School Council: Education Report (for Term 3)

Date: Tuesday 9th September 2014

The highlights for the semester (in relation to Education) have been:

- **Be a Prep sessions**: 2015 Prep children have been involved in getting know our school and teachers on a Tuesday afternoon. Thank you to the Prep teachers who have given up their time to support and make a smooth transition for these children into school.

- **Athletics Day**: The children competed in numerous athletics events. It was very pleasing to see that most children attempted every event. Congratulations to Miss Conway and Mrs Laughlin for their fantastic organisation of the day. Also thank you to the teachers and parents who braved the cold conditions and supported the day.

- **Curriculum Day**: Staff participated in a Professional Development Day. The morning session consisted of a presenter informing us about Cybersafety. Schools, parents, children all need to be vigilant in this area. The afternoon allowed us to explore our school initiative of Kids Matter. This is the ‘umbrella’ of all wellbeing. Thank you to Mrs Canavan for organising the Cybersafety presentation, and to Ms Bound and her Welfare team for presenting Patto’s expectations of Kids Matter.

- **Year 4 camp**: A very successful 3 days was had. We can be extremely proud of the way our children conducted themselves and attempted all the challenging tasks. Thank you to Mrs Walker for her wonderful organisation of the camp, and Mrs Taylor, Mr Canavan and Mr Lakeland. It is much valued and precious family time these teachers give up to support our children. Also a thank you to the amazing daredevil parents that joined the campers. They showed the children how things were done!!

- **Swimming**: An intensive 2 weeks of swimming allowed the Years 2, 3 and 4 children to practise their skills in the water. Thanks, once again, to Miss Conway and Mrs Laughlin for organising a successful program with 13 grades involved.

- **Science Week**: Experiments happened all around us in week 7. Patto celebrated Science week with a bang!! Classrooms explored their Science boxes with great enthusiasm. The Jollybops incursion saw many families in attendance, with a lot of laughs provided. Congratulations to Mr Milgate on an amazing week.

- **Literacy/Numeracy Week**: The sun was shining to kick off the week with a Book Fair and Family Picnic. Many families enjoyed lunch together and celebrated with a book purchase. The dress up day for children as their favourite book character was a huge hit. Year levels had individual parades to show off their costumes. All week, children investigated maths activities around water and data collection. Thank you to Mrs Morris and Mrs Groat for their magnificent organisation of the week. Also, congratulations to teachers and children for supporting the activities and having fun dressing up!

- **Visiting Artist**: Brett Cardwell has been a much loved visitor to Patto. He has shown children (and staff members) how to draw astonishing cartoons. Brett finishes with us this term, but not before he helps with some murals and the friendship tree. The class cartoon canvases will be up for auction at the school fete. Congratulations to Mrs Munnikhuis for her continued creativity and ways to make Patto look better than what is already does!

- **Year 5 camp**: Last on the agenda for the term. Good luck to Year 5 children and teachers when they go ‘back in time’ and pan for gold. Thank you to Mrs Macaulay and Mrs Dyer for their organisation of the camp. We also thank them for giving up their time, as well as Mr Patane and Mr Nicklen. I am sure they will all have a fabulous time.

- **NAPLAN results**: We can only be proud of our children for the results they have achieved. In all areas of NPLAN in both Years 3 and 5, our results were above state level. In particular, our best results were achieved in Writing and Numeracy. Congratulations to be given to both teachers and children for their hard work.

Please enjoy reading once again, the many and varied curriculum programs we have at Patto.
Prep Report (Mary Phillips)
We have had a busy and productive third term in Prep. Our topics have been Happily Ever After (Fairytales) and What Is It Made Of? (Science). We find Fairytales to be a very engaging unit of work. The children love reading all the stories, and are able to enjoy the good versus bad themes knowing that there is always a happily ever after. It is a wonderful topic for third term, since the Preps are now much more independent with their writing. Many marvellous recounts and descriptive pieces have been produced by the children. Next week we will be holding our fairytale parade followed by a display of the children’s work in the classroom. The kinder/crèche children will also be attending this event as a transition activity.

Our Science topic has given rise to many hands on activities. The children have mapped our playground and looked at what items are made of, and why those materials have been chosen for their specific purpose. They have also learnt how to record their investigations in their Science journals. Science Week was very popular with our Preps. Luke Milgate organised an activity based on Sesame Street, followed by a session where the children got to look at a whole range of preserved insects and creatures borrowed from the CSIRO. The children were given the opportunity to look at the animals close up and then formulate questions based on what they had seen. Many impressive questions were asked, such as ‘Why do we only see Christmas beetles at Christmas time?’ and ‘Why does a crab have a shell?’ Children are naturally inquisitive and having the opportunity to engage in weekly Science lessons is wonderful.

Last week saw Numeracy and Literacy week, and once again it was a huge success. The Preps loved dressing up as a book character and participating in the various rotations, where each teacher read a shortlisted book to the class and then ran an activity based on the story. Since the Numeracy theme was based around water, we got together and charted which Prep class had the most drink containers and which container from each class held the most water.

The first six Tuesday afternoons of this term saw us running transition sessions for pre-school children whilst our Preps were at their specialist sessions. This gives us a chance to get to know next year’s children, and hopefully makes school a welcoming and familiar place for them.

