



Lucas Gardens School

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Artwork by Michael Fardon

21 February 2025

Dates for Your Diary

26 February - Meet and Greet

20 March - School Photos

Principal's Award



Charlotte for settling well into kindergarten

Principal's Message

A warm welcome to the 2025 school year, as we embark on another exciting year full of rich teaching and learning experiences for students. It has been especially delightful to engage with the new students and their families and witness their enthusiasm for learning. Parents/carers are an essential part of our school community and together we create an environment that enables students to flourish.

I would like to thank Wendy du Plessis for leading and managing the school in 2024 whilst I was relieving as a principal at another school. Her professionalism, knowledge and hard work ensured that everything ran smoothly and I am profoundly grateful for her support.

Many of our additional programs have commenced, including Rhythm Village Music, Speech Pathology and some students

have now completed a two-week intensive swimming program.

I encourage you to attend the Parent/Carer Meet and Greet being held on Wednesday 26 February. Thank you to those who have already RSVP'd for this event, which will commence at 4pm until 5pm.

The following table outlines staffing for 2025. Staff have already participated in several training sessions including reflection on their pedagogical practice.

2025 Staffing		
Class	Teacher	SLSO
P1	Sophie Amos	Sandy Kotevski/ Bella Leighton
P2	Sibeal Kehoe	Toula Mihalatos
P3	Tracey Roberts/ Billy Hyland	Kristen Khallas
P4	Jen Angelini/ Melinda Broadbent	Dani Nicolaidis
P5	Paul Kim	Angela Cameron
P6	Dennis Anastasiou	Brianna O'Bree
P/S7	Sheila Scanlon/ Allison Scragg	Mari Curtis
P/S8	Jack Tolnay	Vicki Stamatopoulos
P/S9	Liz Hayes	Lisa Karaspyros
S10	Mitchell Oxley/ Billy Hyland	Zenab Zayed
S11	Julia Morgan/ Sheila Scanlon	Jenny Doumanis
S12	Daniel Mendonca	Joshua Vo
RFF	Janice Barrett	Behaviour Support Dennis Mitzinis
Healthcare SLSO	Denise Noordeloos	
Administration Staff	Business Manager Vanessa Mallin	School Administrative Officer Pamela Ziino
	School Administrative Officer Bridget Diab	
Deputy/ Assistant Principals	Deputy Principal Wendy du Plessis	R/APs Mitchell Oxley/Allison Scragg
	Assistant Principal Michelle Gray	AP Jen Angelini – Curriculum & Instruction
General Assistants	Adrian Crump/Tom Zorgios	
Counsellor	Niamh Kenny	



Richard Manchee, who was one of our Assistant Principals, was the successful applicant for the principal role at Chalmers Road School. We look forward to working together as part of our community of schools with both Richard and the staff from Chalmers Road School this year.

As I walk around, it gives me immense pleasure to witness students readily engaging with our rich teaching and learning programs that will provide them with skills to take beyond this setting.

I look forward to another productive year of students learning and engagement.

Kind regards

Jenny Zagas

School Bytes App New Parents/Carers



Congratulations to those new parents/carers who have already downloaded the School Bytes App. Using this App makes it easy to perform multiple tasks, including recording students planned absences, e.g. if your child is sick, making secure payments for purchases, including uniforms, viewing school news and much more.

If you do not have the App on your phone, please contact us by phone or when you are next at the school, as we would be delighted to assist you.

**The Administration Team
Vanessa, Bridget and Pamela**

Primary 6

Welcome back to school Primary 6! It is great to have students back in class. Primary 6 students have settled in well and are excited to be learning. In literacy, students will be learning about ways we can be sustainable, take care of our environment and how we can sort rubbish to be ecologically friendly. We have engaged in various texts, worksheets and have begun practical activities, both in and out of our classroom.

Primary 6 have also continued work around word recognition and identifying phonemes. We have linked our weekly sight words with our focus topic to create sentences on *ways we can be sustainable*.

In PDHPE, students have been on a personal journey to *pursue happiness*. They have explored what makes them feel happy and safe at school by creating mood boards and undertaking practical activities, such as free play and using our school gym. Primary 6 have also identified their *go-to* people who they can approach when feeling dysregulated or in the Blue Zone.



Chase identifying emotions and feelings

We are looking forward to the year ahead!

Dennis and Bree



Secondary 11

Welcome to the 2025 school year! It promises to be a big year, with lots of fun experiences and hard work ahead.

