



# GORDON EDUCATION CENTRE

"Towards Independence"

TERM 1 - Week 6

Dear Families,

As we reach the halfway point of a busy term, I am delighted to share some of the important work and initiatives underway at Gordon Education Centre.

Over recent weeks, our dedicated teachers have been working diligently to develop One Plans for every student. These plans are central to supporting each learner's success, with individualised goals tailored to their strengths, interests, and areas of need. We place great value on working in partnership with you to ensure these goals support your child's growth and engagement in their learning journey.

As a whole staff, we have recently participated in professional learning through the Berry Street Education Model. This training supports our ongoing commitment to trauma-informed practice, ensuring we can best meet the well-being and engagement needs of all our students. By building safe and positive relationships, we create an environment where every child can thrive.

Learning expeditions across the school are well on their way, with students showing wonderful curiosity as they problem-solve, explore new concepts, and engage in hands-on activities. The energy in the classrooms is a credit to our passionate staff and enthusiastic learners!

We are excited to announce that in Week 8, we will be inviting all families to participate in a Learning Walk through our school. This is a fantastic opportunity for you to join your children in Numeracy activities, see their learning in action, and connect with our vibrant school community. Please look out for the invitation coming home soon – we would love to see as many families as possible joining us.

Our Wellbeing Team is also beginning the process of co-creating Ready to Learn scales with each student. These scales encourage students to recognise and communicate their body cues and regulation, taking ownership by choosing their own pictures on a sliding scale. This is an important tool in building self-awareness and supporting emotional regulation throughout the day.

We look forward to working closely with you in partnership and encourage you to reach out if you have any questions about your child's learning or well-being.

Warm regards,  
Kylie Reed  
Deputy Principal

*Key Dates*

09<sup>th</sup> March: Public Holiday  
20<sup>th</sup> March: Harmony Day  
24<sup>th</sup> March: Year 7 & 10 Immunisations  
26<sup>th</sup> March: Purple Day

**HARMONY DAY WILL BE  
CELEBRATED AT GEC ON FRIDAY  
20<sup>TH</sup> OF MARCH**

ORANGE WEARABLES ARE  
AVAILABLE FROM SILLY SOLLY MT  
GAMBIER AT LOW PRICES. (DRESS  
UP IS OPTIONAL)





Gordon Education Centre

# Wellbeing Team



Mel



Gail



Dee



## Parent Hub

At GEC we have a Parent Hub. This is available to parents to use. This is a great spot for parents to met and chat and have coffee. There is also lots of information leaflets available for you to take.

We will also run some information sessions during the year in this room.

## Help!

If you need any assistance, please ask the Wellbeing Team and we will try to assist you. If we are unable we may be able to find the right person who can.



# Cal TAMARA CAMERON

We are now past the half way point of term 1 and what a busy 6 weeks it has been. We have been continuing to explore water through our learning expeditions looking for what student's wonderings are. We have looked at what we use water for, what lives in water, where does it come from and we are just starting to explore water pollution. We will be heading to the Valley lakes next week to take a closer look at the water down there and see what questions students pose. On Monday we went to the rail lands for clean up a Australia day with LA8 and the students did an amazing job of picking up rubbish and cleaning up the area. In the last few weeks, we have cooked cupcakes, hotdogs and French toast from the list of meals that students developed at the beginning of the term. Remember to keep an eye on seesaw to keep updated with all the things we are doing in class.



# LA2 NAOMI ASTON

In LA2 our students have been engaged in a range of rich and meaningful learning experiences across all areas of the curriculum. To celebrate Valentine's Day, the children wrote valentine notes to people of their choice, helping to foster friendship and build early writing skills in a joyful way. Our sensory play activities have included making and exploring coloured rice, which students thoroughly enjoyed as they measured, poured, and mixed, supporting both sensory regulation and fine motor development.

In mathematics, we have been exploring the concepts of 'more' and 'less' through a variety of engaging experiences such as stories, songs, sensory play with rice and water, and using hands-on manipulatives. These activities are helping students make meaningful connections with number concepts in a playful and accessible manner. We also incorporated Numicon tiles into our play-based maths sessions, allowing children to build and sequence numbers visually and through touch.

We have started to notice and investigate the details of our world during Science lessons, using our senses and keen observation skills in and around our classroom and school environment. To celebrate diversity, we marked Chinese New Year by making drums and learning about traditions from different cultures, which sparked curiosity and respect for the wider world.

Our swimming lessons have continued this term, providing valuable opportunities for students to build confidence in the water and learn essential safety skills. It has been fantastic to witness the children's enthusiasm and progress across all these experiences. We look forward to continuing an exciting and engaging term ahead, and we thank you for your ongoing support.





## MICHELLE ADAMS

Over the past fortnight, students in Learning Area 4 have been engaged in a wide range of hands-on and sensory-rich learning experiences!

Our literacy focus has been on the letters Rr and Hh, exploring the sounds they make through a variety of activities. Students have enjoyed making meaningful marks about our focus letters, choosing from writing prompt pictures, or writing about themselves using photos of their favourite activities, toys, or characters.

We have been reading a variety of storybooks together, including interactive feely books about zoo animals and other tactile texts, along with several engaging stories that the students have selected. Singing songs and rhymes related to our focus letters has also been a highlight.

In numeracy, our investigations have centred around the concepts of Big and Small, counting to three, identifying the colour Blue, and practising sorting and matching objects. These concepts have been reinforced through practical, play-based learning opportunities.

During Health, we have been exploring different emotions, discussing what helps us to feel safe, and practising how to ask for help. The students have thoroughly enjoyed using our big emotion circles and many choose to carry them around as part of their emotional regulation. Communication skills have been supported through modelling with both PODD and Proloquo, including using the word "help" with adult support during mealtimes and play, and exploring the PODD emotion pages to express how they feel.

