



# GORDON EDUCATION CENTRE

"Towards Independence"

## PRINCIPAL

LISA THOMAS

As we head into semester two there are lots of very exciting projects which our passionate educators are leading and driving forward. At the recent portfolio student free day we had a great opportunity to get together with other special options settings within our portfolio to plan new opportunities through the lens of a learning expedition.

Learning expeditions are designed to make connections between, and across, subjects and subject concepts to encourage deep, purposeful and memorable learning experiences for our young people.'

Over this semester you will see us exploring new opportunities and new relationships from within our city and state. Check out the photos in this semesters newsletter.

Your teachers will also be updating One Plans. This tool is essential in providing personalised learning experiences for every child. They are also our contract to you to ensure we are supporting we in the next steps of your child's journey. Every week class teams collaborate to share their insights and expertise in developing these plans at every step in the journey.

Please reach out to your class teacher to discuss your child's plan and together we can foster an inclusive and supportive learning environment which includes the right amount of challenge and support.

### Welcome

Welcome Miss Maddi to Rm LA7. Maddi joins us with a wealth of experience and knowledge and a passion for collaborative learning.

Welcome also to our new students. They have settled in beautifully and are enjoying making new connections and all the new learning experiences we can offer.

### News

Next week I will be taking some leave to visit my family in the UK. Miss Kylie and Miss Ash will be stepping up to lead the school. If you have any questions from next week please contact your class teacher via seesaw or contact Miss Kylie or Miss Ash via the school number 87231043.

# Proloquo at Gordon Education Centre

Proloquo is one of our core communication tool across all curriculum areas and school places. This means that all staff at Gordon Education receive training in Proloquo, and model use of Proloquo throughout the day.

Gordon Education has selected Proloquo as our core communication tool because:

- It is a speech generating device.
- Proloquo offers an extensive vocabulary unmatched in size and efficiency that can support the growth of language skills at any age.
- Proloquo, out-of-the-box includes 4.500 symbol-supported words, and through its Related Words exposes another 12 thousand text-only words.



Proloquo supports conventional communicators to be more successful.

- Proloquo, unlike other AAC systems, is designed to facilitate full access to school curriculum for students and teachers alike.
- Proloquo's Crescendo Evolution™ vocabulary supports school-aged students by providing easy access to the essential words from the curriculum. These words are organized by school subjects so that teachers can easily find the words they need. The graphic symbols provide an important visual cue to the meaning of these essential academic concepts, which is helpful to all students.

## Aided Language Stimulation

Aided Language Stimulation is also called modeling. It is used for teaching AAC and improving language acquisition for people with complex communication needs (Sennott et al, 2016) – and it means that we point to words on an AAC system as we speak. We need to model regularly through the day, in different situations, so that the student learns how they can use their system in those settings. We also need to model different reasons to communicate – share news, chat about activities, suggest places to go, complain, express opinions, share ideas, show off, make requests, refuse, ask questions, talk about your feelings, etc. AAC users need to learn to use AAC to do each of these things – so we need to show them how to do it.

## AAC and Speech

Using AAC will not stop a person from learning to speak (Beukelman & Mirenda, 2013). In fact, once individuals use AAC they may make gains and improvements in their speech. We also know that modeling AAC helps language development, and, once the individual develops their receptive language and has access to communication, it can reduce their frustration.

La1

ISABELLE SWANBURY

In LA1, students have been undertaking a learning investigation around 'What is a business and how do people earn money?' To explore this question, we have been visiting different shops in the local community. LA1 joined the students in LA8 to visit Centro Plaza to discuss what different shops sell. We noticed that some shops were empty and wondered what our class could sell if we ran a shop. Our maths has connected with our investigation as we have been exploring the value of money and ways of budgeting. LA1 also visited Coles to investigate the price differences between items, and we discussed how to buy items that are the best value for money. Over this term our class will continue to use integrated learning to investigate how shops work.



La2

LISA RYE

What an awesome start to Term 3 we've had! We're already in full swing with swimming and have begun heading out on excursions as part of our Learning Expeditions. These expeditions involve students selecting a location to set up a shop or stall, then working together to stock and manage it. It's a big task with lots of elements to consider, but the students have taken on the challenge with great enthusiasm and are loving the experience thus far!

In Numeracy, we're focusing on Number and Money, while in Art and ICT, students are busy creating items connected to their shop or stall—whether it's promotional materials or products to sell, but have started with a fun 'Stop Motion' activity over the last few weeks.

We've also had a small change to our timetable: I'll now be in the classroom from Monday to Thursday, and Mrs Tamara Cameron will be teaching on Fridays.







## MICHELLE ADAMS & NAOMI ASTON

### Celebrating Learning, Culture & Connection in Our Classroom

Over the past few weeks, our classroom has been a hub of exciting learning and meaningful experiences.

On Tuesday, our students took pride in showing respect and responsibility as they participated in GEC's daily flag-raising routine. As part of National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Day, we created a beautiful class flag using handprints—celebrating identity, belonging, and culture.

In Literacy, we've been exploring letter recognition and a range of writing experiences, from independent writing to supported writing with adults. Students have used pencils, flip charts, and QWERTY keyboards—both low- and high-tech. Communication is further supported through AAC devices, shared reading, and a strong focus on expressing ideas and understanding others.

Our Numeracy learning has focused on number and measurement—specifically length and height. Students have enjoyed estimating and comparing objects through hands-on activities that build practical understanding.

