



Principal's News

This was to be my last Newsletter to you but, although I keep promising to leave, I am not quite there yet! I will retire at the end of the holidays but as things are running a little slow in appointing the new principal, Dean White (our School Director) has asked if I will return until the new principal comes online. The advertisement for the position will appear next week and the applicants will be culled in the first week back for term 3, with interviews in the second week. Hopefully the new principal will be able to start straight away after that. So sorry, but you have to put up with me for a little longer.

As term 2 draws to an end we have good news that some of our playground revamping has already occurred. Our senior playground has been resurfaced and looks fantastic. The junior playground will be done in the holidays. As most of this has been paid for through some "uncovered" DEC funding (the school and Foundation covered a small part) our fund raising drive to improve the playground will now not need to hit such a high target. You will notice when you drop in to the school, our thermometer showing how donations made to the school are going towards further equipment for our playgrounds. New equipment will give our students greater opportunities to be engaged in activities during their break time. Watch this space.

Many thanks to everyone for coming in for your child's Review Meeting. These meetings are a great opportunity to talk about progress and make any necessary changes to the IEP.

Our trial of the Hippotherapy program will start next term and last for 8 weeks. We will assess the program and if we all feel it is going well, extend it to invite other students to participate. It will always be a user-pays program so we realise this puts some limits on participation.

The trial of having therapy support /professional learning for the staff has also commenced its trial with OT Catherine Kos starting 5 hours per week at the school. This too is an 8 week trial and the value of the support to staff will be assessed at the end of the trial. The therapists involved will work directly with teachers in building their knowledge and skills in the various therapies. They will not give a direct service to the students although the learning teachers gain will have great benefits to the students through increased skills in therapy techniques, programing and using equipment. This is quite different to discussions that have been had about trialling a Therapy Clinic at the school. More on that next term.

I will save my farewells and thanks until next term. I do wish everyone a safe and restful holiday break. There will be a School Development Day on Monday July 14th, the first day back for staff. The program will cover the Communication Project we are starting (looking at how we program for communication and review our protocols in this area), writing Risk Assessments and a report back from Arianne McCombie on a national conference on technology for special needs students.

Susan Barisic(Principal)

Dates to remember

Last day of term	FRIDAY JUNE 27 TH .
First day back for students	TUESDAY JULY 15 TH
Dental Clinic visit	FRIDAY AUGUST 22 ND
Athletics Carnival	TBA.

From the Office

The Entertainment Book fundraising venture has made a healthy \$686. Thank you to all families and staff who contributed to this effort with special thanks to Guy Reece who sold many books to work colleagues again this year.

Fight Gym Manly Beach is holding a "Sparring Night" Friday 1 August @ 7pm. Phone Gus 0414 467 119 for further information if interested in sparring or 9977 2961 if interested in joining in a night of fun & games. Tickets can be pre-purchased direct from the gym for \$20 or at the door for \$25. A donation will be presented to Fisher Road School after the event.

School photos will be taken Monday 18 August and winter uniform should be worn. Payment envelopes will be sent home next term. Please ensure they are returned promptly and the correct money is enclosed.

A second round of vaccinations for students in years 7 & 9 who returned their envelope will be on Monday 4 August.

Helen and Robb

Class MP

In the last few weeks, our class have been focussing on sensory desensitisation particularly the use of our sense of taste. During the morning routine, each student has to choose a jar with either herbs/spices, dried fruit, sweet/sour, lollies, etc. in the container. Jasper, Henry and Olivia are happy to have a taste of anything from the jar while Arun and Geoffrey require verbal encouragement. Though, Geoffrey took us by surprised one day when he actually ate peanut butter toast.

Olivia has adjusted well into her new environment. She enjoys all class activities especially music therapy and the presence of her new friends Jasper, Arun, Henry and Geoffrey.

Maria and Mandy



Class RR

Swimming remains a firm favourite with Class RR. Each child in the class gets to swim at least once a week for between 20 and 30 minutes, and we do lots of work around helping the children to change their clothes - standing independently, lifting arms, turning over etc. Mandy, an experienced swim coach, helps us to maximise our time in the water, and she is even developing a nice line in swim-songs, which Jordan in particular enjoys.

Ruth and Carmel



Class LE

Our class ventured to the kitchen to make play dough for use in our sensory activities. The experience was a sensory session in itself; students tasted the salt and flour, mixed the ingredients and smelt the end result which had peppermint essence added to it. We made two colours allowing our students to choose which one they prefer to use. Rolling the play dough is a great way to warm up hands and fingers on these cold mornings.

Virginia and Amy



Class AM

Class AM have been improving their culinary skills on Fridays making scrambled eggs or omelettes with baked beans. Some ingredients are gathered from the garden, the spinach and herbs. The eggs we collect from our chickens. Other ingredients we shop for on Tuesdays when we go out in the bus. Students help prepare the eggs, make their own toast, collect their own utensils and get their own drink. It's a fabulous activity learning appropriate social skills and practicing communication.

