



Lucas Gardens School

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Artwork by Michael Faridon

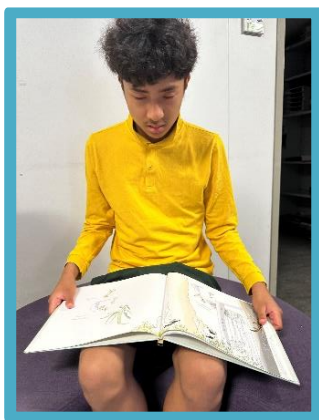
6 December 2024

Dates for Your Diary

18 December - Last Day of Year for Students

6 February 2025 - First Day of Year for Students

R/Principal's Award



Oliver for increased engagement in learning and class routines

R/Principal's Message

As I look back on 2024, it has been wonderful to reflect on the many highlights of this year. Our students have demonstrated tremendous progress across a variety of subject areas, and this is reflected in the semester 2 reports which will soon be sent home to parents/carers. Our school's performance was validated at excelling across the domains of Learning, Teaching and Leading and many successful initiatives were completed in our 4-year School Excellence Plan. All students were provided with opportunities to shine through sporting activities in our weekly Minifit classes. Ashan represented Lucas Gardens School at both Zone and Regional athletics carnivals in track and field events. This was an outstanding achievement and a first for Lucas Gardens

School! Our Boccia team also enjoyed success, representing the school at the School Sport Unit Inclusive state finals trials. This year students also entered the SSI ten pin bowling competition.

The music program through Rhythm Village has been another highlight with students actively engaging in inclusive music lessons that foster music appreciation and performance.

Our Graduation Event/Dinner was a wonderful opportunity to formally farewell our 2024 Year 12 graduates. This is a significant milestone and we are very proud of their achievements. We wish them well as they successfully transition to their new settings. I extend my thanks to the graduation committee for their hard work in ensuring this was a memorable event.



Richard, School Captain for 2024 celebrating at the graduation event

I would like to congratulate our Relieving Assistant Principal, Mitchell, who received an award for his *Dedication and Commitment to Lucas Gardens School* at the recent Strathfield Network Awards. Congratulations Mitch on this wonderful achievement and thank you for your invaluable contribution to

the Lucas Gardens School team both as a class teacher and Relieving Assistant Principal.



Mitch receiving his network award

Our school was fortunate to be selected by Transport NSW to decorate one of their local buses. Students enjoyed creating artworks and having the opportunity to decorate the bus which looked very festive on completion.



Transport NSW bus decorated by the students of Lucas Gardens

We are fortunate to have staff who are leaders in their areas of expertise resulting in a rich learning environment that supports student learning. Our teachers, school learning support officers, administration staff and our general assistant provide a landscape that has enabled our students to thrive.

It has been a privilege to fulfil the role of Relieving Principal, and I would like to thank all school families for their partnership and trust in working together to ensure student success. It would be remiss not to mention the outstanding staff of Lucas Gardens School and thank them for their unwavering commitment.

Have a restful and safe holiday period. I look forward to another successful school year in 2025.

Kind regards

Wendy du Plessis

Curriculum Reform Update

In 2024 a section of our whole school Strategic Improvement Plan was on developing our students' reading skills by focusing on *Understanding Texts (comprehension)*, and on *developing students number sense through Counting Processes*. I am pleased to report that by the end of November our students made more than the expected progress, e.g. above 80% progress in these areas.

Over the year, I also supported all teachers to plan, teach and assess using the new syllabuses in English and mathematics K-10. I worked with them in class shoulder-to-shoulder using explicit teaching strategies, supporting them in the collection and analysis of data, and also in the use of resources to engage all learners.



David working with Alicia on her literacy goals



Next year, we will begin planning how we will implement some of the other new syllabuses including science, technology, creative arts, physical development, health and physical education and history / geography. These will be rolled out gradually over the next few years in K-10. We also have a range of new syllabuses for our senior students in years 11-12 that we will be exploring. If you would like to find out more, please go to the website;

<https://education.nsw.gov.au/teaching-and-learning/curriculum/nsw-curriculum-reform>

I will also continue supporting teachers in the classroom each Thursday. Please feel free to reach out if you would like to discuss curriculum reform further with me.

