



# GORDON EDUCATION CENTRE

"Towards Independence"

TERM 2 - Week 6

## LISA THOMAS

PRINCIPAL

Thank you for supporting our recent student free day, which allowed staff valuable time to explore why relationships come first in our school. We know that every interaction begins with activating wellbeing—for students, staff, and families alike. This dedicated time helped us strengthen our commitment to building and nurturing caring connections that are essential for growth, learning, and a positive school culture.

In our school, we use a range of strategies to activate wellbeing each day. These include morning check-ins, welcome circles, mindfulness activities, and creating opportunities for students to express themselves and build friendships. By fostering a sense of belonging and providing safe spaces, such as our Parent Hub to share and connect, we aim to ensure that everyone feels valued and supported, setting a strong foundation for learning and personal development.

As we continue to celebrate wellbeing in our school community, we would love to know: What activates your wellbeing? We invite you to join the fun and add to our display by bringing in a photo of your favourite toy. We have a few entries which are bringing up some beautiful memories. Please send your photos to [dl.1645.info@schools.sa.edu.au](mailto:dl.1645.info@schools.sa.edu.au).

This week we also celebrated Reconciliation Week. Reconciliation week is a time for us to learn about our shared histories, cultures, and achievements. It encourages us to reflect on the relationships between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and other Australians, and to work together towards respect, understanding, and positive change. The week reminds us of the importance of acknowledging the past and building a future based on trust and unity. As part of our celebrations we worked together to create the front office display.

## Key Dates

**11/6**

Family Learning Walk

**8/7**

Mud Day

## Canteen Update

As of Term 3 we will no longer be able to do physical orders for the Mount Gambier High School Canteen. All orders will need to be made on the QKR app.

Please see the office if you need any support.



Gordon Education Centre

# LEARNING WALK INVITATION



Dear Parents & families,  
You are invited to come along and join us  
for a Learning walk through the school.

We are focusing on our new school values: Kindness,  
Curiosity and Belonging.

As you walk around the school:

- How do you see everyone showing these values?
- What do you think about or wonder when you see our values in action?
- What do these values mean for everyone in our school community?

Afternoon tea will  
be provided in the  
Parent Hub

Come join us and other  
parents/families at our  
site and have a cuppa of  
coffee and a sweet  
treat.

## Date and Time

- \* 11<sup>th</sup> June, 2026
- \* 2:00 Afternoon Tea
- \* 2:20 Learning Walk



# TAMARA CAMERON

We have officially made it past the halfway point of term 2 and we have been very busy with lots of fun learning experiences in and out of school.

In Numeracy, we have been continuing focusing on addition strategies. Students have been practising using different methods to solve addition problems, including mental strategies, number lines, and partitioning numbers. We have also been looking at half and how to accurately make halves of regular and irregular shapes. Over the next couple of weeks, we will include half of a collection. For measurement we have started the potato Olympics. Each student has created a potato, made them a profile and now they will compete in a range of activities that will require students using a range of measurement strategies.

Students have also been building their digital skills through regular typing practice on typing.com. They have been learning correct finger placement, improving their typing speed, and developing accuracy when using a keyboard. These skills will support their learning across many curriculum areas as they move towards their senior years.

For art we have been looking at still life drawing and painting. For one of our art pieces we collected autumn leaves, photographed them, enlarged them and had a go at painting them using the correct shapes and colours.

A highlight of the fortnight was our Outdoor Classroom Day. Students embraced the opportunity to learn outside, participating in a variety of engaging activities that encouraged creativity, teamwork, problem-solving, and exploration of the natural environment. It was wonderful to see students learning, collaborating, and enjoying the benefits of being outdoors.

We look forward to the rest of the term.



## LA2 NAOMI ASTON

LA2 students have had a busy and exciting term of learning. We enjoyed participating in Outdoor Classroom Day, where students explored and learned in a different environment while building confidence and curiosity outdoors. In Mathematics, we have been learning about a range of different shapes through hands-on activities, sorting tasks, and shape hunts. In Technology, students had the opportunity to use Dash robots, which generated lots of excitement and curiosity. Everyone enjoyed exploring how the robots moved and responded to commands, helping to develop problem-solving and early coding skills.