In English, students are studying texts with a sustainability theme. We are enjoying exploring *The Lorax* for the next few weeks.



Pierre identifying The Lorax's theme

In geography, we are looking at landscapes, landforms and biomes. Secondary 11 has been exploring the difference between a landscape and a landform.

Lastly, stage 6 students have been investigating group and personal identity and what makes them unique in *Society and Culture*.

We are looking forward to a great term ahead.



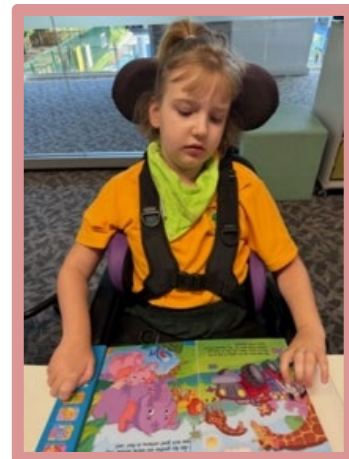
Morgan exploring what makes him unique

Julia, Shiela and Jen

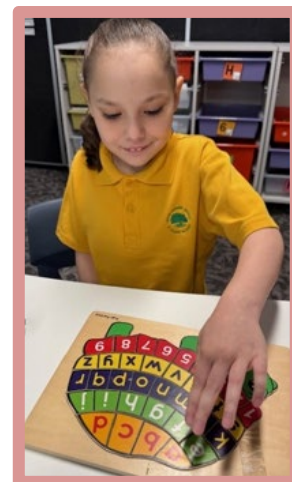
Primary 3

We have started off the year full steam ahead, with our students settling well into their class and routines.

We have been working well on our individual literacy and numeracy programs. We are extending our sight word vocabulary by learning to identify photos, pictures and symbols of familiar people, places and objects. In handwriting, we are practising writing basic strokes, our first and surnames and sentences to answer questions. In numeracy we are identifying what activities we do in the morning, middle and afternoon sessions, matching and sorting objects and looking at numbers that are important to us, such as our age and birthday month.



Isabel enjoying a book during literacy activities



Saige practising the alphabet doing a jigsaw puzzle



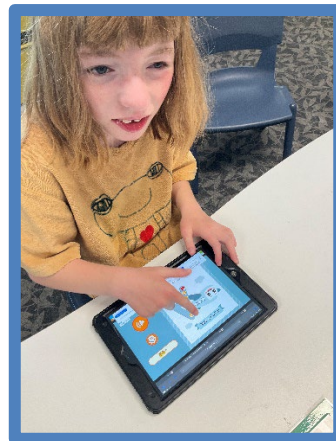
In our English unit, we have been exploring fact and fictional texts about sustainability. We are reading, *Reduce, Reuse, Recycle*, looking at what rubbish is and how it hurts the Earth. We are identifying the different symbols that are used in recycling and what they mean.



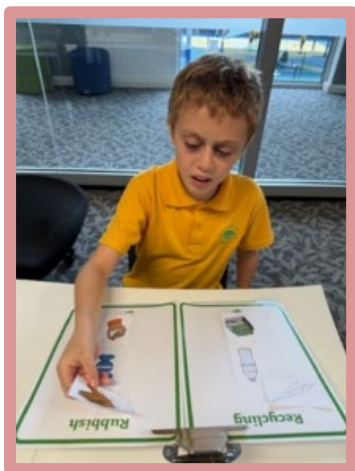
Zoe learning about sustainability

In English, students are studying texts with a sustainability theme. We are enjoying exploring, *The Story of Rosy Dock*, for the next few weeks.

Students have also been looking at tracing letters using their fingers and using PM readers to read texts.



Harriet tracing letters with her finger



Massimo sorting out what is rubbish and what can be recycled

In mathematics, we have been identifying and organising numbers to 10. Students have been using technology and physical objects to complete their mathematics tasks.

We are looking forward to a great term ahead.

Jack and Vicki

Primary/Secondary 9

It has been a wonderful start to the year in Primary/Secondary 9. Students have been settling well into class, keen to develop skills across all key learning areas. Students have been developing their numeracy skills, with particular focus on number representation and counting. We have been looking at numerals, songs and images to strengthen our understanding of the language of numbers.

Tracey, Billy and Kristen

Primary/Secondary 8

Welcome to the 2025 school year! Secondary 8 have started the year running. For most of our students it is their first year of high school.