We now look forward to Term Four. It is very rewarding to see our Preps becoming independent and confident members of our learning community, ready to progress into Year One.
Year 1 Report  (Kim Morgan)

Term Three has been busy with our 120 keen little learners. We dived into the Commonwealth Games 2014, Googling the games and taking pride in our Aussie teams!

In English we continued spelling groups with homework to learn our tricky words. Mondays we have Circle Time where we talk and show what we did on the weekend. Our narrative story and diary writing is action packed; now using adjectives, pronouns, punctuation and onomatopoeia. The students know the importance of good writing when they need to read it back aloud! Independent Reading continues daily, and the children excitedly share their schema, can infer, visualize and determine importance, and are expanding the skills in how to be a great reader. Partner reading demonstrates skills with others. The library continues to be raided weekly with the children accessing at least 10 books a week. Children are exploring chapter books and bringing in their own books. Parents are delighted with their children’s passion for reading at home and the support from parents is integral.

In Maths we work as individuals, in small groups and whole class, applying our skills to work mathematically and problem solve. We use loads of maths resources; the favourite being jelly beans and Cheerios. Year Ones are great GPS’s with locating places using maps, charts, directions and Google. This greatly helped the teachers on excursions!

“Bonjour” continues every week with Madame Danne and we are learning colours, numbers animals, body parts and food in French.

Our first topic this term was Spot the Difference and the classes have worked with Professor Milgate to explore diverse changes in the world. We worked with items to make spaghetti towers with marshmallows, ice, water, milk, cream, etc. Yummo! Our second topic, Healthy Bodies, looked at staying healthy and how to make healthy choices. We will be making fruit salad and pizzas, integrating maths, writing and spelling into this unit. A busy term once again.

Year 2 Report  (Sarah Ashburn)

Term Three has been a busy one. Firstly, we looked at the Commonwealth Games 2014, learning about different sports and athletes. We cheered on our Aussie teams whilst graphing the medal tally.

In English, our writing focus for the term was on an information report about Australia and poetry. Some of the students found a new interest in poetry writing. The students are also learning the importance of good writing when they need to read it back aloud and edit their work and their peer’s work! Independent Reading continues daily, and the children excitedly share their schema, can infer, summarize and determine importance, and are expanding the skills in how to be a great reader. Library sessions have taken place each week with the children accessing at least 10 books at a time. Children have been exploring non-fiction books this term and bringing in their own books.

In Maths we work as individuals, in small groups and whole class, applying our skills to work mathematically and problem solve. Each Tuesday we stream our grade 2’s into classes that support their stage of learning and focus on the numeracy task of the week such as multiplication, division and money.

Our first topic this term was Wonders Down Under which looked at the ecosystems within Australia and what our country has to offer. We combined this with the Commonwealth Games and where Australia is positioned in the world. The children were given a separate lesson each on many different ecosystems found in Australia, i.e. Alpine and high country region, desert, coastal areas, rainforests and wetlands.

Our second topic, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, looked at how we can care for our environment and stop wasting the resources available to us. Our big bang for the topic was an excursion to the Gould League and Replas Australia. At the Gould League the children were able to take part in activities about recycling. They included story time, treasure chest, composting and worms, as well as relay races and plays. At Replas Australia the children were able to reinforce the recycling concept and see what actually happens to the items we recycle.

Our swimming program was added into the middle of our term for 2 weeks. The program was a success and the children enjoyed their time at the pool. A busy term once again.
Year 3 Report (Amber Ryan)

During Term 3 students in Year 3 have studied the three integrated topics; Commonwealth Games, ‘Consumers & Producers’ and ‘Melting Moments.’

Students excitedly followed the Commonwealth Games and completed a letter and research on their selected athlete. They began to appreciate the sacrifices that athletes make to compete at an international level.

Our excursion this term was to the Dandenong Market and the Yakult Factory. Here students were able to taste Yakult and have a tour through the factory. Students understood the important role Yakult can play in our bodies and the nutritional value. We were able to see the product being made, right through to bottling and packaging. At the Dandenong Market we were lucky enough to be able to walk through the market and interview the stall holders. Here students learnt the difference between the consumer and the producer. Students were able to make a purchase with their money, whilst learning how to budget.

The athletics day was a lot of fun for the Year 3 students, as this is their first year competing in it at Ballam Park. They loved the opportunity to race against other students and get a taste of what is to come in the older years.

During maths this term we have explored ‘chance’, ‘giving change,’ ‘graphing’ and ‘capacity.’ Under the guidance of Nadia Walker, the year 3 teachers are continuing to design open tasks for all students to participate in. We are encouraging the kids to develop efficient strategies to solve problems and encourage them to discuss their thinking. The emphasis is not on their answer, but in how they worked the problem out. Students love the chance to all be working on the same task.

This term saw the Year 3’s take part in the swimming program. Students were extremely well behaved and ended the program learning about safety in the water and life saving techniques. We are extremely proud of the kids efforts and were impressed with their ability to get changed so quickly!

The reading strategies we have been focusing on this term have been ‘Visualising,’ ‘Summarising,’ ‘Predicting’ and ‘Inferring.’ Students are applying these strategies to assist with their comprehension and their reading results have been excellent. We have written Information Reports, Explanations, Rhyming Poems and Recounts this term. The focus is on the structure of each piece of writing, along with their editing techniques. Year 3 students celebrated Book Week recently and created a mural in their classrooms.

