

'Together we can'

Fisher Road School

2016.TERM 3.WEEK 3



STUDENT EVENTS

**15TH AUG
SCHOOL PHOTOS**

**2ND SEPT
FATHER'S DAY
STALL**

**26TH AUG
VARIED STAFF
DEVELOPMENT
DAY
NO STUDENTS**

**23RD SEPT
LAST DAY OF
TERM 3 FOR
STUDENTS**

**10TH OCT
SCHOOL RESUMES
FOR STUDENTS**

**PARENT/CARER
EVENTS
YOU'RE INVITED...**

**24TH OCT
SPORTS
CARNIVAL**

**27TH NOV
YEAR 12
GRADUATION**

**7TH DEC
PRESENTATION
DAY/CONCERT**

NAIDOC Week

NAIDOC Week celebrations are held across Australia each July to celebrate the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. At Fisher Road School, NAIDOC Week was celebrated with each class completing a piece of a puzzle using various forms and styles to create a whole school artwork. Our very own 'Rainbow Serpent' was designed by our students and captures the bright colours and textures common in Indigenous art. Next time you are visiting our school foyer please see our marvellous artwork that the students worked on.

Jen Oik – NAIDOC Coordinator

Read all about how Class MP celebrated NAIDOC week on page 11.



Songlines:

The living narrative
of our nation

03-10 JULY 2016



" If opportunity doesn't knock, build a door!" ~ Milton Berle



Welcome back to Term 3. This newsletter contains class contributions that highlight the high quality teaching and learning at Fisher Road School.

I am proud to lead a school that continues to foster quality education for students with diverse learning needs. Communication continues to be a focus as we work on building student skills across expressive and receptive domains.

This term we welcome Deborah to the staff as our Fisher Road School Counsellor. Deborah is available each Monday and half day alternate even Fridays. I am sure you will meet Deborah throughout the year as she supports your child at Fisher Road. Please make contact with Deborah as needed.

The Rhythm Village has been employed this term to deliver our Music Therapy. They have an ongoing mission to increase the quality of life for people living with special needs through music and movement. We welcome Nathan to our school and look forward to sharing a 'spotlight on music therapy' in the next newsletter.

This week Arianne (Assistant Principal) and I met to discuss ways we can improve the school website including updating our photos, information and relevant links for families and services. Please keep your eye out as this site gets better and better. We have updated the school calendar which is located on the homepage. This includes all school events and term dates for your calendar.

Calendar

[More details >](#)

August 2016						
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	1	2	3	4

Upcoming events

Music Therapy

Aug 9 All Day

Post School Options Bus Tour

Aug 9 All Day

School Photos

Aug 15 All Day

Staff Development day

Aug 26 All Day

SASS recognition week

Aug 29 All Day

Please be sure to check all the dates for your diary as we have some fabulous events scheduled.

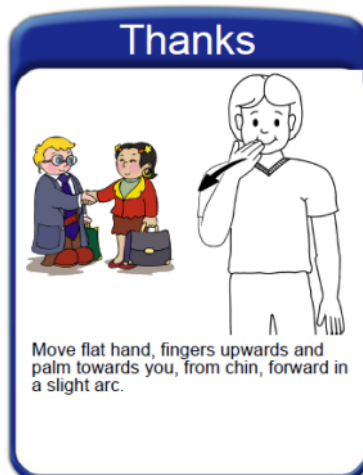
Soon teachers will be making contact with you to arrange for your child's 'Student Review Meeting' which is scheduled across

Week 6,7 or 8. This meeting is a chance to review Personalised Learning Plans (PLP) and the priority goals we will focus on for the remainder of 2016. This meeting will also include reviewing student health records and transport.

Our second annual Post School Options Bus Trip for Year 12 parents is scheduled for tomorrow. Thank you to Julie Keeble (Coordinator) for organising this opportunity for our parents to visit Sunshine, Sunnyfield, Fighting Chance and Northside. Last year the feedback from parents was extremely positive. An overview of the day will be featured in the next newsletter.