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Jen Angelini

AP C&I

Primary 3

It has been a busy term so far for Primary 3. We are enjoying PDHPE with aquatics and Minifit. Students will be working on holiday craft soon.

We have been focusing on our novel *The Cat in the Hat* by Dr Seuss this term. Students have been listening to and reading the novel. They have enjoyed the rhyming aspect of the story and engaged in matching rhyming words.



Saige practising rhyming skills

Students in Primary 3 have been learning a range of skills in MiniFit to improve their gross motor skills. They have been shooting hoops, riding skateboards and practising throwing and catching skills.



Leonor practising throwing skills

It has been great to see students in Primary 3 grow and learn throughout the year. We wish you an enjoyable and safe holiday and look forward to seeing all the students back in February 2025.

Jack and Bree

Secondary 6

As we come to the end of the year, we have been able to reflect on the challenges and achievements of our students in 2024.

Students have worked diligently towards completing their PLSP goals. Communication and physiotherapy have been the focus of our students, and their skills have improved immensely.



Morgan using his standing frame during learning activities



The end of the year means the conclusion of the MiniFit program. Our students have enjoyed the weekly opportunity to learn new physical skills and play a range of games, interacting with peers and staff.



Juliette practising balancing the ball on the racquet

It has been an absolute pleasure to work with the students of Secondary 6 and we look forward to seeing how they continue to grow in their time at Lucas Gardens. Have a wonderful holiday season and enjoy your summer break!

Liz and Zenab

Secondary 8

We have had a busy and exciting term in Secondary 8, with all students making fantastic progress in their learning!

In human Society and its environment life skills, we have been exploring personal identity and migration experiences through photography and stories. Students have been documenting and reflecting on their own identities while comparing them with those of individuals in migration stories. Through this creative lens, students have developed a deeper understanding of personal and cultural identity.



Sofia matching symbols for the story Grandma's Treasured Shoes

In mathematics life skills, we have focused on developing students' understanding of area and length. Through hands-on activities, students have been measuring, comparing, and estimating lengths and areas using various tools. These practical tasks have helped them build problem-solving skills and connect mathematical concepts to real-life applications.



Hadi using a tape measure to explore different lengths in the Magnolia Courtyard

As the year draws to a close, I would like to take a moment to celebrate the incredible progress each student has made throughout the year. We are immensely proud of all our Secondary 8 students. To those graduating, we wish you every success in your future endeavours and to those returning, we look forward to another year of growth and achievement together.

Connor and Toula



Primary 8 Secondary 4

Primary 8 Secondary 4 have continued to explore migration to Australia in history. Through the story *Grandma's Treasured Shoes*, by Coral Vass, we learned about the plight felt by refugees, in the past and today, and the contribution that refugees have made in shaping this nation. We followed Grandma from her home country, wearing oodles of shoes, on a boat and into her new life.



***Christian engaging in the story
Grandma's Treasured Shoes***

In drama, we explored the roles, characters and actions of the animated musical action-adventure film *Mulan*. We identified our favourite lines from the script and brought these to life by creating our own set and characters.



Archie recreating a scene from Mulan

Finally, we have been very busy making Christmas craft to decorate the inside of a State Transit bus which will be displayed over the holiday period as the community is transported to their desired locations.



***Harriet and Oscar admiring our
Christmas craft***

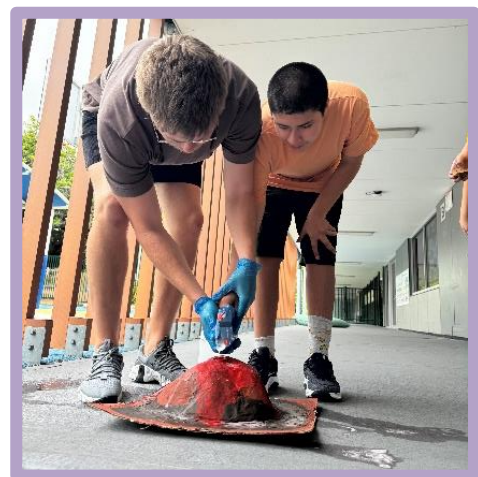
Wishing you all a safe and happy holiday!

Tracey and Marii

Primary 9 Secondary 5

As we near the end of Term 4, we are thrilled to share the exciting learning experiences our students have engaged in this term. One of the highlights has been our film study on the story *Mulan*. Students have explored the themes of the film by using puppets and props to reenact key scenes.