Year 4 Report (Leanne Walker)

WOW…what a jam packed term! We blinked and almost missed it!!!

This term students studied two Science units; Smooth Moves and Beneath Our Feet. They enjoyed all the experiments and had the pleasure of Mr Milgate each week this term. Throughout the topic, there were plenty of ‘hands on’ investigations and teachers utilised the Primary Connections resources. The students will celebrate the end of the topic by visiting the IMAX theatre in Week 9 to watch Forces of Nature and Hidden Universe and an incursion in Week 10 on Rocks and Minerals.

The beginning of the term started with our excursion in Week One to the MCG to celebrate the Commonwealth Games and our Science unit Smooth Moves. This also tied in nicely with our Athletics Carnival in Week 3. It was a sensational day, although the weather could have been a bit better, well organised and fun was had by all. The students also enjoyed watching the Alpha show performance in this week. Week 4 was our much anticipated camp, followed by our swimming program in Weeks 5 and 6. Week 6 was also the celebration of Science week. During Week 7 the students were excited to dress up as their favourite book character for Literacy, Numeracy and Book Week. They had a family picnic and completed activities throughout the week during Maths and Literacy. The students have also enjoyed Art this semester and completing cartoon drawings with our visiting artist.
Camp
The highlight of this term for the Year 4 students has been camp. Students attended camp Manyung in Mount Eliza for 2 nights and 3 days. They participated in a range of activities such as the giant swing, flying fox, low ropes, marine discovery, orienteering, archery, belayed tree climbing and kitchen cooking. The weather was wonderful and students represented Patto well. All the staff were very proud of each and every one of the students who attended camp. A huge thank you to all who attended the camp.

Year 5 Report (Pam Macaulay)
Year 5’s have had an informative and productive term. They have been immersed in ‘Discovering Australia’ for our integrated topic. They have investigated ‘How an Australian colony developed over time’ and what do we know about the lives of the people? We visited the Chinese Museum and had a fabulous day walking around China Town learning about our Chinese immigrants. They also focused on the discovery of gold and its significance in history. A gold incursion enlightened the students about this precious metal.

In Maths this term, we have covered 12 and 24 hour time and time zones. An inquiry task allowed the students to plan a trip around the world and book their flights. Number fluency and algebra have been covered with lots of fun games using Nadia Walker’s format. Volume and capacity has been introduced and the water activities are always exciting! Mapping and location allowed the students to look at local maps and create a game using co-ordinates.

Reciprocal reading is off and racing with the students reading in groups with books of their choice and often friendship groups. Discussions have been powerful in helping the children become better readers. Our writing this term has been a historical recount letter to send to Sovereign Hill. Their handwriting of the old Victorian cursive could probably do with more practice!!

SMART goals have been a huge success with the children now progressing from small basic goals to inquiry goals with a longer time period to achieve. It’s amazing to see some of the students diverge their thinking and allow for more personal learning satisfaction.

The House Athletics day was very successful. The boys Hoop time is Week 9 and they are looking forward to the competition. Following this will be CAMP; then we will finish the term off with Footy Day.
Year 6 Report (Deidre Carmona)
It has been another busy term in Year 6. During this term we have covered topics in both Humanities and Science as well as the core subjects of Reading, Writing and Mathematics. Our History (Humanities) topic was Immigration Through the Decades. The students enjoyed using the Laptops to research a particular era of immigration and presented their findings in variety of ways including plays, movies, animations, trivia quizzes and board games. For the first 8 weeks of term we have been lucky enough to have Luke Milgate teaching our classes for our topic, It’s Electrifying. The children thoroughly enjoyed investigating, exploring and experimenting while learning how electricity is created. In addition Luke provided Elise, Patty and myself the opportunity to develop our scientific teaching strategies. Thanks Luke!!

The House Athletics Carnival was another highlight. All students were encouraged to participate in as many events as possible. Many Year Six students assisted staff during the day and are to be commended for their mature and enthusiastic attitude. A fun day was had by all and the students are looking forward to the District Carnival this week. Congratulations to Kelly and Michelle for organising a great day. All Year Six students participated in winter school sports every Friday and demonstrated excellent sportsmanship on most occasions.

In National Literacy and Numeracy Week it was great to see most Year 6 students participating by dressing up as their favourite book character. The students have also enjoyed writing different forms of poetry.

We are now gearing up for the end of year with many discussions regarding dresses, suits and end of year activities.

Student Well Being Report (Katrina Bound and Danny Wilkins)

- **Kids Matter** – Katrina attended an Implementation and Support Network Meeting on August 11th. It was an opportunity to tour a school that has already had a successful journey incorporating KidsMatter into their school. Many ideas were noted and will be brought back to the Wellbeing team at the next meeting. One concept from the meeting is already being implemented; we are introducing ‘Wellbeing Leaders’ to our school community. Another initiative that was thought of at the KidsMatter training is also on its way to completion. A portable DVD player has been purchased and a short movie/slideshow of photos is being made. The slide show of photos demonstrating examples of how Patterson Lakes Primary School is committed to the KidsMatter principles will be played on the screen in the front reception area.

