

Cheerful Chatter

<https://fairfieldw-p.schools.nsw.gov.au/>



Principal's Address

This edition of Cheerful Chatter highlights the excitement of Term 3, especially with Education Week and various excursions. Students have been engaged in explicit learning activities, and the data shows that they have made strong progress, which is supported by improved school attendance. I would like to thank parents and carers for informing the school when their child is absent. As the weather warms, students are encouraged to transition to the summer school uniform, including black shoes.

Term 4 promises to be equally exciting with many activities planned. I would like to encourage parents to refer to the School Bytes calendar to stay updated on key dates.

I would like to thank the teachers and all the staff for providing another outstanding term of learning and extracurricular activities for the students. Thanks to the students for positively engaging in school life. Thank you to parents and carers as we appreciate your support throughout the term. Working in partnership we can provide the best possible educational experiences for every student who attends Fairfield West PS.

Enjoy the pending school holidays and I look forward to seeing everyone happy and healthy in Term 4.

Genelle Goldfinch

In this edition you can expect:

Term Updates

Excursions

Stage Overviews

Education Week Highlights

Athletics Carnival Review

Little Learners Transition Program



Fueling Curiosity: Science Education Week 2024



On the Tuesday of Public Education Week, we celebrated Science Week with a full day of scientific fun! Students acted as scientists for the day, conducting a range of fun, hands-on science experiments and going to the hall to watch an exciting incursion called the 'Great Big Science Show'. During the incursion, students were amazed to see liquid nitrogen shrink a balloon, bubbling dry ice, colourful elephant's toothpaste and popping cannisters!

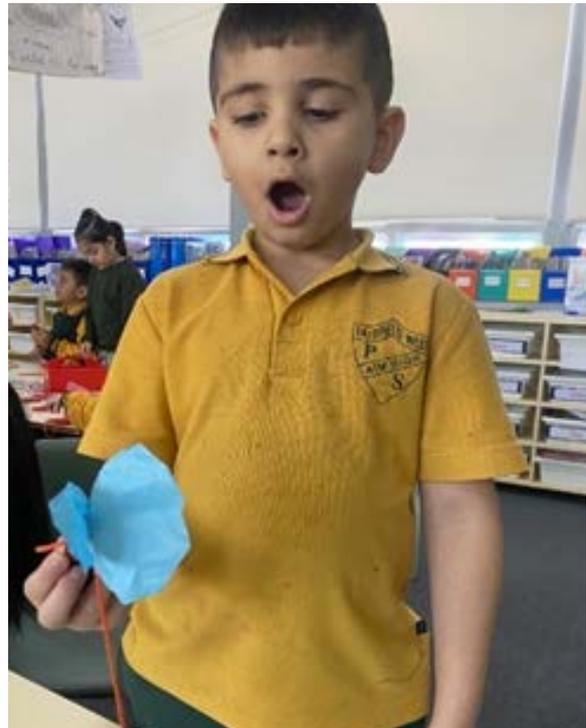


During grade science rotations, students in Kindergarten made lava lamps, raced with lollies, created a hurricane in a bottle and explored what happens when yeast is left to grow in a balloon.



Fueling Curiosity: Science Education Week 2024

Year 1 mixed ingredients to make sherbet, investigated bee pollination with jelly crystals and explored flight with paper helicopters and magical, magnetic fluttering butterflies!

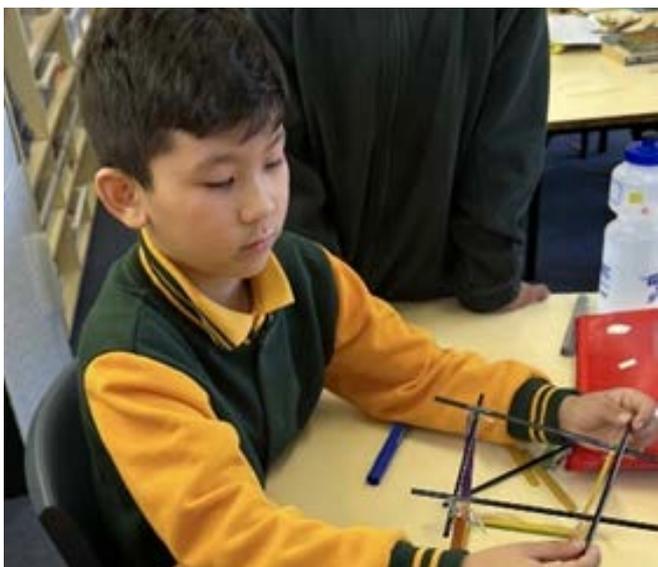


In Year 2, students painted with leaves, created clouds with shaving foam, made interesting paper aeroplanes and experimented with skewers and balloons that didn't pop!



Fueling Curiosity: Science Education Week 2024

Year 3 students made yummy blueberry smoothies, created sundials and competed against each other to make the tallest tower using only spaghetti, paddle pops and straws.