## LA6 MADISON THOMSON

/ Eoin Mcilduff

LA6 students have had a fantastic term filled with learning, exploration, and new experiences. We enjoyed participating in Outdoor Classroom Day, where students engaged with nature and learning activities outside the classroom environment. Throughout the term, we have been developing our literacy and numeracy skills through hands-on, engaging activities tailored to each student's needs. Students have also enjoyed learning about plants in Science and exploring relationships, safety, and kindness through our Health lessons. We are all very excited to begin our gymnastics sessions and are looking forward to building our confidence, coordination, and movement skills in this new learning opportunity.

# L4 MICHELLE ADAMS

Learning area 4 has been a busy classroom celebrating special days over the last few weeks with special persons day and outdoor education day. Students engaged in lots of fun activities around the school and got to share these with their special people visiting. These days foster a sense of belonging and connectedness with our school, families and the wider community.

Over the last fortnight we have been focussing on letters Ff and Gg, reading the books we created, "All about Me" and writing in the form of making marks. The students have quite engaged looking at the pictures of themselves and demonstrating increased joint attention at tasks.

For numeracy we have been exploring pattern and looking at the number 2, counting items to 2 and looking for numbers in the environment, including finding them in sensory items etc. We have also been exploring the colours black and white, using paint, textas and a variety of items that are these colours. We have been using some small world play toys to demonstrate same and different and big and small.

As part of our learning expedition – 'All about Me, Homes and the Community', students have been looking at themselves in mirrors, exploring the features that make them individual, singing songs, reading books and exploring parts of their faces. From here we have made individual books about themselves – hence the "All about Me" books. We have been visiting places in the community on the bus looking at the significant places of interest the students demonstrate connection too and the next step is to make a book about the places in the community they like to visit. We are also in the process of organising pictures of the people in our families, our pets and favourite toys to also compile into another book, bringing together all the different aspects that help make up "us".

We look forward to sharing our learning journey with our families next term.



# LA5 EMMA BRAMICH

Last week, we were delighted to welcome Gemma to LA5 as she begins her final teaching placement with us. Gemma joins our classroom community with great enthusiasm and is ready to engage with our students, supporting their learning journey. Throughout her placement, she will be working closely with both staff and students, contributing her skills and fresh perspective. We look forward to supporting Gemma as she completes this important stage in her teacher training and know she will be a valuable addition to our team. Please join us in making Gemma feel welcome at Gordon Education Centre.

Swimming continues to be a favourite amongst our students, who eagerly look forward to each session. This week, we also finally began our much-anticipated excursions to the gymnastics club. The students had been counting down for three weeks and were extremely excited to participate. Their enthusiasm and energy in these sessions have been wonderful to witness.

In numeracy, we are focusing on developing our addition and subtraction skills. Gemma will be leading a series of lessons teaching whole, half, and quarter recognition, which will further enhance the students' understanding of mathematical concepts.

Our recent Outdoor Day was a great success, with students enjoying an array of activities and displaying their curiosity about the environment. It was fantastic to see everyone engaged and exploring the natural world around them.

In Integrated Studies, students have continued their investigations centred around water. They have also been using their sense of hearing to identify and differentiate between various sounds, which has been an engaging and insightful activity.

We are proud of the students' continued enthusiasm and curiosity in all aspects of their learning.



# LA7 ISABELLE SWANBURY

LA7 has been very excited to be attending the Blue Lakes Gymnastic Club this term! The gym offers lots of opportunities for students to build their awareness of body position and movement and balance and spatial orientation skills. Jumping, climbing, balancing and crashing also supports students to feel regulated and focused.

In literacy this term we have been learning about rhyming word families. Our class has been sounding out and blending words that rhyme, such as run, sun, bun and fun! Students have been building their sense of confidence and fluency in reading CVC words using multi-sensory and scaffolded strategies. It is great to see students building their sense of confidence and enthusiasm for reading and writing.

As part of our learning exhibition with our buddy class LA6, students have been testing recipes to put in our collaborative cookbook. Our "Cooking Together" learning expedition aims to engage students in hands-on, meaningful learning experiences through the world of cooking. This program focuses on developing life skills, mathematical understanding, social interaction, and fostering connections with family and the community. Our class recently visited the library to investigate how cookbooks are published in order to learn how to make our own recipe book. We will also be visiting She's Apples in a tour exploring where our food comes from before we use it in cooking. Our learning investigation supports students' curiosity as well as teaching students how to follow recipe instructions, measure ingredients, work in collaboration with others and healthy eating habits, making learning meaningful and functional for students.



