



Taylor Primary School

Term 4 Week 6 Newsletter- November 2023

Hello Taylor families,

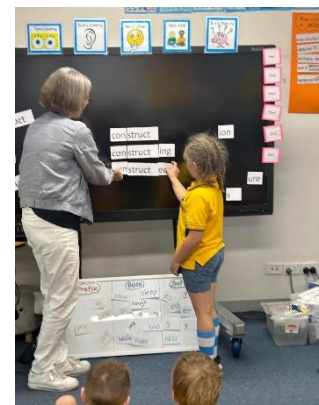
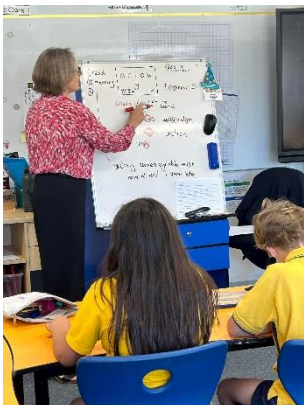
It's hard to believe that we have a little less than five weeks of our 2023 school year remaining. So much to celebrate. As I finish this newsletter, I am reflecting on a fabulous two days at the **3/4 camp at Birrigai** at the end of last week. Again, so many things to celebrate. Students working together to solve challenges, to reflect and use a range of strategies to connect with Country. We saw children grow in confidence over the two days and many examples of young leaders emerging. Thank you to the families who trusted us with their children, giving them lifelong learning and memories. Special thanks to the staff who willingly gave up their family time overnight to ensure our students had this opportunity. To Femke Matthews, Amy Clark, Rachel Holdway, Melina Clark, Dave Lynch, Holly Hancox (preservice teacher) and Janine Buckley (team leader and camp coordinator) for all their support and care of the students over the two days. We can't wait to recreate some lasting camp memories back at school this week.



Word Inquiry

What an absolute privilege to have Fiona Hamilton at Taylor last week working in our classrooms with our students and staff, modelling word inquiry lessons. Fiona Hamilton is an expert in the field of Structured Word Inquiry. This fabulous opportunity actively engaged students to dive deeper into words by noticing, investigating, and sharing understanding of word families, affixes, syllables and vowels.

Fiona also led two fantastic professional learning sessions for teachers to further investigate how the meaning, phonology and origin of a word are all important elements in the understanding of how the English spelling system works.



Special thanks to Annette Raats and Kirsty Kobus for leading this work.

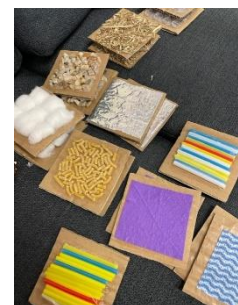
Year 1 – NGA Excursion

This term the year 1 students had a fabulous excursion to the National Art Gallery as part of their inquiry into how artworks represent the world around us. Students had great engaging experiences in various viewing and hands-on learning activities through the *Art in Action* program. The program guide shared stories that inspired curiosity about art from different times and places. Students enjoyed sharing and exploring the possibilities of art through movement, sound, creation and play.



Science Inquiry – Year 4

Our Year 4 students have been testing how different materials can affect the temperature inside homes and making connections about whether processed or natural materials are better. They have been fortunate to be supported by the Academy of Future Skills to loan specialist equipment to ensure the scientific process is fair.



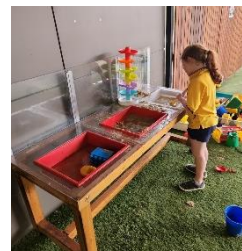
Remembrance Day



To commemorate Remembrance Day, students paired up with their buddy class to create a poppy for a school display. The poppies have been decorated in different mediums including paper, coloured pencil, oil pastels and paint. Our school captains Abigail C and Hugo R read an excerpt from the poem "The Fallen" before introducing the last post and minute's silence at 11am. Our collaborative poppy artwork will be displayed soon!

Sensory play in Small Group Program

Special thanks to Mr Chris for creating a water sensory play station for our students in SGP. Much recycling and reusing has been incorporated into the design. We are lucky to have a talented BSO at our school.



Planning for 2024

Thank you to all families who forwarded any requests for their children for 2024 to assist us in placing students in classes. The deadline has now closed, however if you have an urgent request, please forward this to Fenella.glynn@ed.act.edu.au by Friday 17 November (this week). Following this time, requests will not be possible.

Classes and teachers for 2024

During week 8, our newsletter to families will identify our staffing for 2024. Teachers and support staff for Preschool, Kindergarten and small group program will be named and communicated to these groups during week 7.

Preschool and Kindergarten 2024 transitions

Our preschool and kindergarten students for 2024 will participate in transition visits over the next few weeks. These visits are an important part of the transition process. They will occur during the school day for our Kindergarten students Tuesday and Thursday of week 7 and 8 in the morning session. Preschool Come and Play sessions will be held on Tuesday 28 November for Stars and Thursday 30 November for Rainbows from 9.15-10.15am. Parents need to attend with preschool students.

Kindergarten Information Night will be held on Tuesday 21 November at 5pm in the Library.

Preschool Information Night will be held on Thursday 23 November at 5pm in the preschool.

Reader's Cup

Reader's Cup is a competition for young readers where students read five books over 6 weeks and then compete with other teams to answer quiz questions about the books. Our Taylor teams of ten 5/6 students had great fun competing in the Reader's Cup at St Monica's School earlier in the term. Thanks to Mrs Paterson for supporting our students to compete in this event.

