

Wentworthville Public School

QUALITY TEACHING TO MAXIMISE STUDENT LEARNING
Term 3 Week 4 2021 Newsletter



From the Principal – Denise Lockrey

Welcome back to Term 3, albeit a different mode in stay at home orders and lockdown and learning from home for most of our students. Despite our current operation, we had several new enrolments these past three weeks and I would like to extend a special welcome to all our new families who are joining us at Wentworthville Public School for the first time. We have worked in innovative ways to conduct our enrolment interviews with families via Zoom and Ms Di Chio has supported many families in this manner, even whilst she is working from home and now, we have these children engaged in WOW work. Very flexible indeed!

Parts of recent communication to parents...

TERM 3 - Wentworthville PS (COVID-19 UPDATE) - July 30

Dear Parents /Carers,
July 30, 2021

On Thursday 29th July, the Premier announced the addition of three more local government areas (LGAs) to the list of LGAs (now totalling 8) that have additional COVID restrictions. This means that residents in the existing LGAs can only leave their homes for a reasonable excuse. There is also an extension of four weeks to the COVID Stay at home / lockdown orders until at least the end of August.

(Continued on page 2)

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Email: wentwthvil-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au

Student Portal: <http://portal.det.nsw.edu.au>

(Continued from page 1)

Given these increased restrictions, I want to repeat our earlier advice to strongly encourage all parents and carers to keep their children learning from home. The messaging from the Department is:

'Parents and carers in Greater Sydney must keep children – across primary and secondary school – at home unless they need to be at school. Schools and outside of school hours care (OOSHC) services are open for any child that needs it.'

I continue to thank the Wentworthville PS parents for keeping their children at home and accessing Learning From Home and the support from the teachers with our WOW work these last three weeks. I urge you to continue doing this for the next four weeks as we all contribute to reducing our movement.

Our school will remain open only for students who need it. For our frontline worker families, we understand you need us for your children and we will continue to operate with minimum staff on site. We continue to only have five staff onsite every day which includes Mrs Khanlu (relieving SAM) and myself for each day. ...

The NSW Department of Education has some great resources to support students [learning from home](#). There are also some helpful [tips and toolkits](#) for parents and carers. Make sure you tune in to the [#EducationLIVE](#) sessions at 10am daily or catch up on past videos.

The NSW Department of Education continues to work with NSW Health to support the continuity of education in our schools. Please visit the [NSW Government website](#) for more information on the current stay-at-home orders.

I know that the last three weeks have been difficult for everyone - students, staff, and parents and now we have an extension of lockdown and tighter restrictions which affects all our community and many of our staff. I continue to be impressed with how people have demonstrated agility and resilience again and again over the last weeks, despite it being challenging.

A bright spot this week was meeting several parents on our Wednesday Parent Zoom for Education Week. Senior Executive will continue these zooms and meet with parents over the next four weeks on a Wednesday (Wednesday 12.00pm—1.00pm) as the feedback we received was to continue. I hope you can join us. It is an informal opportunity for us to share, for you to ask the Senior Executive any questions and keep connected until we can meet up face to face in the future!

Second student zoom daily (2.30pm - 3.00pm)

Another opportunity we are scheduling for your children to connect with their teachers and go through learning and ask questions, will be a second class zoom each day 2.30pm - 3.00pm. They will use the same link as the morning 9.00am - 9.30am zoom time.

The next number of weeks will be challenging, but we will get through this together. Please take time for some positive experiences with your family and take time to reflect and rebalance amidst this challenging time.

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

Remember, if you have a question or need clarification or support, please phone the school on 9631 8529 or email the school. Take care and stay safe...

Parent Portal Access - URGENT ACTION NEEDED BY ABOUT 90 PARENTS / FAMILIES

The Sentral Parent Portal is our major form of communication directly to families! It is URGENT and ESSENTIAL if you have not already registered that you do so this coming week. I have had my admin team contacting families who still have not registered these last few weeks and assisting in registering and logging on.

URGENT

Please get registered on the Parent Portal as Semester Two reports will **ALL BE DELIVERED BY THIS PLATFORM AT THE END OF THE YEAR**. We won't be sending out hard copies. The reports will all be available for you online when they are all released.

So please prepare – DON'T MISS OUT on critical communication!



Wonderful Happenings at Wenty!

Mrs Khanlu and I are choosing a colour each day to dress for work each day, so add a bright spot to our days! ☺



Last Friday was RED!



Tuesday was BLUE!



Monday was PURPLE!

(Continued on page 4)



Hello everyone,

Hope you are all doing well despite this crazy time that we are in! Lockdown isn't fun but I am thankful we can do our bit to care for each other and help stop the spread of the virus by staying home. I still really miss seeing you all and helping out at our school.