# LA8 KIRILEE CHAPMAN

LA8 have been very busy in the last three weeks since we last checked in. We prepared a whole-school picnic for Outdoor Classroom Day and attended a Reconciliation Week Indigenous movie screening at the Sir Robert Helpmann Theatre. We also added frogs to our class menagerie and upgraded our turtle tank.

We have been exploring design and engineering, investigating different machines and structures. This led us to create simple parachute machines to prevent an egg from smashing when dropped from the playground. Every design we created was successful, and we were very proud of our engineering skills. We have now moved on to building and designing bridges.

In History, we have been exploring castles and the medieval period, examining how technology has changed over time. With the upcoming public holiday, we looked at the kings and queens of England from the medieval period through to the modern era, ending with our current monarch, King Charles III.

We are over halfway through our class novel Hatchet and have explored how to use sparks to create fire. This inspired us to look at Indigenous methods of fire-making, and we even created our own fire using flint and materials gathered from our environment.

Outdoor Classroom Day was an amazing success. We engaged in a range of learning tasks both onsite and offsite. We started the day with a welcome fire circle, then set up a range of sensory activities for younger students to enjoy.

At our Marist Park excursion, students made kites, flew foam planes, threw boomerangs, measured trees and the oval using tape measures, and participated in scavenger hunts. All of this fun culminated in a shared picnic lunch with families. It was wonderful to see so many students engaging with their natural environment. We look forward to sharing our learning journeys over the next three weeks.



# LA9 TAMARA FLEMING

We have had a wonderful and busy couple of weeks in LA9! Our students have been exploring a range of interesting experiences, both inside and outside the classroom.

**Post School Pathways** As part of our learning about post school options, we have visited AXIS and Dream to Create. These visits gave our students valuable opportunities to see what supported work and day options can look like when they finish school. Everyone enjoyed learning about the different activities and supports available. We are looking forward to continuing this exploration, as in Week 7, we will be heading out to visit Bedfords and Cara. These visits help students and families begin thinking about possible pathways for the future.

**Outdoor Classroom Day** We celebrated Outdoor Classroom Day with an exciting trip to Marist Park. The students participated in a scavenger hunt, which included searching for a range of natural items, and enjoyed creating some beautiful artwork in the outdoors. The day was filled with fun, movement, and a chance to work together and explore new environments.

**Maths** In maths, we have been working on the concepts of "more" and "less". Students engaged in a range of hands-on activities to help strengthen their understanding, including sorting, counting, and using everyday objects to compare amounts.

**Literacy** Our literacy focus is on building strong sentences to help with retelling stories and everyday experiences. Students have been practicing putting their ideas together in clear sentences, using picture prompts, word cards, and lots of modelling from staff. We hope this ongoing practice will help everyone feel confident in sharing their thoughts and recounting events.



# OUTDOOR CLASSROOM DAY

Outdoor Classroom Day is a global movement where educators take children outdoors to play and learn. Celebrated twice a year, it inspires schools to integrate nature play and outdoor lessons into the curriculum to boost student wellbeing, improve behaviour, and foster environmental stewardship.

On the 21st of May Gordon Education Centre celebrated Outdoor Classroom Day with a variety of activities including parent/carer picnic. We started the day with a Welcome Circle based around a Camp fire. Each class was greeted by the whole school as were the staff, and the expectations for the day were outlined, to try new things and to have fun. The Senior students set up activities for the west wing playground including a seed tent, a box fort, weaving, ice tray with words hidden, a numicon hunt and a dinosaur dig in the sandpit.

Off-site at Marist Park the middle and senior school students made kites, threw boomerangs and created art using natural objects and paint. They measured trees and ran races, engaging in a natural item scavenger hunt and a Numicon scavenger hunt.

The whole school enjoyed a BBQ lunch, with sandwiches and fruit skewers prepared by LA8 and cupcakes prepared by LA1. This was an amazing day with lots of smiles and curiosity.



# Curiosity awards

