



Fisher Road School

'Together we can'



August 2013

FISHER ROAD SCHOOL HIGHLIGHT

Principal's News

Although we are only 3 weeks into the term lots has been happening. Tess our therapy dog has arrived, we have had swim school for some of the junior classes and term 3 programs are well under way. Also, we have had some painting and kitchen renovation over the holidays which were much needed and some new IT equipment and standing frames delivered.

My thanks to the families who came to the Athletics Carnival in Education Week. A great time was had by all and even the sun shone (perhaps a little too much for parents sat out in it). One of our junior classes visited St Cecilia's School and were made most welcome by all the students and staff. We have enjoyed our usual visit by SHORE boys on Mondays and a special visit by boys from St Ignatius on St Ignatius Day, July 31st.

Term 3 is a time for "heads down" for work for all with a focus on students completing their program targets. Staff will have their reviews by their supervisors this term and discuss their own professional development which will assist them in their classroom work.

Notices will be coming out soon about a special P & C meeting where staff from ADAHC will talk about their services and potential effects of the Disability Care program. We will also have a visit from a special Behavioural Ophthalmologist this term to talk with us about research in this area with children with disabilities. More on that and potential services in coming Newsletters.

Finally, our thanks go to QBE Insurance for a special grant of \$10,000. Through a contact from the Warringah Orchid Society we were given the opportunity to apply for a grant to pay for a Music Therapist. We were



Athletics Carnival 2013



St Ignatius Day 2013

Helping Fisher Road School students to ice cupcakes.

successful and this means that funds for 2014 music therapy have been gained. Previously our school Foundation paid for this service. The grant has freed up funds from the Foundation for other worthy activities.

Something to look out for! Again through the generosity of others, we will be given a fiberglass baby rhino to paint as part of the world wide event to raise money for the preservation of the rhino. Our rhino will arrive in late August and we then have the challenge of decorating it. All the rhinos from different schools and organisations will travel in an art show across the state, with our rhino coming back to us in mid-2014 to be placed at the school. Pictures will follow!

Susan Barisic

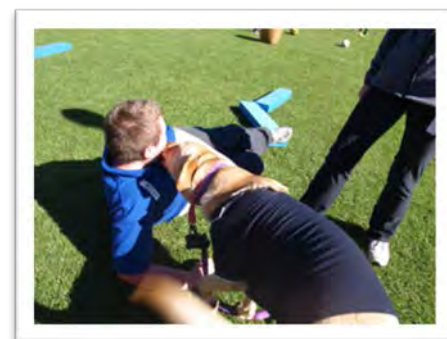
Therapy Dog – Tess

We were thrilled to be contacted by the Guide Dog Association during the school holidays to take ownership of a 'Pets As Therapy' female Labrador called Tess. It meant that during the holidays Ruth Rogers (her designated 'owner' on behalf of the school) got to know her before introducing her to the children on the first day back in Term 3.

Tess has come to Fisher Road School as a 21 month old pedigree yellow Labrador. She was born in October 2011 and was destined to be a Guide Dog for a blind or visually impaired person. At around 11 months she went to the puppy school to be trained, but after 3 months was deemed to be too exuberant on meeting other people or other dogs. It was hoped that with time she would settle but at her second stint at the Guide Dog Puppy Training School she was 'recalled' to be a therapy dog.

Classes at the school will engage with Tess in different ways. Some will take her for walks (on-site and off-site), some will groom her, some will play with her, and some will simply have her in the room moving around the children. Class teachers will gauge what engagement is appropriate for each class, and of course each student.

At our Sports Carnival Tess represented the school in her new school top. She joined in a race with a reluctant senior student, and licked the face of a fallen competitor (Liam) to make him happy. It was a special moment!



Crunch & Sip Program

Crunch & Sip is a school program that gets children eating vegetables and fruit and drinking water in the classroom. It encourages children to choose vegetables and fruit as the first choice for a snack and water as a thirst quencher. As well as providing vital nutrition for students, "refueling" with these healthy options assists children's performance in the classroom.

Healthy eating behaviours are modeled in the classroom and reinforce the nutrition messages in the PD/H/PE curriculum. By making fruit and vegetable eating and water drinking normal in the classroom, healthy habits can be formed and continued into adolescence and adulthood. Fisher Road School will be implementing Crunch & Sip into all classes during term three. A leaflet outlining what to pack into your child's lunch box during Crunch & Sip as well as what is NOT allowed will be sent home shortly.

Please jump on board so that Fisher Road School can be a part of the Crunch & Sip campaign!

Julie Moore



Class JP

Jen & Di

Class JP has been spending time with our new therapy dog 'Tess'. We love taking her for a walk on the lead down on the oval. All the students love to pat Tess and spend time with her in our classroom. We have all overcome some fears we had of dogs and now we enjoy our time with Tess.

