



GORDON EDUCATION CENTRE

"Towards Independence"

TERM 3 - Week 9



LISA THOMAS

PRINCIPAL

Celebrating Learning Across the Term

This term has been full of exciting learning, discovery and achievement across our classes. Our LA1 students have thoroughly enjoyed watching their tadpoles grow and change while learning all about the life cycle. It has been wonderful to see their curiosity and excitement as they observed these changes firsthand.

In LA2, students explored chemical reactions during Science Week. They were highly engaged in hands-on learning experiences and developed their understanding of how different substances can change when combined.

Our LA4 students have loved their sensory learning experiences this term, especially swimming. These sessions have provided valuable opportunities for enjoyment, movement, confidence building and sensory exploration.

In LA5, students showed great creativity by writing and recording their own song, which was proudly used as the school bell. This was a fantastic achievement and a wonderful way for students to share their talents with the whole school community.

Our senior students have been busy researching post-school options and thinking about pathways for the future. They have also been exploring our local community and the opportunities it offers young people now and into the future, helping them build important knowledge for life beyond school.

In LA6, students used the Elmer books to explore literary features and then applied their learning in a creative way by investigating how to join different materials to make their very own Elmer. It has been fantastic to see both their imagination and problem-solving skills on display.

Meanwhile, LA7 students used the story of The Three Little Pigs to investigate different materials and consider which pig built the best house. This engaging learning experience encouraged students to think critically about strength, stability and design.

We are very proud of all our students and the enthusiasm they have shown in their learning this term.

Key Dates

25/9th - Last day of term!
2pm Early Finish

Cal TAMARA CAMERON

It is almost the end of term 3 and the students are all looking forward to the upcoming school holidays. Our weekly cooking sessions have continued to be a highlight and students have enjoyed making pancakes with fresh strawberries, pasta bake, and pizza wraps over the last few weeks. It has been great to see students getting so involved in all the aspects of cooking and enjoying eating the foods after.

We have had some special events over the last few weeks with our trip to the Sir Robert Helpmann theatre to watch Whalebone and our fathers/special persons day. We have also had some exciting news in our classroom with one of our tadpoles turning into a frog. Students helped to create a new habitat in a separate tank, and we are all looking forward to continuing to watch our frog grow and develop.

In STEM, students have been busy exploring and creating through a range of engaging activities. They have made catapults, paper wheel spinners, and used different construction tools to build structures. These experiences have encouraged creativity, problem-solving, and teamwork.

This week marked our final swimming session for the term, and students had a great time enjoying the splash pad. Please note that there will be no swimming in Week 10.

Students have also been very interested in watching the progress of the new bike track. We are now at the stage of waiting for the asphalt to arrive, and everyone is looking forward to seeing the project completed and getting the bikes out on the track next term.

I hope everyone has a safe, happy, and relaxing school holiday break. See you in term 4.



la2 NAOMI ASTON

We have had a very busy and exciting few weeks in our classroom, with many wonderful learning experiences to celebrate.

To recognise Indigenous Literacy Day, we were fortunate to have fellow student Michael, visit our class to share the beautiful book *Country* by Aunty Fay Muir and Sue Lawson. This was a meaningful opportunity for students to listen, reflect and learn through story, while celebrating the importance of literacy and Aboriginal voices.

We also enjoyed celebrating Book Week, including taking part in our Book Week Parade. It was wonderful to see students proudly dressed as their favourite book characters and sharing their enthusiasm for reading. The parade was a fun and memorable way to celebrate books, stories and imagination.

During literacy, students have been developing their writing skills by composing letters to their peers. They especially enjoyed the authentic experience of posting their letters in the front office, which added purpose and excitement to their writing.

Another highlight has been completing our swimming lessons. Students should be very proud of their efforts, participation and growing confidence in the water throughout the program.

We have also been enjoying opportunities to incorporate music across the curriculum, using it to support learning in a range of subject areas. Music has brought creativity, energy and engagement to our classroom experiences.

It has been a wonderful term of learning, celebration and connection, and we are very proud of all that the students have achieved.



LA4 REBEKAH EDEN & MICHELLE ADAMS

This term in Learning Area 4, students have been busy engaging in a range of literacy, numeracy, sensory and social learning experiences.

In literacy, our letter focus has been Ss and Qq. Students have enjoyed reading the story Baby Bear, Baby Bear, What Do You See? and exploring the different animals in the book. Using the PODD, we have been talking about the animals we saw and describing their colours. Students have also enjoyed writing about some of their favourite characters, items beginning with our focus letters and themselves using photos as a writing prompt. It has been wonderful to see students continuing to grow in confidence using the Word Wizard application on the iPad to select letters and add to their writing.

