



# GEORGE BASS SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Week 10 Term 2 2017

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

I hope that everyone in our community has had a happy Eid. Our staff have definitely enjoyed the products of this celebration, particularly the food that has been in the staffroom over the last week. It is hard to believe we are halfway through another school year. By this stage all of our students should have received their reports for Semester one. It was really enjoyable to be able to read these reports and see the progress that our students have made throughout the first half of the year. It is a testament to the great work that our staff does and the hard work of our students, that so much is able to be achieved. If there are any questions about any aspects of the reports please don't hesitate to contact your child's teachers.

NAIDOC week is being celebrated this week during class activities and through a special assembly on Thursday. NAIDOC week is a great opportunity for our school community to acknowledge the first Australians and traditional custodians of the land on which our school was built. Activities for the day will focus on aspects of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture and will culminate in an assembly to highlight and reflect on our learning and the day. Parents as normal are more than welcome to attend the assembly.

Next term, two of our experienced teachers are supporting the school by initiating a mentoring program. This program will enable us to support teaching and learning across classes based on the professional learning needs of our teachers and the strategic directions of the school. This will have some impact on the way classes are covered for next term for a small number of our students. However, it will also mean that our teachers are supported to provide a range of different programs and will often mean that our students receive more targeted support while this program is occurring.

As previously mentioned in the last Newsletter our teachers will be attending the Special Education Leaders Conference on Monday the 17<sup>th</sup> of July during our staff development day. Our SLSOs will be attending a professional development session at Rosehill, targeted at their role and supporting teaching programs. Our office staff will also be attending a School Administration conference on this day. These staff development days are a great opportunity for us all to learn about and reflect upon our professions.

School will resume for students as normal on Tuesday the 18<sup>th</sup> of July. I would like to wish everyone a safe and relaxing holiday. I hope that everyone makes sure they priorities time enjoying their families and the people most significant to them over this period.



## MESSAGE from DP

STRATEGIC DIRECTION SUCCESS STORY

Strategic direction 3 focuses on building sustainable partnerships within our diverse community that provide opportunities which are mutually beneficial to the school, students, families and the wider community.

In line with this strategic direction, and in response to an identified need for support from our parent community, George Bass School will be holding a workshop in collaboration with Family Planning NSW on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> August between 10am and 12pm. This workshop will aim to increase parent knowledge and confidence to support children with disability to deal with the changes associated with puberty. The workshop will also look closely at ways to support the development and understanding of the concepts of public and private. There will be a range of resources available for purchase including books, fact sheets and DVDs. Information about this workshop will be sent home to students in years 5-12 very soon.

We hope that this workshop and the development of a partnership with Family Planning NSW will allow us to provide our parent community with ongoing support on this important topic.



### What's happening in the classroom?

Last week a group of our senior students ventured out of the classroom and into the community to visit a supported work environment at the AFFORD Factory in Prestons.

This was an opportunity for these students to experience a work placement first hand as they begin thinking about their transition into a post-school program. The students had a wonderful time touring the factory, exploring the types of work available and talking to the workers.

After the visit to the factory I was very proud to hear that Karina from AFFORD described our students as amazing and well-mannered. It is fantastic to hear our students are representing our school so positively in the wider community. Well done!



## IMPORTANT DATES

Thursdays 1:45pm	School assembly
Friday 30 June	End Term 2
Tuesday 18 July	Students return for Term 3
Friday 21 July	P&C Meeting

## NGUNUN CLASS

This semester, Ngunun class has been learning about the different things that grow and change, as part of our Connected Outcome Groups (COGS) unit. In science, they have enjoyed hands-on activities that have incorporated the life cycles of a plant, butterfly, frog and bee. Each student has observed how they have changed from a baby and explored how they might change into an adult in the future.

Pictures and videos have assisted Ngunun class to understand how familiar objects, which are seen in the classroom and at home have changed over time, through a historical perspective.

During PECS cooking sessions, the students have had the opportunity to work with Burra class and experience how solids can change into liquids and vice versa.

This term we have been reading 'The Magic Hat' by Mem Fox. We have enjoyed dressing up in different kinds of hats and exploring language features of the book assisted by a variety of engaging sensory activities. Ngunun class have looked closely at describing different hats using a variety of attributes such as colour, shape and size and used our weekly vocabulary focus to create new texts independently. Numeracy was closely linked to our book this term and we specifically focused on the measurement strand of the Numeracy Framework. We participated in hands on experiences every week to gain understanding of how to measure area, length, time, weight and capacity.