- **Wellbeing Leaders** – Danny is in the process of training interested Year 5 & 6 students. Wellbeing Leaders will:
  - Monitor the Friendship tree
  - Encourage positive behaviour
  - Reinforce the school values...Respect, Integrity and Excellence
  - Student expectations according to Wellbeing Policy
  - Sensible use of playground areas (designated areas only)
  - Listening
  - Stop, Think, Do
  - Conduct tours for new students
  - ‘Check in’ with new students a week or two after they have been here

- **Wellbeing Staff Meeting** – will be held again next term.

- **Classroom and Yard Management Plans** - a number of individualised management plans have been developed in collaboration with classroom teachers, families and students in an effort to address the specific management needs of certain children. These plans have been used when working with these children.

- **Friendship Tree** – is being launched within the school soon. Staff decided it was an important initiative and so steps are being taken to get it ready for launch this year instead of waiting for next year. We are very fortunate that our Artist in Residence is prepared to decorate around the outside seating which will give it a special place in the school yard.

- **PLPS Student Playground Recommendations** – staff continue to discuss their strong beliefs on the importance of play areas within our school and the strong links it has to student wellbeing. Staff voted to extend the accessible play areas for lunch and recess times to include part of the tunnel. The Wellbeing Committee plan to format a proposal for school leadership and the fundraising committee to consider.

- **The Act of Kindness** – Will continue, our most recent recipient is Steph in Year 6.

- **Department of Human Services** - the school receives calls and visits from DHS about a small number of children and families and any required follow up is handled immediately.

- **Anxiety Management** - the nominated students from Prep-Yr6 have completed a 6 week program with Neville Cornelius. The feedback from all was great.
• **Restorative Chats** – have continued with a number of students. Also some students have completed Values Reflection sheets and completed any necessary follow up.

• **Parent Contact** - a number of parent meetings/phone calls have been conducted regarding classroom and playground issues these have all been productive in the management of students.

• **Social Club** - under the leadership of Amber Ryan students meet three days a week at lunchtime. These sessions offer students a positive activity and strategies to assist them experiencing pleasant times at school.

• **Positive Points** - ongoing lunchtime meetings have been conducted with some senior students working on positive attitudes towards issues at school.

• **Neville Cornelius** - our school psychologist has suggested the following website as helpful for children dealing with issues that may concern them; brave4you.psy.uq.edu.au.

### English Report (PoppyMorris)

National Literacy & Numeracy Week has provided our students with the opportunity to investigate an array of poetry. The poem could be in any form including haiku, diamante, cinquain or blank verse! The students were taught how to use their ideas and writing styles create a great poem. The students had the opportunity to listen to a collection of nominated books for ‘Book of the Year’ and dress up in their favourite book character. Families were able to visit the Book Fair. On Friday 29 August at 2pm AEST teachers and students at schools across Australia participated in the ‘Read for Australia’ activity. They were able to join in and read this year’s book Sunday Chutney by Aaron Blabey aloud.

Vicki Froomes has continued her coaching program with a couple of the Prep teachers and will begin in the Year 2 area with the long term goal being that independent reading is taught across the whole school.

As the English Co-ordinator and Independent Reading (IR) Action Research leader I am coaching teachers across several levels in the practice of IR.

Writer of the Month is continuing to reveal some creative and thought provoking pieces of writing.

The school is continuing to follow the strategic Spelling program.

Display walls will be changed over by the end of this term.
Mathematics Report (Nat Stella)

Term 3 has been a successful term in the area of Maths!

Nadia Walker Action Research Project: Nadia Walker has finished her work at Patterson Lakes Primary School. The Year 3 team have continued to work together to deliver a differentiated rich maths program.

Maths Coaching: As the Maths Coordinator and leader of the action research project I am coaching others in the area of differentiation and maths structure.

Maths Club: Maths club has continued to run every Tuesday in the computer LAB. A teacher is available to assist students.

NAPLAN: Year 3 and 5 NAPLAN preliminary results have indicated that we are above the state in Numeracy.

Literacy and Numeracy Week: During Literacy and Numeracy Week students participated in maths activities around water and data collection.

Maths Online Interview:

The Maths Online Interview has been trialled in one class in Prep and Year 1.

The Mathematics Online Interview is a powerful tool for assessing students’ numeracy development during the first five years of schooling. Evidence of student learning gathered during the interview allows teachers to:
• develop a profile of student numeracy development in the aspects of mathematics assessed in the interview
• inform focused teaching of students.

Teachers are using this data to inform their teaching and improve student learning.

Science Report (Luke Milgate)


Teachers have continued to receive support in the classroom during their science lessons this term. Those classrooms that have received assistance included:
Year 1 – during ‘Spot the Difference’
Year 4 – during ‘Smooth Moves’ and ‘Beneath Our Feet’
Year 6 – during ‘It’s Electrifying’
Year 4 has also enlisted the help of Tim Newman for the ‘Beneath Our Feet’ unit. Tim is a parent of the school and works as an engineer.

Professional Development

Two sessions of professional development were offered to teachers this term. The first catered to the senior school, the second to the junior school. The PD concentrated on linking maths and science in the classroom, the scientific process and the importance of the ‘Elaborate’ phase in investigations.

Jollybops Incursion

Over 230 people came to watch the Jollybops perform their show during Science Week. It was a very good show with a fantastic level of support from our community.

Feeding Our World – Diorama Competition

Around 30 students from across the school chose to complete a diorama for Science Week. Melissa Toifl of the CSIRO was our guest judge during the competition. There were some fantastic entries and everyone received a prize.

