

Welcome back to school Primary 9/Secondary 5. Students are so happy to be back with their friends. So far, term 1 is off to a wonderful start and students are quickly getting into their routines.

Primary 5/Secondary 1

Welcome back to 2024 students and parents/carers from Primary 5/Secondary 1.

We are happy to have all students back and see them settling in our classroom and routines.



We have started exploring energy forms in science, looking at lights and how to turn them on. Contrasting and complementary colours are the focus in visual arts. Students have been busy using edible finger paint and coloured a watermelon with complementary colours.



Alicia using complementary colours and exploring life in the marine environment



Eleanor exploring lights for science

David and Sibeal and Grace

Primary 4

Welcome back to all students in Primary 4! We have had a busy start to the year, and we are all excited to continue learning and growing.

This term in visual arts, students have been learning about the elements of art. So far, we have explored line by creating continuous line drawings of octopus.

We have also explored Primary colours and how these create different colours when they mix through painting food dye onto paper towel. We will continue to explore all the elements of art throughout the term.



Johan creating a continuous line drawing of an octopus

In English, we have been exploring fact and fiction texts. Students have been reading both fiction and non-fiction books as part of our literature study. We have been learning about what is fact and fiction by listening to and sorting statements into true or not true. This term we also participated in *World Read Aloud Day* by having a shared reading of *We're Going on a Bear Hunt*, by Michael Rosen and Helen Oxenbury.





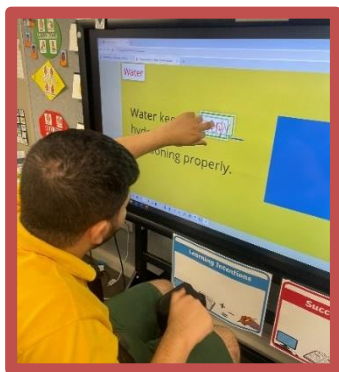
***Becki participating in World Read Aloud Day
by exploring objects from the text *We're
Going on a Bear Hunt****

We are looking forward to the year ahead. We are all excited to continue learning and achieving our goals this year!

Sophie and Jen D

Secondary 8

A warm welcome back to our exceptional students in Secondary 8! We are thrilled to witness the remarkable progress each student has made as they settle into the new school year. In geography, our focus on *A Good Place to Live*, has created an exciting and engaging learning environment. Students have been using technology to enhance their understanding, fostering inclusivity and participation in class.



***Richard using technology to complete
sentences in geography***

In visual arts, the exploration of "A World of Colour" has taken a fascinating turn as students delve into the realms of colour and mark-making. They have begun their artistic journey by investigating patterns and marks produced, using fruit and vegetables.

Here is to a year filled with progress, creativity, and collective growth!



***Trung colour sorting using
fruit and vegetables***

Connor and Toula

Secondary 6

A big warm welcome back to school Secondary 6! We have had a happy start to the term being back at school. We are looking forward to collaborating with students this term.

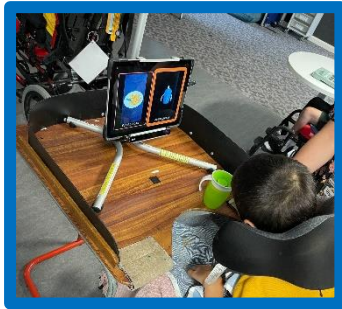
As part of our Aboriginal language learning, we have been learning about greetings and saying, 'it's nice to meet you!' To compliment this, we have been watching videos and reading books about Aboriginal language and culture.





Reading Australian Aboriginal Symbols with Juliette

Secondary 6 is also working on improving communication skills, using different devices that suit individual needs.



Morgan has been practising eye gaze, using his Tobii Device

All students are settling into routines very well and we are all looking forward to learning and growing together this term.

Liz and Zenab

Primary 6/ Secondary 2

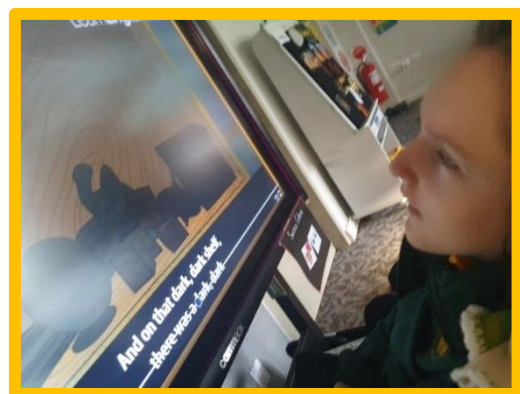
Welcome to Primary 6/ Secondary 2! It has been a great start to term as we get used to new routines and different staff. As we start the term, we have been remembering our school expectations for PBL (Positive Behaviour for Learning)- and are thinking about how we are *Respectful* at school. We have reflected on our special 'go to people'

who help us at school and made Valentine's Day cards to thank our families for helping us at home!



David listening to the title of our text Go Home Cheeky Animals

In English this term, Stage 3 are focusing on fact and fiction texts and looking at the book *Go Home Cheeky Animals*. Students have enjoyed responding to sensory elements of the text and listening to the sounds of different words and images. Stage 4 have begun a unit on short film and have been making props related to *The Dark, Dark Wood*. We look forward to creating our own version of a short film!



Marta enjoys the spooky language in A Dark, Dark Wood



This term, we started our geography unit about marine environments. We will be comparing the Australian oceans to those of The Philippines and looking at Canada Bay as a local marine environment.

We began by looking at the location of marine environments within Australia and focusing on their features. We even made an 'ocean' in our classroom!



Chloe exploring features of a marine environment

It has been a great start back for term 1, and we are excited to see how our students connect and engage with all the activities on offer.

Jen and Angela and Denise

Music RFF Program

So far during our music program, we have been experimenting with beat and rhythm, initially practising using body percussion. We then went on to use percussion instruments, such as bells, shakers, triangles, hand drum and African drums. We commence each

session with an Aboriginal song to highlight our respect to the traditional owners of the land.

Chinese New Year was celebrated during February. We integrated Chinese New Year music, and dragon dance music into our program. We made a Chinese hand drum, which we used to play during our Chinese New Year celebrations.

Janice Barrett



Meet and Greet





School Bytes

Parent App

Available now!

Download on the App Store or Google Play by clicking the image below.



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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