There is a great opportunity each week during term time to catch up as a Wentworthville Public School community. You are invited to participate in a new initiative by the school called 'Wellbeing Wednesday'. Mrs Lockrey, Ms Di Chio and Mrs Eastwood will on a Zoom call at 12.00pm each Wednesday and would love to chat with you all. A great session was had by all last week for Education Week.

You can find the details for the Zoom meeting on the Parent Portal or in this Newsletter. Take care and I look forward to catching up with you on Zoom.

Catherine Grant
P&C President



OSHClub
Outside School Hours Care



Dear Parents,

After an open tender process, the Department of Education has selected a preferred provider, OSHClub Pty Ltd, for the provision of before and after school care services onsite at our school. We expect that the service will continue to operate as normal, given that OSHClub is the existing service provider.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the school, or the Before and After School Care Program team at the Department of Education by Phone: 1300 244 145 or email at:

BASCReform@det.nsw.edu.au.

Regards,

Denise Lockrey

G Block Library Tour



This week I will take you on a tour of the new library.



Watch this video [Welcome to Wentworthville Public School Library!](#)



Just a reminder to register for the Sentral Parent Portal so you can receive updates about events at our school. Every family has a special code to register. If you have misplaced your code please see the office so we can facilitate this information to be forwarded to you.

Please ensure you activate your notifications in your settings in the Sentral Parent Portal app so you receive an alert each time a message is sent via the Sentral Parent Portal. The Parent portal is the main method of communication for school events and updates.

The Sentral Parent Portal aims to provide parents with access to communication features about daily notices and newsfeeds about school events, send and receive absence notifications and access to our term calendar of school events. When your child is absent you will automatically be sent a notification to provide a response for the absence. Absences can be explained via the Parent Portal app or desktop site.



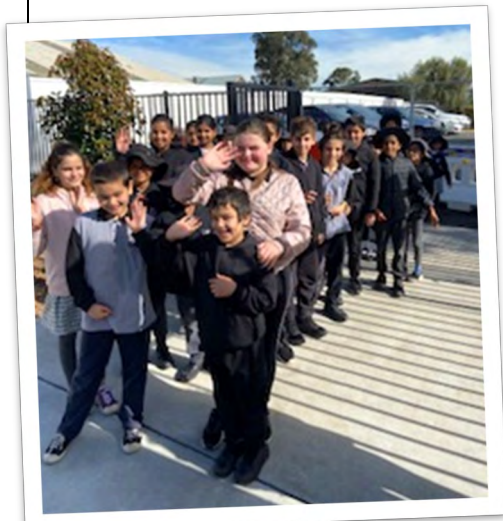


Building update!



Due to COVID stay at home orders and restrictions, Stage 2 building works are on hold until the restrictions are lifted for construction in the Cumberland LGA.

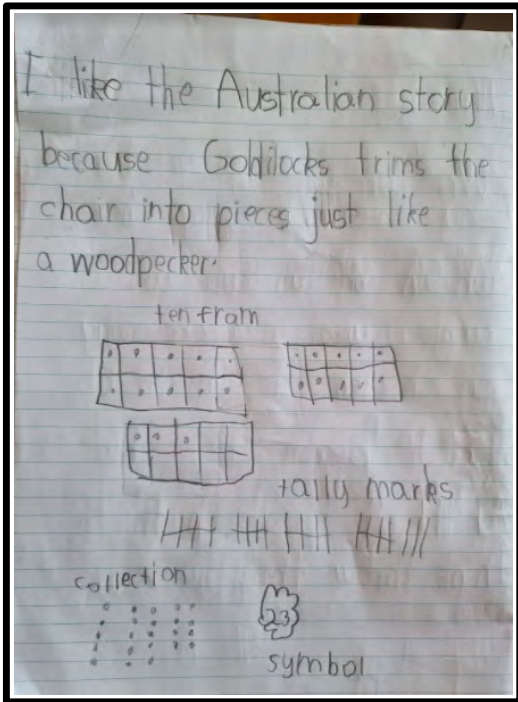
Our first excursion on site to G Block for the students of frontline workers who need to send their children to school occurred in Week 2. They were so excited seeing the new G Block learning spaces, library and outdoor spaces!



Wow!



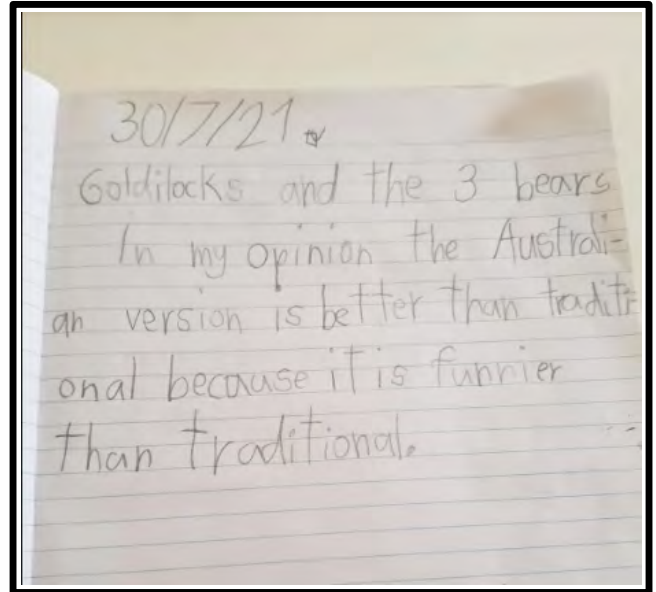
KS ONLINE LEARNING!