Year 4 students created homemade snow with no ice, explored rainbow milk and made fruit and vegetable animals.



Fueling Curiosity: Science Education Week 2024



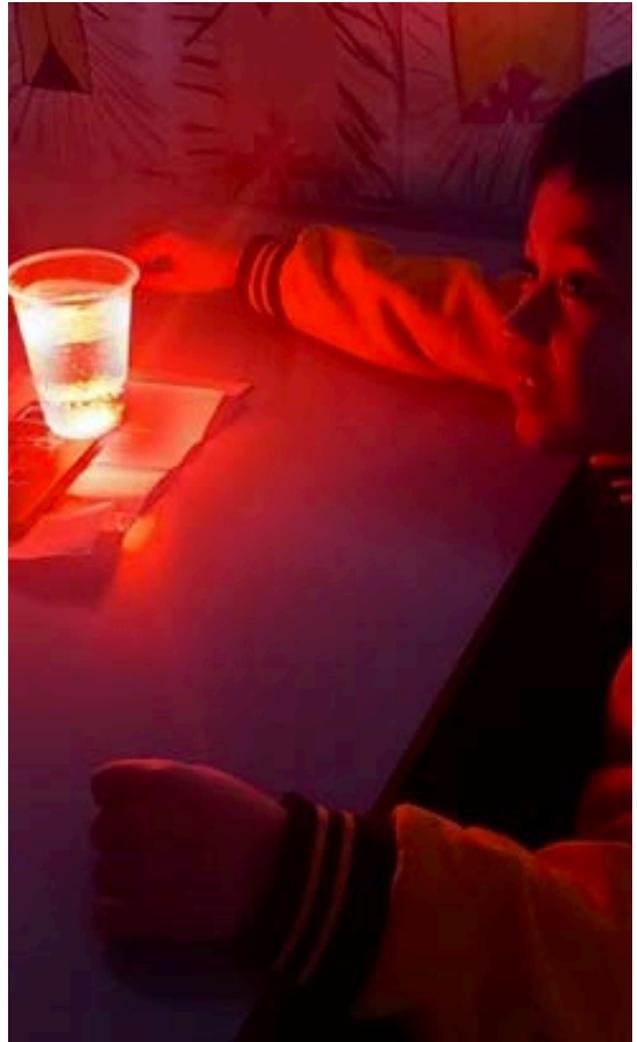
In Year 5, students made a clock using potato power, created a walking rainbow, explored volcanoes using vinegar and designed their own healthy fruit salad.

Year 6 students investigated kinetic energy using foil, designed a candy machine that helped them to distribute lollies and created a safe parachute for an egg.



Fueling Curiosity: Science Education Week 2024

Students in the Support Unit were busy scientists, making bouncy balls, lava lamps, elephant toothpaste and slime!



Fueling Curiosity: Maths Amazing Race 2024

On the Wednesday of our FWPS Education Week 2024 we held our Annual Maths Amazing Race. Students raced around the school answering a variety of mathematical questions. Teachers stamped the students' passports once they answered the question correctly. The whole school had a blast racing around and solving maths problems with several lucky students winning lucky draw prizes for their participation.



The Book Parade 2024!



On the Wednesday of Book Week 2024, we held our Book Character Parade. Students spent the day dressed up as their favourite book character joining in the annual book parade. This year's theme was "Reading is Magic". The parade was a vivid celebration of the joy and magic that reading brings, reminding us that every book holds the power to transport us to new worlds and ignite our imaginations. The judges had a tough time choosing winners for 'best dressed' as students put great effort into their costumes. Thanks to everyone who participated making this event truly memorable!



The Book Parade Winners of 2024



Regional Final of the NSW Premier's Spelling Bee 2024

Congratulations to Heamoni in 4S and Eva in 6L who represented our school at the online regional final of the NSW Premier's Spelling Bee.

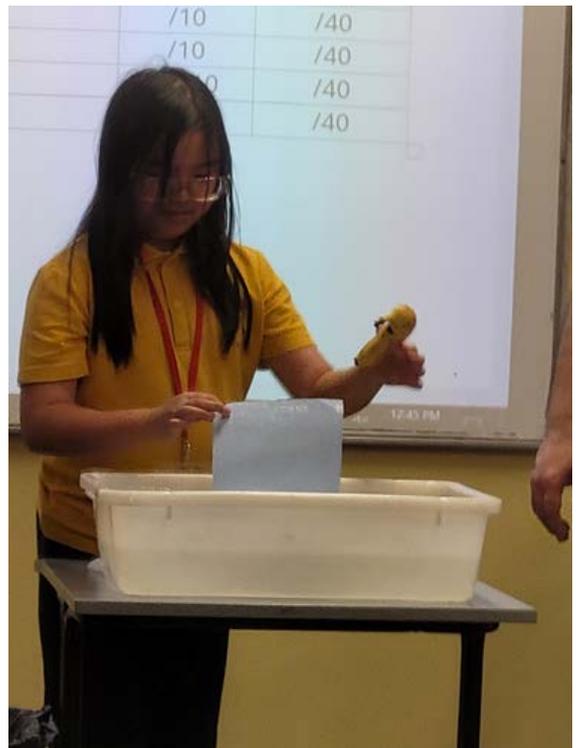
Heamoni competed in the junior competition for students in Years 3 and 4. He spelled the words 'spider' and 'wattle' correctly in Round 1 and 2, however was knocked out in Round 3 when he incorrectly spelled the word 'abacus'.

