



GORDON EDUCATION CENTRE

"Towards Independence"

PRINCIPAL

LISA THOMAS

Welcome back to school. We've had an amazing start to the year. Your young people have transitioned to school with smiles, laughter and so many funny stories.

Your teachers and support staff have been working hard to plan the year ahead to ensure the children are accessing the learning that they need. Teachers have been getting to know the needs of your young people and designing learning goals which they will discuss with you at the One Plan meetings.

We started off the year with site training to enhance our skills in being effective communicators. We worked with Helen Tanish, speech pathologist to develop our understanding of how we all communicate and the skills we need to communicate with different people in different situations.

Its been amazing to see our parent hub being utilized by our parents to chat, educators to share information with parents and a community project 'MyTime' which supports families of students with special needs. Look out on seesaw for the next event and come along for a chat.

During the term we will be sending home information about our school priorities for 2025-2027.

The three main priorities that we have chosen are.....

Learner Agency -for all educators to use AAC to enhance every students ability to have a powerful voice.

Learner Agency - to build links with our community including business and our indigenous partners.

Wellbeing-to build systems which enhance the wellbeing of all members of the GEC community.

Please chat to our educators about the priorities.



AUTISM INCLUSION TEACHER (AIT)



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. **I will be available for informal chats in the parent hub every second Monday (wk 3,5,7,9, 11) from 9-11 or 2-3pm** unless public holiday or called to cover a class.

I hope to run some information sessions too during the year so please don't hesitate to drop in or email me with some topics you may like covered.

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

LA1 JACK VANIKIOTIS

LA1 have had a great start to 2025. We have been reading the texts 'Snore' and 'Going Away' and completing various activities around these books. Students have also worked with sight words and word families 'og' and 'ick'. In maths we have been working on numbers up to 100, addition and patterns. In week 1 we planted potatoes in the garden for Science and look forward to see how they grow and change. Swimming has resumed and will continue till week 10 and students have loved being back in the pool. We have enjoyed various art activities and cooking on Fridays including making pancakes and spaghetti bolognese. This term we will also be looking at different countries, their culture and where they are located in comparison to Australia for Geography.



LA10 LISA RYE

Wow this term has started off with a bang and we are motoring through it fast! The students are adapting well to routine. This week, we started visiting Coles on Wednesdays to purchase ingredients for cooking, helping the students learn independence. Last week, we made Honey Crackles, and this week, we made Spaghetti Bolognese.

This term, we will be integrating our curriculum around the theme of Community and Community Helpers. Our goal is to engage with community through outings and inviting visitors. I warmly encourage parents and carers to visit and see how the students are progressing in class.

Mr Judd has been engaging the student's on Tuesdays with Science lessons, learning all about our solar planets.

La4 ASHLEIGH CALLEJA & MICHELLE ADAMS

It's been a great start to the year in learning area 4. The students have settled into the routines well and are participating in lots of pre-literacy and numeracy skills and tasks. This fortnight we are reading a text called "Whose Ears?" which is a lift the flap book. The students enjoy helping lift the flap and finding the animals in the class PODD. We are focussing on the letters Mm and Ll and the sounds they make and have been doing mark making and writing about picture prompts of their choice or images beginning with these letters. We have begun swimming lessons, community outings on the bus and joint music sessions which are a favourite with our students.



La5 EMMA BRAMICH

Welcome back LA5 families! I hope you all had a relaxing break over the holidays. We have had a wonderful beginning to Term 1 of 2025. The students have settled back into routine and have been excited exploring their new learning space. The last two weeks have seen swimming lessons return and this has been a highlight for all the students.

During Term 1 the students will continue the comprehensive literacy program and engage with number and measurement during numeracy. During the Arts we will be exploring drama and music alongside LA4 and Digital technologies will see us looking at old and new technologies alongside representing data. Science is a favorite amongst the students and this Term it is all about chemical sciences.



La6 TAMARA FLEMING

In LA6 the new foundations have settled into school well. We have explored new spaces and been on lots of walks around our school. We really enjoy the activity room and the gym but the garden is also a favourite. Adam really enjoyed dance with the big kids on Friday. In Maths we have started by practicing rote counting and one-to-one counting. To do this successfully we need to make sure we only count one item at a time! It is tricky but so much fun. In literacy we are exploring writing through mark making and have enjoyed using photos from our time at Gordon Education for our writing prompts. Books are so much fun and we are building skills to read these together and turn one page at a time.



LA7

DAKOTA MILLER

Welcome to term 1 of 2025 for LA7. We have had a busy couple week as we have all been working hard to get back into our school routines. The student's in LA 7 have been looking at the letters L and D to start of our literacy for the year. This year LA 7 have been looking into selecting a expectation that they would to follow for the day with their most common selection being "we are kid to our friends". In numeracy LA7 have been enjoying some water play with the warm weather as they explore capacity through full and empty. The class has also been enjoying their cooking lessons where they have been making three ingredient cookies.



LA8

LINDA MARANO

Greetings from LA 8!

We have truly resumed back at school as a new class with ease, settling into daily routines and classroom expectations. In the first couple of weeks, the students have been taking responsibility for their own learning by organising their own books and folders and writing their own Ready to Learn plans. Emphasis was also placed on our subject areas and what these look like, particularly for our Stage 1 SACE students. This week we began working from our class time-table. In English this week we covered different types of poetry and in Maths we revised fractions with a game of Bingo. In Society and Environment, the Yr. 11's are beginning PowerPoint presentations about Australia's flora and fauna whilst the 8,9 and 10's are reading Dreamtime stories. In Health and Well-being, we are looking at healthy and unhealthy food and of course our Friday swimming sessions cover part of our Physical Education for the week.



REBEKAH EDEN

Our seniors have taken an active role in shaping their final year, bringing forth many thoughtful ideas that reflect their learning agency and sense of responsibility. Over the past three weeks, they have engaged in enriching activities that nurture both personal and academic growth.

Embracing Nature's Rhythms

Students have set out on their morning walks, immersing themselves in the beauty of the changing seasons. As they wandered, they attuned themselves to the world's natural cycles, taking time to breathe, observe, and connect with their surroundings. This time in nature provided a grounding experience, allowing them to use their senses to record their reflections through writing and drawing in their journals.

Exploring the Essence of Summer

Our learning journey continued with a deep dive into the ever-changing rhythms of nature, focusing on the season of summer. Through close observation, students noticed subtle shifts in the environment, reflecting on the warmth, light, and colours of the season. Journaling provided a way to connect more deeply, engaging their senses—feeling, seeing, and hearing summer's presence. Additionally, they created beautiful sun catchers, allowing sunlight to dance through their art, serving as a reminder of nature's harmony. This creative process encouraged both appreciation and introspection, strengthening their connection to the living world.

Watercolour and Wellbeing

Seniors also immersed themselves in the soothing practice of watercolour painting, experimenting with blending techniques to bring a sense of calm and mindfulness to both their hands and hearts. The results were nothing short of stunning. Alongside their artistic expression, students engaged in meaningful self-reflection, setting three personal goals to guide them through the year ahead. These goals go beyond achievement; they serve as a foundation for nurturing personal well-being and happiness.

As we move forward, we look forward to continuing this journey of exploration, creativity, and growth with our incredible senior class.



PBS AWARDS

School Expectations ~ I am Responsible

Students are supported and encouraged to be 'Responsible' in and around the school. This extends to the classroom, playground, during transitions and out in the community. We also encourage the use of these expectations at home and on weekends:

I care for my equipment
I take turns and share equipment
I follow instructions I walk or wheel

Each assembly we celebrate the student's achievement. Congratulations to the following students:

