

GREEN SQUARE SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER TERM 1 2018

Dear parents/carers and community,

Term 1 has been a particularly wonderful start to the year, with learning, teaching and leading evident across so many areas of school. In particular, the students enrolled this year have showed a commitment to learning that is truly inspiring, as I've witnessed first hand the evidence of their new reading, writing, organisation and inquiry skills. As you can imagine, none of this happens without the commitment and passion of our teachers and support staff, who have introduced a new curriculum to the school for the benefit of our students now and in the years ahead.

The new curriculum being introduced is the key focus for two out of our school's three strategic directions for this current 3 year school planning phase, 2018-2020. The first curriculum area is focused on implementing a reading-to-learn and writing-to-learn curriculum. The second curriculum area is focused on explicit inquiry and collaboration skills for students to learn. You can read more about this in our new school plan which has been published on our school's website:

<http://www.greensq-s.schools.nsw.edu.au/>

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome some new staff into our team. Dilani is a physical education, health and personal development trained high school teacher with a great rapport with students and equally great teaching practice. She is our homeroom teacher in 'Blue' class and runs the PDHPE curriculum. Jade is a visual arts and design and technology trained high school teacher with a wealth of success in supporting students with special needs through her art therapy programs conducted throughout Australia. She will be home room teacher on 'Red' class and teach the art and technology curriculum. I would also like to welcome back Kate from her successful role in Learning & Wellbeing Directorate. She brings back a wealth of experience into the assistant principal role and in developing our food technology program into a truly inspiring program for all.

On another note, we are farewelling Fernando, who has been teaching at this school for almost 6 years. He has a truly inspiring teacher to work with and has successfully transitioned into the next chapter of his teaching career. Thank you to all that you have brought to this school over the years - our staff, students and families wish you all the very best with the next stage of your teaching career!

Lastly, thank you to our parents/carers and community for your ongoing commitments and support of this program. What time and effort you have available to contribute to the learning journey of your child is of great impact here at the school.

Have a safe and restorative term 1 break. We will look forward to students returning on Tuesday 1 May.

Ngaramadhi Space provides our school community with an opportunity to connect with a multi-disciplinary team of health specialists onsite at Green Square School. Our clinic is made up of a paediatrician, nurse, occupational therapist, speech pathologist and school psychologist. We have established a number of referral pathways for our families to support services such as Family Referral Service, Centre 360 and Headspace. Students can access this service with a referral from their GP and this can be arranged through the school. Please email me if you would like further information on lauren.kilroy3@det.nsw.edu.au



Patrick Faucher
Principal
Green Square School

Art Therapy

This term was the first term of art therapy at Green Square School.

In art therapy students can use art materials and creative expression to explore thoughts and feelings and to improve well-being.

Gold class participated in weekly art therapy workshops exploring materials and techniques such as clay, felting, creating a self-box, painting body outlines and keeping a visual journal. We discussed ideas about managing stress and anxiety and using mindfulness and art to relax. The students said they enjoyed the activities. A number of individual students were also able to take part in art sessions throughout the term. They used their art journals and a choice of materials to explore images and ideas in a quiet, calm environment, supported by the art therapist and another staff member. Although at first a little uncertain about trying something new, the students at Green Square have now accepted art therapy as part of their weekly routine.

Jade Maguire - Art Therapist



Look After Yourself

Would you believe that we are already a quarter of the way through 2018?! From a chaplain's perspective, this term has been full of huge successes, with many students making huge progress in the ways that they reflect on their behaviours and attitudes. While life obviously has many challenges, it's encouraging to see so many of our students choosing to focus on the positive things that they can be thankful for. As we hit the holidays, here's my top tip: look after yourself! I know I say it constantly, but I'll say it again - get good sleep and eat healthy foods, spend some time each day relaxing, focus on your breathing and think of things you are thankful for. It's all of these little things that make the biggest difference in how we face all of life's ups and downs.

Joel Hollier - School Chaplain

Kitchen Capers



It was a great start to the food technology program at Green Square School for 2018! Throughout the eleven weeks this term, students explored the foundations of basic nutrition and how to prepare simple and super tasty recipes in a safe and hygienic manner.

