



GORDON EDUCATION CENTRE

"Towards Independence"

TERM 2 - Week 9

LISA THOMAS

PRINCIPAL

As term 2 comes to an end it's a great time to reflect on all the wonderful learning that has taken place this term.

Learning expeditions

We love seeing our students explore and stay curious during our learning expeditions. Curiosity helps them grow, dream big, and discover new possibilities every day. We encourage them to ask questions and follow their interests—because that's how their hopes and dreams come to life! Our learning adventures reach beyond the classroom and connect to the community, helping students build real-world skills and confidence.

Relationships first

We know strong relationships make a big difference, so we're always looking for ways to connect with families—whether that's through special days, Seesaw posts, or working with our Governing Council. We also team up with local councils and NDIS partners to talk about post-school options and create a supportive village around every student. By working together, we make sure our learners—and your family—feel supported at school and beyond.

Reports

Semester reports are a valuable way to share your child's progress and achievements with you. We aim to give you clear information about how your child is developing in their learning and social skills. These reports highlight individual strengths, areas for growth, and celebrate milestones reached throughout the semester. We encourage you to read through the report, discuss it with your child, and reach out to teachers if you have any questions or would like to talk further about goals for next semester.



After more than twenty years of dedicated service, Diana Radley retires from her role as a School Services Officer with a legacy of warmth, professionalism, and unwavering support to staff and students alike. Diana's contributions have been invaluable, fostering a positive environment and strengthening our school community every day. While her departure marks the end of an era, it also heralds the beginning of exciting new adventures. We sincerely thank Diana for her commitment and wish her every happiness as she embarks on this new chapter—her presence will be greatly missed.



Key Dates

30/6

School Photos

3/7

Mud Day

&

Last Day of School Early 2pm Finish

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.

**MUD DAY
EVENT**

GEC are once again celebrating International Mud Day. We ask parents to please provide bathers or waterproof clothing and a towel for your child so they can engage in messy muddy fun.

Parents are welcome to attend and join in the play. If you would prefer your student to sit this out please contact your classroom teacher.

 WEST WING PLAYGROUND

 FRIDAY 3RD OF JULY
Starting at 1.15 Muddy Play

Tamara TAMARA CAMERON

The past few weeks have been a little quieter in our classroom as we have continued working hard across all of our usual learning areas. Students have been building on their skills in literacy, maths, and our other curriculum subjects as we work towards the end of the term.

This week, we wrapped up our much loved Potato Olympics in maths! Students had a fantastic time participating in a range of fun, hands-on activities while applying their mathematical thinking and measurement skills.

With only a few days left of the term, we are looking forward to finishing off our learning topics and celebrating all that we have achieved. On Friday, we'll enjoy a fun last day together with a movie day—a great way to end a busy and successful term.

We wish all of our families a safe and relaxing holiday break and look forward to seeing everyone refreshed for next term!

la2 NAOMI ASTON

This term, our students have been enthusiastically engaging with a range of meaningful learning experiences. One of our highlights has been exploring patterns, both through hands-on use of manipulatives and within our art activities. The children have enjoyed sorting colourful objects, and creating repeating designs while painting, which has helped them to recognise and understand patterns in a fun, interactive way.

In addition, developing pre-writing skills continues to be a key focus in our classroom. Our fine motor activities—such as threading, manipulating play dough, and drawing with a variety of writing tools—are giving students the essential practise they need to build strength and control in their hands and fingers. These skills lay the foundation for writing success as they continue their educational journey.

We have also been incorporating technology into our program. Students have helped to take selfies and then identify themselves in groups of photos. This activity not only develops digital literacy skills but also fosters self-recognition and a sense of belonging within the classroom community.

As part of our ongoing learning expedition, we have been transitioning from the theme of 'ourselves' to learning more about our homes. This has included encouraging students to recognise and talk about familiar people, routines, and objects from home. One favourite project has been making a class book called "Who Lives in Our House?", featuring each student's contribution of photos with text. Activities such as playing a household item matching board game have also supported the students in making connections between school and home, strengthening their sense of belonging and identity.

We are also pleased to share that our swimming lessons are progressing well, with all students showing increased confidence and skills in the pool. Our last lesson will take place on Tuesday of Week 10. It has been wonderful to see the progress and enjoyment during these sessions.

Thank you for your ongoing support as we continue to celebrate the strengths and achievements of each learner in our classroom. If you have any questions or would like further information about our activities, please feel free to get in touch.



