



Taylor Primary School Newsletter

Week 3 Term 2
Date: 15 May 2019
Taylor Primary School
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Kambah ACT 2902

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Leanne Davis (2-4)
Helen Wilson (5/6, K6W & K6L)
P&C Shahna Smith
PPA Amy Clark



Principal's Message

School Improvement - *How are we improving student growth in reading and writing?*

This year we have launched the new five year (2019-2023) strategic improvement plan. Improving student growth in reading and writing are two of the key improvement priorities. Strengthening teacher skills and knowledge and providing them with feedback on their practice are the key improvement strategies this year. We know that the quality of teacher practice is what has the greatest impact on improving student learning. As part of teacher professional learning this year, staff are participating in the Early Years' Literacy Project. This involves learning for teachers about essential literacy practices, professional conversations about the current practices at Taylor and how we can continue to strengthen these. Last Tuesday, Christine Topfer visited our school as part of the literacy project. Christine is a leading education consultant in best practices in literacy learning and has presented nationally and internationally in a range of literacy areas. She presented a demonstration lesson for staff to observe, with a follow up professional conversation after the lesson. Along with Christine a team of educators came along to discuss and view practices happening across the school. The feedback from Christine and the team was inspiring and affirming. They congratulated the team at Taylor for the quality of literacy teaching and learning, and we are only just in the early stages of our new strategic plan. I look forward to sharing more of these improvement strategies with the community as we continue with this very important work.

School Improvement - *How are we improving student growth in personal and social capabilities?*

Last week an invitation was sent home to families requesting your attendance at the parent information sessions coming up in week 6. Two sessions will be held; Tuesday 4 June (6.00pm-7.00pm) and Wednesday 5 June (10.15am-11.15am, following the assembly). *The value in home/school partnerships is such a vital part to helping children learn about establishing and maintaining friendships, and how to fix things when social conflict occurs.*

The session will provide very important information about:

- ✓ What are the expected behaviours of students, staff and parent/carers at Taylor Primary School?
- ✓ How do staff respond when there is social conflict between children?
- ✓ What is the role of parent/carers, staff and children in this process?
- ✓ What is, and what isn't bullying and harassment?
- ✓ How are school procedures aligned with the directorate policies when managing and responding to behaviour?
- ✓ Who can you talk to if you have a concern or question?

Safe, Respectful, Responsible Learners.

I would like to encourage as many families to attend as possible. To make it more possible for as many parents/carers to attend together staff will be attending to supervise your child/ren if you need to bring them with you to the evening session. A movie will be played in a nearby classroom whilst the session is presented. Please return the RSVP slip that went out last week by 31 May or email your RSVP to tracy.watson@ed.act.edu.au

Cross Country Carnival

It was a great way to kick off the new term with the Cross-Country carnival held in week one this term. I was impressed to see all children participating and having a go whether it was jogging or walking the track. This is such a sign of the team spirit at Taylor which was also evident with the house captains leading the way, cheering for their fellow house members. Thank you to Mrs Brooke Wood our amazing PE teacher who organised such a terrific event for students and teachers. The morning ran so smoothly, and we are very grateful to all the parent/carers and volunteers who came along to help on the morning. The Tuggeranong Cross Country Carnival is scheduled to be held in week 5. All the best to those students going on to this carnival.

Mother's Day Stall and Raffle

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the wonderful P&C committee members and those parent/carers that volunteered to help with the Mother's Day stall last week. This really is such a lovely community opportunity and I am grateful to everyone who was involved in making this so special for children and their mother's. Congratulations to those families who won a raffle hamper and I trust that all of our Taylor mums had a fabulous day on Sunday with your loved ones.

Enrolments – Preschool to Kindergarten

Our amazing administration officer Tracy sent home an email to all current preschool families regarding transition to kindergarten in 2020. This is just a reminder to let you know that if your child is currently enrolled in preschool at Taylor, **you are NOT required** to complete another enrolment application if your child is transitioning to kindergarten at Taylor in 2020. Please contact Tracy at the front office, if you have any other enrolment queries.

Belinda Fenn

Principal



Demonstration Lesson

Merit Awards

The following students will receive a merit award at this Friday's assembly.