In science, students have been exploring changing landscapes and natural disasters. They have investigated the science behind earthquakes and volcanoes, learning about the impact of geological processes on our planet.



***Santiago investigating geological
processes using a model volcano***



The students have enjoyed engaging in aquatics sessions, focusing on water safety skills and participating in cooperative games in the pool. As we look forward to the holidays, we celebrate the growth and achievements of our students this term!



Vincent practising floating skills during our aquatics session

Allison, Mitch and Vicki

Primary 7 / Secondary 3

We cannot believe 2024 is coming to an end! This year has been fantastic for all students, achieving goals and growing knowledge and skills through learning.

In mathematics, we have been focusing on exploring the concept of volume. The class has engaged using cups to demonstrate full, empty, and half-full measurements, helping us understand how volume works in practical situations. This hands-on approach allowed us to visualise the concepts and apply them to real-life examples.



Ryle exploring full, half full, and empty cups

In PDHPE, students continued their participation in MiniFit. The class has continued to show great dedication to staying active and healthy. Weekly participation in ball games, agility activities and various types of movement is important for students so they can keep fit and be active.



Yohan engaging in Minifit activities

Dennis and Lisa

Primary 1

The year is almost at an end and Primary 1 students have worked hard on their learning in all areas and have made great progress. It is a moment to pause and celebrate their achievements.

In history, we have been exploring how people mark important celebrations and commemorations. We have been exploring the symbols of some important events, such as Remembrance Day.

Nobuko and I would like to thank parents for their support throughout the year. We wish families a restful break and a happy holiday season. We look forward to seeing you in 2025.



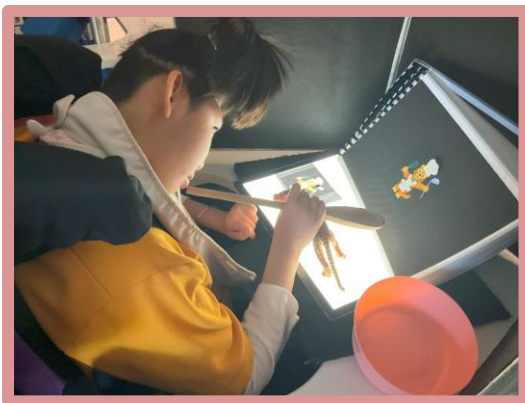


Julia, Sibeal and Nobuko

Primary 6/ Secondary 2

Primary 6/ Secondary 2 have had a fantastic year and I am pleased to report all students have made progress with their communication skills, movement goals and literacy and numeracy goals. We are so proud of their developing independence and confidence and wish them all the best for 2025!

In English this term, we have been reading *The Tiger Child*, by Joanna Troughton and focusing on the characters, what they are like and what they do in this traditional Indian folktale. We have also been engaged in aspects of drama, using objects to imitate their actions and sounds and dressing up as the characters!



Chloe looking at objects and images to dramatise our Tiger child cooking



Cooper looking at how the Tiger is feeling

For creative arts this term, we have recreated objects of cultural significance related to our history unit on Asia. Students created batik prints and elephant images using collage techniques and recreated Arabic writing and painted calligraphy as well.



Emmarisa making a collage of an elephant when learning about Thailand

In PDHPE this term, we have been thinking about the benefits of team sports and individual sports and how these sports help us grow, make friends and achieve our goals. We tried some team sports and individual activities and chose our preferences. We also thought about how we stay safe when doing sport, by wearing sunscreen or a hat, by warming up and stretching our bodies and listening to sports teachers or therapists.





Joumana helping David engage with a favourite individual sport-bowling

It has been an amazing year with Primary 6/ Secondary 2 and I look forward to sharing our progress with families and with the 2025 class teams. Have a happy holiday!

Jen, Melinda, Angela and Denise

Secondary 7

What a fantastic year we have had in Secondary 7. Our cohort has worked extremely hard and all the students have progressed in their literacy and numeracy goals. I would like to commend the class on their hard work.

This term, the students had their first exposure to drama, they were able to read dialogue and act out scenes from the film we had studied, *Mulan*.

In science, we studied the earth's natural resources, such as wood, metal, plants etc. Students engaged in scavenger hunts investigating how and where these natural resources were used in our school environment.