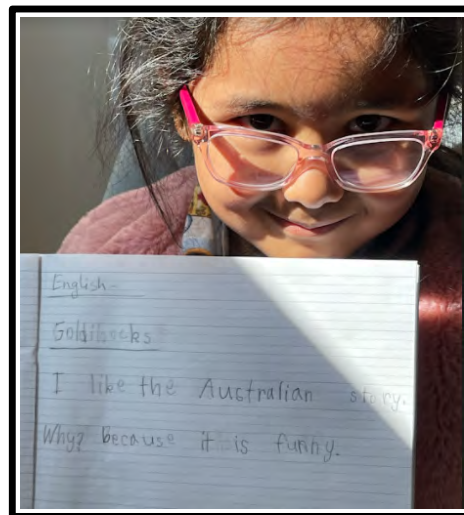
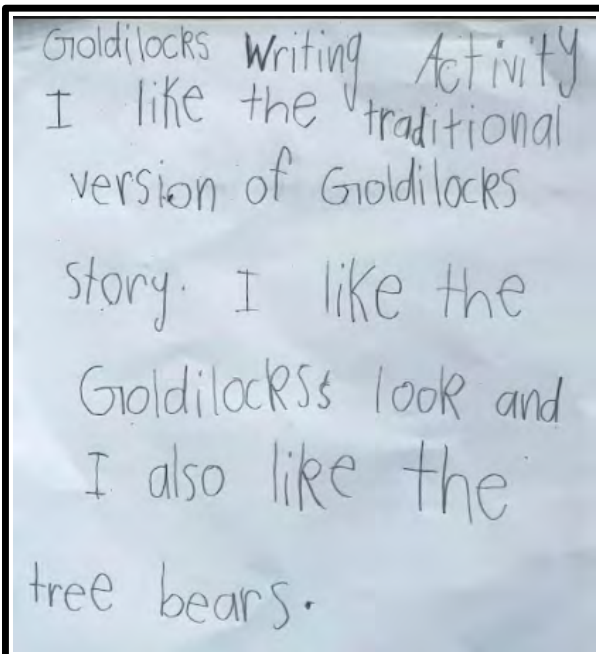
JIREH



AADVIK



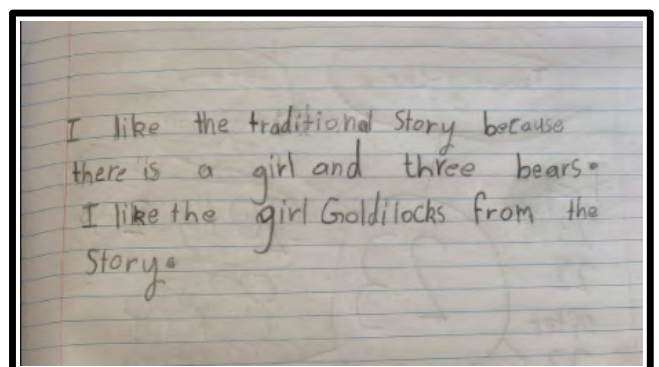
VEDANJALI



ARYA

Miss Said is extremely proud of all her KS students for submitting amazing work samples every day. They have been independently using new technology and are engaged in all Zoom lessons. Well done everyone!