We have also been working on important social skills such as turn taking and sharing. Students have practised these skills through rolling and catching balls, waiting for their turn with favourite cause-and-effect toys, and taking turns on the swing.

Students in Learning Area 4 have high sensory needs, so they continue to explore items of interest and complete activities using sensory-based approaches. These experiences support engagement, regulation and meaningful participation in learning.

Book Week was a special highlight, with students dressing up and participating in the parade for parents. It was wonderful to see families join in the celebration, helping to build a strong sense of connection and belonging within our school community.

In numeracy, we have been focusing on the number 5 and the shape oval. Students have been counting, singing songs, printing, and sticking oval shapes with support, while also identifying the shape and colour using the class PODD.

To finish the week, students completed this term's swimming program. They particularly enjoyed a quick visit to the splash pad and slides. We also celebrated Zachary's birthday this week by sharing a delicious ice cream cake together.

We are very proud of the students' continued growth and enthusiasm for learning.



LA5 EMMA BRAMICH

Over the last three weeks, students have continued to work hard in our literacy program, with a strong focus on developing their text comprehension skills. They have also been engaging positively in class writing lessons and have particularly enjoyed responding to a range of fun and creative writing prompts.

In numeracy, students have been applying their learning through cooking experiences while continuing to build their understanding of addition and subtraction. Place value remains an important focus area, and students are showing pleasing progress. Pattern is also a topic for this term and the students have been exploring different patterns and making their own.

As part of our learning expedition, students have been exploring different family structures and discussing the similarities and differences in our homes. Their curiosity has also led us into the fascinating world of fossils, and students have enjoyed creating fossils in class. In the coming weeks, we will be investigating limestone and examining the fossils found within this natural resource.

Term three is quickly coming to an end. I hope you all enjoy a short break with your families and get ready for a fun filled Term 4 in LA5.





EOIN MCILDUFF

LA6 have had a busy and enjoyable term! In Design and Technologies, students have been building marble runs using table tennis balls, experimenting with different designs to see how slowly they can make the balls travel down the table. In Numeracy, we have been steadily creeping upwards and have now made it all the way to number 17!

The warmer weather has also given us more opportunities to take our learning outside, which the students have really enjoyed. Our occasional outdoor dance sessions have been a particular favourite when the weather allows.

This week we have been reading Rodney Loses It!, a funny bunny story that explores emotions and what happens when we get angry. This has tied in beautifully with our Predictable Writing focus on what we do when we get mad.

The students have worked really well this term and have plenty to be proud of. They are all looking forward to a well-deserved break!



As Term 3 comes to an end, we have the opportunity to reflect on the wonderful learning progress our students have made so far. A big focus in our class this term has been sharing our sense of curiosity through asking questions and sharing ideas. We have been recording students' ideas, questions, writing and drawings to explore further in our learning as well as celebrating students' progress in their communication skills. Some questions students have had this term are: "How did they feel?", "Do you like orange?", "Do you have a dog?" and "Coming pool?" Our class has also been developing a strong sense of belonging and community, with our students asking if their friends were coming on the bus before going on excursions, greeting peers by name in morning circle time, and learning to ask "play with me please" when they would like to play with a friend.

In literacy, students have been writing about their interests, which makes mark making meaningful to students. Our class has shown a sense of curiosity in learning new words, and have enjoyed reading, making and writing new words. Some students have been using magnetic letters and the Proloquo to write new words and sound out the letters while writing. Students have also been learning to identify new words by sounding out the letter sounds, such as b-u-s for bus. A popular topic for our class writing has been writing about our excursions, such as going on the bus to the waterpark and the playground! It is great to see students' growing confidence and curiosity in writing about their interests!



LA8 KIRILEE CHAPMAN

LA8 have been finishing off their work on World War 1 and World War 2. We have been learning about key figures in these two wars focusing on people like Archduke Franz Ferdinand, Anne Frank, Hitler, and the Royalty of England.

We went on an excursion to Vansittart park and had a picnic lunch in the nice spring weather, while there we stopped at the War Memorial monument and then had a look at the German gun from WWI that is on display there.

Speaking of spring this week we have heard some movement and tapping from our chicken eggs. Using a torch light, we candled them and believe that we will have little chicks hatching in week 10.

Spring also means that our tadpoles have slowly grown their legs and are now looking more like frogs. It has been interesting to see the tadpoles all developing at different rates.

We have been working on measurement in Maths and have measured classroom and school objects using different unit of measurement and different measuring tools. Using a trundle wheel and counter we discovered that the school is 129 meters long. We will measure the other school fence to determine the width of the school and then we will be able to work out the total perimeter.