Donna Blatchford

Principal



Class RR

In RR, Michael Rosen's chant-aloud book; 'We're going on a bear hunt' is being brought further to life with lots of learning experiences and fun activities.

"Swishy Swashy, Swishy Swashy" -- Our own Bear Hunt started this week through the 'Long, wavy grass'

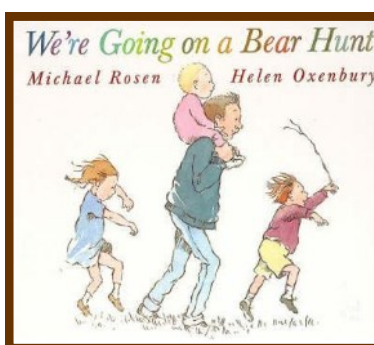
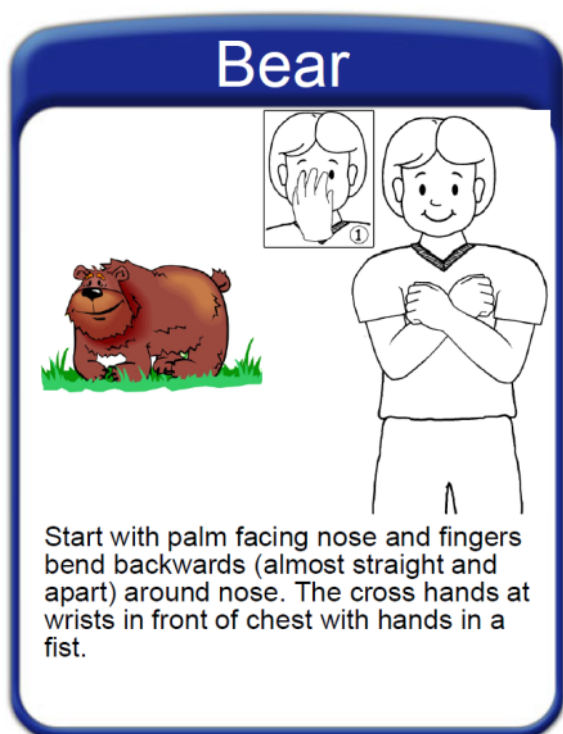
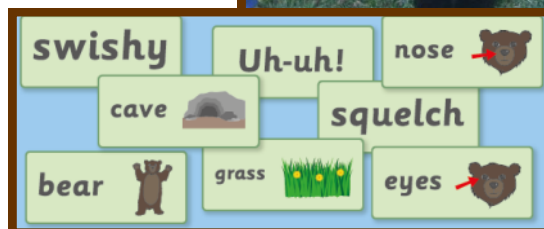
- All hands were in helping when we planted some (wheat) grass seeds in a pot, which the children are now taking turns to water each day.

- We also have some long grass (streamers!) hanging in our room for the part in the story where "we've got to go through it!"

Through it all (The grass, river, mud, forest and snowstorm!!) and other reading in RR, we hope to encourage an enjoyment of books, motivation to read, and sense of wonder about learning!! The children's vocabulary and understanding is growing too, as we share in reading together.

Next up: 'The deep cold river' ... and a visit from any parents who can make it later in the month when we finally find that bear!