Chief Minister's Reading Challenge

During week 1, I had the privilege of accompanying four of our students, Patick, Holly, Eloise and Toby to the National Library of Australia to receive awards earned by Taylor Primary students in the K-2, 3/4 and 5/6 sections of the challenge. A fabulous effort by all students. We were awarded a certificate and voucher from the Chief Minister and Paperchain Bookstore in Manuka. Thanks so much to Mrs Patterson for her coordination of the event.



School Sport

Over the past five weeks, Taylor Primary students have been involved in a number of gala days. K-4 students participated in separate league tag days and 5/6 students competed in the soccer gala day. Thank you to Mrs Wood and the teachers and support staff who attended, with parent help, to make these events possible.



Garden and Green News at Taylor

Thanks to the Taylor community volunteers and the ACT Environment Grant, we have made even more progress in our garden project. The sandstone for the yarning circle was delivered earlier in the term. The Greenhouse has been erected and planting is continuing the garden beds. The green team have been working hard and will be completing an audit of our bin system this week. Thanks again to Catherine Fellows for her leadership of this project.



Taylor at Twilight

We are looking forward to the community joining us for Taylor at Twilight as our end of year celebration. This year we will feature a community picnic (5.00-6.30pm), with food options available for purchase and performances (6.30-7.45pm) by all year groups. Further information to follow shortly as well as a note from each class teacher regarding 'what to wear' on the night.

P&C news



Thank you to the P&C for providing a delicious morning tea for our staff on World Teachers' Day to acknowledge the amazing contribution they make to the lives and learning of all our young people.

Our Referendum Day BBQ and Bake Sale was a great success! This awesome collaborative effort raised a huge \$1500 for Taylor Primary School. Huge thank you to local businesses Kambah Woolworths and Amberley for their generous support of this event. Special thanks to coordinators Michael and Kial. Also, a massive thank you to all the incredible volunteers who donated their time, expertise, and delicious baked goods. And, of course, to everyone who visited the stall on the day - THANK YOU!

Thank you to the P&C who are hosting a free disco for all Taylor students on Thursday 16 November for P-2 students and 3-6 students. Please ensure that drop of and pick up times are adhered to, and students must be collected by an adult from the Hall.

Thank you to the P&C for also organising Tea Towels for preschool and the Mango fundraiser.



Planning for 2024 with upcoming student-free days

From 2024, there will be 4 student-free days for ACT public schools. These are the first day of each school term:

- Term 1, Monday 29 January 2024
- Term 2, Monday 29 April 2024
- Term 3, Monday 22 July 2024
- Term 4, Monday 14 October 2024.

We use student-free days for staff development, enabling us to plan in a student-free environment. Student-free planning days have been expanded from 1 to 4 days from 2024 as part of our new Teaching Staff Enterprise Agreement which prioritises better teacher workloads for educational leadership, teaching and learning.

For all school term dates, visit the Term Dates page: <https://www.education.act.gov.au/public-school-life/term-dates-and-public-holidays>

Current notes

Move and Make Day – hosted by year 5/6. Please return the note and payment of \$5.00. This event is on Friday, 17 November (this week).

Preschool Zoo excursion – preschool – next Wednesday 22 November. We need families to return this note and payment \$25.00 for this excursion to go ahead.

Upcoming payment items

Book Packs – shortly families will receive information about student stationery packs for 2024. These will be ordered online and delivered to school by the start of the 2024 school year.

Movie Day – next week, a note for the K-5 movie excursion on Tuesday 12 December will be distributed. Please complete the permission form and return it with \$15.00 payment by Friday 8 December.

School Dress

The new school dress has been well received by students and families. Of course, the previous style can still be worn as part of our uniform with a phasing out over the next few years however due to unavailability, we will not be ordering any more of these dresses.

Thank you to the families who contacted us about the possibility of a navy-based school polo shirt with gold trim, similar to the dress. We are looking into this as a possibility during 2024.



REMINDERS

- **Hats** are essential for outdoor activities. Please ensure your child has a name labelled brimmed hat each day.
- **Water bottles** – are also essential and can be refilled at the 4 water stations we have across the school.
- **Collecting your child early** – send an email admin@taylorps.act.edu.au or phone the front office in advance so we can have your child ready for you. Retrieving children from the playground during break times can be challenging as there are many play spaces. The more notice you give the better.
- **Lost property** – weather is warming up and many jumpers are left lying around. Please label belongings. We will be displaying lost property in the foyer over the coming weeks and will let families know so you can check for items.

Volunteers

Taylor Primary School will host a volunteer thank you morning on Friday 8 December from 8.30-9.15am. If you have volunteered in the school please join us for a coffee/tea/sweet/savoury snack in the Hall. Invitations will also be sent home however if you have helped in any way please feel free to join us.

PACK the BUS

This year Taylor Primary School will participate in Pack the Bus. Leading into Christmas, the Mix 106.3 and Transport Canberra staff will be getting on a bus and driving around the region, making stops to fill it with essential food items and toys for kids and families in need, because everyone deserves a Christmas! All items collected will be donated to those in need through Communities @ Work. There will be a 'bus' in the foyer of the school from Monday 20 November until Friday 8 December where you will be able to donate non-perishable food items and unwrapped toys.



As always, your feedback is welcome. Please contact us via email admin@taylorps.act.edu.au or on 6142 3000.

Kind regards,

Linda Francis – Principal

15 November 2023