



GORDON EDUCATION CENTRE

"Towards Independence"

TERM 3 - Week 6

LISA THOMAS

PRINCIPAL

Dear Families and Carers,

I hope this newsletter finds you well. As we approach the end of week 6, I would like to highlight some of our current focuses and exciting developments happening at Gordon Education Centre.

Student free Day

Thank you to everyone in our school community for giving staff the precious time to complete professional development in Berry Street Education Model at our recent student free day. This term, our staff have continued to embed the Berry Street Approach into classroom practice. This evidence-based model empowers students by identifying and building on individual strengths. Our educators focus on positive reinforcement, recognising each child's unique abilities, and developing skills that foster resilience, emotional regulation, and self-confidence.

Bike Track Developments

We are thrilled to share progress on our bike track project. Thanks to continued community support and the amazing work of ACM Plumbing, the track is taking shape.

The project will provide a safer and more enjoyable experience for our students, including those using adapted bikes. We anticipate these improvements will encourage even greater participation in physical activity, as well as support students' mobility, gross motor skills, and enjoyment of outdoor learning.

I have also been in discussions with Technology for Ageing and Disability SA Inc (TADSA) who run a program, Freedom wheels. Freedom wheels helps children and young people with a disability experience the joy of bike riding through customising bicycles to suit the needs of the individual. They work with schools, families and NDIS.

They will be visiting Mount Gambier in October and will be bringing a truck full of bikes for the school and the community to try out. If you would like to know more about getting a customised bikes for your child please see the flyer attached for more details.

Thank you for your ongoing support of our students and programs. If you have any questions or would like more information about our Berry Street practices or the bike track, please contact the school.

Enjoy Book Week everyone!!

Key Dates

4/9 - Fathers Day Lunch



EVERY CHILD DESERVES THE JOY OF RIDING A BIKE.



Freedom Wheels helps children and young people with disability or additional needs experience the freedom, confidence and joy of riding a bike.



Each bike is individually modified to suit the rider, with adaptive supports designed around their needs and abilities.



Freedom Wheels can help with:



Customised bike assessments.



Modified bicycles and tricycles.



Adaptive seating, pedals, steering and supports.



Individual recommendations from our experienced team.

More Than Just Riding a Bike



Confidence & independence



Balance & coordination



Physical activity & mobility



Social participation



A sense of achievement and fun



Every child is different. Our team works with families to find a cycling solution that supports each rider to participate safely and confidently.

Could Freedom Wheels Help Your Child?

Talk to the TADSA team to learn more or arrange an assessment.



<https://freedomwheels.org.au>



1300 663 243

Scan the QR code to discover Freedom Wheels.



LA1 TAMARA CAMERON

LA1 have been busy little scientists this term, exploring what happens when we mix different kitchen ingredients together. Students have been making predictions, experimenting with what mixes and what doesn't, and enjoying lots of hands-on science along the way!

In maths, we have been estimating lengths and then using tape measures to see how close our guesses were. Students have also been excited to watch our tadpoles grow and change, eagerly checking on their progress each day.

With Book Week just around the corner, the class are also looking forward to dressing up and celebrating their favourite books and characters!



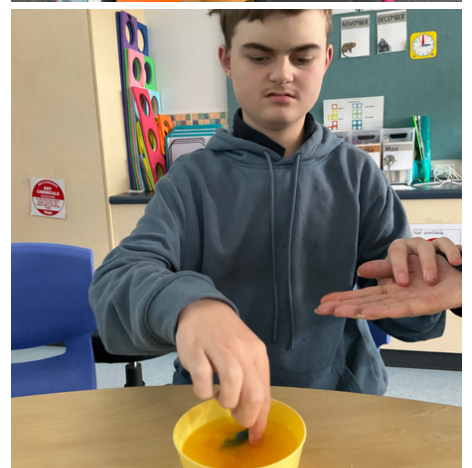
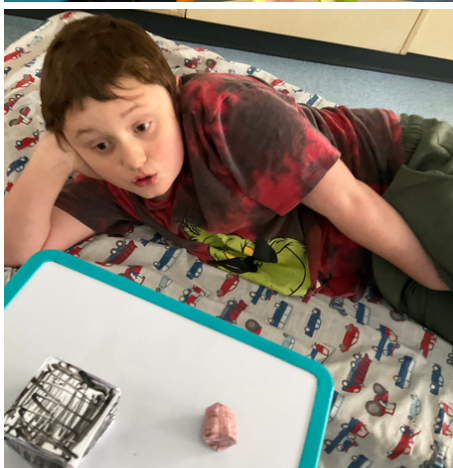
la2 EOIN MCILDUFF

LA2 have been busy building, creating and exploring this term! In Technology, students have been challenged to build the tallest tower using classroom materials such as Duplo, wooden blocks, paper chains, cardboard boxes and plastic cups. There have been some very impressive towers, with plenty of building, problem-solving and teamwork along the way.