A particular focus on technology integration within the classroom has increased engagement within literacy and numeracy sessions. We make a weekly video focusing on objects starting with a particular sound and students have enjoyed programming the 'Beebots' within the classroom to reflect their understanding of a weekly concept.



## BANGU CLASS

Bangu has had a fantastic start to the first half of the year! We have continued with our COGs unit of work, 'Gaming'. Everyone has been working hard while having a fun time learning.

For Accelerated Literacy this term we are reading the Wild Age book 'Land Roamers', where we are exploring prehistoric creatures that walk on the Earth. We compared Evren to a sabre tooth tiger and have enjoyed using a variety of techniques to create different art projects based on our book.

On a final note, we wish Guy all the best and a speedy recovery from his surgery. Bangu will not be the same without him, but we know that he needs his rest and we cannot wait to see him in the near future.

Mel, Guy, Evren and Alexia



## KOGUNDA CLASS

Kogunda class have had an exciting and eventful Term 2! We have taken part in many of our favourite programs such as cooking, bikes and swimming and have been lucky enough to start some new ones including MiniLit and Movement with Wali Class.

Kogunda class always start the day with the exciting and interactive morning circle! Students love getting involved and listening to a variety of songs and taking part in activities which have them learn about days of the week, months of the year and feelings.

In numeracy we have been learning about using numbers to count objects in our surrounding environment as well as using our counting skills to begin to add! In literacy lessons students have been reading a wide variety of texts including *The Very Hungry Bear* by Nick Bland, *Mr McGee* and *the Elephants* by Pamela Allen and *The Rainbow Fish* by Marcus Pfister. Students love exploring concepts such as friendship, sharing and looking after their friends through studying the text.

Kogunda class have been lucky enough to welcome Dao as our new SLSO. Dao's creative flair ensures our cooking lessons are always super yummy! We have made sandwiches, donuts and lots more!



## P&C NEWS

Hard to believe Term 2 is almost over and it's time to enjoy the school holidays. Enjoy your break and we look forward to seeing everyone back and refreshed for Term 3.

Fundraisers for next term will be the **Fathers' Day Stall** for all our wonderful Dads/Grandparents and the **Move-a-thon** to help raise much needed funds for our kids. Notes with further details will be sent home via the communication books next term.

Please keep **Tuesday the 15<sup>th</sup> August** free between **10am and 12 pm**. The P & C in collaboration with George Bass School have arranged a **Puberty Workshop** especially for all parents and carers run by Family Planning NSW to assist us with our kids. A note with more details to be sent home early next term.

If you have any questions/concerns or suggestions please feel free to email them to [gbspcc@hotmail.com](mailto:gbspcc@hotmail.com)

Next P&C Meeting is **Friday the 21<sup>st</sup> of July at 9.30am** which has moved forward due to Education Week. Hope to see lots of smiling faces.

## BUNDELUK CLASS

As we come to end of Term 2 for this year, Bundeluk class have been reflecting on all the new and exciting opportunities they have been a part of. Students have had a great time getting to know their peers in Kung Gung class as they have been working collaboratively to tally orders and count money for Milk Bar. They have also shown fantastic skills in the kitchen as the two classes participate in a weekly cooking program.

Students in Bundeluk class have shown commitment and enthusiasm in other senior programs such as Colours Café and community access. Students are to be commended for the effort they have shown in preparing food, taking orders, collecting money, giving change, setting up and packing away equipment for Colours Café on a weekly basis. Students have excelled in developing their communication skills during this time.

As part of Community Access, students have been travelling to AMF Bowling in Villawood. Each week, students eagerly participate in a game with their peers. Students have been practising the skills of turn taking and score keeping as well as learning how to correctly lift, throw and position the bowling ball.

Term 2 has been a very busy one for Bundeluk class and it's just the way we like it. We look forward to what next term has to offer.



## JIRRABILITY CLASS

End of term already! We have been so busy in Jirrability, time has flown by in the blink of an eye. This term we have been delving into the world of Roald Dahl, with a study of his story Fantastic Mr. Fox. It has been exciting to read each chapter. Along the way we have been trying to work out what might happen next.

We have continued our study of money in mathematics. During technology lessons we have begun to make stop motion videos using the iPad and different objects around our classroom. Swimming and cooking lessons have remained favourite sessions each week. This term we have prepared pizza, fried rice, pasta dishes, pancakes, burgers and rocky road for our lovely mum's for Mother's Day.

Everyone has worked hard and parents will see this in the school reports coming home this week. Each student in Jirrability should be very proud of their efforts this term. Enjoy the holiday break, rest and prepare for more exciting and engaging activities and experiences in Term 3.