All students were offered one practical and one theory lesson every week. During theory lessons, students focused on practicing critical reading strategies, which they will continue next term. Readings highlighted nutrition for teenagers and how it relates to their overall wellbeing. The practical lessons linked up to the theory, providing students the opportunity to prepare a variety of scrumptious meals to share with all at lunch.

Recipes included rice paper rolls, crispy chicken dippers, bacon and leek macaroni cheese bake, fried rice, lasagna cups, cookies and a nifty pizza recipe using only two ingredients for the dough. All students have a recipe book for this term to take home and share with family and friends. Next term we will explore a selection of delicious Asian cuisines, so watch this space!

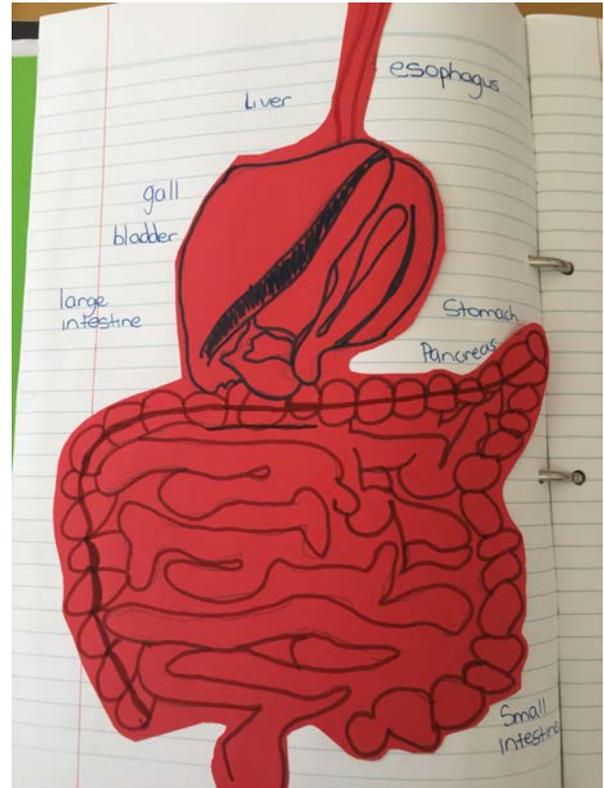
A special thank you to Uncle Bert, who joined us in the kitchen every Thursday to share his master chef tips.

Kate Kidman - Assistant Principal



Science

Term 1 saw the introduction of rotating teaching staff to offer students a variety of key learning areas while using a new whole school approach adapting AVID strategies of learning. We focused on 'Body Systems' and students learned about how different systems interact together, the different names of organs and their functions. Students were involved with having timed writing tasks 'Quick Writes' to establish prior learning and exchange ideas through discussion. We used another AVID strategy, a Socratic seminar where students discussed and debated which system was most important and why. During this term, students created maps of the digestive system, labelled diagrams of muscles and bones and discovered how and why blood moves around the body.



maths

The subject a lot of students love to hate...maths - this term students focused on building number skills by manipulating numbers in a variety of ways. We warmed up with learning about order of operations. Students then learned how to split up numbers into their fundamental building blocks by learning factorization strategies. Due to a wide range of abilities and year levels some students needed to be challenged with higher level maths involving finding lowest common multiples and highest common factors. This led us into word problems looking at decoding what the question was asking by using AVID critical reading strategies. Some students finished the term by multiplying and dividing fractions as well as converting fractions to percent and decimals.