In HASS, we have been learning about wombats and discovering the fascinating fact that wombats do cube-shaped poo! Students had lots of fun making their very own cubed wombat poo from paper.

Curiosity was peaked as the students engaged in a hands-on science experiment making fizzy dinosaur eggs. 'Where was the dinosaur?' and 'What was happening?' were some possible wonderings of our students as they poured vinegar on the eggs and observed the chemical reaction.

We have also been exploring AI music, creating songs about some of the students' favourite things. Swimming continues to be a class favourite, and everyone is looking forward to dressing up and celebrating Book Week!



La4 REBEKAH EDEN

Happy Week 6!

On Thursdays and Fridays, our students have been exploring transport in exciting, hands-on ways as part of our Design and Technology focus. We're investigating the constructed world, how things move, why they move, and what they do. From engaging bus rides around our community to spotting trucks, ambulances, and police cars, we've brought real-world learning right into our students' experience. The students especially loved making siren noises and sharing their ideas as we travelled.

Our classroom has become a busy hub for discovery play. Using trains, buses, and cars, students have experimented by putting sand in toy trucks, cleaning cars, and creatively piling toy people into our bus. These rich activities connect maths learning through sorting, counting, and comparing, making abstract concepts concrete and fun.

Communication continues to be a focus of our learning. We have been using PODD communication books to empower students to share what they have seen and experienced. Our conversations have expanded to include colours, such as the red fire truck and blue police car, encouraging deeper thinking and personal connections.

Through student-led exploration and the integration of different learning areas, we are encouraging curiosity, creativity, and authentic engagement. Soon, we will expand our investigations to the natural world, looking at living things and their environments.

It is wonderful to see our students developing skills across communication, mathematics, and Design and Technology. We look forward to updating you on our learning journey.



la5 EMMA BRAMICH

The past three weeks in IA5 have been filled with vibrant learning and exciting experiences across all curriculum areas!

Literacy

Our students have been focusing on writing one strong sentence, ensuring correct use of punctuation. This has been supported by engaging activities such as the mystery bag and funny prompts, which spark creativity and encourage thoughtful sentence construction. Sequential phonics lessons continue to progress well, with students showing excellent engagement during reading sessions.

Numeracy

In Numeracy, we've been revisiting addition and subtraction strategies to strengthen our foundational skills. Numicon remains a central resource, and we have incorporated it into sensory activities that reinforce addition concepts. This hands-on approach supports deep understanding and keeps our learners enthusiastic.

Integrated Studies

Recently, students designed their own scavenger hunts as part of two excursions. These hunts helped them identify a variety of buildings and building materials in our local area. A highlight has been accessing cement from the builders constructing our bike track, which enabled students to create small cement bricks. These bricks will be used in an upcoming project to build a miniature house, complimenting our exploration of differences between houses inside and outside.

It has been a busy and rewarding three weeks, and we are immensely proud of IA5's curiosity, creativity, and teamwork. We look forward to seeing the results of their ongoing projects and learning.





LAURA DENT

LA6 have had a busy few weeks of learning with Ms Laura and Mr Mac.

In maths, we have been learning about positional language, words that tell us where something is. We are working on making a book, using pictures to show what the words mean! We have also been practicing making patterns using shapes and colours.

We have worked hard in literacy and have made books from our predictable writing sentences to add to our class library. We have written about Our Friends, Dinosaurs, and things we are best at.

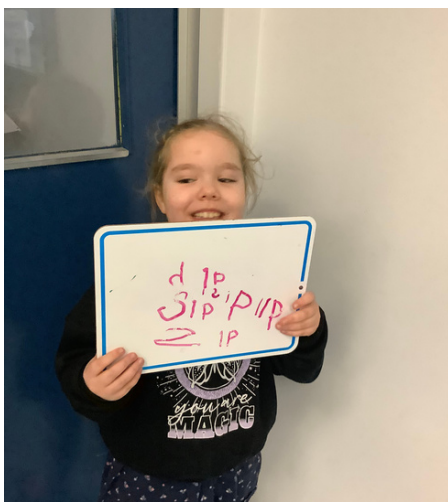
In Science we have been investigating what materials things are made out of and how we can describe them. We have collected examples from around our classroom to discuss, describe and feel. We made some chia seed slime, oobleck and moon sand this week, which was really fun to play in!

