



GORDON EDUCATION CENTRE

"Towards Independence"

PRINCIPAL LISA THOMAS

Great start

The term has started with a bang. The educators have all been getting to know the students and building firm long lasting routines. This week we started diving deeply into the Curriculum and planning learning activities which we hope your children will thoroughly enjoy and continue their love of learning.

This week we also found out that swimming is back. Lisa Rainey is working her magic to give every student a chance to get in the water and learn vital water safety skills.

This term in PE our focus will be cricket. Mr Jamey and Mr Mc will be learning all about Cricket and sharing their skills with us all. Mr Jamey has also used his magic to get Cricket SA to visit the school and share all their knowledge and skills too.

This term we also have the opportunity to visit the Sir Robert Helpmann Theatre for musical performances and the patch theatre company. We are very busy bees.

Finally, Congratulations to all of transitioning students who have settled in so well and made so many friendships already. I am very proud of you all.

School Focus

Our school focus for term 1 is to improve the way we assess our children's writing. We are going to be using a tool called 'Writing with all tools continuum'. As the title suggests this tool supports and encourages the use of all AAC and alternative pencils. It acknowledges that not all children are the same and writing can be achieved with a variety of tools. I've attached a link to the document so please have a look so we can talk to you about it during our upcoming One Plan meetings.

<https://www.janefarrall.com/writing-with-all-tools-continuum-a-writing-continuum-for-all-people-using-all-writing-tools/>

School forms

My apologies for all the forms coming home at the moment. There will be admin forms including our media consent which allows us to use photos of your children, Sunsafes agreement and consent forms for all of the amazing excursions we have planned this term. Please look out for copies in your child's bag and reminders on seesaw.

Communication

There are lots of ways that we communicate what's going on at school and ways that you can contact us.

- Telephone between 8.40-4.00
- Seesaw- we try to monitor everyday
- Pop in and make an appointment
- Newsletter
- Email
- Website
- Facebook GEC
- Facebook GEC parent carer share spot

Key dates

23rd Feb - Adelaide Symphony Orchestra
24th Feb - Student Free Day- Child protection curriculum
28th Feb - Governing Council AGM and 1st Governing Council
14th March - One Plan meetings commence
27th March - Governing Council meeting (2)
7th April - Good Friday
10th April - Easter Monday
14th April - Last Day of term Early finish

What's Happening Next Program (WHN)

Welcome to 2023, I hope you all had a lovely Xmas break with your family & friends. We've got lots of activities in the pipelines for this year. I am currently looking into work experience for our senior students in a couple of different areas that still need to be finalized. Once again I have organized visits from Mission Australia again this year with a date still to be confirmed. If you have any topics for discussion, please let the school know or contact Mission Australia direct. I'm excited about so many positive things in the pipeline & will let you all know as soon as I do. If you are needing help with anything, please contact the school or Mission Australia direct.

Your local contact details are:

87147900

LACLimestonecoast@ndis.gov.au

Ali Pink

WHN Coordinator



Linda Marano

What a fantastic class we have this year and we welcome 2 new students to the school as well, Mia and Blaze. We have been so busy getting to know each other! The students have been preparing their own learning boards for display and we have been on bus trips to Coles for our Cooking sessions on Thursdays and important landmarks within Mount Gambier as part of Geography on Mondays which have been an absolute hit so far! The students have been assigned different roles within the classroom and we are very much a team environment. Mr. Mac is in the room on a Tuesday and is doing Science with them as well. Our fantastic team of educators Tanya, Leesa, Tammy, Dee and Mel are working hard to ensure that your children's needs are being met. We have been doing lots of writing and we are very impressed with what the students have produced so far. We welcome all parents to come in any time and see the students' learning progressions. We are so looking forward to working with your now Middle School children!

Kind regards, Linda and the LA 2 team.



Ashleigh Calleja

Welcome back to all our families. We hope you had a great Christmas and enjoyed some time with your loved ones. It has been a great first few weeks with a majority of our time spend setting our class up for success as we move into the new year. We have spent time setting up class routines and expectations as well as building relationships with students and staff. We have introduced our comprehensive literacy for all program and have begun collecting student assessment data. We have started the numeracy program with the focus being the use of the Numicon resources and program. We are very excited to attend Sir Robert Helpmann Theatre next Thursday to experience a performance by the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra. Looking forward to sharing some photos next newsletter!

La5

Jamey Case

Greetings all and welcome back to GEC for 2023. I hope everyone had a lovely summer holiday period. In LA5 we have started the year off with a bang. We had a very successful 'setting up for success' period over the first two weeks. During this time, students became familiar with their new classroom, their daily routines and got to know their peers, myself and our amazing team of SSO's.

We have already had some great successes throughout commencing our Literacy and Numeracy journey this year. The students have dived right into the Comprehensive Literacy Program for All and Numicon tasks in Numeracy. In addition to this, our class have had great fun learning through Discovery Play time and play-based learning experiences. It is fantastic to see the students engaging well and producing some fantastic work in the process. I am also incredibly proud of the way students are communicating via their individual AAC devices on a daily basis and look forward to progressing students further in this area.