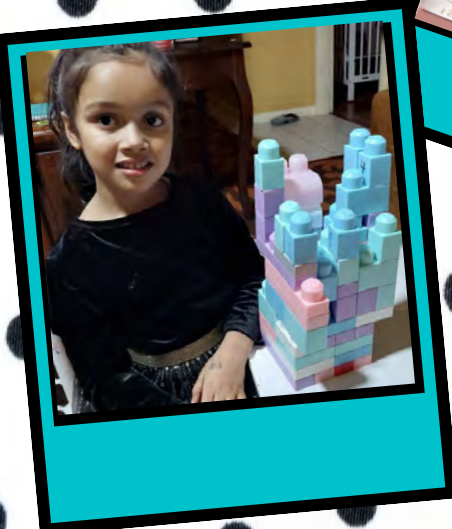
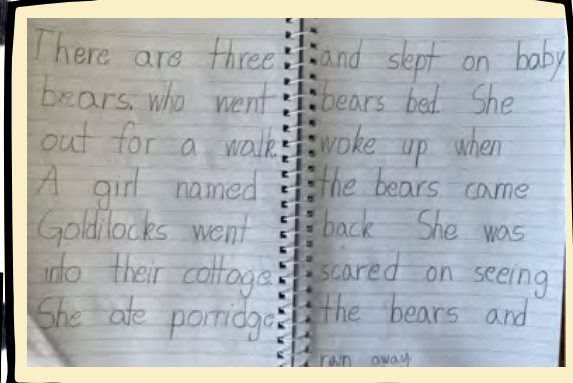
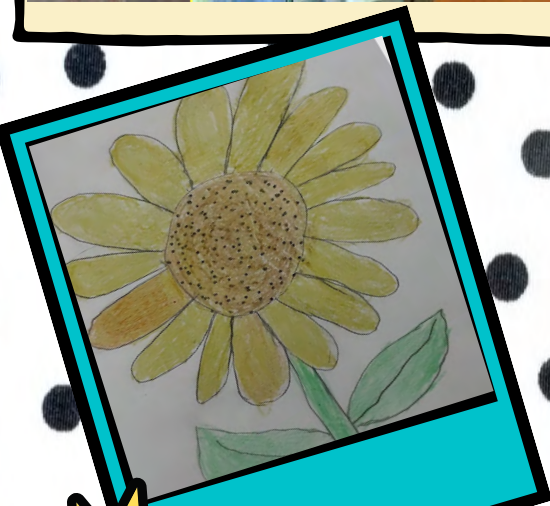
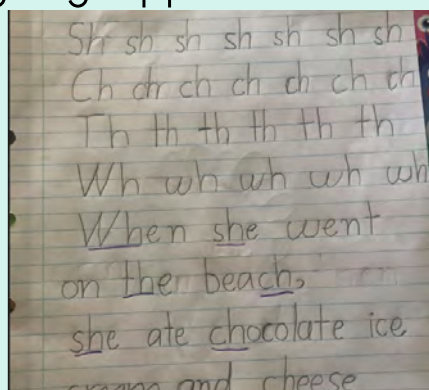
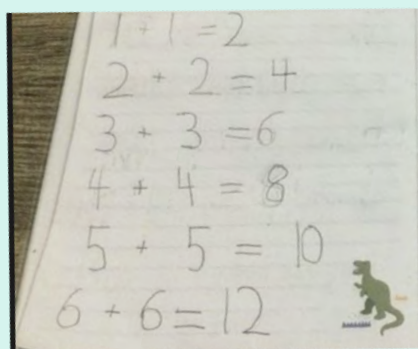
NIMEESHA



KINDERGARTEN

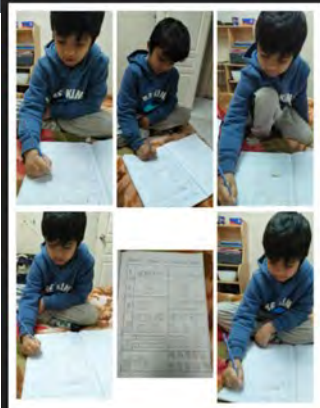
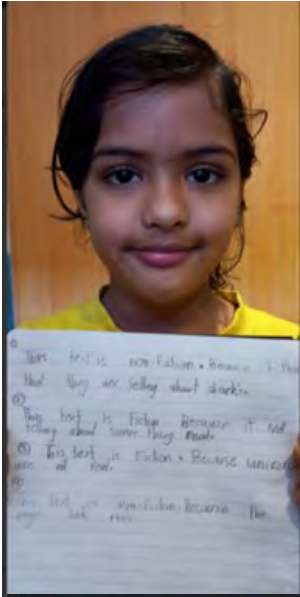
newsletter

The teachers of our kindergarten classes are so proud of the learning they have been doing at home. Students have been having fun during the week in art lessons and challenges. They are working hard in English and Maths exploring fairytales and practising number skills. Thank you parents for your ongoing support.



Year 1 News

Students in Year One have been producing some wonderful work whilst learning from home. Keep up the fabulous work Year One!



BUT WAIT! THERE'S MORE!