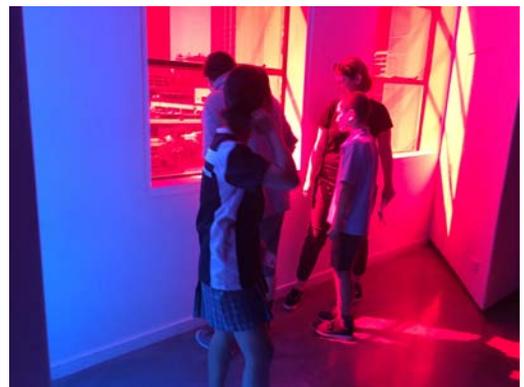
Richard Stenning - Science and Mathematics Teacher

Go for Gold

Gold Class has worked particularly hard this term, and each student has their own individual highlights and personal success. I am particularly proud of the way each student has taken to the organisational element of our AVID program. Our folders are organised to keep consistent records of our learning and students are starting to take full responsibility for the maintenance of their folders. Gold class has had lots of different opportunities as part of our literacy program. We visited The Museum of Contemporary Art for the Pipilotti Rist, 'Sip My Ocean' exhibition. This was a very popular exhibition which explored the idea of exploring the manipulation of audience perspective. The exhibition contained light installations and visual light projections, inviting it's audience to 'tap in' to a different view and perspective. Gold Class also had the opportunity to work with artists from Red Room Poetry. We rapped to hip hop beats and rhymed to Djambe drums, with artists SOLO, Aka Nick Bryant Smith and Gabriella Journey Jones. Students collaborated to produce a group poem about Green Square School.

We have a particular focus on Reading to Learn and we have started to use the Critical Reading Process to help us understand texts across the curriculum. The process helps students to approach different texts in the same way, outlining a method which helps students to engage with and understand a text. Teachers have also been introducing strategies with Writing to Learn, guiding students to make notes and write down questions during lessons to not only record but to extend their learning. Our goal is to equip all students with the skills to access learning across all areas of the curriculum and helping students to become independent learners, helping to further bridge the gap between both school settings.

Sarah Travis - Classroom Teacher





This term has seen a number of students dive deeply into the digital side of music production on GarageBand, with some absolutely phenomenal results. Izeia and Josh have each completed songs, and Tevaka and Bailey also have awesome tracks in the works.

There has also been a number of students engaging in learning instruments, particularly Mikaere who is tackling a number of challenging guitar songs like Back in Black by ACDC and Nothing Else Matters by Metallica. Te Mana has learned a number of Bob Marley tracks, and Jinny has done some awesome work as our first vocal student, culminating in a jam featuring Jonah on guitar and Izeia on drums performing Waves by Dean Lewis.

For the first time we have also had a music video made by Zayne featuring his own freestyle rapping and performance.

Jeremy and Andrew -
Music Teachers



Farewell Fernando!



Thank you Fernando for all you have contributed to Green Square School to inspire students love of learning.
We wish you much happiness and success.

Assistant Principal's Report

This term has been a great start to the year. Students have shown their enthusiasm to the implementation of the AVID pedagogy. This is the first term in a three year strategy and already we have noted the difference in the students' attitude to learning. They are taking pride in their AVID folders and often this is the first thing they want to show me when I visit the classrooms. They are showing they can keep their notes and assignments organised by subject, and their writing implements in good order and in the front of their folders, a skill which they will be able use in their transition to their home school. We are still working with the students to develop their skills and confidence in inquiry based learning. We start our lessons with the **ESSENTIAL QUESTION** which helps the students to know what they should be able to answer by the end of the lesson. I am always pleased if the students can tell me what the **ESSENTIAL QUESTION** is when they pop in for visit to my office.

We anticipate that next term will be as productive. As teachers we will continue to focus on organisation skills but also encourage the student to develop their skills in "reading to learn".

We will continue to take our sports program to All Sorts Gym every second Friday. This program offers the student a multitude of sporting opportunities not available at Green Square School with sporting experts to guide their way. On the alternate week students will enjoy sports here with our new PDHPE teacher Dilani. Dilani has been working with the students on team work as well as basic running, catching and passing skills. We hope we will be able to show off our prowess in these areas when we catch up with other similar schools for our annual Footy Competition.

I wish all our students a safe and restful holiday so you are able to return to school with your enthusiasm for learning renewed.

Lynne Kirkpatrick - Assistant Principal



INVITATION TO PARENTS AND CARERS

We will be inviting parents and carers to visit us at Green Square School throughout term 2, to share our new learning programs.