I look forward to updating you again in the weeks ahead.

Jamey



La6

Sarah Cameron

Welcome Back!

LA6 students have all settled back well into the school routine. We took time during the first two weeks to 'set ourselves up for success', getting to know one another and settle back into classroom routines.

I have been impressed with the way students organise themselves in the morning and unpack their bag, lunch box and water bottle and then are ready to start the day with our Morning Circle.

During Literacy we have been working on the letters A, B, C and D and word families 'at' and 'ad'. During shared reading this term we are enjoying 'Pete the Cat' books. A favourite so far has been 'Pete the Cat and the missing cupcakes'. We all enjoyed reading the book and then making gluten free cupcakes together.

LA6 has also enjoyed exploring the garden with the nice summer weather. There are plums, sunflowers, tomatoes and apples growing there presently and students also planted some cos lettuce and radishes with Mr V.

Next week we plan to begin our community bus drives on Wednesday as part of our HASS learning. A 'scavenger hunt' is planned for students to locate places of interest around Mt Gambier while we drive around town.

We are looking forward to a wonderful year of learning and fun together!



La7

Tamara Cameron

Hello and welcome to another school year.

We have had a great first few weeks with students settling quickly into the school routine. We have been incorporating lots of sensory play into our learning and the warm weather has allowed for some lovely waterplay sessions. Students have been exploring different areas of the school such as the gym, garden, sensory room and activity room and will continue to do this throughout the term. In literacy we have been reading the green sheep book as well as engaging in letter and name activities. In Numeracy we have been focussing on number and learning about the Numicon number system as well as just starting our unit on measurement. I encourage you to connect to seesaw if you are yet to do so, as I will regularly send photos of your childs learning as well as important messages through this platform.

Tamara



La8

Brian Judd

Hello everyone. A great start to the year with students really hitting the ground running with their learning. There has been a couple of late changes with staffing and I now take the class Monday Tuesdays and Wednesdays and Mr. Mac takes over on Thursday and Friday.

We begin the day with a Math Meeting where we focus on mathematical language while during a short mathematical challenge. We then move into our literacy program where we have a real focus on independent writing and reading.

We are incorporating "Numicon" into our math program again this year and initially our focus is recognizing, modelling, representing and order numbers to at least 1000 as well as solving addition and subtraction problems.

Coming up we get to see the Adelaide symphony Orchestra and partake in a cricket program. Hopefully the swimming program gets up and running fairly soon.



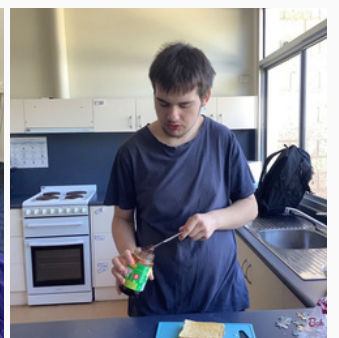
La9

Rebekah Eden

LA9 has had a fantastic start to 2023. It has been wonderful to observe the students acting as role models and transitioning so successfully into their role as senior students of Gordon Education Centre. Students have enjoyed the responsibilities that come with being senior students. Some of these responsibilities have included, organising breakfast club, delivering lunch orders and assisting with foodbank.

Students have also participated in a range of learning experiences, including researching recipes, budgeting, shopping for recipes and preparing their recipes in the kitchen. Students have also begun the process of researching ideas for their design and technology project. I am very excited to see how their projects turn out. We have students preparing to create dresses, costumes, a new vegetable garden and even a scarecrow!

We look forward to updating you in our next newsletter. Well, done LA9!



SHOWCASING OUR TALENTED WRITERS AT GORDON ED!



713

DSK QQ FOS Z
X Y W U

Friday Free writing

Writing Record Sheet

Student: Charlie Howard Staff Member: Karen self selected

AAC system/speech: no type Short description of how language generated: letters

Pencil used: ☐ Handwriting ☒ Flip chart low tech ☐ Flip chart high tech ☒ QWERTY high tech ☐ QWERTY low tech ☐ Other

(specify) _____ Supports used: ☐ Word Wall ☐ Word prediction ☐ Other _____

Student Engagement: ☐ Fully engaged ☒ Partially engaged ☐ Not engaged

Access Method: ☒ Direct access ☐ Partner Assisted Scanning ☐ Other _____

Comments: Charlie indicated on the flip chart that he wanted uppercase letters. He also matched flip chart letters to match.

17/2/23

mickey

Friday Free writing

Writing Record Sheet

Student: Cheryn Staff Member: Ash

AAC system/speech: verbal Short description of how language generated: Asked for a picture of Mickey & independently used letters to make words

Pencil used: ☐ Handwriting ☐ Flip chart low tech ☐ Flip chart high tech ☐ QWERTY high tech ☐ QWERTY low tech ☒ Other

(specify) ABC letters Supports used: ☐ Word Wall ☐ Word prediction ☐ Other _____

Student Engagement: ☒ Fully engaged ☐ Partially engaged ☐ Not engaged

Access Method: ☒ Direct access ☐ Partner Assisted Scanning ☐ Other _____

Comments: Completed independently.