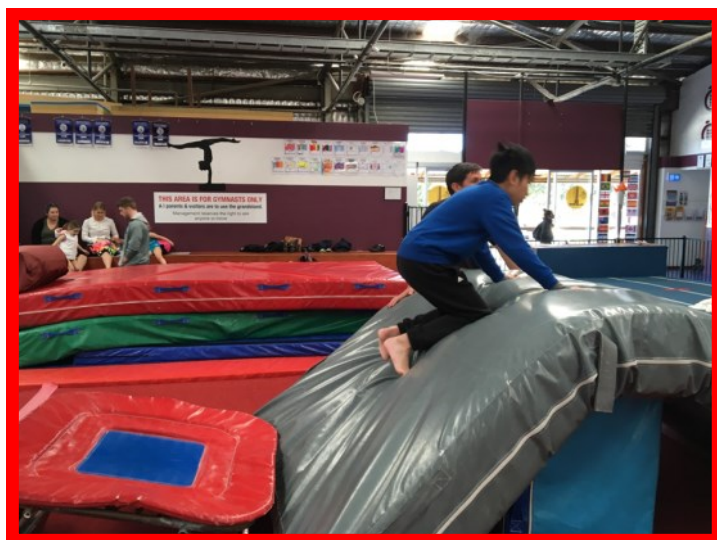
Rebecca & Rosie



Class JO

This term Class JO has started the gymnastics program at the Manly Warringah Gymnastics Club. Everyone is enthusiastic and excited to participate in the program. I have been very proud of all the students for getting out of their comfort zone and trying new things. The foam pit and trampolines are our favourite part and it is fantastic to see everyone building and testing their gross motor skills. We look forward to see how far we can grow over the term!

Jen & Donna



Class TH

Class TH have all had a lovely holiday and have returned healthy and ready for the term. Our usual classroom programs will continue this term, and we have now started preparing for the end of year concert. We are very excited about our theme but that is a big secret!! We had our first music therapy session with the new teacher Nathan. He sang beautiful Brazilian tunes to the class. Kai loved hearing the different instruments. Ben, Marcus and Tiella-Dakota enjoyed drumming, while Angelina and Dallas shared turns at strumming on the guitar. We look forward to more of these sessions.

Trish & Sue



Music

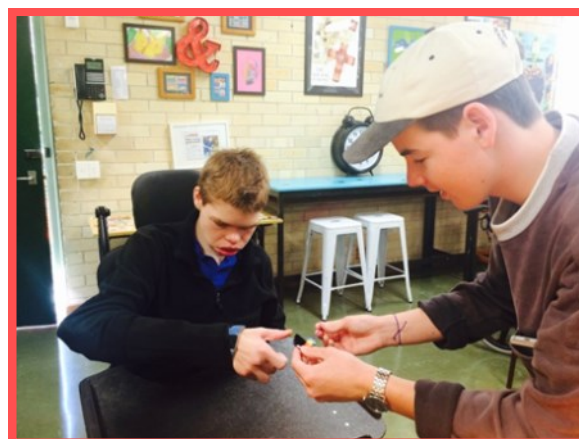


With both pointer fingers extended from fists and pointing forward, rock hands in an arc; together, apart and then back together.

Class KS

Last Friday Class KS had the pleasure of joining students from St Ignatius in making beaded wrist and hair bands. The whole class enjoyed engaging with the students during their bead making time and were also lucky enough to enjoy a nice walk outside, soaking up the sunshine! Class KS take every opportunity to venture outside and love interacting with new people. Thank you St Ignatius students, we had a great time!

Kari, Sam and Sue. R



Class VR

During our Art and Craft session this week the students demonstrated their skills of experiencing and tolerating the sensory nature of the activity while engaging with art materials. They used celery to stamp scale-shaped markings on the template of a fish. Lachlan, Dylan and Elycia were assisted hand-over-hand while Chris and Kanga independently completed the task. We spoke about and chose colours and counted as we stamped the fish which will eventually be displayed in the classroom. We also painted sections of our NAIDOC week installation and Chris and Kanga exercised their fine motor skills by cutting newspaper for a future paper mache project.