In Science, we've been exploring how objects are made, identifying materials and recognising that many everyday items are made from more than one. Students are developing observation and reasoning skills through interactive discovery.

Our Child Protection Curriculum has focused on body awareness, understanding personal space, and the differences between public and private—helping students build confidence and stay safe.

In Media Arts, we've been learning to respond to images and media stories by describing what we see, how it makes us feel, and what stories they tell.

It's been a rich start to the Term full of learning across all areas—guided by curiosity, creativity, and connection. We're proud of each student's progress and thank families for their ongoing support.



## La5 EMMA BRAMICH

The beginning of Term 3 has seen LA5 students excited to be back at school. It was lovely to hear about all the exciting things students did over the break.

The students have taken to the garden this term with great excitement, planting seeds and learning about different fruits and vegetables. This hands-on experience not only teaches them about nature but also instills a sense of responsibility and patience as they care for their growing plant. Creativity is in full bloom as students plan and design their very own Yellow Bear teddies. This project encourages them to express their individuality and imagination, while also developing planning and fine motor skills. The anticipation of seeing their ideas come to life is truly inspiring! Students are crafting engaging texts centered around the adventures of Yellow Bear. This activity enhances their storytelling abilities and comprehension skills, as they explore narrative structures and character development. We cannot wait to bring the story to life.



## La6 MADISON THOMSON

We're excited to begin a new term filled with engaging learning experiences. The first three weeks have been about re-establishing routines and diving into our learning experiences. In literacy, we've been continuing our phonics sessions, providing students with many opportunities to see themselves as writers through mark-making. For numeracy, our focus has been on shapes and positional language. We've explored these concepts through various sensory activities, and our Friday cooking lessons have been a big hit with the children. We've also been conducting some fun science experiments, allowing us to observe how objects move and are influenced by different factors. Our HASS unit on families has begun, and we're enjoying exploring the different elements that make up families and the celebrations we share. This term promises to be action-packed, and we are looking forward to what's to come.





La7

## DAKOTA MILLER

In La 7 We have had a great couple of weeks getting back into the school routine and learning activities. During literacy we have been learning about the letters B,C,D and E. The students have been participating in letter sorts and have enjoyed listening to letter songs to help them learn the letter names and sounds. During our morning circle the students have been learning about their bodies and some strategies that they can use to help them clam down when they are feeling overwhelmed. Throughout numeracy we have been learning about the number 3 and have just started looking at patterns in their world. The students have been so excited to return to Wulanda for their swimming lessons where they all continue to gain confidence in the water and their swimming abilities.



La9

## REBEKAH EDEN

Our Learning Expedition is in full swing as we explore the wonders of wool, wax, clay, and the rhythms of the seasons. Students have been discovering how seasonal changes influence celebrations around the world and how nature's gifts can be transformed into beautiful, handcrafted creations. Recently, we began shaping beads from clay, which we will paint once dry. We hope to sell some of these treasures at the end of the year as part of our celebration of learning. To help us keep track of special occasions, students are also designing their own calendars, using number sense to explore how many days are in each month and how months begin and end.





## TAMARA FLEMING

We are excited to share the latest adventures from Learning Area 8, where our students have embarked on an engaging learning expedition focused on the fascinating world of shops.

### Understanding Shops and Their Needs

Our journey began with an exploration of what shops require to operate successfully. Students investigated the various items shops might sell and the essential elements needed to run a business. This foundational knowledge set the stage for our hands-on learning experiences.

### Excursion to the Plaza

To bring our learning to life, we organised an excursion to the central plaza. During this visit, students observed both empty and full shops, paying close attention to the signs and business names. This real-world experience allowed them to see firsthand how shops are set up and the diversity of businesses within our community.

### Creative Thinking: Our Own Shop Ideas

Back in the classroom, students and staff made a list of items they would sell if they had their own shop. This activity encouraged a range of conversations about how things are made and what we would need to successfully create items to sell in our shop.

### Enhancing Reading Comprehension

In addition to our shop exploration, students have been working on reading comprehension by reading articles and collecting information. They have used this information to create informative posters and brochures.

### Artistic Endeavours

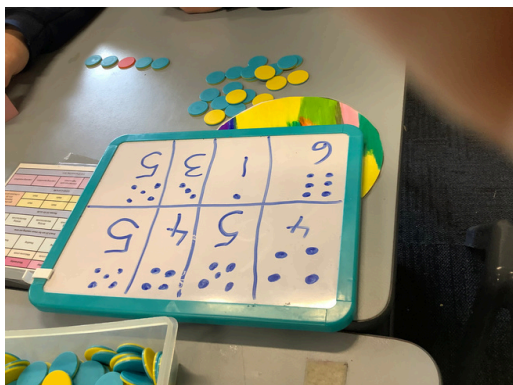
We are proud to announce that our students have completed their art projects for the upcoming art show. Their creativity and hard work are truly inspiring, and we look forward to showcasing their talents.

### Mathematics Focus

In mathematics, we have been concentrating on addition and understanding numbers and quantities. This focus is helping students build a strong foundation in numeracy, essential for their future learning.

### Stop Motion Project

Our students have also embarked on an exciting stop motion project. They created storyboards, found images, and recorded their very own stop motion animations. This project has been a fantastic way to integrate creativity with technology, and the results have been impressive.





# School VALUES AWARD