Year 2 News

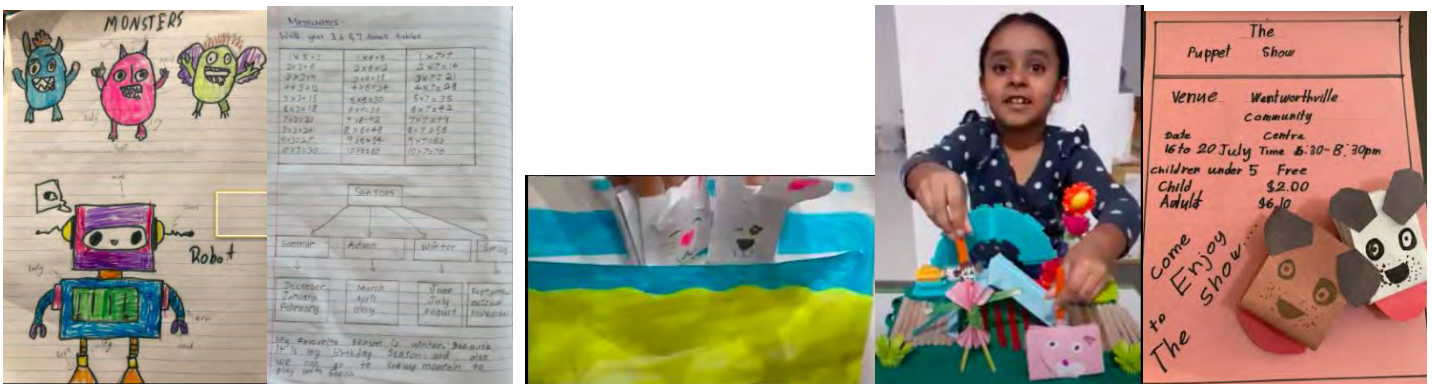
We may not be in school, but... the learning hasn't stopped!

We hope you have all been managing through this difficult and restrictive time when everything is so very different to how we'd like it to be, but it seems like everyone's hard work following our current restrictions may hopefully see things return to normal soon!

We are all super keen to see you again and can imagine you are all very keen to return to school, too! - We are all still here for you, waiting to catch up again! Your teachers all miss you, too!

Year 2, you are doing a great job of zooming every day and submitting your Learning from Home on Google Classrooms. Keep up the good work and remember it's also important to laugh, find time to play and find the positives when you can.

2G have been having fun doing so many different things. Here are some samples! *Mrs Grant*



2H have been researching fantastic facts about animals, collecting the information in tables and turning the points into sentences. It has been fun for me to also learn by reading all of the students' facts! Stay safe everyone! *Mr Hobor*

Memories!!!!

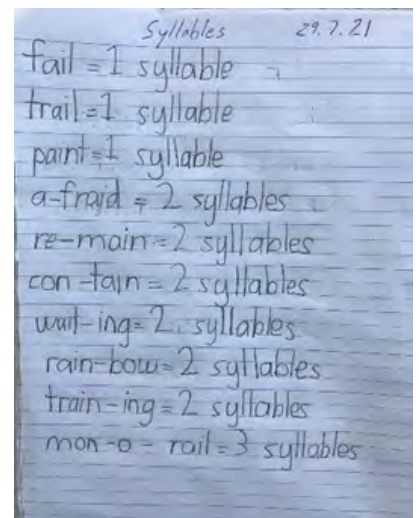
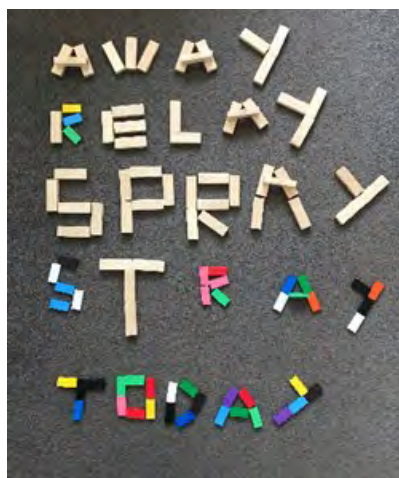
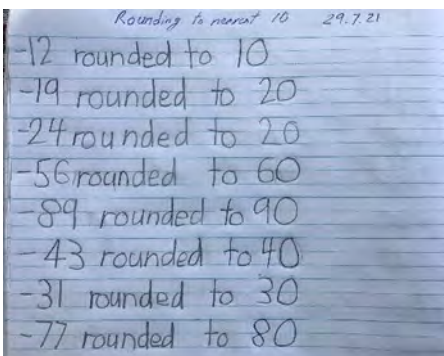
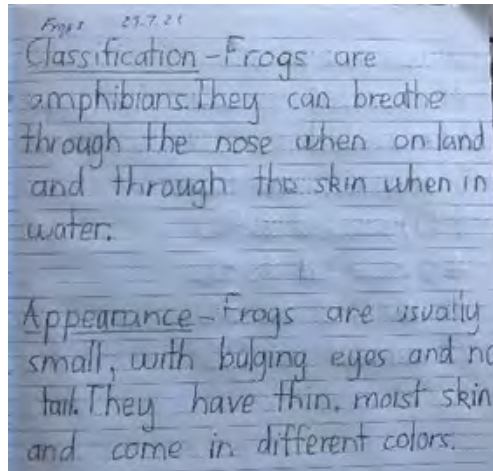
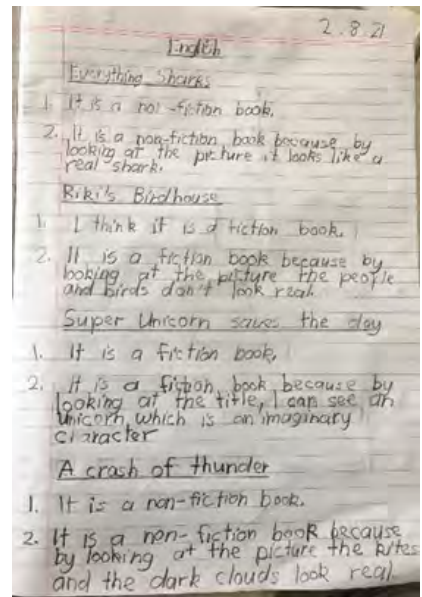
2L students lined up outside their old classroom, eagerly looking forward to another fun day at school in their pyjamas!