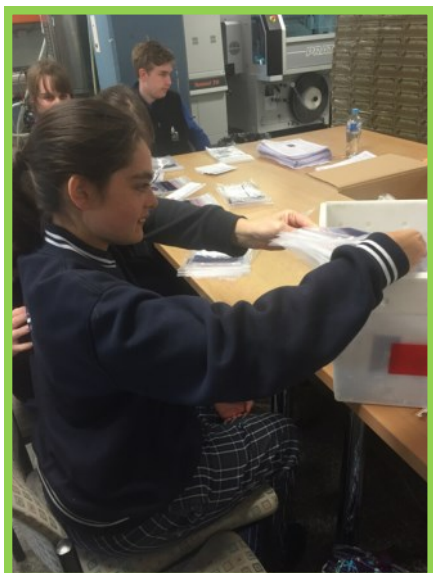
Virginia and Alena



Class JK

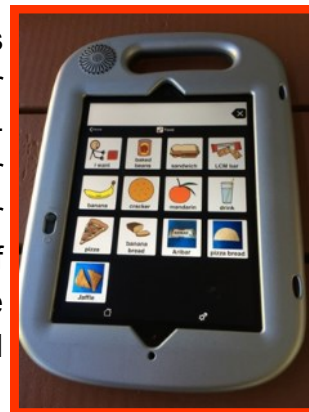
The senior students have returned to work experience at House With No Steps this term. They all work well and do various packaging jobs. This week we were putting leaflets into plastic zip lock bags. As the year has progressed the students are able to stay on task for longer periods and have developed their maturity with working off site. When our work has finished we head up to the cafeteria for a well-deserved lunch, before heading back to school. A special note to Jake and Chloe this week, who put in a fabulous effort. Well done!

Julie & Sue



Class NS

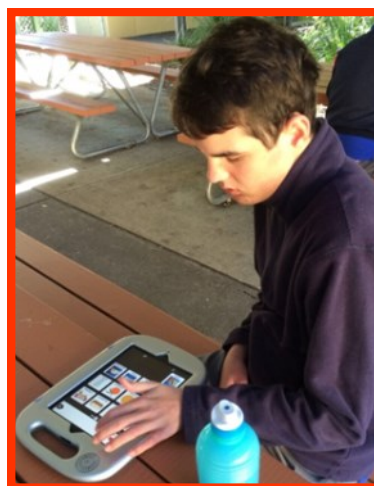
Communication has been a real focus for teaching and programming at Fisher Road School over the last couple of years, especially the concept of "Total Communication",



which is where students may use a variety of communication modalities, such as speech, PECS (Pictorial Exchange Communication System), KWS (Key Word Signing) and electronic augmentative communication devices and apps (Proloquo2go on an iPad), rather than being restricted to a single modality. This focus on communication in all KLAs, but especially in English, has led to students being able to communicate their basic wants and needs and emotional states more effectively across the school. Here we can see Kane using the augmentative communication app Proloquo2go on an iPad to make choices about his morning tea. Kane is very adept at using this program to express his basic wants and needs and it has helped to diminish his frustration at not being able to express

what he wants using speech or gesture. Well done, Kane!

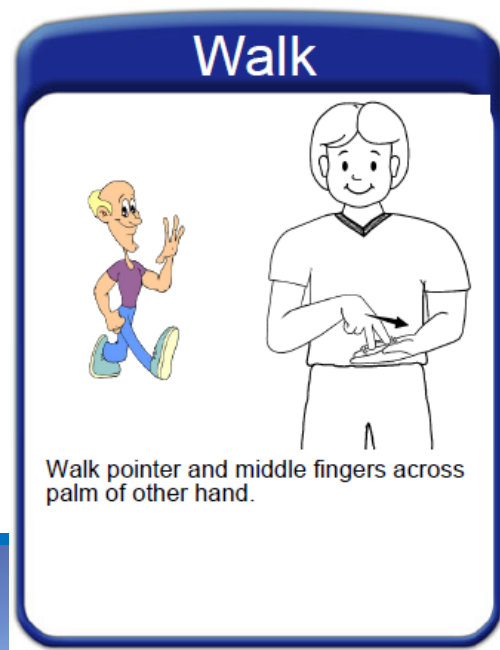
Nick, John and Justine



Class SB

Class SB have been out and about enjoying the beautiful winter sunshine. We continue with our weekly outings on Tuesdays and Fridays. Tuesdays incorporates the weekly shopping program and it is fantastic to see our students improving each week with their shopping skills. Laragh is now placing items independently into the shopping basket and James and Jasper are holding/pushing the trolley for much longer periods. Eddie, Dylan and Kyle love the beach walk on Fridays and are enjoying taking in the beautiful surroundings while walking the stairs at Collaroy Beach. We have been very lucky with the weather with no rain outs yet!! We look forward to continuing these programs throughout the term, giving our students some great learning opportunities to achieve their PLP goals.