Melbourne Museum Science Boxes

Three activity boxes were hired from Melbourne Museum over the month of August. Many teachers took the opportunity to explore these boxes with their classes. One box contained 3D puzzles and mazes highlighting the link between maths and science. The two other boxes contained natural specimens such as animal skulls, fossils, snake skins and whole creatures set in resin blocks. Students produced some excellent sketches and drawings of the specimens.
STAV Science Drama Awards
IC and 1E have worked very diligently to prepare their items for the Science Drama Awards. At the beginning of August videos were taken of the performances and sent to the judges. The school was then selected to perform in the finals of the competition, to be held at Canterbury Girl’s College on Friday the 5th September. Both grades are very excited to be performing their items at night time in the city. A special thanks to Mel Bowly and Kellie Davis for putting so much work into the items.

Elementaurs
The Elementaurs club continue to meet every Wednesday at lunchtime. We are learning more about Lego robotics, as well as looking at some of the challenges provided online by the Victorian Robogals competition.

Big Green Schools Conference Part 2
Seven students from Year 5 and 6 will attend the Big Green Schools Conference at St Louis Primary School next week. Over the past term, the students have been asked to research some history of the local area, engage in community activities around sustainability and design their own 3D model of a ‘green’ railway station. Over the July holidays they participated in a working bee at Carrum station. The group have been meeting during lunchtimes to complete their assignments, and are all looking forward to presenting their model to the other schools next week.

Garden Club
After our successful grant application last term, the garden group pushed ahead this term to begin work on the new orchard area. Our students were very committed to the cause and gave up every lunchtime in order to dig the beds thoroughly enough for planting. A variety of fruit trees have now been planted out, along with some companion plants to provide some greenery to the area. We are hoping to have enough money in the budget to order some blue stone for paving for Term 4. Special thanks to Mel Shipham for her leadership and enthusiasm in the garden. The Year 2 students also helped out this term, planting out some more native stock at the back of the oval. It is hoped that with the extra tree guards in place that this stock may survive the coming summer. Thanks goes to Peter Nash and Sarah Ashburn for organising the planting day.

Next term:
- Support will be given to the Year 2, Year 3 and Year 5 teachers
- School Fete garden stall
- SISATS testing & PAT Science testing

Physical Education Report
(Kelly Laughlin and Michelle Conway)
Years Prep-2
In P.E, Years Prep-2 began the term with skipping. Students practised basic individual rope skills such as forward and backward jumping. Some students then progressed to skipping tricks such as criss-cross, side swings and double jumps. Skipping develops student’s coordination, rhythm and aerobic fitness. Learning skipping skills also requires persistence and determination. Large rope skills were also introduced where students experienced ‘running in’ and jumping.

Gymnastics was our next focus. Students developed their balance, coordination and power in a range of different movements and activities. Students practised hand-stands/donkey kicks, cartwheels, rolling and somersaults. With these skills they worked their way through an obstacle course made from mats, foam blocks and balance beams. Students also had the chance to explore the use of the vault and mini trampoline, practising safe landings and building their confidence.

Racquet sports were introduced over a number of weeks including bat tennis, table tennis, badminton and Hot-Shots tennis. Skills practised included forehand hit, backhand hit and ball ‘tapping’. Students worked individually, in pairs and small groups to develop skills and play games.
Years 3-4
What an exciting term is has been! Term 3 saw the 3/4 students participate in a variety of topics that included skipping, elastics and gymnastic skills. Students were involved in game based skipping skills such as forward, backwards, criss cross and one footed jumps. Elastics proved to be very popular amongst both genders. Students worked together in groups to prepare their own sequenced routines and were then able to present to their classmates. Students are always enthusiastic about gymnastics with a variety of rotations available to them such as the springboard, gym mats, cartwheels, round offs and beam work. All these topics promoted self-esteem, team work, persistence and confidence within the students.

Years 5-6
In preparation for the school’s Athletics Carnival students refined their skills in High Jump, Long Jump, Triple Jump, Shot-Put and Discus with a strong focus on using correct technique.

Students then moved onto Gymnastics where they explored their levels of coordination, balance, strength, power and flexibility. Throughout one lesson a number of yoga/acrobatic balances and holds were set as challenges both individually and in pairs. Skills such as handstands, cartwheels and somersaults were practised. Advanced students had the opportunity to display their skills such as walk overs, bridges and round-offs.

Students explored using the vault and mini trampoline, with building confidence, some students performed some fantastic front flips!

Racquet sports were introduced over a number of weeks including bat tennis, table tennis, badminton and Hot-Shots tennis. Skills practised included forehand hit, backhand hit, ball ‘tapping’ and serving. Students worked individually, in pairs and small groups to develop skills and play games. Students in Years 5-6 displayed a high level of control in their tennis skills and had some great rallies with each other. We discussed the rules, terminology and scoring system in tennis and practised using these in a round-robin tournament.

We finished the term with some basic AFL skills, including the punt kick, handballing and marking. Students in Year 6 played a match of AFL 9’s- a modified ‘touch’ version of AFL.

Year 6 Interschool-Sport
In Term 3, students continued with their winter sports (AFL, Soccer, Netball, Teeball), competing against other local schools each Friday morning. After success in Term 2’s Winter Lightning Premiership, our AFL team progressed to Division level and Girls Netball team progressed to a District playoff. A great effort!