LA4 REBEKAH EDEN

We have been very busy in LA4! Our learners have been involved in engaging hands-on learning experiences across the fortnight. In Health and Technology, we focused on hand washing—practising the steps and using tools like soap, water and paper towels to build confidence and independence. We enjoyed washing baby dolls, farm animals and even helped clean the tables!

Writing sessions have been lots of fun, especially as we explored creative topics such as ice, igloos and ice cream.

In Mathematics, we discovered the world of patterns. Students created colourful caterpillars with stickers and their favourite colours, learning to recognise and practise simple repeating patterns. This activity supported their mathematical understanding, fine motor skills and sparked plenty of enthusiasm.

LA7 ISABELLE SWANBURY

LA7 has been busy exploring the letter Q with a delicious quiche cooking activity, giving everyone a chance to practise their cooking skills. Students have also enjoyed building tunnels through imaginative play, learning how to tally in maths, and eagerly observing our caterpillars each day as we wait for the exciting moment they transform into beautiful butterflies. Everyone has also been incredibly brave, embracing the chilly weather and giving their best effort during swimming lessons!



LA5 EMMA BRAMICH

Over the past five weeks, we have been fortunate to have Gemma join LA5 for her final teaching placement. The students have thoroughly enjoyed learning with Gemma, and she has become a valued member of our classroom. We will all be sad to see her leave, but we wish her every success in her future teaching career.

In Literacy, we have been engaging with our “mystery bag” activity. This involves students exploring an object hidden inside the bag. Through touch, they make guesses, ask questions, and then complete a piece of writing to share their discoveries. This has encouraged curiosity and descriptive writing skills.

In Numeracy, our focus has been on understanding whole and half, as well as breaking numbers into equal groups. A highlight was making pizzas, which students then cut into halves and some into quarters—an enjoyable and practical way to develop these mathematical concepts.

Our learning expedition this term led us to explore fog—specifically, what it is made of. The recent foggy weather sparked great curiosity among the students. Tying in with this, we also created our own water filters. Using a variety of resources, students successfully filtered dirty water, learning more about both science and environmental care.

As we approach the end of Term 2, I would like to wish all LA5 families a safe and happy holiday break.



LA6 MADISON THOMSON

Can you believe we are already halfway through the year? Term 2 has flown by, and it has been filled with engaging activities, hands-on learning, and lots of fun!

This term, our focus has been Learning Through Cooking. Each week, students continue to build their skills and confidence in the kitchen. It has been wonderful to see so many students becoming more adventurous, willing to try new foods and participate in all steps of the cooking process.

We are especially excited to announce that we have begun creating the pages for our very own cookbook! This project allows students to combine their cooking experiences with literacy, technology, and art, as they write recipes, take photos, and design the pages for our class collection.

To further support our learning, we have enjoyed two fantastic excursions. Firstly, we visited the local library, where students explored a variety of cookbooks and related texts, gaining inspiration for our own creations. Our second excursion took us to She's Apples, where we had the opportunity to see and learn about a wide range of fresh fruit and vegetables. We also visited the butcher to find out more about where our food comes from and how it is prepared. It was a great introduction to understanding food sources and production lines.

This term has been filled with curiosity, growth, and lots of delicious moments. We can't wait to see what the rest of the year holds for LA6!



lab KIRILEE CHAPMAN

The last three weeks of term has been a busy blur of hands-on learning and the culmination of our units of work across the semester. We have built bridges, sailed paper and wooden boats we have made, and built a small catapult to knock down the small castle walls we constructed.

