



GORDON EDUCATION CENTRE

"Towards Independence"

PRINCIPAL LISA THOMAS

Welcome to week 6. The term is flying by with so many exciting events along the way. Last week Mr Jamey arranged for cricket SA to visit the school. The sessions were amazing. The children had a lot of fun and learnt so many new skills. We may even have a few cricket stars amongst us. The children are thoroughly enjoying getting out to Wulanda for their swimming lessons. The excitement and joy on our students faces makes the hard work of organising these events all worth while.

Thank you again to everyone for your understanding during our recent fire evacuation. This was not a drill, however it was a false alarm. The staff and were students were amazing. They kept calm and followed the directions of fire wardens to the letter. Could I please ask that all parents and carers follow staff directions at all times for the safety of every member of our school.

This week I had great pleasure in representing Gordon Education Centre at the annual state Leaders Day. I presented on our journey and how proud I am of all the hard work and dedication I see everyday from our amazing staff. We have come a long way in the last 5 years with the implementation of the comprehension literacy program, Numicon, and other curriculum programs. Plus the increased knowledge of AAC and how we can give our children a voice and some choice in their lives.

Monday 18th March is our student free day for the 3rd day of our Berry Street Training. If you would like to know more about Berry Street please see the link below.

<https://www.berrystreet.org.au/learning-and-resources/berry-street-education-model>

Many thanks

Key dates

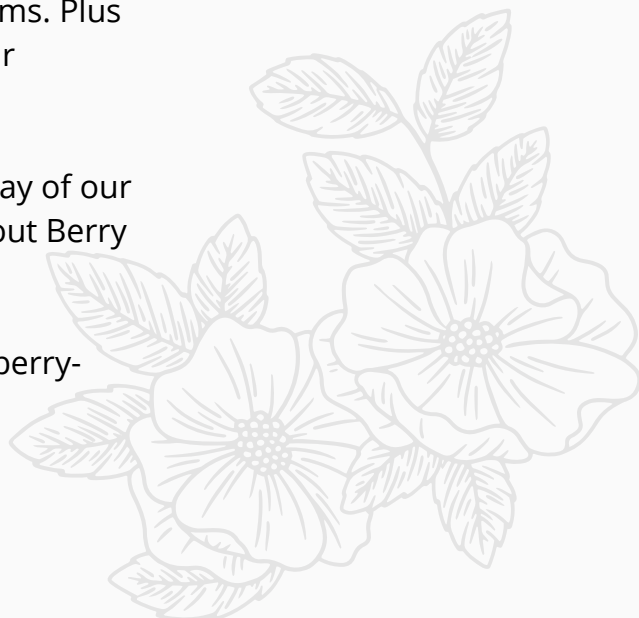
11/3 - Adelaide Cup
(Public Holiday)

18/3 - Student Free
Day

29/3 - Good Friday
(Public Holiday)

1/4 - Easter Monday
(Public Holiday)

12/4 - Last Day of Term
2pm Finish



My name is Michelle Adams and I am the Autism Inclusion Teacher (AIT) at Gordon Education Centre.

I have one day a fortnight in my AIT role to focus on strengthening our school community's inclusion of students on the autism spectrum.

The Department for Education provides an autism inclusion multidisciplinary (AIM) team to support me in the AIT role. The team includes, senior advisor educators, developmental educator, psychologist, occupational therapist, speech pathologist and an Aboriginal cultural project officer. The information from the AIM team is evidence-based and informed by the autistic and autism community.

My role as an AIT is to pass on information, resources and training I receive from the AIM team to my colleagues and to support students and their families on the Autism Spectrum. I would love to hear from families about their experiences and how best we can be making it an even more inclusive space for all. Please feel free to contact me for a chat by phone on 87231043 or via email michelle.adams323@schools.sa.edu.au.

Michelle Adams



Autism Inclusion Teacher (AIT) Role

Family information

AITs support teachers to

Understand autism and support evidence-based practice in autism

Build relationships and promote autistic student voice and agency

Share evidence-based resources and training

Suggest sensory and environmental adjustments

AITs do not need to

Provide direct support to autistic students

Develop personalised learning plans for all autistic students

Attend student led conferences for all autistic students

Develop funding applications for student support

In the first instance, go to your classroom teacher to discuss your child's school support needs

Your classroom teacher can seek support from the AIT on how to best support autistic students

Jack Vanikiotis

Jack Vanikiotis

Hi everyone. LA1 students have been reading and completing activities about the books 'Henry's Hike' and 'Abby & Zots' and working on number tasks including addition strategies. For cooking we made spaghetti bolognese and chocolate mousse. LA1 is enjoying their weekly swimming lessons and also had fun participating in cricket clinics too. We are learning about Australian states and cities for Geography and our garden spuds are growing well.