Emmarisa exploring numbers using tactile and CVI friendly numerals

Term 1 has seen the return of the music program with Rhythm Village, students have enjoyed listening to the music, playing different instruments and engaging with classmates. Many of the instruments are adapted, with wrist straps, ergonomic handles and other variations to make them accessible to all the students. It has been one of their favourite areas of learning.



David shaking some bells, using a wrist strap and moving to the music

We are looking forward to getting to know the students, working together and achieving goals in 2025.

Liz and Lisa

Primary 1

Welcome Primary 1 to the start of our school year! We are all excited to see our class learn and grow.

In English this term, students are studying the book, *Isabella's Garden*, by Glenda Millard and Rebecca Cool. They are learning to comprehend what is happening in images and stories. Students are learning to share what they see by completing sentences.



Rick pointing to objects in a picture

In mathematics, students have been learning to order numbers from 1 to 10 and count objects. In the measurement and geometry unit they are learning about mass by comparing weights of different objects. Students are exploring weights by hefting objects and using scales to compare.



Mariam and Menaal completing a puzzle to order numbers



Rick comparing the weight of an apple and a pear object



We are looking forward to a great term ahead!

Sophie, Sandy and Bella

Secondary 12

Welcome to 2025 school year Secondary 12! We have had a busy start to the academic year and have hit the ground running!

In English, students have been studying texts related to sustainability such as the *Tin Forest*. It has been a great opportunity to learn new vocabulary and improve our literacy. We have also started our Independent Writing Program where the students improve their descriptive writing skills.

In mathematics, we have been focusing on the Language of Number and Counting, Addition and Subtraction. We have practised these skills in a variety of ways using worksheets, physical objects and *Counting Scavenger Hunts*, where students work on their numeracy outside of the classroom.

We have also been keeping active with regular trips to the gym!

We are looking forward to a productive and fun year of learning.



Andrew engaging in Independent Writing

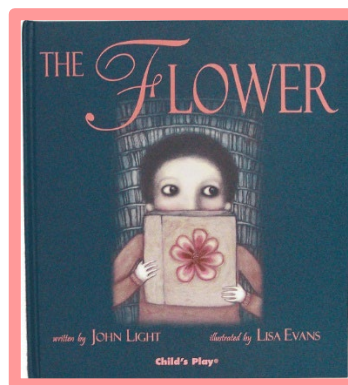


Benito and Joji counting shapes on a Counting Scavenger Hunt

Daniel and Joshua

Primary 4

What a great start of term for Primary 4! We have been getting used to new routines, staff and friends too. As we start the term, we have been remembering our school expectations for PBL *Positive Behaviour for Learning* and working on how we are *respectful* with our teachers and friends at school. In PDHPE, we have been thinking about who helps us at home and at school. Students thought about their special *go to people* who help them a lot at school. We also made Valentine's Day cards to thank our families at home!



The Flower by John Light

In English this term, we are learning about picture books and sustainability. We have chosen a new book called, *The Flower* by John Light, and we will be exploring the beautiful pictures and thinking about what



they mean. We will also be creating our own sensory pictures based on parts of the story!



Archie looking at trees, a natural feature of our school

In geography this term, we are learning about natural and built environments. We went for a walk around our school to find natural items and matched these to symbols and pictures to make a poster.



Johan talking about grass as a natural feature with Jess

It has been a great start to the school year, and we look forward to sharing many more of our learning activities with you!

Jen, Melinda and Dani

Primary 5

Welcome back from Primary 5! We are so excited to have everyone back so happy and ready to learn. We look forward to working and growing together with the students.

For mathematics, the students are focusing on number recognition, place value, time and money. They will explore and engage in these different topics through a variety of activities using digital technologies, concrete materials and paper-based activities.



Leonor ordering the days of the week

For science, they are learning about living things, they will investigate what all living things need to change and grow, how distinctive features of animals and plants help with their survival and how we use different animals and plants for our survival.



Rhythm learning identifying what living things needs

Students have quickly adapted and are settling into their new routines, classrooms and teachers and we look forward to the amazing learning growth they will achieve this term.

Paul and Angela



Primary 2

Welcome back to Term 1 2025! We have had a busy first few weeks settling back into our class! I am looking forward to watching the students grow and learn this year!

In geography, our students have been exploring features of various places. The students enjoyed looking at various places in our school and exploring them! Our students have been exploring living things in science and are looking at things that we can find that are alive in our school garden.

