



# GORDON EDUCATION CENTRE

"Towards Independence"

## PRINCIPAL

LISA THOMAS



### KEY DATES

10/3 - Public Holiday

21/3 - Student Free Day

Our education strategy has 4 areas of impact. Wellbeing, effective learners, learner agency and equity and excellence. This week our focus has been on learner agency. We have talked to our students about how they live in a community bigger than the school community. Within this community there are many roles and responsibilities including looking after our community.

Clean up Australia day has given us a great opportunity to do our part for the community and make it look beautiful. We donned our gloves, grabbed our recycling and rubbish bags and picked up all the litter we could find.

We had a great sense of pride and purpose. We collected and sorted so many bags of litter to help our community stay amazing.

## CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA DAY



# LEARNER AGENCY PROFESSIONAL LEARNING COMMUNITY

At Gordon Education Centre we strive for student Learner Agency that enables everyone to have a sense of ownership and control over their own learning. Through developing Learner Agency students become confident, engaged and effective learners. As voice is an essential component of Learner Agency we have decided to dedicating our Professional Learning Community (PLC) to establishing ways that students can develop their voice within the classroom and the school community. Each newsletter we aim to share examples of our practice within the school and provide resources you can use at home and the wider community.

PLC team: Ash, Michelle, Brian, Dakota, Linda and Naomi



## World Autism Awareness Day (More info to come)

Wednesday, April 2nd (Week 10) is World Autism Awareness Day.

This global event has been celebrated since 2007 to raise awareness, acceptance, and appreciation of autistic people.

At Gordon Education Centre, we are dedicated to creating an inclusive environment where every student feels valued and supported. Our Autism Inclusion Teacher (AIT), Michelle Adams, promotes inclusion and diversity by sharing best practices and resources through the AIT initiative.

The poster below shares some considerations that have been made by the autistic and autism communities around some respectful ways we can promote autism awareness, acceptance and appreciation. If you have any questions or would like to chat, you can contact Michelle at GEC or by phone 87231043 or email [michelle.adams323@schools.sa.edu.au](mailto:michelle.adams323@schools.sa.edu.au).



## Promoting Autism Awareness



AUTISM INCLUSION TEACHER INITIATIVE

# World Autism Awareness Day is April 2nd

Since 2007, the United Nations has observed this day to affirm the rights and freedoms of autistic people. Today we have moved beyond raising awareness to promoting acceptance and appreciation of autistic people and their contributions to society.

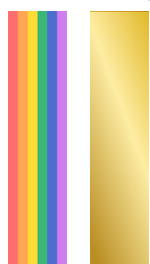
Below are some considerations around respectful ways to raise awareness and promote acceptance and appreciation. To be inclusive when referring to an autistic learner, you can understand and respect their identity by recognising their unique strengths and abilities. Celebrate and affirm your learner however they choose to identify. We have presented the preference of the majority of the autistic community, however we encourage you to use respectful curiosity to learn and affirm each individual preference.



### **We use the infinity symbol to represent autism.**

The infinity symbol also represents neurodiversity and the infinite ways of being. It can symbolise the infinite potential and possibilities. The continual loop represents the continual need for support, understanding and acceptance.

We avoid using puzzle pieces as they can suggest that autism is puzzling, or needs to be solved, or that autistic people need to fit in.



### **We use rainbow or gold to represent autism.**

Rainbow represents the spectrum, diversity and that all colours are included. Gold represents value and worth. The chemical symbol for gold is Au.

We avoid using blue, as it represents the stereotype that it's more common in boys. The 'light it up blue' campaign is associated with an American organisation that wanted to fix or cure autism. Many people in the autistic and autism communities avoid associating with this.



### **Try using identity-first language and avoid diagnostic terms.**

'Autistic student' is an example of identity-first language, versus 'student with autism'. Autism is a valuable and important part of someone's identity, which is why many people prefer to use identity-first rather than person-first language.

Try using terms such as 'autistic' and 'autism'. ASD is a diagnostic term. Unless you are specifically talking about a diagnosis, autism is not seen as a disorder. Similarly, we recognise that everyone's ability varies between every area of living. This is a dynamic view of functioning, versus describing someone as a high or low functioning autistic.



### **We are inclusive.**

Attending education, having needs and engaging in interests is something that everybody has and does. Having a disability might make those things different, but not special. Inclusive education is a fundamental human right of all learners (UNCPRD, 2016).

## La1 JACK VANIKIOTIS

LA1 have settled well into the school year. For literacy students have been completing activities around the texts 'Many Kinds of Dinosaurs' and 'Get In'. All are now accustomed to established routines including work around weekly sight words, writing, reading and word families ('ock' and 'et') under the Jane Farrall 'Literacy for All' program. In mathematics we have continued work on number, addition, subtraction, patterns and measurement. We have also continued learning about living/ non-living things and tending to our potato plants which are growing nicely. In Geography we learnt about Australian states and cities and used various digital technologies across all subject areas. Students continue to enjoy their weekly swimming sessions and weekly cooking class (sausages, nuggets and chips).



## La2 LISA RYE

This term is flying!! Who would believe we have already completed Week 6! There has been so many changes in such a short time too. The students in our class have been so amazing, with getting to know each other really well, settling into daily routines and expectations, and adapting to our move from LA10 to LA2. Their resilience to change is inspiring!