Hooptime
This popular tournament is back this year with our school having over 60 Year 5/6 students try out. All students were placed into a team. This is the biggest amount of students we have sent to Hoop Time. This program relies on parent helpers to help with coaching and scoring for the day.

- The first round of the Hoop Time tournament will take place on Tuesday 9th September at FBDA.
- The Hoop Time program is based on three levels. All Stars, Future Stars and Rookies. We have a total of 7 teams participating with all levels being presented.
- This year’s teams were based on boosting students’ self-esteem, confidence, rewarding good behaviour and promoting sport outside of school hours.
- The PE Department is committed to this sports program with an investment with the purchase of new basketball uniforms.

Extra-Curricular Sporting Activities
Extra-Curricular activities have been organised and promoted within the school for Term 3 which include the Athletics Carnival (3-6 House Event), Hooptime Basketball (5/6’s) and a Teachers VS Student Netball Competition.

Our District Athletics Team (73 students from Yrs 3-6) will be competing again at Ballam Park this term against other local schools. We are expecting some great results from our talented team who have been attending training sessions before school and at lunchtimes.

Runners Club has continued to have great turn outs every Tuesday morning. Regular participants have shown their commitment, discipline and enjoyment of runners club throughout the cold and wet months. Well done!
ICT Report (Helene Bearup and Belinda Raleigh)

Looking back into Australia’s Past.

Learning and exploring aspects of history and how Immigration has shaped our culture, has been the main focus for Year 6s, as we collectively developed a timeline whilst exploring interactive media online. They have interpreted real Australian Bureau of Statistics’ data to see the change in the make-up of our population over different time periods to create Excel spreadsheets and graphs as well as how to show what they understand in both text and graphic organisers. Working from a basic digital worksheet as a starting point, students have learned how to present and organise information in a word document.

Years 5s too have gone back in time developing a timeline leading up to the Gold Rush. Understanding the background of the times has helped them put the Gold Rush into perspective through online interactive simulation games about getting to and surviving on the goldfields. Using this learning the students are now working in small teams building documentaries mixing narration, music, green screen video and photos to express their understanding of this period of Australian history. Some acting and script writing is just a part of the process!

**Storytelling, Game Making and Arm Chair Travel.**

Years 4s have looked at gaming and how they are made. They have explored a variety of algorithms to understand that a game has many features and they are more than just sound and graphics. The students are currently creating their own games with keyboard commands to make a series of objects move in an environment and respond by making and testing their program strings using Scratch.

Years 3 are discovering the power of story-telling through PowerPoint. After creating a character through ‘Build Your Wild Self’ they are learning about editing images and photos, animation and using speech bubbles to bring a story about this character to life. Using real images as backgrounds, and a sense of scale and perspective, these stories incorporate sound effects and action at the click of a mouse. The students are managing several complex tasks at once.

Year 2s have travelled all around Australia! They have used virtual reality to explore new places using Google Earth, maps and google images. Learning about the shape of Australia has been an important part to aid the interpretation of maps and to give a sense of where they are to assist navigation. After armchair travelling they are currently exploring programming and simple robotics with Windows Logo Writer and other online robotic simulations. Learning what a robot can do and giving it commands is not as easy as they thought!

**Robotics success!**

A small team of Year 6 boys have been working every lunch time over the past several weeks building and programming robots for the Victorian State RoboCup Junior championships. They prepared 4 NXT and 3 RCX robots for their performance for a dance off in the kennels of robot dogs to a mash up of ‘That’s the Way It Is’ and ‘Wiggle it’. Each robot’s movement sequence is timed to fit the music. Their use of sensors, degree of clever engineering and knowledge of programming and problem solving was enough to get in the final play offs. They came second in the state only losing by ½ a point to the winning school. Well done lads.

**PLPS Radio**

The students lead by captains Lucy, Miha and Bailey continue to train the younger crew members in the art of script writing, journalism and radio craft to produce live shows each week with student made content. These are podcast at [www.noseybear.podomatic.com](http://www.noseybear.podomatic.com). Recently Mr Drysdale and his singing group came in and cut a track in the radio studio. This song will now be a part of the regular playlist of music made by the students at the school.
The Arts

The Visual Arts Report
(Emma Munnikhuis, Kelly Roberts)
Please note for the second semester, Years Prep, 1, 3 and 4 have Art Prep

In Art this term, students have continued to explore art elements, including line, shape, construction, colour and texture. They have experimented with printing, drawing, printmaking, collage, and textiles. This term, students studied works by Claude Monet and created their own collage of water lilies using a dye wash, pastel colours and brush strokes. This led us into discussions about famous artists and the works they have produced, and has eventually led us into our session where we had Brett Cardwell visit and demonstrate cartoon drawing skills to the students. The Preps have thoroughly enjoyed creating different expressions with their drawings and investigating how drawing eyes in a different way can totally change the mood of their character. We have used a range of children’s literature to inspire our art work, and have continued to be inspired by external influences, such as seasons and the weather. Students created a bird nest to celebrate the beginning of Spring, using natural materials and construction. To further explore the concept of construction, we created a range of paper bag puppets relating to the Preps term topic of fairytales – students created a frog, princess, pig, mouse and witch puppets.