Primary 2 are excited that music with Rhythm Village has commenced and they are enjoying learning new songs, playing instruments and singing with Pat the music teacher!



Adam enjoying music with Pat

We are exploring number recognition in mathematics and time! The students will explore a range of numbers. We have been focusing on the numbers 1-5. We are singing songs, counting and recognising the numbers.



Charlotte exploring the number 1

We are looking forward to a busy year with lots of exciting things coming up!

Sibeal and Toula

Secondary 10

Welcome back from Secondary 10! We have been settling back into the routines of the school day and engaging in some exciting learning activities.

In English, we have been exploring texts related to sustainability, particularly *The Tin Forest*. We have enjoyed exploring imagery throughout the book and writing descriptive writing pieces to match pictures.



Santiago doing reading activities practicing word recognition

Additionally, we have initiated our literacy and numeracy TEACCH tubs as part of our morning routines, to continue developing towards goals of word recognition in literacy and number and place value in numeracy.



Archie completing TEACCH tub activities independently



In mathematics, our focus has been on the Language of Number, Counting, Addition, and Subtraction. Students have been engaging with these concepts independently as part of small group learning activities.



Areeqa rolling the dice to make addition and subtraction equations and finding the sum

In science, we are exploring the needs of living things and how living things grow. We are looking forward to conducting investigations on plants to observe their growth over time. This links with our study in geography on biomes, where we have been investigating the difference between landscapes and landforms.

We are looking forward to sharing many more moments of fantastic learning in Secondary 10!

Mitch, Billy and Zenab

Primary/Secondary 7

This year is off to a flying start in our classroom! The students have been working hard to get back into school routines.

In English this term, students are continuing to focus on foundational literacy skills and communication with a focus on the topic of environmental sustainability.



Christian interacting with a text about the environment

In science, students are learning about living things and the roles of different living organisms in the environment. They have been exploring plants and animals around the school and conducting investigations about the effects of varied factors on plant growth.



Mahir following a procedure to plant a seed

In PDHPE, students have been working on cooperative learning. They have also enjoyed participating in a water safety program in preparation for upcoming aquatics sessions.

We are excited to see what exciting learning experiences the rest of the term has in store!

Allison, Sheila and Marii



Visual Arts

The Term 1 art program will see students experiment with a range of art making techniques and themes. So far, we have explored colour theory through painting and gel block print making. Students have been given the opportunity to pay homage to the work of Anna Blatman by creating an artwork of a pair of budgies which also links in with the school wide science focus of living things.



*Artworks by Victoria and Alexander
in Primary 4*

Students have also utilised the art rooms to create gel block prints of found objects. These were a particular hit amongst our senior students, who created some amazing abstract prints.



Archie creates his own unique print



*Some examples of abstract gel
prints by our senior students*

Melinda





School Community Charter

 **Collaborative. Respectful. Communication.**



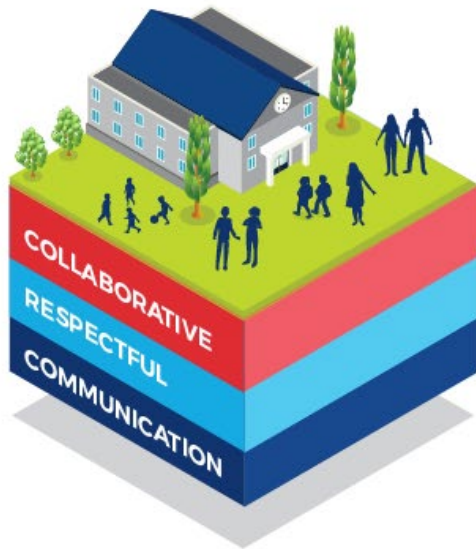
We work in partnership to promote student learning.



We treat each other with respect and fairness.



We communicate in a positive and constructive manner.



We all play a part

Respectful communication is a right

In all workplaces people have the right to feel safe and respected. Unacceptable and offensive behaviour has no place in our school communities.

Unacceptable behaviour:

- Aggressive or intimidating actions, such as violence, threatening gestures or physical proximity.
- Aggressive or intimidating language, including the use of obscenities, making sexist, racist or derogatory comments or using a rude tone.
- Treating members of the school community differently due to aspects such as their religion or disability.
- Inappropriate and time wasting communication.



School Community Charter

education.nsw.gov.au