Eva competed in the senior competition for students in Years 5 and 6. She made it all the way to Round 6 by correctly spelling the words 'tantrum', 'salvation', 'antonym', 'meningitis' and 'psychedelic'. In Round 6, all students are challenged with unseen words (words that are not on the provided lists). Eva was knocked out when she incorrectly spelled the word 'guile'. Both students did an incredible job at spelling many difficult words!



Academic Challenge

A small group of Year 5 students represented Fairfield West PS at the Academic Challenge at Fairfield High School in Week 5 where they competed against other neighbouring primary schools. The students completed challenges in the areas of history and science. They showed enthusiasm and active participation, winning the final challenge where they wrapped a student as an Egyptian mummy.



Battle for Australia



On 4 September, our captains and vice captains had the honour of attending Smithfield RSL to commemorate the 'Battle for Australia'. They had the great opportunity to be involved in a formal service and meet various members of the community such as Janice Crosio and Frank Carbone, as well as many Smithfield RSL subbranch members and veterans.



Debating

Our two debating teams, The Pow Wows and The Wranglers, had a fantastic term honing their skills during lunchtime practices and competing against fierce competition. The teams debated against 6 other schools this year and learnt a lot from their opponents and the expert adjudicators. The debating teachers are very proud of our students, who have improved in their communication and persuasion techniques.

Congratulations to all students who participated in debating this year!



Dharug Dhalang- Language Program

This year, our school is involved in the Pilot Dharug Dhalang Language Program, which is aimed at enriching our students' understanding of the local Aboriginal culture and language. The program is led by Aunty Lynn, who is an Aboriginal Education Officer.

In this program, students are learning to speak, read and write Dharug words, phrases and sentences through a range of engaging activities that include hands-on activities, picture cards, art and reading storybooks.



Support Unit in Term 3

Term 3 has been a very exciting term for the students, providing them with opportunities to engage and participate in a range of learning experiences.

During Education Week, the students were proud to represent their classes. With big smiles and eagerly waving their flags, the students proudly walked the lap of honour in the Opening Ceremony for the Olympics Day. The students enjoyed participating in the many different Olympic games including the sack race, egg and spoon race, volleyball, relays and the obstacle course.

The students loved the opportunity of being a scientist for a session where they engaged and participated in interactive experiments. Some of our favourite experiments included making a lava lamp, watching their elephant toothpaste explode and making a bouncy ball.



Support Unit in Term 3

The students also enjoyed being an artist for a day. On this day, each class created an artwork that was inspired by the Dutch artist Piet Mondrian. When creating their abstract artwork, the students used the primary colours – red, yellow and blue, and squares and rectangles, just like Mondrian.

To support the theme for this year's Art Exhibition at FWPS, the students learnt about belonging. Through books, pictures and videos the students identified groups of people that they belong to, for example their family, their class and sporting teams such as football or soccer teams. For the Art Exhibition in Education Week, each student created an artwork that represented what belonging meant to them.

The classes enjoyed attending drumming lessons with Mr Jarrah where they improved their understanding of rhythm and beat. K/6M, K/6T, K/6B, K/6A and K/6J also had lots of fun participating in the various sporting activities during Fit Futures each fortnight.