Our weekly community outings on the bus continue to be very popular. Students are identifying significant places, spotting community helpers, and looking out for favourite shops and food outlets, making real-world connections with their learning.

Learning Area 4 places a strong emphasis on communication and social skills, learning how to interact, play collaboratively, and learn through play. High sensory needs are met through varied sensory activities using rice, water, pasta, cereal, flour, shaving cream, bubbles, and more.

We look forward to what the next fortnight brings in our vibrant and busy classroom!



# La5 EMMA BRAMICH

In Literacy, students are continuing with the Jane Farrell program and have produced some excellent writing, beginning a class information book about water which they have enjoyed. In Numeracy, the class is engaging with the Numicon program, focusing on addition, subtraction, and exploring 3D shapes.

Within Integrated Studies, students have shown great curiosity and enthusiasm in their learning about water, including activities such as brainstorming and discussions. A hygiene care pack was sent home, stemming from students' curiosity about deodorant, how it works, and the role of water and soap in cleaning the skin.

Recently, the class has been learning about pollution and water purification processes, with students demonstrating strong engagement in these topics. Families are advised to check their emails soon for a permission slip regarding an upcoming excursion to the Valley Lakes next week.



# La6 MADISON THOMSON

In LA6, our students have been enthusiastically engaging in maths through the use of Numicon, sensory trays, and hands-on manipulatives. These resources have helped make number concepts more accessible and enjoyable for everyone, allowing students to explore and build their confidence with counting and patterns in a fun, interactive way. In HASS, our community drives have continued to be a highlight, with students actively participating in planning our outings. Using PODD and Proloquo, students choose destinations and talk about what we see, strengthening communication skills and independence. Our literacy focus recently has been on the letters Y and E, with lots of matching, tracing, and letter activities to help students recognise and use these letter name and sounds.



# La7 ISABELLE SWANBURY

In LA7 we have been learning to be curious! We have learnt that curiosity looks like wondering why things work, asking questions, making predictions and investigating through hands-on experiments! For example, in Science, students have been curious learners through exploring how objects and toys move through play-based investigations. Students have been examining how movement is influenced by the shape, size, weight and material of objects. Our class has been learning that round objects, such as balls and wheels on toy cars, roll down ramps and inclines. We also experimented with different objects to test if they sink or float, and used a range of objects in our Art, such as using fly swats to make paint patterns and rolling balls in paint to track their movement!



# LA8 KIRILEE CHAPMAN

LA8 have continued to make great progress in term 1. We have completed so much work our books are starting to get hard to close! We loved sharing our efforts with our families that came to visit on meet the teacher night and have continued to share our love for helping others with come community event days. We participated in the March 1st clean up Australia day, picking up rubbish at the local Railway lands. LA8 made some posters that are on display in the student office that are designed to make everyone think about ways we can help the planet, not only by picking up rubbish but also being mindful of animal habitats and how much trees do for our ecosystem. We have been exploring community gardens with a walk through the shared herb garden located at the railway precinct and looking at how we could use our school and community gardens to access seasonal produce. On Mondays we are completing first aid sessions as part of our Health and Child Protection Curriculums. We learnt how to apply splints, how to treat common insect bites and burns. We have also learnt how to place someone into the recovery position and call 000 practicing how to give information about where we are and our emergency contact information when asked. With the winter Olympics playing on TV we have been tapping into the history of Olympics by exploring ancient Greece in HASS but also looking at the different Greek influences we can see in our everyday lives (especially during our literacy sessions). LA8 will keep you posted on the amazing things we are doing as we strive to be curious, and kind in the classroom.



# LA9 TAMARA FLEMING

This term, LA9 has been actively involved in a range of community-focused activities, highlighting the importance of teamwork, responsibility, and practical learning experiences.

Our commitment to caring for our environment was evident when we participated in Clean Up Australia Day at the Railway Lands. Students worked together to help keep our community spaces clean and tidy. Within our school, LA9 students regularly collect recycling from classrooms, contributing to our sustainability efforts. We've also taken on the responsibility of collecting lunch orders from the high school, fostering independence and teamwork.

Additionally, students are involved in counting cans collected for recycling—funds raised are being put towards our graduation celebrations, giving a real-life purpose to our efforts.

We have also launched our Cooking and Food Shop Program, where students have the opportunity to plan, budget, and shop for ingredients. This program supports students in developing essential life skills such as budgeting, problem-solving, and communication in a real-life context.

Our learning continues in the classroom with a focus on numeracy and literacy. Using Numicon, we are identifying areas to strengthen our understanding of numbers, ensuring a solid mathematical foundation. In literacy, students continue to develop their reading comprehension by exploring a variety of texts and working on creating their own written pieces.

We are proud of the efforts and achievements of all students in LA9 as they develop valuable skills for life and learning.





## Gordon Education Centre help to keep Australia Clean

On Monday the 1<sup>st</sup> of March LA8, LA9 and LA1 participated in a Clean Up Australia Day Event where we collected rubbish in our local community space. We chose the Railway lands at the end of Duigan Street as our community space and challenged ourselves to leave the area better than we found it. There was a fair bit of rubbish, mainly food wrappers, old catalogues and bits of broken plastic that we discovered. Using our PPE of thick cut proof gloves, and hessian rubbish bags we kept ourselves safe while caring for the community. Gordon Education Centre also hosted a site-based clean up event and the students who did not attend our off-site clean-up event helped keep our school beautiful. They cleaned up the yards and the classrooms to make sure that everyone has a clean and safe learning space. We ask the adults in our lives to help us use rubbish bins and recycling bins in the community and at home to support our goal of keeping the environment clean. Thank you from LA8



GORDON EDUCATION

# Belonging Awards