We can't wait to return to school and see what wonderful playground space we will have to play in, now that those old yellow demountables in the background, have all disappeared!

Ms McMahon



(Year 1 News continued....)



5/6W Online Learning

5/6W have further developed skills acquired during last year's online learning experience. Using Microsoft Teams as a core learning platform, significant transitions have been made in completing work within online workbooks, using various technologies to showcase the completion of daily activities.

Students have reflected on the importance of engaging at their fullest and taking on high levels of responsibility. When confronted with difficulties, often technical, or technological in nature, the class have worked together effectively as a team to solve problems. Keep up the fantastic efforts 5/6W. Your hard work will always translate into maximising your potential as learners.



Mr Williams



Parent Zoom Catch Up with the Senior Executive

Each Wednesday at 12.00pm we will be holding a Parent Zoom catchup with the Senior Executive. It is an opportunity for parents to ask questions and chat with the Senior Executive team. Various weeks there may be a special guest that will join us and we'll let you know ahead of time who that will be.

**DON'T
MISS OUT!**

We look forward to seeing you on Wednesday at 12.00pm

To join the Parent Zoom Catch Up please use the Zoom details below:

<https://nsweducation.zoom.us/j/65067074921?pwd=XNUNVNEMXZmVGpwaGdlYSStKWVZPZz09>

Meeting ID: 6506707 4921

Passcode: 459205



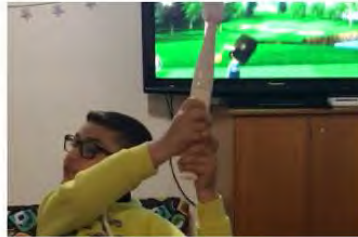


Support Unit – Life Long Learners- K-6M, K-6L, K-6T



In education week, the Support Unit received a certificate of participation for being Lifelong Learners.

Here is some of what they did.

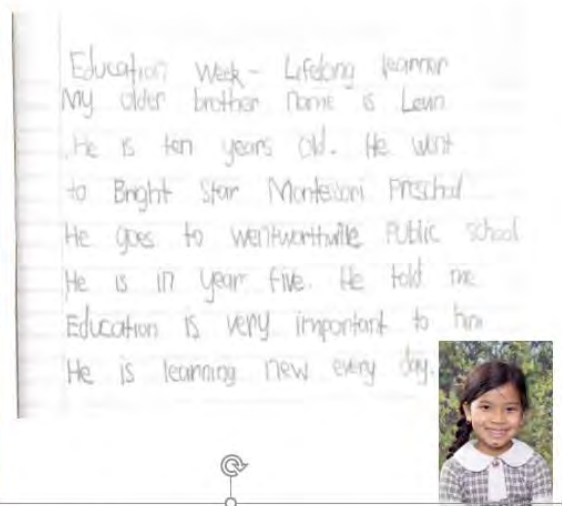


SHOWCASING WHAT YOU ARE GOOD AT

- *Ata - explaining big numbers*
- *Karthik playing piano*
- *Mehvish colouring*
- *Jamal playing Wii golf*
- *Samanyu storytelling*

INTERVIEWING OTHERS TO SEE WHAT EDUCATION MEANS


- Samara interviewed her brother Levin.
- Samanyu interviewed his dad.



Samanyu Mayalagan Yesterday
I interviewed my dad. He studied in south India and travelled to school by public bus. H3

Samanyu Mayalagan Yesterday
He liked talking to his friends.

Jocelyn Ly Yesterday
Thanks for sharing Samanyu!



29-01-2021




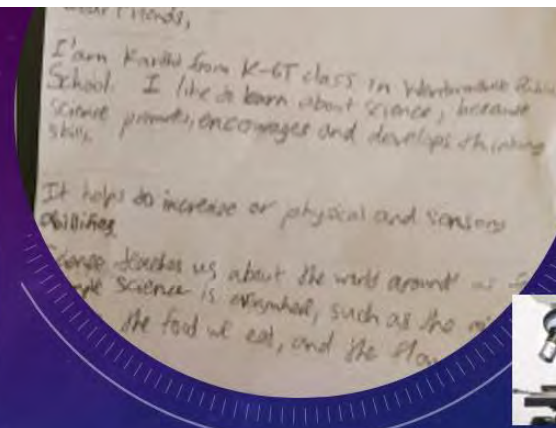


Dear Sharvee,

I would like to learn about the first Australians and Traditional Customs of land and the history of our beautiful country, Australia as we owe so much to this land as it has given us so many things.