During Book Week, LA6 made lots of beautiful artworks after reading different stories. We made Elmer the Elephant out of milk cartons and stamped The Very Hungry Caterpillar out of pool noodles on to big pieces of paper!



Some exciting visitors have arrived in LA7 this term - some frog eggs and tadpoles! Our class is going to be learning about the different life stages of a frog and have been using their sense of curiosity as they make and record scientific observations through discussions, AAC and mark making. So far, our class has noticed that frog eggs are slimy, tadpoles need water to breathe, and that reeds help make a habitat for our tadpoles. To explore the frog life cycle, we have begun reading stories, watched videos, made life cycles, made books and are creating our own life cycle of frogs using modelling clay. Our class is excited to see when our tadpoles will start growing legs!

This term LA7 has explored the local community on a weekly bus trip to important places such as the hospital, fire station, the Blue Lake and grocery stores. As part of our inquiry investigating plants, where they come from and how they are useful to us, our class also visited Bunnings to decorate and plant a pot plant (and explored their playground!) Students have also continued working on their confidence and water safety skills through swimming lessons at Walunda Swimming Centre. Opportunities to visit new places support students in building confidence and a sense of belonging to their local community.



LA8 KIRILEE CHAPMAN

LA8 have finished up their novel study of Charlotte's Web. We thought the ending was sad when Charlotte died, but we were happy that Wilbur had her children to keep him company. As the last part of our novel study, we watched the film and agreed that it was a very good movie and stayed very close to the book.

Our new novel, which we started this week, is The Wild Robot. Some of us have already seen the movie, so we think we know what might happen to Roz the Robot, but we know the book may be different.

Ms Kirilee is back from Japan and has shared lots of information about the country with us. She showed us photos of many temples and some very large goldfish. Since she has been back, we have been learning about perimeter in Maths, light and how our eyes work to see different wavelengths, and creating Picasso-inspired faces in Art. We have also designed new characters for our stories and explored different stories and storytelling styles for Book Week.

It is always busy in our classroom, and we have recently added a few more pets to our space in the form of tadpoles. We have had to do some research into what they eat and how long they take to grow so that we can take good care of them.



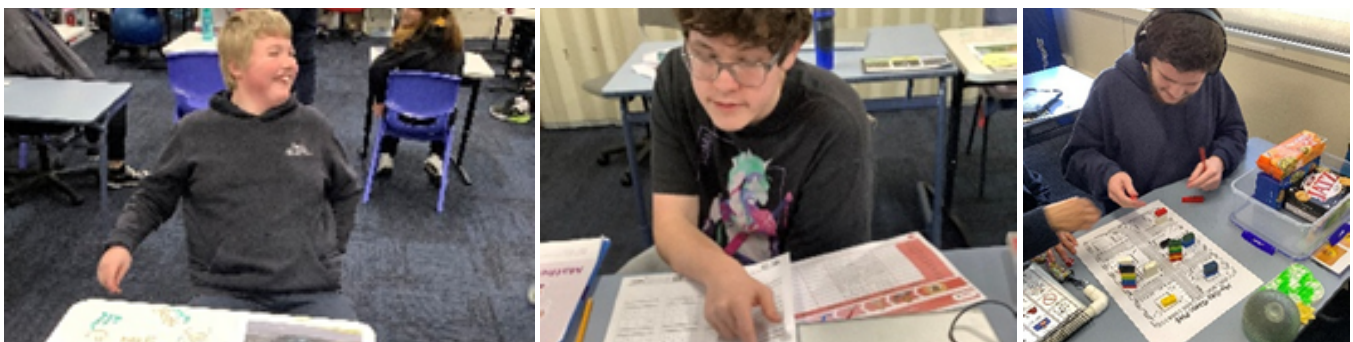
La9 SUMAN SHARMA

This term La9 has been filled with exciting learning and joyful moments.

Our students have dived into number and place value activities in mathematics. Using hands-on materials such as counters, Lego, tens frames and numicon resources learners have been building a deeper understanding of how numbers work. This practical approach encourages all students to engage, explore, and develop essential mathematical skills in an interactive way.

Our life skills program continues to provide valuable real-world experiences. Recently, students have been learning about the service industry with a focus on café operations. By making coffee and preparing other hot drinks in a café-style setting, students are practising following instructions, measuring ingredients, and serving others—skills that enhance their confidence and prepare them for future opportunities.

We were delighted to celebrate Kade's return to school after his brief trip away. The whole class enjoyed coming together to welcome him back, highlighting the strong sense of community and friendship in our classroom. These moments of connection are an important part of school life and help everyone feel supported and included.



School Value AWARDS