Year 1
Let the games begin! Students discussed the Glasgow Commonwealth Games and the famous Loch Ness monster. Children enjoyed learning about the Loch Ness myth. They created a collage with plasticine Nessie’s swimming through backgrounds enhanced with chalk pastel.
Three dimensional cats have been constructed from a simple cone shape. Cats were embellished with Magiclay, cotton wool, beads and pipe cleaners. They are cute!
A minor Indigenous study commenced on Wanjinas and Indigenous symbols. The Wandjina are ancestral beings from the sky and sea, who bring the rains, control the weather and all living things. Students created their own drawing with chalk pastels and embellished with dotting.
The visiting artist, Brett Cardwell taught the Year 1s to draw cartoons. Their drawings were amazing. Teaching young children is both motivating and inspiring. They have freedom of imagination and place very little restrictions on their drawing skills as they continually work to their best abilities. In this workshop that is exactly what they did. I believe they surprised themselves as to how competent they are at drawing cartoons. Thanks to Brett for his efforts. Every Year 1 class has a different animal cartoon that they have drawn, painted and cut out. These will be stuck onto a collaborative canvas. Keep your eyes peeled!

Year 3
We started the term with the opening of the Commonwealth Game at Glasgow. Students discussed the importance of the Commonwealth Games and Glasgow’s architecture. We then created stunning zentangles in black and white surrounding a Glasgow building of their choice. Take a look in the corridor as some are on display.
A minor indigenous study commenced. Students discussed indigenous works and symbols. Cool and warm colour palettes were explored when children created their own stories using symbols learnt and dotting techniques.
We then drew cats. Students completed painted cat collages that were inspired by Cheryl Petersen. Lots of skills were included: painting using a flicking technique, cutting, construction of three dimensional butterflies, drawing with Kindy Glitz and decorating with different media. I was truly proud of the effort and the pride our students showed when creating their stunning cat collages. Our highlight for the term was our visiting artist, Brett Cardwell. He inspired expressive cartoons and each Year 3 class has a different animal character that they created for their collaborative canvases. All students loved the workshop and have gained more knowledge of how to draw cartoons.

Year 4
Our term commenced with the Glasgow Commonwealth Games. Night fireworks were drawn. They depicted an opening ceremony celebration. The fireworks were drawn with chalk pastels enhancing their smudging techniques. Their work was then highlighted with Kindy Glitz and white markers. They look fabulous.
A minor study of Margaret Preston commenced. We discussed her work and made a collaborative flower arrangement in a vase. Flowers were constructed from coloured paper and are very effective. These are currently on display in the office area. Another famous artist studied was Frederick McCubbin, ‘The Pioneer’. Students painted simple backgrounds and enhanced their work by adding drawn charcoal tree trunks. These were added to their collage with the characters from ‘The Pioneer’. Children finished with
pastels and created their own pioneer story. The artist studies are in preparation for our excursion to the NGV in Term 4. This has enhanced our student’s knowledge of famous Australian artists and works they may see.

Currently, students are completing their collaborative cartoon character canvases. All cartoon drawings were inspired by Brett Cardwell, our visiting artist. Students loved Brett’s cartoon workshop and have now refined or learnt new ways to draw cartoons. Their fabulous characters have been painted and cut out. Shortly they will be placed onto canvas. Keep an eye out for these!

**Music**

**The Musical Arts Report (Mark Drysdale and Kelly Roberts)**

Preparations have begun for the end of year Christmas concert this term. In the past few weeks the Performing Arts Committee has held auditions and completed casting for the Year 6 Play. Students involved have been rehearsing their parts during lunchtimes and are making great progress.

In Term Three we have continued to have new senior and junior students show an interest in learning the music to back the National Anthem singing at assemblies. Students have been learning the music on Thursday lunch times and Friday recess and often practise at home. At our last whole school assembly we had 16 students from Years Two to Five perform the music on guitar, ukulele, keyboard, glockenspiel and Boomwhackers. This is our biggest group yet! Many of these students have decided to get private instrumental music lessons after being part of this group, which is fantastic to see.

The **PLPS Sing Club** has continued to rehearse on Monday lunch times. A group of about 20 enthusiastic singers (from Years 3 and 4) have come along each week to sing together. This week the singers and I crammed into the R@dio Studio, where Mrs. Bearup and the expert radio crew recorded our first public performance. The singers were very excited about the experience and look forward to hearing the performance as part of the R@dio Program this Friday. Mrs. Bearup and I have plans to regularly record student instrumental performances to be aired on the R@dio Program.

**Prep**

Students have continued to explore a number of music elements, including beat, pitch and rhythm. They have experimented with reading and clapping music notation and been introduced to the concept of song structure (chorus and verse), which has been explored through learning and practising songs for their annual Prep Fairytale Parade. Students have studied music from around the world, learning about culture, dance and music from countries such as South America, Scotland and Australia. They learned how to dance the salsa, as well as some traditional Scottish dances such as the Highland Fling. We have had fun dancing and learning new songs, and look forward to learning more about the world of music next term.

**Year 1**

Students have been expanding their knowledge about rhythm by notating songs they have previously learnt in Music. Year 1 students have continued to sing, dance, play circle games and play accompaniment on percussion instruments and ukuleles for these songs.