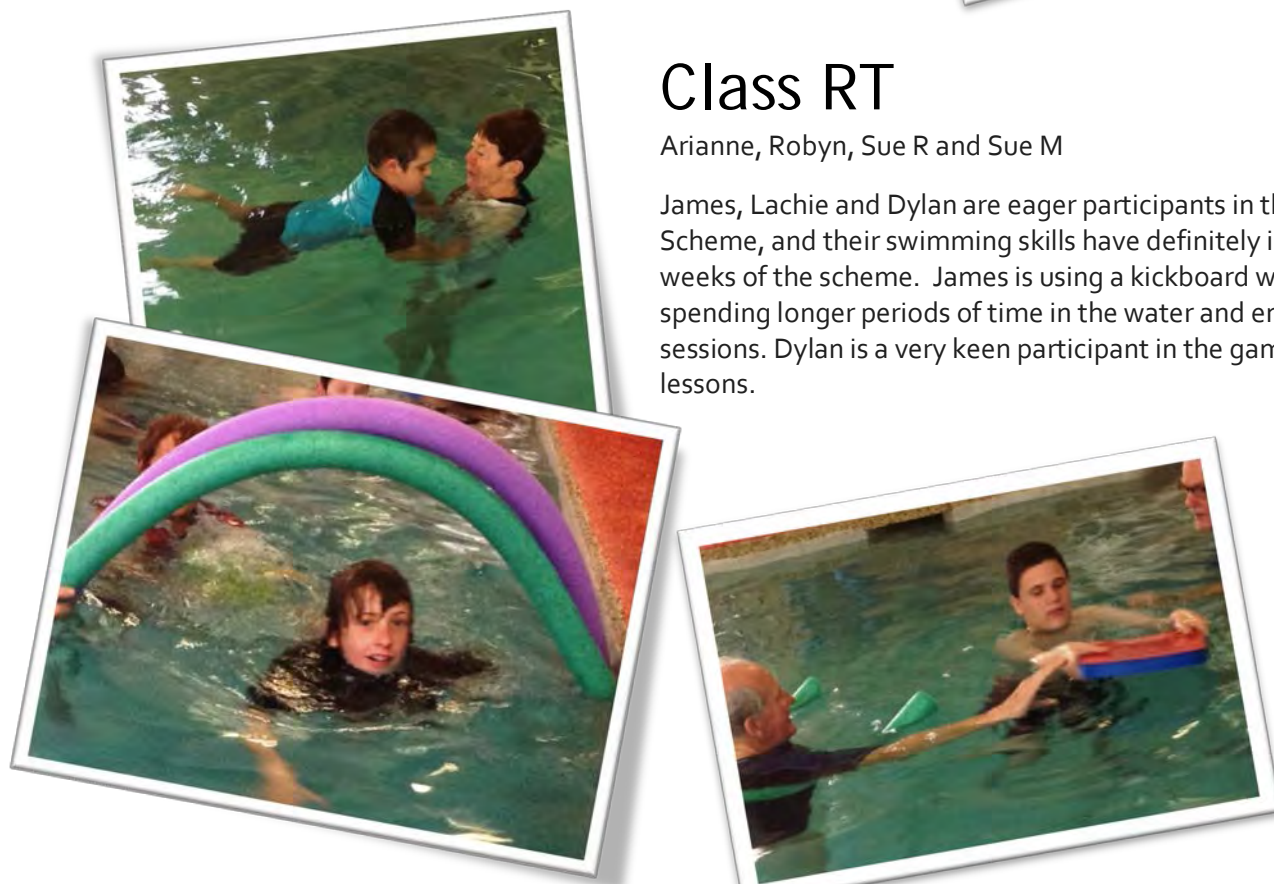
We have also been exploring with 'Herb' the interactive mat we are trialing. All the students enjoy the sensory experiences, one of the activities is a fish pond where the water ripples as we walk on it and fish swim around us. It has been an interesting and exciting experience for all of us.

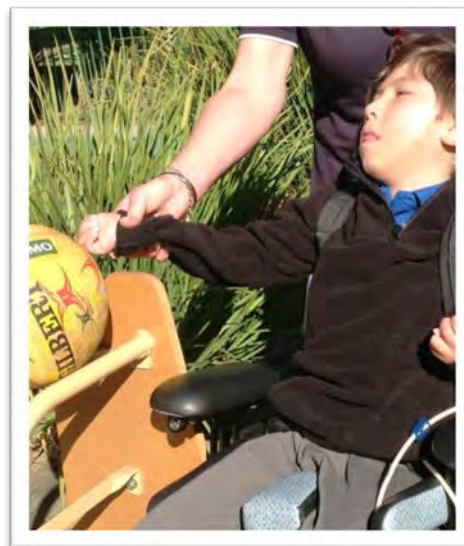


Class RT

Arianne, Robyn, Sue R and Sue M

James, Lachie and Dylan are eager participants in the School Swimming Scheme, and their swimming skills have definitely improved over the two weeks of the scheme. James is using a kickboard well and Lachie is spending longer periods of time in the water and enjoying himself in the sessions. Dylan is a very keen participant in the games incorporated in the lessons.