I hope you too will agree with me.

See you soon.

Your Friend,
Shrihan.

WRITING LETTERS TO OTHERS TO SHARE WHAT YOU LIKE TO LEARN ABOUT AND WHY.

KATHIK – SCIENCE

SHRIHAN- AUSTRALIA AND TRADITIONAL CUSTODIANS

Education week: Leelona learner

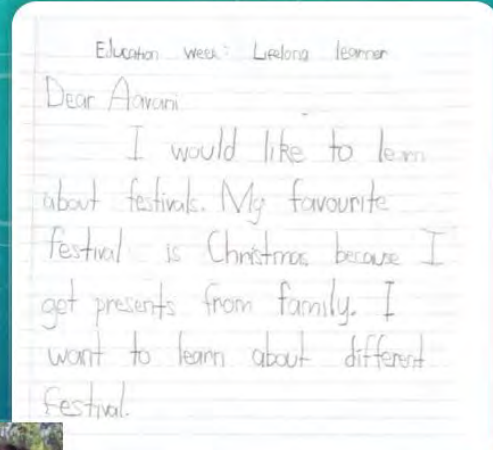

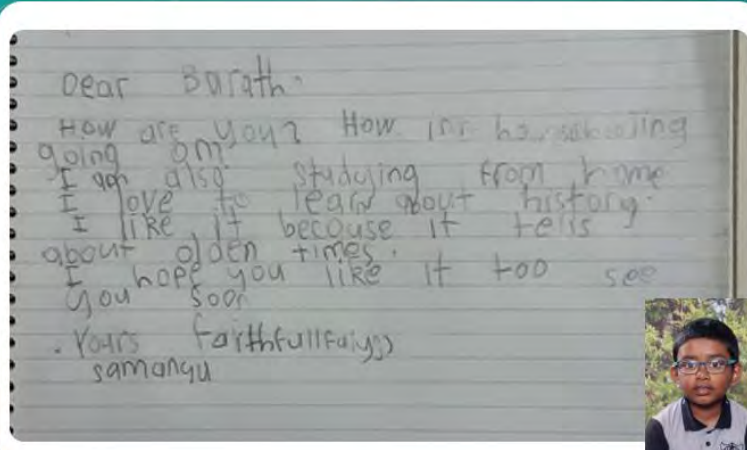

Dear Aravani,

I would like to learn about festivals. My favourite festival is Christmas because I get presents from family. I want to learn about different festival.

Dear Barath,

How are you? How are you schooling going on?
I am also studying from home.
I love to learn about history.
I like it because it tells about older times.
I hope you like it too see you soon.

Yours faithfully,
samanyu

WRITING LETTERS TO OTHERS TO SHARE WHAT YOU LIKE TO LEARN ABOUT AND WHY.

Samanyu – history

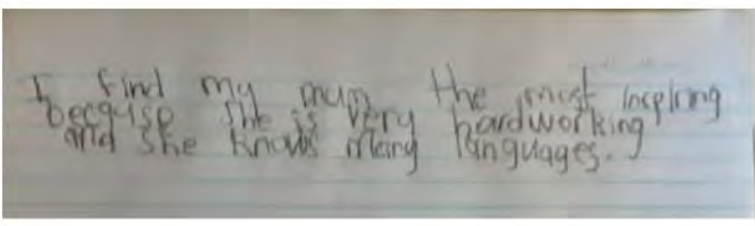
Samara- Festivals



Who do you want to be when you grow up? These are some of your answers. =]



Just like mum and dad =]



Who inspires you?

Everyone in K-6M, K-6T and K-6L inspires Ms Moorhouse, Mrs Wilson, Mrs Turner and Miss Ly to teach and learn every day! We are so proud of you!



OSH Club

Outside School Hours Care



In OSHCLUB news we would like to welcome two new team members to our service we have Mrs Diana who was recently promoted from our casual to our new permanent educator. Mrs Diana comes to our service with a great amount of experience and love for arts and crafts. We also love to welcome our new Assistant Coordinator Miss Claudia. Claudia brings a great amount of positive energy and has a strong passion with working with children to ensure they are safe and are provided with a high quality of care.



The club that is running this term is our Art Club with Mrs Diana every Thursday and Friday. So far, the children have created an indigenous artwork that has been showcased in the hall using a range of recycled and natural resources.

In the second week the children created an "under the sea" artwork, using recycled cardboard, old CD's and plastic bottles and this week the children have been working on a "Secret Flower Garden" made with cardboard, paper, buttons, and pipe cleaners.