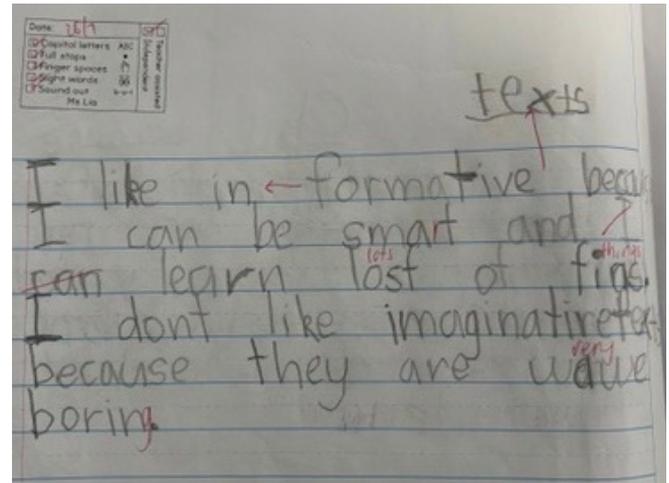
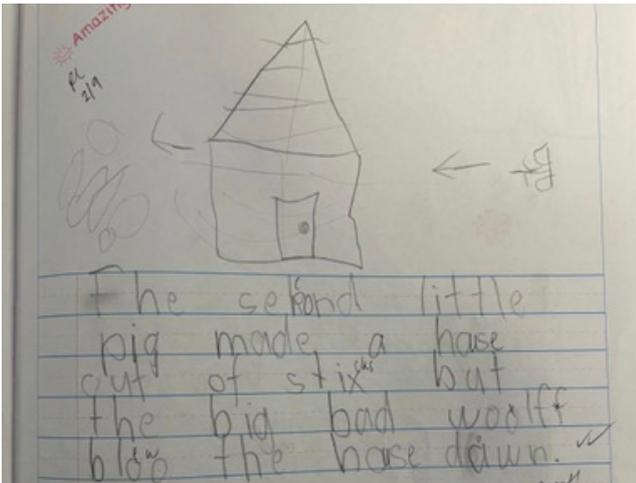
The students in K/6A and K/6J enjoyed the opportunity to watch Imagine at the Riverside Theatre. The students were enchanted by the live interactive musical performance as they watched the characters from the familiar book come to life on stage.



Kindergarten in Term 3

Students in Kindergarten have had a busy term filled with lots of fun and learning!

In English, students are becoming very confident with their sounds and tricky words. They are applying this knowledge to read a range of simple texts independently. In writing, students have been learning how to use onomatopoeia and adjectives to make their sentences interesting. They have enjoyed looking at a range of texts like The Big Book of Bugs, Wombat Stew and Shoes From Grandpa.



In Maths, students have been learning to make equal groups and skip count by 2s, 5s and 10s to find the total. They are becoming great counters! Students have also been looking at position through hands-on learning activities.



In Creative Arts, students have been using different techniques to recreate characters and scenes from the storybooks they have read.



Kindergarten in Term 3

In Geography, students have been learning that there are many types of spaces which can be used for different reasons. They have enjoyed identifying places that are important to them.



In Science, students are learning about a range of living things including animals and plants and exploring their needs. The farm excursion last term really helped to build students' background knowledge on the topic.

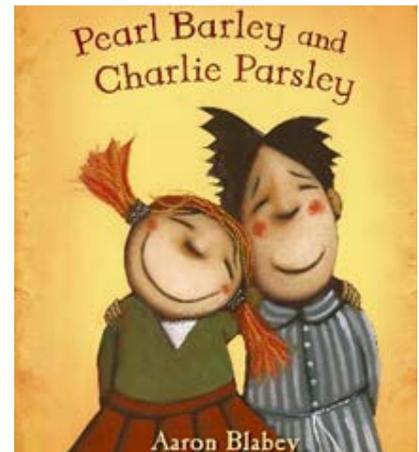
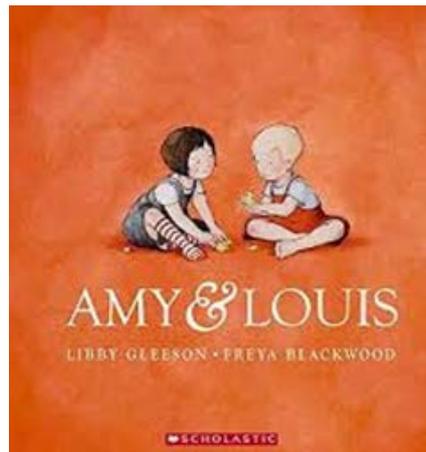
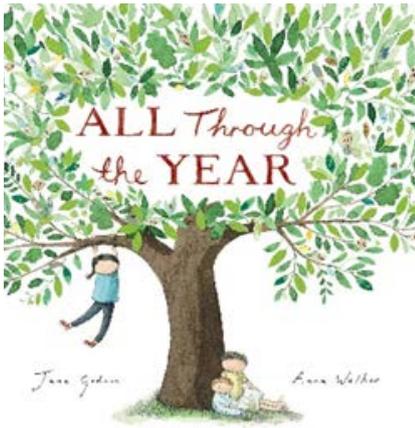
Students have been learning about different fundamental movement skills in sport. This term, they are incorporating all the skills they have learnt so far to play fun cooperative games.