While as a class we have gotten really good at discovering the perimeter of squares and rectangles we are still learning how to find the perimeter of irregular shapes.

This week we finished our second novel of the term *The Wild Robot* and we are watching the film to compare the two stories and see if they are different. We have really enjoyed learning how Roz the robot communicates with Animals and have been exploring how we communicate with animals of our own.

Watch this space for more spring updates and we move through the month of September and into October.



☀️ LA09 Class News ☀️

It has been a fun and exciting time in LA09!

Learning About Numbers

We have been learning about numbers and developing our counting and number skills through fun and engaging activities.

Our 3D Tree

We got creative and worked together to make a beautiful 3D tree using colourful paper. It was wonderful to see everyone getting involved and using their creativity.

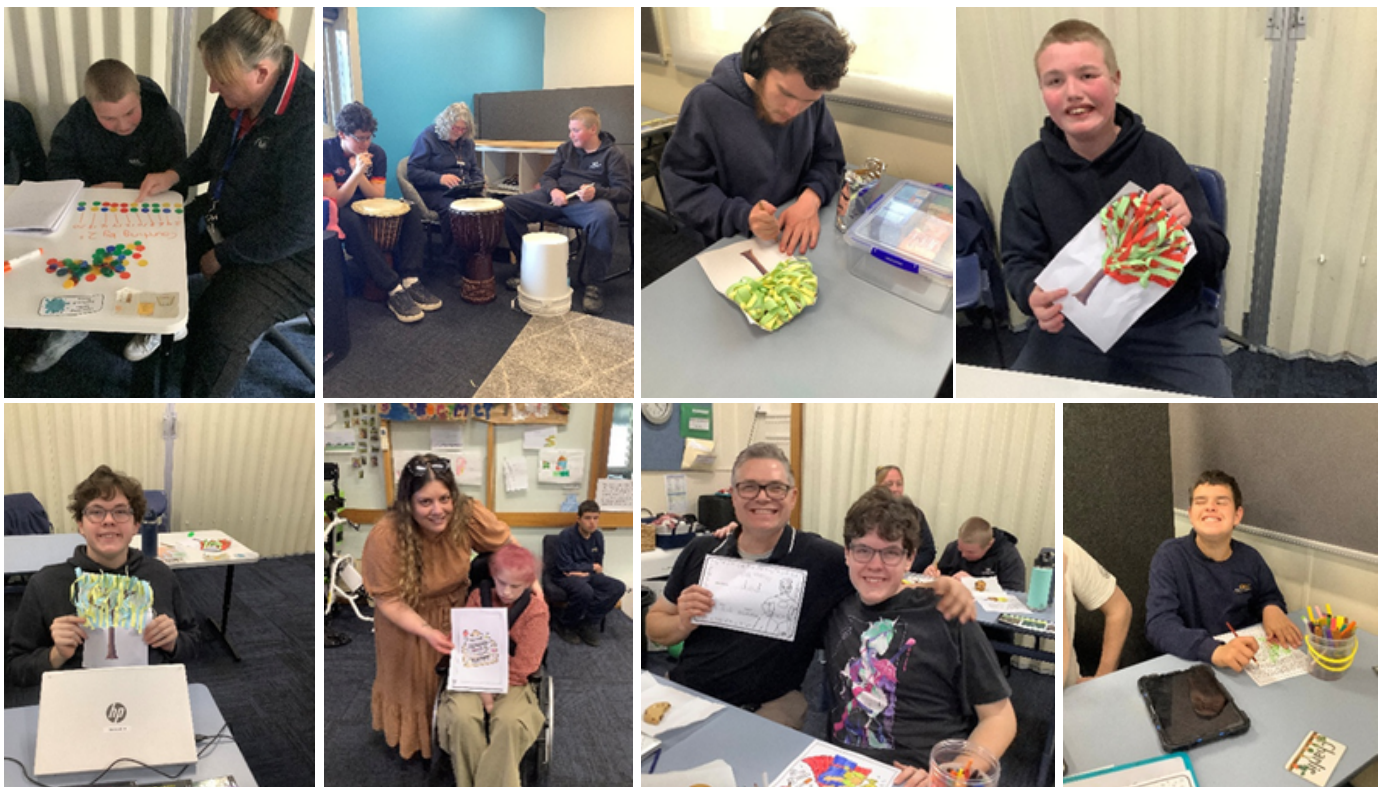
Special Person Day & Father's Day

We enjoyed celebrating Special Person Day and Father's Day, taking time to appreciate and celebrate the special people in our lives.

Music Time

We also had lots of fun enjoying music, singing, moving, and joining in with our favourite activities.

It has been a wonderful time of learning, creating, celebrating and having fun together in LA09! 



School Value Awards