Thanks Jack



Jamey Case

Jamey Case

Greetings from LA2. In class, the students have been continuing their daily literacy routines which entails tasks; such as, reading and comprehension, phonics and sight word activities, daily writing and a weekly word family. In Numeracy, students have primarily been learning about number and as a secondary focus, exploring properties of 2D and 3D shapes.

Throughout the integrated subjects; such as, The Arts and Design and Technology, students' have commenced a 'mini' research project on a topic of their choice. This will lead to them presenting their work using a green screen, experimenting with different ways to share their ideas with their peers. In Science, students are very much enjoying our Thursday afternoon lessons where students have so far predicted and sequenced events of various experiments undertaken; such as, elephant toothpaste and the mentos/coke reaction. Other exciting events undertaken include, weekly swimming lessons and the SACA Cricket Clinic.

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



La4

Ashleigh Calleja & Michelle Adams



It's been a busy couple of weeks in La 4. The students have been learning about the letters Ff and Ss and the sounds they make. We have been writing and mark making on chosen images with adult assistance using our PODDS, alphabet flip charts and ProLoQuo2Go to demonstrate we are all writers and to make meaning. We have been reading the book 'Where Is The Green Sheep?' and practising the rhyme 'Mary Had A Little Lamb' as well as using our senses in different ways during sensory exploration times. The students have explored texture using dry wheat bix, vegemite on the table, rice play, water and bubble play and more recently Metamucil slime. (Which makes a really cool, slippery, slimy, shiny, bouncy substance.) We have been doing lots of activities around number and numicon and have been focussing on the number 3 and counting to 3. We have been visiting Wulanda each Monday for swimming and on Wednesday and Thursday this week the students participated in a cricket clinic. Next week we will be changing our letters and our focus story and rhyme.

La5

Tamara Cameron

We are past the halfway mark of term 1 and time is ticking along quickly. We have continued to attend swimming each Tuesday and this will continue for the rest of the term. This week we also had the cricket clinic come to school, where students were able to practice their ball handling skills as well as getting in some batting practice. For Science we have been looking at earths resources and how they are used. Over the last couple of weeks, we have been focussing on specifically the Blue Lake and its importance as our water source. We went for a bus trip to the Blue Lake and the nearby storage tanks and took some photos. We then used these photos to help us create a simple visual representation of how the water is pumped from the blue lake to peoples houses. We then played with some pumps and students had a go and pumping water out of our own blue lake. We have some shorter weeks coming up with the public holiday on Monday 11th and a student free day on Monday the 18th and then Easter public holidays. In week 9 we will be completing lots of fun activities around easter.



La6

Rebekah Eden & Emma Bramich

Hello LA6 Families,

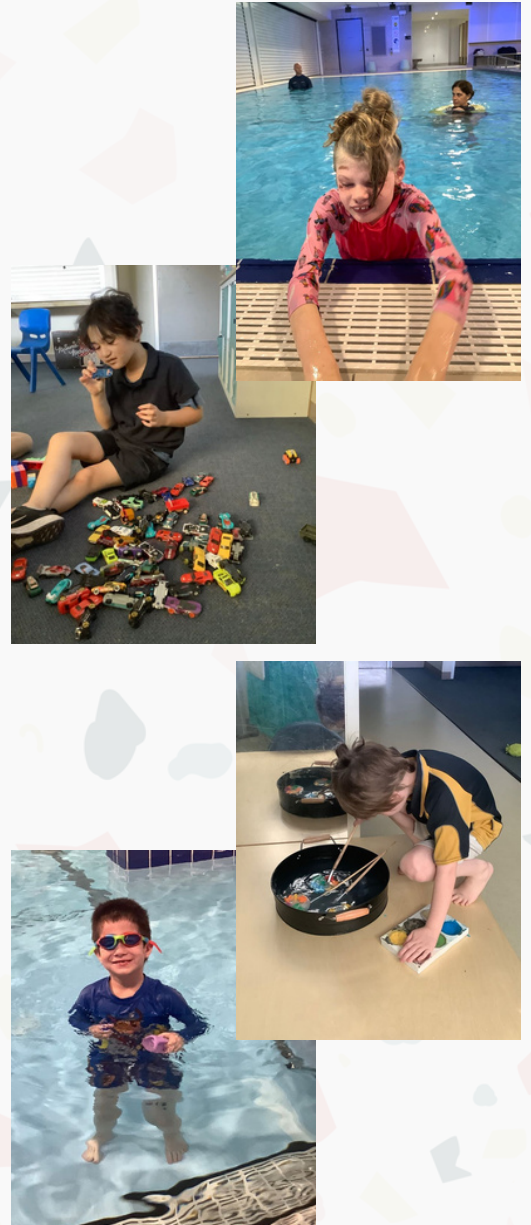
We've been keeping busy lately here lately in LA6, diving into all sorts of learning adventures!