KF	KR	KS	K6W
Luciana Bossa Mesa	Benjamin Sayer	Fred Coleman	Ruby Reid
Bonnie Martin	Jamie Shepherd	Amelia Hansen	K6L
			Gurdeep Singh
1L	1S	1V	2B
Zain Amjad	Leo Backhouse	Jessica Johns-Collins	Matilda Bourke
Maximus Cooper	Lucas Shearing	Molly Lomas	Zac Sims
2L	2S	3H	3K
Dorothy Lynch	Tahlia Fleming	Melinda Dodds	Lexi Paton
Hugo Raine	Maddie Lamb	Ryan Mozley-Betts	Koen Thompson
4M	4W	5/6C	5/6T
Jett Gane	Anthony Limphongern	Charlie Lomas	Bradley Forsyth
Sophie Russell	Miriam Keltie	Aiden Sheils	

ACT Parents and Citizens and the Education Directorate working together for safer schools.

Building Strong and Safe Communities for Learning is a partnership project between the ACT Education Directorate and the ACT Council of Parents and Citizens Associations (P&C). It focuses on all of us - parents, students, principals and teachers- working together to reduce violence and bullying in schools. An initial workshop discussed the key issues, what is working well or not working well, and who contributes to these. A second workshop with representatives of the P&C Council and the Education Directorate considered the outcomes of the first workshop to help prepare for further conversations with our school community.

We want to make it easy for anyone who wants to have a say to be given the opportunity to be involved. There are two remaining workshops you may wish to attend: On 9 May 2019, 8:30am – 4:30pm the workshop will explore the key question “*How might we reduce and respond to violence in schools and co-create strong and safe communities for learning?*”.

In June 2019 a 2 – 3 hour showcase will highlight what we have learned. It will enable participants to attend at different times during the day.



Preschool Stars and Rainbows



Welcome back to Term 2 everyone!! It was nice to close Term 1 with our excursion to the Portrait Gallery. Possibly the most exciting part was the bus ride! This was especially so for those children who had never been on a bus before. The guides at the Gallery selected just 3 or 4 of the exhibits and were able to engage the children in looking at the details of each one, think about the different materials used and why specific aspects of each one were portrayed. Discussions with the children were around culture, relationships and objects and people that individuals see as being special. It fitted in very well with our own focus on building relationships, getting to know each other and sharing feelings.

The pre-schoolers hit the ground running in the first week of Term 2—literally! They weren't even puffed as they crossed the finish line in the cross country and enjoyed running with siblings and Year 2 children. We also focused on Mother's Day—Stars preparing for an afternoon tea and Rainbows for a reading session. It was lovely to see mums, grandmothers and others who hold a special place in the children's lives. The children were so proud and excited.

Last week we had a visit from Kenny Koala, which was very exciting for the children. He spoke to them about keeping safe at school and home, and when out and about. The children were so excited to see Kenny's little car, hear its siren and see the lights flashing—always a nice reward for their sharing of safety knowledge and learning some new safety tips.

As we come up to Reconciliation Week we will introduce the children to some aspects of Aboriginal culture, extending from their learning of the Acknowledgement of Country.

Throughout the second half of term 2 the children will be involved in a Dance Kids program, run over 5 weeks, culminating in a performance for families. Dance Kids is a program that uses dance, music and drama to encourage children to explore themes around the environment and the world around them. We are still negotiating a theme that we think the children will enjoy and links to other areas of the program for both groups.

We trust all the mums had a lovely Mothers Day and extend our thanks to everyone whose assistance on excursions and in the classroom only enhances the programs we can offer. 'Til next time.... *Preschool Team*



Celebrating Mothers Day



At the Portrait Gallery

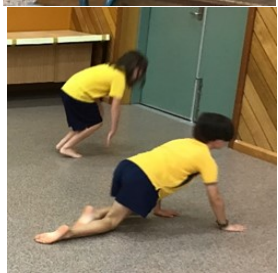


A visit from Kenny Koala



Working with Mr Chris





K-2 Gross Motor

The gross motor program aims to develop specific aspects of fundamental physical movement upon which more complex sports related skills can be scaffolded. The core elements of the program include:

- static and dynamic balance
- core, arm and leg strength
- body awareness
- co-ordinating and separating left and right sides of the body
- moving parts of the body through the midline both vertically and horizontally.

The children are encouraged to slow down and perform tasks in a controlled and mindful way, which, in turn, produces a better quality of movement. They take shoes and socks off to allow for greater sensory input and grounding, which in turn supports the development of the neural pathways around body and spatial awareness. This and motor planning, is also encouraged by providing opportunities for them to brainstorm specific motor challenges. I also share with them the benefits of developing different types of strength, bilateral coordination and the ability to cross the midlines. Gross motor lessons are presented as a set of activities around which the children rotate, each of which focuses on one or more of the elements of the program. They also provide opportunities for children to encourage and coach each other, build skills in teamwork and cooperation and make up their own challenges.