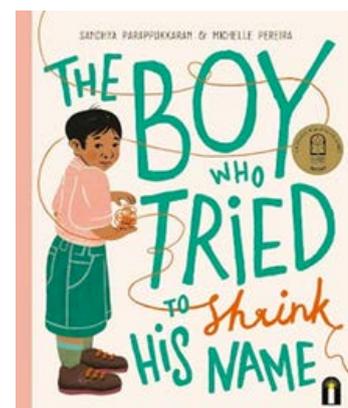
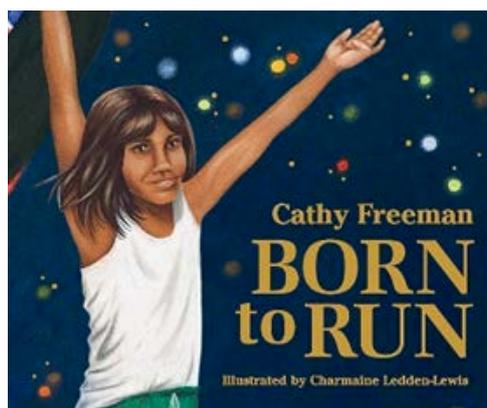
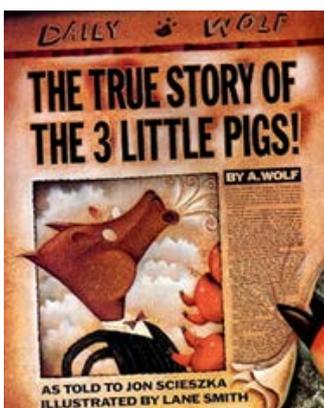
Stage 1 in Term 3

It's been a great term in Stage One! Here's a glimpse into some of the highlights:

In English, our Year 1 learners made text-to-self and text-to-text connections by reading *All Through the Year* and *A Year on Our Farm*. Students enjoyed discovering the imagery, symbol and connotation in *Amy & Louis* and thinking about different perspectives in *Hey Little Ant*. Year 1 completed the term by reading *Charlie Parsley* and *Pearl Barley* and writing different types of sentences.



Year 2 explored imagery, symbol and connotation by reading *The Boy who Tried to Shrink His Name*. They learned about different perspectives *True Story of the Three Little Pigs* and *The Wolf's Story*. Finally, Year 2 students studied representation by reading *Drawn Together* and *Born to Run*.



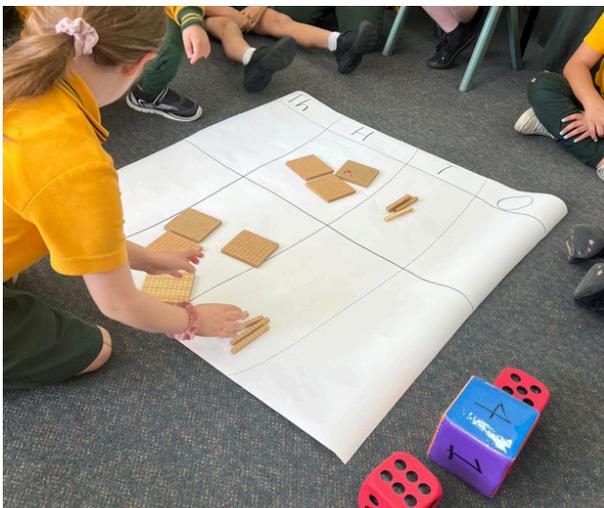
Stage 1 in Term 3

Stage One learners are becoming better mathematicians each day and have been engaging in activities and problem solving tasks to build a strong foundation in mathematical concepts. Some of the topics studied in mathematics this term included representing whole numbers, combining and separating quantities, forming groups, mass, position, 2D shapes, chance, data, length and time.



In geography, Stage One students have been learning about different people and places. They explored Australia's location in the world and looked at the connections that different people have to places in Australia and overseas. A highlight of the term was the geographical excursion to Auburn Botanic Gardens!

In science, our Stage One students have been eagerly exploring the physical world around us. Through hands-on activities and engaging experiments, they identified light, sound and heat energy. By focusing on their senses, students learned about the properties of familiar objects and recorded their observations using scientific vocabulary.



In PDH, students have been learning about how we grow and change over time. For PE lessons, students have enjoyed attending Fit Futures lessons each fortnight, and playing on the Luna Park play equipment each week. All students have been developing their fundamental movement skills, such as throwing, skipping and jumping. Education Week was an excellent week for all, especially for our creative arts learning. All students created amazing artworks about the theme of 'Proud to Belong' and enjoyed visiting the hall to view the annual Art Exhibition. Furthermore, each class visited Mr Jarrah each week to continue learning about rhythm and pace on drums.

Stage 2 in Term 3

The term has been busy with learning for our Year Three and Four students. In English, the students explored characterisation through the books *Rowan of Rin* and *The Callers*. They also explored perspective and context through the books *Malala's Magic Pencil* and *The Little Refugee*.

In mathematics, the students explored a range of big ideas:

- that our number system extends infinitely to very large and very small numbers
- that multiplicative thinking involves flexible use of multiplication and division concepts, strategies and representations
- that understanding relationships between the properties of 2D shapes helps visualise and organise spaces in the world
- that what needs to be measured determines the unit of measurement
- that addition and subtraction problems can be solved by using a variety of strategies.



In Geography, the Stage Two students explored different environments and their significance. They explored the climate, natural vegetation and native animals of places in Australia and Asia. The students identified sustainable practices and recognised that there are differing views on how sustainability can be achieved.