**Year 2**

Students have been learning about pitch through analysis of songs learnt in class. The focus for their songs this term has been the melodic elements of *so, mi* and *do*. Students are now able to sing a repertoire of songs using words, rhythm names (*taa, titi, zaa*) and Solfa (*so, mi,do*) and can use the appropriate Curwen Handsigns for these pitches. They have also begun to compose and improvise music that shares these melodic and rhythmic elements. Year Two students have continued to play percussion and ukulele to accompany their songs and circle games.

**Year 3**

Students have been increasing their musical literacy by reading and playing music on ukulele. They have also been composing music for ukulele and percussion instruments.

**Year 4**

Students have continued to expand their musical knowledge by reading and playing increasingly difficult music using IWB and Jelly Music software. Students read music notation on the screen and play their part on ukulele, keyboard and percussion instruments as a class ensemble. Year 4C students memorised one of these songs and performed it this week at assembly on ukulele, keyboard and glockenspiel.

**Year 5**

Students have been developing group performance skills, musical literacy and singing. Students have learnt to play and sing a number of songs this term using ukulele, bass, drums and keyboard and are learning to read music notation.
Year 6
Students have been creating loop based vocal music using a microphone and looping pedal. They have experimented with various vocal techniques such as beatboxing, sound effects, singing and imitating instrumental sounds. Year 6 students have begun to learn chords on guitar and ukulele.

Humanities Report (Patty Lamaro)
The Humanities team continues on its exciting journey of discovery into Inquiry Learning. As a team, we need to ensure we understand what it is, as well as what it is not. It is not allowing students 'free reign' to research and explore whatever they please. There is a framework and related guiding principles that need to be followed in order for inquiry learning to be successful. As a team we are continuing to conduct professional reading and discussion on the topic.

We are promoting to staff the use of the AusVels website, which lists ‘Key Inquiry Questions’ and the related skills that students would be using when exploring Humanities topics. Teachers could easily use the Key Inquiry Questions to frame inquiry-based learning in their classrooms.

Mr Nicklen is a big supporter of the ‘Discovering History’ texts, which clearly outline units of work as described in AusVels. The Year 5 and 6 teams already use this great resource to aid their Humanities teaching and learning. The Humanities team is aiming to spread the word to other year levels.

Some Humanities topics that were explored this term were Immigration (Year 6), the Gold Rush (Year 5), Consumers and Producers (Year 3) and Reduce, Reuse, Recycle (Year 2).

Teachers at PLPS understand the need to exercise professional judgment and be flexible in their research, thinking and application of differing teaching and learning models in the Humanities classroom.

Languages

Language Experience (Clara Mangone)
Prep
This term these students listened to the story: ‘The Little Mouse, the Read Ripe Strawberry, and the Big Hungry Bear’. They discussed the story and answered questions about key details such as: ‘What would you do if you were the mouse?’ The activities included colouring, cut and pasting pictures, craft and labeling activities. The students were introduced to Spain and the Spanish culture. They located where Spain and Australia are on the world map. They learnt the colours of the Spanish flag and that the Spanish language was born in Spain and is now spoken in many countries, which we pointed out on the map. The students learnt about greetings during the day and the difference with Australian greetings. They listened to Spanish stories, played games and sung. They enjoyed singing the song: ‘Buenos Dias, Buenas Tardes, Buenas Noches’.

French (Cecile Danne)
Year 1 & 2
In Term 3, the Year 1 and 2 students have reinforced their knowledge and have learnt some body parts in French. Year 1s can describe the main body parts, while Year 2s can name some parts on their face and body.

This topic has been studied through mimes and songs such as “Tête, épaules, et genoux pieds” (head, shoulders, knees and toes), and “Savez-vous planter des choux?”

We also have started a new chapter: French food and the introduction to a new currency. The children were very excited to learn the names of fruits and vegetables, as well as playing shop with real euros!

Therefore, they have consolidated their numeracy skills while playing.

We will continue to develop further learning in this topic in Term 4.
Italian (Clara Mangone)
Year 3 & 4
The focus of the unit this term was on the school, items used in classrooms and instructions. The students practised listening and speaking, reading and writing through a variety of activities. They discussed school objects, asked and answered questions, identified and drew classroom items, labeled important classroom objects, completed matching exercises and true and false exercises. In terms of grammar, the focus was on gender and nouns in Italian. In pairs they practised to greet each other using culturally specific gestures, and some Italian phrases and words learned in previous lessons. Students were assessed with a range of different activities, for example: participation in class discussion, participation in role play, pronunciation and intonation and homework.

Spanish (Clara Mangone)
Year 5 & 6
During this term, students in this level were engaged in a variety of learning activities related to the topic of physical appearance, designed to develop language skills in listening and speaking, reading and writing. They studied the physical features that we commonly mention when describing people, focusing on the face only: color of the hair - light blonde, red, blonde-, features of the face – round, square, thin lips. The students revised colors and numbers. They practised speaking and writing positive statements such as: My hair color is..., His hair color is... and her hair color is...
The students read for the understanding and comprehension of simple words and phrases related to the topic and they completed various exercises using the new vocabulary. In grammar they practised the form: subject + verb to be + adjective, the use of subject pronouns and singular possessive pronouns in order to state the color of their hair. Also the use of the form: I am. They were assessed with a range of different activities throughout the unit of work, for example, participation in class discussion, pronunciation and short revision activities. They also participated in a role play: greeting each other and describing people by mentioning their physical characteristics.

Compiled by Sam Marston
On behalf of the Curriculum Coordinators