In our literacy sessions, we've been exploring rhyming books like Pig the Pug, The Very Angry Bear, and Thelma the Unicorn. We're getting good at exploring concepts of print and asking questions about the stories we read. Plus, we've had a blast watching animated books from the Hairy Maclary series!

Swimming has been a highlight for everyone! It has been fantastic seeing the students enjoying themselves in the water, playing with pool toys, and learning important safety rules, like walking instead of running around the pool.

On Tuesday afternoons, we've been having so much fun with our discovery play. We've been focusing on buildings, infrastructure, and nature, exploring the difference between man-made and natural structures. From making ice cubes to playing with LEGO and train sets, we are really enjoying our imaginative play and learning about the world around us.

We look forward to updating you in our next newsletter.



La7

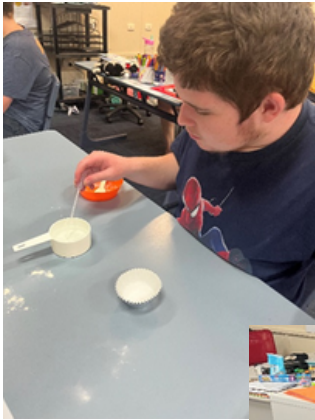
Dakota Miller



We have had a great couple of weeks. Each member of the class has settled in very well and we are developing a very strong classroom community. All student's are learning the school routine and are starting to work on their numeracy and literacy skills. During science this term we have been looking at living things. Within the last two weeks we have been on two excursions to see what local animals we can see as well as our local plants. The students all enjoyed getting out in the beautiful weather and were very excited to see some kangaroos.

La8

Brian Judd



Hello everyone from LA8. We are having a great year with everyone getting on really well which makes for a nice friendly learning environment. Everyone morning the students greet each other either a fist pump or a high five.

The visit from the cricketers from Adelaide went well with everyone enjoying the two days of the cricket program. Cooking and dancing continues to be a success. We had fun in science, experimenting with mixing bi carb and vinegar and observing and recording the outcome. Story writing has been a success with students using various forms of communication to write their stories.

La9

Linda Marano

Hi to all!

Over the past few weeks in our Language and Culture studies the students have created some wonderful travel brochures of Mount Gambier for potential visitors to visit our region and they have used their IT skills to complete this exercise. In Maths, the students have been busily creating a 2024 calendar and we are re-visiting 'telling the time' in Maths on a clockface and involved the students to create a clock using Duplo in the yard to exemplify 5-minute intervals in 12 blocks around a large circle. We have also began typing lessons to increase the students' typing skills and in Health we have started learning the skills of basketball in the gym on a Thursday afternoon. Our Literacy program and Guided Reading has enabled the students to create their own word walls or personal dictionaries and it is wonderful to capture the progress of their memory and writing skills within this process. It has been a busy time with Jordan and Shannon celebrating their birthdays, the cricket clinic this week and shopping and cooking our wonderful meals. Just a reminder, a One Plan sheet was sent home recently. If you could fill it in and return it asap that would be fantastic. Alternatively, I am very happy for you to ring the school and make a time to see me at your convenience. This is a very important aspect of your child's learning process.

Kind regards, Linda and the team.

PBS AWARDS