In Science, the students learnt about Earth and Space. They examined the interaction between the Sun, Earth and Moon as well as how the Earth's surface changes over time.

In Creative Arts, it was Year Four's turn to go to Mr Jarrah for drumming lessons where they improved their understanding of rhythm and beat. The students were also busy working on their artworks for the Art Exhibition.

The students were lucky to work with the Fit Futures team on developing their athletics skills this term as well as participating in Friday sport and the Athletics Carnival.

Stage 3 in Term 3

Year 5 in Review

Term 3 has been an exceptional time for our Year 5 students, who have truly demonstrated the spirit of great learning. Our weekly sessions with Fit Futures have provided them with a strong foundation in fundamental movement skills, contributing to their overall physical development and enthusiasm for active learning. Beyond their physical education, Year 5 students have thrived in a range of engaging and educational events. Education Week was a standout, featuring the exhilarating Maths Amazing Race, the hands-on Science Fun Day, and the creative Artist for the Day. These activities not only reinforced their academic skills but also highlighted the joy of collaborative and interactive learning.

In addition, each class embraced the theme of school community and pride through the creation of an artwork for the Art Exhibition. This project allowed students to reflect on what it means to be part of our school community and to express their individuality and collective spirit. The resulting artwork, proudly displayed in the hall, beautifully captured their sense of belonging and showcased their artistic talents.

At the Academic Achievement Awards ceremony, Year 5 students were celebrated for their remarkable dedication and exceptional achievements across various areas of learning. Those who demonstrated outstanding academic performance were acknowledged for their exemplary marks, reflecting their hard work and perseverance. Additionally, the Shooting Star Award was presented to students who consistently try and present their best efforts at school. This special recognition highlights not only their individual accomplishments but also their inspiring commitment to excellence, making them shining examples for their peers.



This term has been a testament to Year 5's dedication and enthusiasm, making it a memorable and successful part of their academic journey.

Stage 3 in Term 3

Year 6 in Review



Year 6 students have had a very busy Term 3. They have been taking part in weekly drumming lessons with Mr Jarrah. Students are always eager for these lessons as they get to play different beats and learn about all the sounds and techniques the world of drumming has to offer.

Thanks to Ms Kallu, Mr Paul, Mr Brayden, Mr Bugge and Mr Callum for running the stage 3 soccer competition during lunchtime. The year 6 students are very competitive and are always looking forward to showcasing their talents. The competition was very close, and finished with a draw between America and Ireland.

Education week was another huge success at Fairfield West Public School. Thank you to our amazing principal Ms Goldfinch for going above and beyond to provide students with the right materials to get through the sessions. Students took part in the maths amazing race, participated in a science incursion as well as taking part in investigating some cool experiments. Year 6 also spent a day studying the much talented, Anh Do. Did you know Anh Do is not only an artist, but he is also a stand-up comedian, author and an actor?

With only one term left of their primary school education, Year 6 students look forward to some more amazing and fun experiences at Fairfield West PS before making the leap into their High School journey.

Stage 3 had an unforgettable excursion as they explored the enchanting Chinese Gardens and The Rocks. The Gardens, with their serene ponds, lush greenery, and intricate architecture, served as a captivating oasis where students were guided through history, landscape, and cultural heritage. The knowledgeable tour guide shared fascinating insights into traditional Chinese design and symbolism, sparking curiosity and wonder among the children. The day continued with an exploration of The Rocks, where students delved into the area's historic charm and vibrant atmosphere. Everyone had a fantastic day, thoroughly enjoying the blend of education and adventure that made the excursion both memorable and inspiring.

K- 2 Athletics Carnival



On Thursday 1 August, K-2 students participated in the Athletics Carnival, which was held on the back oval at school. Students had a fantastic time and showed enthusiasm and determination as they sprinted down the track to cross the finish line. Congratulations to all the students for trying their best! A big thank you to the parents and carers who came out to support the racers.

NSW School Sports Ten Pin Bowling

In Term 3, Sophia, Jing, Revin and Kennedy represented Fairfield West Public School at the NSW Inclusive School Sports Ten Pin Bowling competition. This was held at Blacktown. As a team, our students competed against 18 other primary school bowling teams. Each competitor tried their best and had lots of fun participating in the competition. Congratulations to our FWPS team, who finished 6th in the competition.