Arianne, Jenny and Sue



Class TH

This semester, Class TH has had lots of practice using functional money skills. This occurs both internally and externally. On a Tuesday, we walk to Coles, at Dee Why Grand. The students are split into two groups of four students. One group purchases goods for the school canteen, whilst the other group refers to the shopping list for the class cooking sessions. Roles are rotated around, so that each student has a turn at carrying out all steps such as scanning items through the checkout and placing notes/coins in the correct slots. At school, the students carry out similar skills to purchase an item at the school canteen. In addition, we have recently trialled using all these skills at 'Forest Way McDonald's, with much success!!

Trish and Sue

Class JM

Class JM have a great time each Wednesday with Kate the music therapist. Everyone loves to strum the guitar during our morning song and they are eager to choose their favourite instruments. Everyone is learning to keep their instruments still until it is their turn to play. The chimes are a popular choice with all the students, especially Ben. The

class are even starting to vocalise along with Kate which is wonderful to watch!

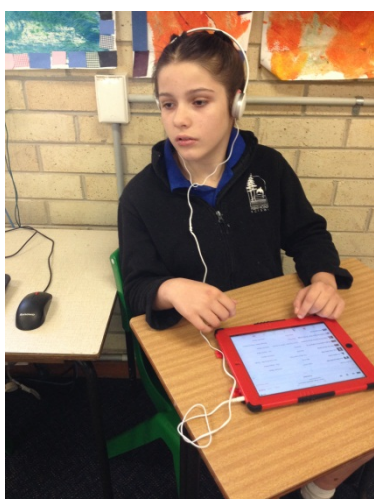
Julie and Sue



Class NS

The iPads are a great piece of technology that have so many uses for our students, such as communication, writing, drawing, listening to an e-book, colouring in, playing digital musical instruments, etc. One of the many functions that they are used for in Class NS is for listening to music with headphones. A number of the students in class NS have listening to music with headphones as a priority, and using the iPad for this activity is an easy, portable and enjoyable way to do it. In the photos you can see Laragh and Kyle listening to music on an iPad.

Nick, Monika and Fran



Senior High School Students

The TAFE program at Northern Beaches TAFE, Brookvale campus is going well. Some senior students have been doing an Introduction to TAFE course and learning about what it is like to go to another community learning centre. Students had fun exploring at the orientation day and got their TAFE card at the main enquiries desk. Students also learnt to locate the library and have been having fun borrowing music CD'S, videos and magazines. Our TAFE teacher, Kristen, has taken us on a tour of the hairdressing, hospitality and commercial cookery schools. Kristen has been teaching the students to fold hand towels, fold napkins in two different ways and to correctly use spray disinfectant to wipe tables, door handles and skirting boards. Students have also learnt how to set a table and about hygiene. For example, how to pick up cutlery and glasses in the correct way, to avoid touching the parts that people use to eat with.



Class MT

Class MT have been enjoying our time at Collaroy Plateau School. Last week we were invited to watch the year 4 students perform the play/musical Jack and The Beanstalk. It was a very fast paced, exciting pantomime style performance. Our students thoroughly enjoyed it and all sat and watch the entire performance beautifully.

Matt, Sally and Wendy



Triple P Program Testament

Thinking that behaviour management was rocket science I have to admit I wasn't expecting too much from this triple P program. But after a couple of sessions with Julie and Joy, to my surprise Kanga started to make leaps and bounds. The triple P program was all about enforcing "positive" behaviour to shadow "bad" behaviour with simple step by step plans. This certainly made Kanga and our lives a lot more easier and productive!!! What a great program thanks to Joy, Julie and Fisher Road. I would dearly love to recommend this program to other parents who are having difficulty with their child's behaviour.

It's all about positive praises, planning and patience in a nut shell.

Have a go. You might get that positive surprise that you were thriving for!!!

Kanga's dad



Group RR - Dallas

For engaging with all the sensory materials in a sensory story

- Kai

For coping well with changes around mealtimes

Group MP - Arun

For riding the bike with minimal assistance

Group JM - Tiella-Dakota

Settling in well at school

- Lachlan B

Improvement in swimming

Group NS - Alexandra

Great work on the treadmill

- James C

Great kicking while swimming

Group LE - Ella

For eating and drinking well

- Kiang Kiang

For wonderful switch work

Group TH - Jarryd

For great yoga work

- Thomas

For great lawn bowling

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Cate Latham, Go4Fun parent

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Wednesdays & Thursdays (2x per week)

4.30pm-6.30pm. Starts 16th July

Wednesdays

4.30pm-6.30pm. Starts 16th July

Tuesdays & Thursdays (2x per week)

4.00pm-6.00pm. Starts 15th July

▶ **Hornsby PCYC – Performing Arts Centre**
22 Waitara Ave, Waitara

▶ **Fix Australia**
319 Penshurst St, Chatswood

▶ **North Ryde RSL Youth Club**
Magdala Rd, North Ryde

▶ **Pittwater Sports Centre**
1525 Pittwater Rd, Nth Narrabeen

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