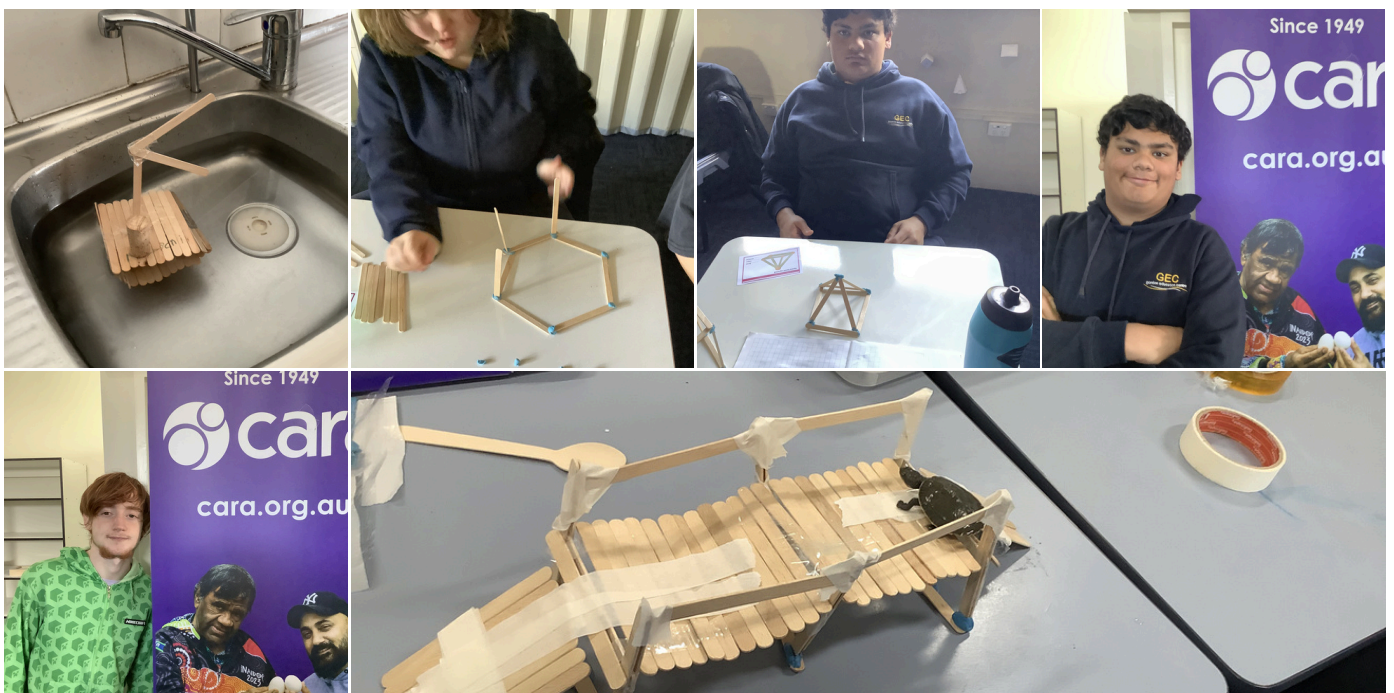
We have been working on our curiosity skills with our What I wonder time in the morning. Our questions have been very exciting, looking at when different types of clothing were invented, how different time zones work across the world, to even when glue sticks made it to Australia. These little questions are helping us strengthen our research skills and develop ourselves as independent learners.

We have almost finished our unit on Medieval Europe by watching A Knights Tale. We agreed that jousting seems very dangerous and that the way they lived back then, while different in technology and fashion, was not that different. People still had the same wants and needs, they were just missing out on YouTube.

Our class finished our novel Hatchet, we read the short novella The Deep End, and are now reading James and the Giant Peach. We have decided that books without pictures can be interesting too, and on our list of books we would like to try and read are some Goosebumps books or something else a bit scary.

Students finished there day options visits for this term with a trip to Cara that we found exciting. We loved exploring the space and found it really calming, this may be a space you see some of our students in the future.

In maths have also been exploring 3D shapes with paper and wood.



Exploring Post-School Pathways

In LA9, we are continuing our learning journey by exploring various post-school options to support our students in planning for the future. Recently, our class visited both the Cara and Bedford Post School Options Centres, where students were introduced to a range of opportunities and supports available to them after leaving school.

To further assist families in navigating this important transition, we have organised an information session featuring guest speakers. This event will provide insights and answer your questions about supporting your child's next steps beyond school. We encourage all families to attend and participate in these valuable discussions.

Mathematics in Action

To support our upcoming graduation, students have engaged in a fundraising initiative through can collection. This project not only contributes towards our graduation costs but also reinforces our current mathematics focus on the concept of number. By counting the cans collected and calculating the funds raised, students are applying their numeracy skills in a practical, meaningful context.

Literacy and Collaboration

This term in literacy, LA9 has partnered with LA8 to read a shared class novel. Through this collaboration, students worked with their peers on comprehension activities and engaging discussions about the story. These activities have helped to deepen students' understanding and encouraged teamwork and communication.

Creative Arts

Our students have also been working hard to create beautiful pieces of art to share with their families. We look forward to presenting these works and celebrating the creativity of our students.



Curiosity awards