Sally, Fran and Jenny



Plant a tree day

Each year around 3,000 preschools, kindies, primary and high schools across Australia take part in the Schools Tree Day. Students nation- wide have learnt how to plant, and care for the seedlings that they grow. Schools tree day helps engage our students in a fun, hands on activity that contributes to creating beautiful school grounds. This year Classes SB and KS along with some help from Jesse have planted a beautiful Burgundy Agonis (Willow Myrtle) on our oval. The students had a great time finding the perfect location, digging the hole, planting and watering our lovely new tree. We are all looking forward to looking after it and watching it grow over the years.



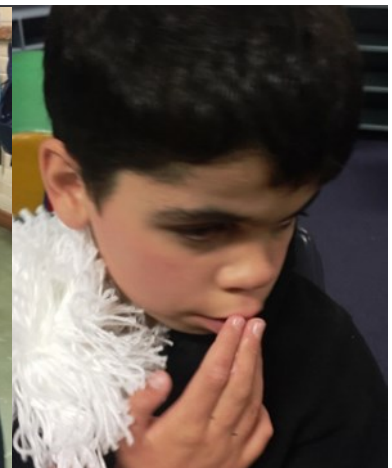
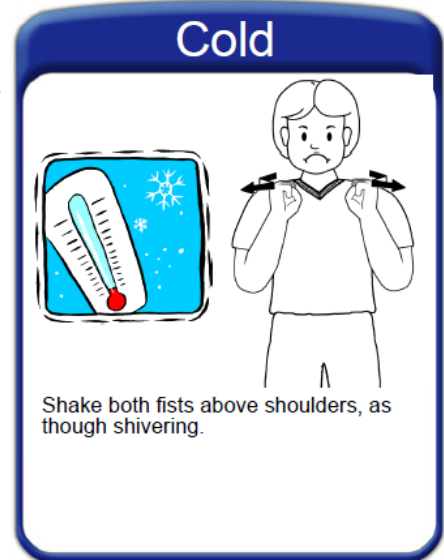
Class CW

Class CW have been learning about the theme of Winter. In Morning group time, we have had fun feeling and wearing types of clothes that can be worn in Winter to keep warm. Geoffrey enjoyed wearing a scarf around his neck and Henry wore a beanie on his head. In communication program, we learnt new Board Maker™ symbols and Key word signs such as 'cold' and 'windy'. In imaginary play, we threw snow balls made out of white wool and pretended our classroom was in the snowfields. Alexandra enjoyed shaking the snow balls and Arun like to feel the snow balls in his hand. In Visual Arts program, we have been making a canvas painting about Winter symbols and objects. Alexandra and Henry have used smearing technique to build up layers of lovely pastel colours to represent Winter. Geoffrey and

Arun contributed to the artwork by painting watercolour clouds and using collage to paste into the canvas.

The gorgeous artwork is on display in Class CW.

Caroline and Mandy



Class MP

Before we went on our winter break, Class MP had the opportunity to participate in the Weaving Bridges Project – Yarn to Yarn Workshops as part of NAIDOC week celebration. We joined people from the local community and sat opposite them on a big round table. Russell, Thomas, Jarryd, Zane, Harrison and Michael tried their hands in creating something using tree branches and woolen yarn. They were all very cooperative and waited patiently for their turn.



It was also a day of exploration at Manly Museum and at the corso. Our goal was to see the 'Gamaragal' exhibit which documents the Gamaragal Aboriginal peoples' first encounter of the English settlers. The Gamaragal people lived at what is now called Manly and Northern Sydney. Unfortunately, the place was being reorganised. The walk along the corso took us to a



shop that sells aboriginal arts and paintings. Here our students had the chance to look around at the works of Aboriginal people. The lady at the shop was very pleasant that we spend some time admiring at the paintings and crafts. It was a lovely day to celebrate such a wonderful event.