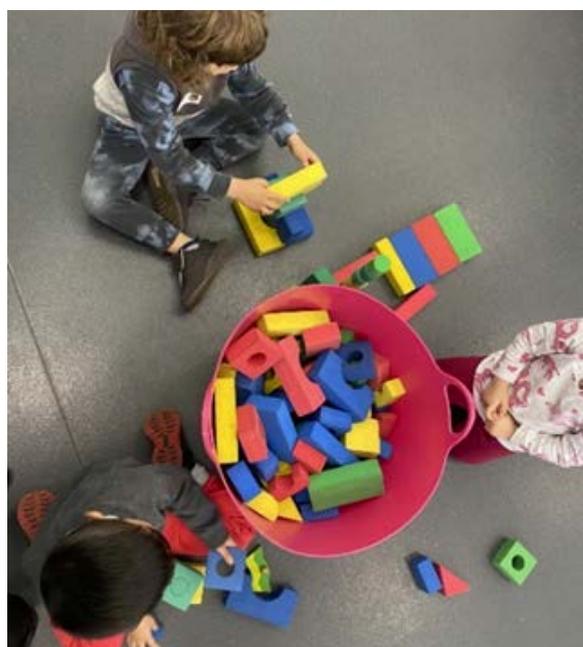
Kindergarten 'Little Learners'

Transition Program

This term, we invited the children enrolled to start Kindergarten at our school in 2025 to participate in the 'Little Learners' transition program. The transition to Kindergarten is a significant milestone for both children and their families. The aim of the program is to ensure our youngest learners feel confident, supported, and ready for this new chapter in their educational journey.

During this program, children participated in a range of play-based activities to prepare them for Kindergarten and a successful start to school. These activities included singing, story time, craft and play. Children had the opportunity to develop friendships and strong, positive relationships with peers and teachers.

Parents attended information sessions which focused on them understanding and responding to their child's emotions in supportive ways.



The NSW Karate Team at the Karate Australia National Championships

In early August, Brendon Nguyen travelled to Geelong, Victoria, to compete in the 2024 Karate National Championships, showcasing the results of his year's hard training. Over four intense days, Brendon competed in the under-12s division, facing off against top young karatekas from across the country. Despite the tough competition, he secured an impressive 4th place. After his event, Brendon stayed to support his NSW teammates before returning to Sydney. With the excitement of the competition fresh in his mind, he eagerly looks forward to future challenges.

Here is what Brendon had to say!:

"From the 1st to the 4th August, I was given the opportunity to fly to Geelong, Victoria to compete in the 2024 Karate National Championships which I've been training hard for over the course of this year. Within those four days, the main two days Friday and Saturday consisted of competing in the under 12s division. I was able to compete with extraordinary people across other states and though the competition was hard and filled with great competitors, I was lucky enough to wind up in 4th place. After my competition I stayed back for a long while to cheer on my fellow NSW teammates. It was time to head back once the competition was over so on Sunday afternoon I came back to Sydney and kept this thrilling experience a little secret (until Friday the 6th of September). This was such an exciting experience and I cannot wait to experience it again in the future!"



'R U OK?' Day

Thursday, 12 September was National 'R U OK?' Day. It was our National Day of Action when we remind Australians that every day is the day to ask "Are you ok?" and to start a meaningful conversation whenever we spot the signs that someone we care about might be struggling.

All FWPS, students participated in grade based activities looking at ways to be a good friend and to look out for one another.

At FWPS we always strive to be The Best Me, who comes to school every day, never gives up and cares.



Lunchtime Social Skills Groups

Students at FWPS are fortunate to have many additional activities to attend each lunchtime to support their social and emotional development. Not only do students learn new skills such as bracelet making, weaving, crocheting and drumming, but they have the opportunity to be guided and supported by staff to meet new friends, interact with others in a positive way and practice conflict resolution.



Winter PSSA Sport

In Week 6 the 2024 Winter PSSA season concluded. 11 out of the scheduled 13 rounds were played during Term 2 and Term 3. No finals series was played as the competition was decided on a first past the post basis...meaning if you finished 1st you were the Premiers and if you finished 2nd, you became the Runners Up. The Senior Rugby League team was declared Premiers, with the Junior Rugby League team and the Senior Girls Football team both finishing 3rd, and the Senior Girls Netball team finishing 5th. For our Year 3 students who took part in the Junior Mixed Basketball team, the Junior League Tag team, the Junior Netball team and Junior Football teams, it was their first experience of playing Winter PSSA sport and they will all be much better for it next year. To our Year 6 students who played Winter PSSA for the final time, we hope that they look back on their time representing FWPS remembering all the fun times they had competing with their friends. Big thanks go to Ms Lam, Ms Petrovska, Mr Hormis, Ms Linnegar and Ms Macri for the time and effort that they gave each week training the students and taking them along to their games each Friday.



Kindergarten and Support Unit Excursion to Riverside Theatre

Kindergarten and Support Unit students enjoyed an exciting outing to Riverside Theatre in Parramatta to watch the show *Imagine Live*, which is based on the beloved book by Alison Lester.

Students were fully immersed in the performance, cheering and singing along with the characters as they explored the world of imagination. The show took students on a magical journey to celebrate the importance of creativity, play, friendship and the natural world.

It was a wonderful opportunity for students to experience live theatre and deepen their love for storytelling.