In mathematics, we continued our exploration of length and area, students compared their own heights, wingspans, feet and hands to reinforce concepts related to length.



Ava using informal measurements to measure length

We have been keeping active with regular trips to the gym and weekly Minifit sessions. We also continued with our aquatics program which all the students really enjoyed.



Oliver engaging in aquatics

Wishing all our families a safe festive season!

Daniel and Brice

Primary 2

We cannot believe that Term 4 is already almost coming to an end. The students have demonstrated so much growth and progress, achieving many goals in all key learning areas.

In mathematics, students have been exploring length. They built, measured and



compared various objects sorting and arranging them from shortest to tallest.



Rhythm building towers and arranging them from shortest to tallest

In PDHPE, students enjoyed aquatics and have been working on a wide range of gross motor skills by throwing, catching, bouncing and kicking balls.



Mahdi learning to kick his legs while lying on his back

It has been a privilege to work and see the students grow. We hope everyone has a fun and safe holiday and we continue to look forward to the amazing learning and work they will do next year in 2025.

Paul and Dani

Primary 5/Secondary 1

This term in PDHPE, students learned how team sports help us interact. They mastered holding and passing balls and balloons to other students, close and far. Students enjoyed participating in the aquatic program.



Alicia shows the class how to do a slam dunk



Lily explores sculling while enjoying the warmth of the pool

In mathematics, we observed how the same liquid could look very different in various containers and integrated our counting by one with finger rhymes in English. In science, students explored natural disasters through hands on activities simulating a hurricane and table earthquake and seeing if Lego-towers could withstand them.





Eleanor helps turn and twist the storm in the bottle

The end of the year is a good time to reflect and celebrate our achievements. We have been privileged to witness students grow in the way they connect with others and attain their educational goals.

David, Sibeal, Sandy and Bella

Primary 4

Primary 4 has had a busy end to the year and have continued to strive to achieve their academic, communication and mobility goals! We are all very proud of how well each student has done and we wish them all the best in their classes for next year.

In English this term, we have been reading *Red Butterfly*, by Deborah Noyes and exploring the storyline and the imagery that depicts Chinese culture from ancient times. Students have been learning about the main character and her experiences. We have also tied this into our creative arts program by exploring traditional Chinese art styles.



Alexander looking at the images in the Red Butterfly

For science this term, we have been learning about sudden geological changes and extreme weather events and how these affect people and the earth. Students participated in a range of experiments to learn about the causes and effects of different natural disasters. We investigated how tectonic plates work and predicted whether different sized block towers would fall over in the event of an earthquake. Students predicted how different materials would be affected by flooding. They created a volcano to use in a hands-on experiment to observe how an eruption works.



Becki exploring how tectonic plates cause earthquakes



Johan experimenting with how different materials are affected by flood waters

It has been a fantastic year in Primary 4! Students have worked very hard and made incredible progress towards their goals. We look forward to sharing their progress with their families. Happy holidays from all of us in Primary 4!

Sophie and Jen D



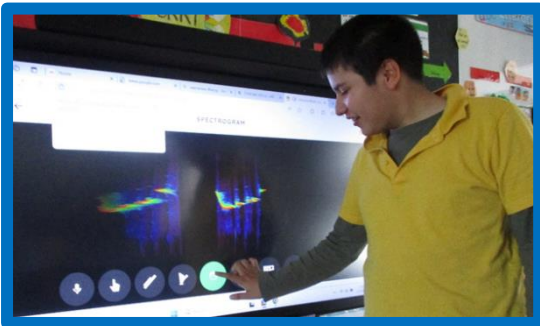
Music

What an exciting year this has been. I have had the privilege of visiting every class on a weekly basis with a focus on the core components of beat, rhythm and tempo. Some students have progressed from not wanting to use or touch an instrument to being able to appropriately use the instrument and this has been very rewarding.

The students have had the opportunity to experiment in making sounds with a variety of instruments and to make music with *Chrome Music Lab* and *Blob Opera*. Our program commences with Acknowledging our First Nations People, includes music from a variety of cultural contexts and is linked to the school literacy program.



Saige's preferred instrument was a maraca



Santiago creating music with Chrome Music Lab



Yohan creating music with Blob Opera

Janice



Lily trying her skills on an African drum



Presentation Day 2024