Maria and Carmel



St Ignatius Day—Riverview

Each year, students from Fisher Road School join with students from St Ignatius to engage in a whole day of learning. This year Jen Olk was the teacher coordinating this event. Here is an interview with Jen about our fabulous day!



Hi Jen. Tell us a little bit about how the day came about?

St Ignatius has been an on going event of community service that Riverview students participate in. Each year the students help us to finish or work on a school project.

What activities did the students participate in?

This year we focused on mulching in the front section of the school. Fisher Road students worked with the boys from Riverview to tidy and mulch the gardens. We also did a bead-ing activity and a delicious sausage sizzle.



What do think the students from Fisher Road got out of the day?

The students from Fisher Road love the social interaction and engaging with the boys especially during lunch play.

How did you know the day was a success for both schools?

I had so much verbal feedback from the boys, they really enjoyed the experiences. Most of them are planning to return next year. As you can see by the photos the Fisher Road students clearly had a blast !



— Save the Date —



Year 12 Graduation Party
2016

SAVE THE DATE!


Sunday 27th November, 2016

Where: Fisher Road School

Details to be advised.

ADMIT
ONE
(or more)

← this event is only for our senior students



2016 Presentation & Concert Day

SAVE THE DATE!

Wednesday 7th December, 2016

Where: Dee Why Public School

Further details to be advised

ADMIT
ONE
(or more)

Staff Development Day—Variation

As you are aware the Term 2 Staff Development Day was varied. This meant that there was not a staff development day in Term 2 with students returning to school on the Monday 26th April. As you are already aware, the varied staff development day for Fisher Road School is being held on **Friday August 26th** which means the **school will not be operational for students** on this day. Thank you for your agreement in varying this day which has allowed for our school to work alongside two other SSP schools being Clarke Road and Sir Eric Woodward School. The project we are involved in has established a powerful community of practice among the three schools that all face the significant challenge of enhancing the lives and learning of students with disabilities in the north Sydney area. The focus of the professional learning for staff on this day will be on building teacher capacity to deliver quality learning outcomes for our students. Our goal is to establish a collegiate that will innovate and share exceptional practice and support the growth in capability and effectiveness of all our teachers through strengthening Performance and development systems and practices. I look forward to sharing further updates on this dynamic initiative with you later in the year.

Professional Learning @ Fisher Road School

The Term 3 Staff Development Day held on Monday 18th July was an opportunity for teachers to attend the Special Education Principal and Leaders Association (SEPLA) Conference. The SLSO staff also attended professional learning at school including sessions on Proloquo2go and Boardmaker before completing E-emergency care, Anaphylaxis and Administration of medication.



Nick
training
staff in
using
Board
Maker



Arianne
training
staff in
using
Slide
Show
Maker

The following is a snapshot of the day from Assistant Principal Arianne McCombie. The morning started with an informative and inspiring talk on what leadership looks like today and evaluative thinking. The essence being that school teams need to focus on what you need to stop doing in order to have a greater impact on student learning. We need to have a deep and narrow focus rather than spreading our resources too thinly on many projects and doing none of them effectively. This related very well to the talk on teacher resilience. The breakout sessions after lunch were the most practical. We were stepped through the journey of one school in Newcastle and their experience with the NDIS which helped us understand the impact from a schools point of view. The second session was fabulous. It was delivered by staff members from Passfield Park School and introduced their Every School Every Student (ESES) project which was to develop a communication toolbox. Fisher Road staff are keen to unpack these resources and see what capabilities they have with the learning program for students at our school..

Philip Riley from the Australian Catholic University delivered an excellent talk on resilience in executive and the importance of addressing excessive stress and preventing burn-out due to unrealistic workloads. Matt went to an informative talk about sport across the school and how to embed it into class timetables. Developing a scope and sequence for the year and having each term focusing on a particular sport or skill.

The highlight of the day was the end keynote speaker - Deng Thiak Adut. He is a defence lawyer, community leader and refugee advocate. His talk was inspirational and took us through his journey from child soldier in Sudan to now in Australia. A truly remarkable example of strength, persistence and passion.





NAIDOC Week 2016