In class, we have been cooking a variety of yummy dishes such as Wraps with bacon, cooked onion, cheese and spinach; Pancakes with bacon, cooked banana, whipped cream and maple syrup; and Hot Dogs with bacon and cheese. Cooking has tied in nicely with our Numeracy lessons where we are learning about Number and Measurement.

We continue with swimming until (and including) Week 10 on Thursdays and go to Coles to buy the ingredients for our cooking on Wednesdays.



ASHLEIGH CALLEJA & MICHELLE ADAMS

Over the last couple of weeks our students have enjoyed reading the text "Whose Teeth?" and opening the flaps to find the animals behind. We have also been talking about our teeth and identifying where they are on our bodies. For literacy we have also been focusing on the Letters Aa and Ee, how they are formed and where we might find these letters in lots of different places; in our names, in stories, animals/items starting with these as well as the sounds the letters make when we say them. We have been doing some fantastic writing using images of ourselves enjoying school activities or images of our favourite characters as writing prompts. In numeracy we have been sorting squares and triangles and focusing on the number 3. Swimming has been fun weekly and we are getting better at using the noodles and blowing bubbles in the water.

## AUTISM AWARENESS DAY Sparkle Day @ gec

**Wednesday 2nd April**

All students to dress in something sparkly or rainbow colours to celebrate acceptance and awareness of autism. (Obviously if they are happy to – keeping in mind this is not their usual routine and many people with autism may struggle to do this). It can be a small ribbon, sparkly shoes, headband, top, dress -up of some kind – what ever makes your student feel like they can sparkle for the day. Students will be participating in a fun session with their peers where they can participate in lots of sensory based activities and tasks based around awareness, acceptance and celebration of our autistic community.

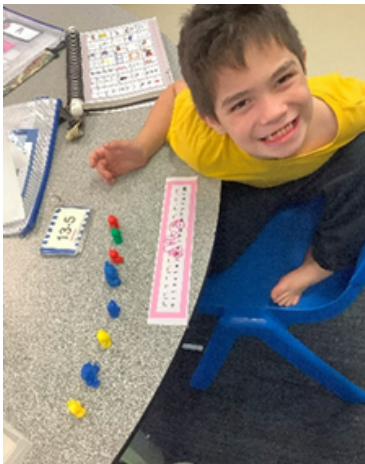


AUTISM AWARENESS DAY



## La5 EMMA BRAMICH

During the last few weeks LA5 have been busy. The students have been enjoying chemical science and engaging in collaborative and hands on experiments. During numeracy students have been continuing to learn number, addition and subtraction alongside skip counting. Throughout our comprehensive literacy sessions, we have been enjoying our shared reading books, reading to an adult and working on sequential phonics. Students have been working hard on their writing also. Swimming has continued to be a favourite activity during the week and the student shave been really enjoying the lessons.



## La6 TAMARA FLEMING

We have had a busy term settling into school. Everyone is adjusting to school life and is doing a fantastic job doing their morning tasks of unpacking bags and putting things away. Swimming has been a highlight of the week. We are learning to use the pool noodles and kick out arms and move our legs!! It is so much fun. Kyle has enjoyed the toys at the pool and learning lots of new skills. The bus ride is full of chat about what we can see on the way and how to sit safely on the bus. We have also started to explore the school and really enjoy the gym and the garden



# La7

## DAKOTA MILLER

In La 7 We have had a great couple of weeks getting into our learning for 2025. The students in LA 7 have been looking at the letters Z, M, A and K. During our morning circles students have been provided with the opportunity to select a goal that they would like to work towards, they have all showing a preference for 'keep trying'. Throughout Numeracy students have been continuing to work on their counting and numeral recognition. The students have also been enjoying exploring measurement through utilising water play for capacity. All students have been enjoying getting back to swimming lesson where they have been practicing using pool noodles and finding the engage of the pool.



# La8

## LINDA MARANO

Greetings all of you!

Another jam-packed few weeks that's for sure! In English we have been learning about Persuasive Texts, Creative Writing and Informational Texts. In Maths, we have been learning about Measurement and Geometry again and next week we will look at Data and Probability. In Languages and Culture, we learnt some Italian, "Ciao!, Come Stai?" (Hi! and How are you?) and now we are learning about Ancient Egypt. The Yr. 11 students have been learning about Australia's Flora and Fauna and the Yr. 8,9,10 students have been learning about life 50 years ago. In Health, we incorporated our Clean Up Australia involvement with caring for the environment and the impact of pollution on our health. We also have been learning about healthy and unhealthy food and the food groups.



## REBEKAH EDEN

LA9 has been a hive of activity over the past few weeks, embracing the arrival of autumn and the rich learning opportunities it brings. Our connection with nature has deepened through morning walks, where students observe and reflect on the seasonal changes around them. These experiences have inspired thoughtful reflections and a celebration of our learning journey.

Creativity has flourished as we've crafted autumn-inspired pictures using oil pastels. These artworks have become the foundation for our narrative projects, sparking imagination and storytelling. We've also transformed our seasonal table from summer to autumn and enjoyed creating autumn leaves during visual arts.

In our cooking sessions, we've focused on seasonal produce, transitioning from summer to autumn ingredients. This hands-on experience has allowed students to apply skills in budgeting, calendar planning, and measurement, with an emphasis on real-world learning.

Moreover, we've been nurturing personal skills that contribute to being good people, encouraging a sense of community and personal growth. Our commitment to caring for the environment was demonstrated during Clean Up Australia Day, where we focused on cleaning up the Railway Lands in Mount Gambier.

It's been a truly enriching experience for all!





# School

## VALUES AWARDS