Class AM

Robyn, Tanya & Carmel

Class AM enjoyed Sports Day and, with the assistance of staff and Shore boys, were eager participants on the day. Marcus, Kai and Maia all completed the Junior Wheelchair Challenge and Jordy ran beautifully in the age races and had fun completing the obstacle course. We had fun watching all of the races, particularly the parent/grandparents' race. Unfortunately Angelina was sick and missed Sports Day, but we are happy to see her back at school now.



Class JM

Julie, Wendy & Rosemary

Emily, a senior student from class RR, visits class JM each Wednesday for work experience. Emily has done a fantastic job working with the students. She plays games with them, takes them for walks outside and helps them with their lunch. She is always very excited to come and help out in the junior class and we look forward to her visit. Thank you, Emily!

We have also been continuing with our colour sensory sessions. We recently explored all manner of items that are pink. The students enjoyed using their senses to manipulate these items. As you can see the pink sunglasses were a real hit!

Class NS

Nick & Rosemary

In Class NS we have been trialling using the communication app Proloquo2go on the class iPad with Zach. This app is very similar in design to a conventional PECS folder, but has the added advantages of a very natural text to speech voice, unlimited pages and quite a large vocabulary of over 14000 pictures and symbols. Zach enjoys using it as a communication device and I hope that it will give him greater independence than using a PECS folder. If you have any questions about this app or about communication in general, please do not hesitate to contact me at school.



Class MP

Maria & Monika

Thank you to the parents who came and watched us during the sports carnival. It was a lovely day to share this activity with family and friends. We also want to include our cooking recipe that was enjoyed by parents during the sports carnival.

Apart from cooking and doing sensory activities, we have been busy playing with "Herb", a computer that generates interactive floor games. It has been a new experience that Kane, Kiang Kiang, Ella, Nathaniel, Ana and Connor seemed to be enjoying.



M&M slice

Ingredients

- 125g butter (melted)
- $\frac{3}{4}$ cup brown sugar
- 1 tin (395g) sweetened condensed milk
- 250 g Marie biscuits (crushed)
- 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ cup of nuts and seeds mixture (crushed)

Procedure

1. Pre heat oven to 170 degrees Celsius.
2. Mix all ingredients in a bowl.
3. Grease and press mixture into lamington tray.
4. Bake for 10 minutes and remove from oven.
5. Cool and place in refrigerator to set then cut into pieces.

Class TH

Trish, Sue & Mandy

Class TH are enjoying having a new music therapy teacher. Kate is working on engaging the students with songs and musical instruments. Through this, a great deal of eye contact and interaction has been achieved.

Class TH also has taken on the responsibility of having our therapy dog, 'Tess', join our class for one session per week. So far, we have taken her for a walk outside of school, and also around the oval. Each student takes a turn at leading Tess.