This art club encourages the children to use their imagination, creativity, and self-expression to create these special art works.

We are hoping to showcase all the artwork at the end of the school term with an Art Exhibition that will allow parents, children, and school staff to attend the event. Further information on this will be provided towards the end of term.

WOW!



**JOIN US FOR SOME FUN BEFORE SCHOOL,
AFTER SCHOOL AND DURING THE HOLIDAYS!**
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INSIGHTS

Riding the COVID waves



The disruption caused by the pandemic continues, with the scale of its impact dependent on geography. Families in three of the nation's states are no strangers to lockdowns and the disturbance they bring to normal life. Regardless of where you live, the sense of the pandemic is always present, ready to disrupt daily life at short notice.

We crave connection and certainty

Human beings crave certainty and human connection, both of which are severely impacted by the current pandemic. Just when life appears to return to normal, COVID case numbers can flare, sparking changes to our daily lives. As demonstrated by the massive increase in people seeking psychological support services over the last 18 months, these are difficult times for us all.

Every family has its own COVID related story consisting of loss, disappointment, hardship, frustration of some kind. While there is no magic bullet that will make living through these uncertain times easy, here are some strategies to help you and your family stay upright while you ride the COVID waves of uncertainty and change.

Model a coping mindset

Let's start with a coping mindset, the hardest and most important strategy. The leader in any group is the person who remains calm in a crisis, so as parents we need to do all we can to keep our acts together, or at least look like we are in control. Kids of all ages, but especially primary-aged students, take their cues from parents, the most important people in their lives, about how to view events. If catastrophising, anxiety and anger are modelled, then inevitably younger family members will mimic these behaviours. More significantly, these behaviours contribute to their feelings of lack of control. Alternatively, when acceptance, perspective and optimism are on display, kids learn how they can cope with uncertainty and change. This is not to suggest that parents aren't struggling, and that we shouldn't show our vulnerability to children. However, children and young people feel safer and more secure when their parents radiate a sense of calm and composure in the face of difficulty. Challenging, but essential.

Act like a middle born

Despite the negative press that middle-borns receive including 'middle child syndrome', and 'middle-child complex', this cohort is generally very resilient. Their flexibility as a result of fitting into a life pattern set by an elder sibling enables them to more easily adapt to change. Often considered less ambitious and driven than first-borns, middle children generally expect less of themselves, and are more inclined to bide their time, letting the big waves pass before riding the more accessible, easier waves to achieve success. Birth order research reveals that middle children tend to have broader social circles than children born in other positions enabling them to form social connections in many different settings. Their adaptability, lowering of expectations and wonderful approachability are examples of how to survive challenging times.

Embed wellbeing strategies into family life

If ever there was a time to make wellbeing come alive in a family, it's now. If you have previously believed kids' wellbeing is less important than homework, music or sports lessons and chores then it's time for a priority rethink. Mental health practices are most successful when they are embedded into family life, rather than being focused on when life gets hard. While no means limited to these, the most significant wellbeing practices include sticking to daily routines (to maintain feelings of control), taking regular exercise (to get rid of built-up stress and promote feel-good endorphins) and prioritising sleep (to maximise the brain's capacity to manage stress).

Only sweat the big stuff

If you find that you're arguing with your child over minor issues such as leaving clothes around the house, then it's time to let the small stuff go and focus on the bigger issues. You may need to set the parenting bar a little lower, focus less on academics, even relax screen time limits for a time if they are a source of conflict. Expect behaviour blow outs from children who have lost their own bearings – in some cases access to friends, school, and schedule. Give kids space if they regress, rather than reward tantrums with plenty of your attention, which will reward and keep the behaviour going.

Connect with your village

Are you an introvert or an extrovert? What about your kids? It matters because each group reacts differently during lockdowns. Those on the introvert end of the spectrum can feel a little too comfortable being home and away from work or school. Scheduling regular digital catch-ups with friends and family can overcome reluctance to connect. Extroverts, on the other hand, can really struggle being away from friends and need little encouragement to stay in touch, which is vital during times of uncertainty.

There are no hard and fast rules about living through this pandemic. COVID didn't come with a 'how to' manual, so most of us are writing our own rules as we go. Embrace any ideas that work for you and your family and let go of those that aren't right for you. Be mindful, that the tide will eventually turn, the waves more predictable and our capacity to deal with hardship will have been enhanced by this experience.



Michael Grose

Michael Grose, founder of Parenting Ideas, is one of Australia's leading parenting educators. He's an award-winning speaker and the author of 12 books for parents including *Spoonfed Generation*, and the bestselling *Why First Borns Rule the World and Last Borns Want to Change It*. Michael is a former teacher with 15 years experience, and has 30 years experience in parenting education. He also holds a Master of Educational Studies from Monash University specialising in parenting education.