If families have any questions or would like to know more about the K-2 Gross Motor Program I am more than happy to make a time to chat. I have included a few photos to provide a taste of some of the activities provided.

Helen Thomson



STEM News

We've had a busy start to the year with lots of exciting investigations happening across the school.

Kindergarten has been discovering how their bodies move through dance, rolling, and using the playground equipment. They've asked great questions about how their bones help them move some ways but prevent them from moving in other ways.

Year 1 has explored sources of light, how their senses can detect these, and are beginning to ask questions about sensing sound and how to create a soundproof container.

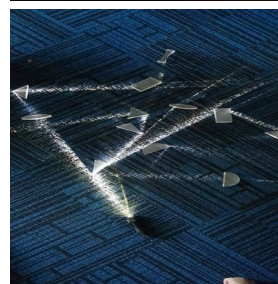
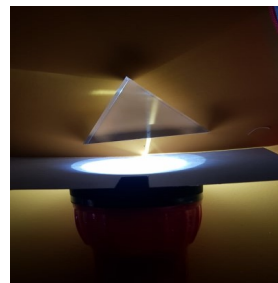
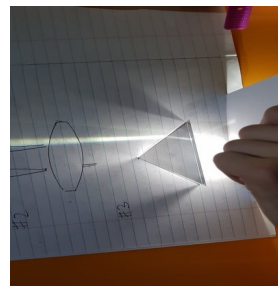
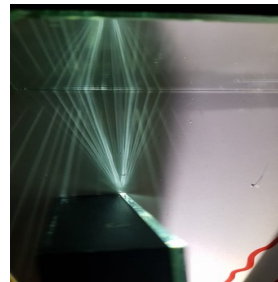
Push and pull forces has been the focus for year 2. They have experimented with magnets, investigated which shapes float while holding the most weight, and are thinking creatively while designing and building a push/pull toy using recycled materials.

Things have been heating up in year 3 as they investigate sources of heat and how this transfers to other objects. There have been some very successful insulating boxes created to keep a hot drink warm while others have flooded and provided a real world learning experience in stability.

There's been some friction in the year 4 classrooms while the students test and hypothesize the effect different surfaces have on the way a toy car moves across it.

In the 5/6 classrooms, the students have been manipulating light —bending, reflecting, refracting beams, investigating shadows and how the height of the shadow changes depending on the distance of the light source, and exploring the different ways to split light into it's colour spectrum.

The 5/6 students are beginning a new unit this term; researching and exploring the survival of living things in extreme environments like underwater thermal vents, deserts, Antarctica and the Arctic Circle.



Coming up...

The SEA*ACT Science Fair is coming up in term 3. Students can enter their projects for a chance to win cash prizes for themselves or for the school. There is no entry fee in 2019!

To enter, students need to ask a question based on a problem that they have, they're interested in or they've noticed in the community. They need to conduct an investigation, collect some data and analysis the information they've gathered.

Anyone interested in participating can ask Mrs Matthews about past entries, their question, their ideas, resources/equipment or any other help they might need.

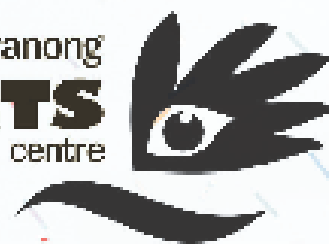
<https://seaact.act.edu.au/science-fair/>



CHILDREN'S MUSICAL

After the award-winning success of *Just like Clockwork* in 2018, Tuggeranong Arts Centre and Tim & Nathalie Bevitt are once again joining forces to provide a unique opportunity for children aged 8-14 years to devise, produce and perform their very own musical!

tuggeranong
ARTS
centre



Two extensive holiday workshops and on-going weekly sessions, culminating in a two-performance season in November.

For cost, dates and further information head over to www.tuggeranongarts.com/events/childrens-musical/



REGISTER YOUR INTEREST BY WEDNESDAY 5TH JUNE.
PHONE (02) 6293 1443 OR EMAIL
INFO@TUGGERANONGARTS.COM
PRIORITY WILL BE GIVEN TO FIRST TIME PARTICIPANTS.

Easter Raffle

Thank you to Sandy Morris, One Agency for running the Easter Raffle. The raffle successfully raised \$541.10 for Taylor Primary School.

We are planning something exciting for student engagement under the COLA with these funds.



Safe, Respectful, Responsible Learners.