Class CW

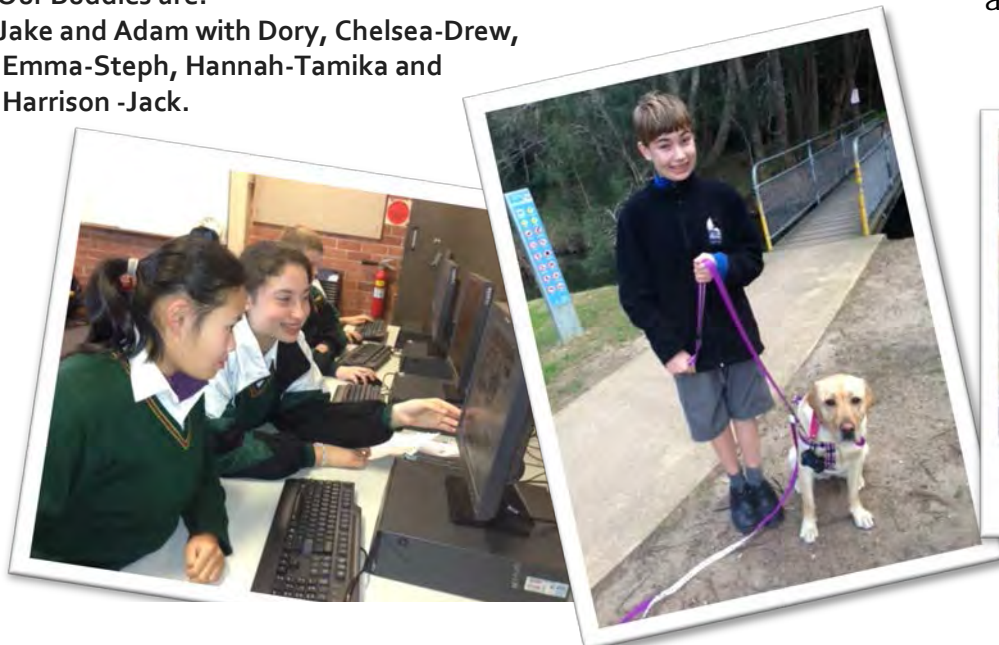
Caroline & Jenny

Each Wednesday CW group has been taking Tess, the therapy dog, with us to Narrabeen Lakes for a nature walk. Students have been learning how to hold the lead and walk with Tess on the left side. While walking is great exercise and all students enjoy being in the outdoors, the program ties in with learning outcomes from the Geography, Science and PD/Health/PE syllabus.

Also, a new group of Year 8 buddies have joined us at The Forest High for social interactions and learning. Students work together in the computer lab for computer games, discussions and social board games every second week.

Our Buddies are:

Jake and Adam with Dory, Chelsea-Drew, Emma-Steph, Hannah-Tamika and Harrison -Jack.



FISHER ROAD STARS

Class RR

Chloe - Terrific talking and communication.

Class MT

Tyson - Technology skills.

Class JP

Jessica - Independently asking to use the toilet.

Class RT

Dylan - Excellent participation in community access.

Class MP

Kiang - Weight bearing during transfers.

Class JM

Arun - Great Smartboard™ work.

Class CW

Michael - Keyboard and Piano work in class and music therapy.

Class AM

Marcus - Great mobility.

Class NS

Naomi - Great work in swimming.

Class TH

Kyle - Holding a marker pen and attempting to colour in.





the **nA**tional
plan for school
improvement

Take a chance to visit this site and
find out about National plans for
schools and school funding.

<http://www.betterschools.gov.au/>

Class MT & RR Senior High School

Matt, Ruth, Sue M & John

Senior students have been involved with art work related to the rhino installation we are about to receive in collaboration with Taronga Zoo. Here Emily and Liam can be seen providing ideas for its final presentation. As a class we also made a collage model using waste packaging. We had great fun doing a joint project, playing music and sharing ideas.



Fundraising for Fisher Road.

Our thanks go to Vanita Connery who has linked us to a fantastic website people can access to make up their own photo books. A percentage of the purchase price goes to our school. So, if you or a friend are thinking of having your photos made into a glamorous book, this is the site to go to!

http://www.pix2print.com.au/fundraising/fisher_road_school/fisher_road.htm



Want to save up to **40%** on a customized photo book or calendar? Purchase online today!

You'll be helping raise funds for Fisher Road School which caters for students with intellectual disabilities.

Athletics Carnival 2013



TRANSITION FOR CARERS FORUM

Transition is the period when a child moves from adolescence to adulthood. It is a complicated process for children with chronic health conditions, but is far more complex for those who have additional issues such as an intellectual disability, cognitive impairment, autism or brain injury.

As a part of our Carers Week activities, The Carer Support Program at the Children's Hospital at Westmead invites parents and carers to attend the Transition for Carers forum and expo .

REGISTRATION IS FREE. Morning Tea and lunch provided.

WHO: This forum is for parents & carers of young people aged 14 – 18 years who have a chronic health condition & who, because of a disability, will have difficulty managing their own care as adults.

WHEN: 18th October 2013, 9.15am - 2.30pm

WHERE: The Kids Research Building

The Children's Hospital at Westmead.

Cnr Hawkesbury Rd and Hainsworth St, Westmead.

Carer Support Program
the children's hospital at Westmead



Topics include;

- Navigating the adult Health system
- Consent and decision making
- Employment and post-school programs
- Panel discussion with carers who have transitioned
- Expo of services and organisations providing support after transitioning

REGISTRATION IS ESSENTIAL

To register call 9845 3590.

Email carersupport@chw.edu.au

Registrations close on 11/10/2013.

Places are limited.

NOTE: Professionals in this field may register, but will only be offered a place if all available places have not been filled by parents and carers at close of Registration. Registration is on first come basis.

**GOT A KID
WITH A DISABILITY?**

*Looking for everything
you need in one place?
We think we just found it!
mummy blog + parenting
site + kid with disability*



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