Stage 1 excursion – Auburn Botanic Gardens

Stage 1 students visited Auburn Botanic Gardens on an excursion this term, to extend their understanding of the current geography unit of work, 'People and Places'.

Students loved learning about different Australian animals and the varied natural habitats they live in. They saw kangaroos, emus, wombats and wallabies. They also wandered through many different parts of the gardens, including a Eucalyptus woodland, a Japanese garden and a rainforest.

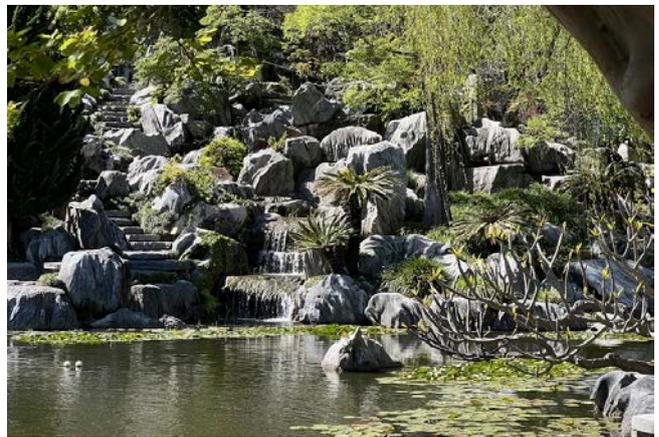
Many students enjoyed searching for insects in the gardens too! They learned that insects require certain things in their habitats to keep them happy and healthy, and how insects are an important part of ecosystems too.

Students were challenged to work together to create the perfect home for a small Australian animal, such as a possum, wallaby or penguin. This activity allowed students to show their creative side as they could only use natural materials from around the garden to make a safe and comfortable space for a little animal!



Stage 3 Chinese Garden Excursion

Stage 3 had an unforgettable excursion as they explored the enchanting Chinese Gardens and The Rocks. The Gardens, with their serene ponds, lush greenery, and intricate architecture, served as a captivating oasis where students were guided through history, landscape, and cultural heritage. The knowledgeable tour guide shared fascinating insights into traditional Chinese design and symbolism, sparking curiosity and wonder among the children. The day continued with an exploration of The Rocks, where students delved into the area's historic charm and vibrant atmosphere. We explored historical artefacts and had the opportunity to participate in an archaeological dig. Everyone had a fantastic day, thoroughly enjoying the blend of education and adventure that made the excursion both memorable and inspiring.



FWPS Olympathon



On Monday 3 August FWPS, with assistance from the team at Fit Futures held their very own Olympathon. The timing of the occasion was perfect as the Paris 2024 Olympics had just started 3 days earlier. Following an Opening ceremony where each class paraded around the oval displaying their very own class flag, each class then participated in several sporting-based activities on the back oval, including sack races, kicking goals, running through obstacle courses and shooting hoops. While participating in these activities they accumulated points which were then used to determine gold, silver and bronze placings at the end of the session. It was a fantastic day where participation, teamwork and sportsmanship were all on display and a tonne of fun was had by all.



FWPS Athletics Championships

On Monday 29 July FWPS held their annual athletics championships at Rosford St Reserve. Students aged 8 years and older were able to attend and compete in the 100m, 200m, Long Jump and Discus events. The 800m, Shot Put and High Jump events were held at school over several lunchtimes prior to and after this day. The weather was fantastic, and the conditions enabled the students to compete to the best of their ability. FWPS staff were ably assisted by several Fit Futures staff who ran the Discus event.

The highlight of the day was the 100m sprint finals which saw the fastest of the fastest go head-to-head. Those who finished in the top 3 then automatically qualified for the Zone Athletics Championships. Following all the events that were held 2 houses took out the major trophies. Sauvage claimed the Spirit Cup, while Thorpe won the Overall Champion House Trophy. A big congratulations goes to every student who had a go and participated in the many different events on the day and at school.



Horsley Zone Athletics



On Tuesday 27 August FWPS took a team of 38 students to Rosford Street Reserve to take part in the Horsley Zone Athletics Championships. The team left school by 7:45am as the 800m event was first on the schedule and it started at 8:30am. Throughout the day our students competed in every event with several placing 1st, 2nd or 3rd. This included Viliami Pua (3rd 12 years 100m), Elizabeth Pua (2nd 8 years 100m), Zephaniah Tapugao (1st 11 years Shot Put) and Zechariah Tapugao (2nd 11 years Shot Put). The Junior Girls Relay team just missed a placing finishing 4th overall.

The Sydney South West Athletics Championships took place on Wednesday 18 September. Well done to the following students who attended and tried their best. FWPS is very proud of you and your fantastic results!

Elizabeth Pua came 4th in 8 years 100m final, **Viliami Pua** came 22nd in 12 years 100m, **Zechariah Tapugao** came 7th in 11 years Shot Put and **Zephaniah Tapugao** came 13th in 11 years Shot Put.



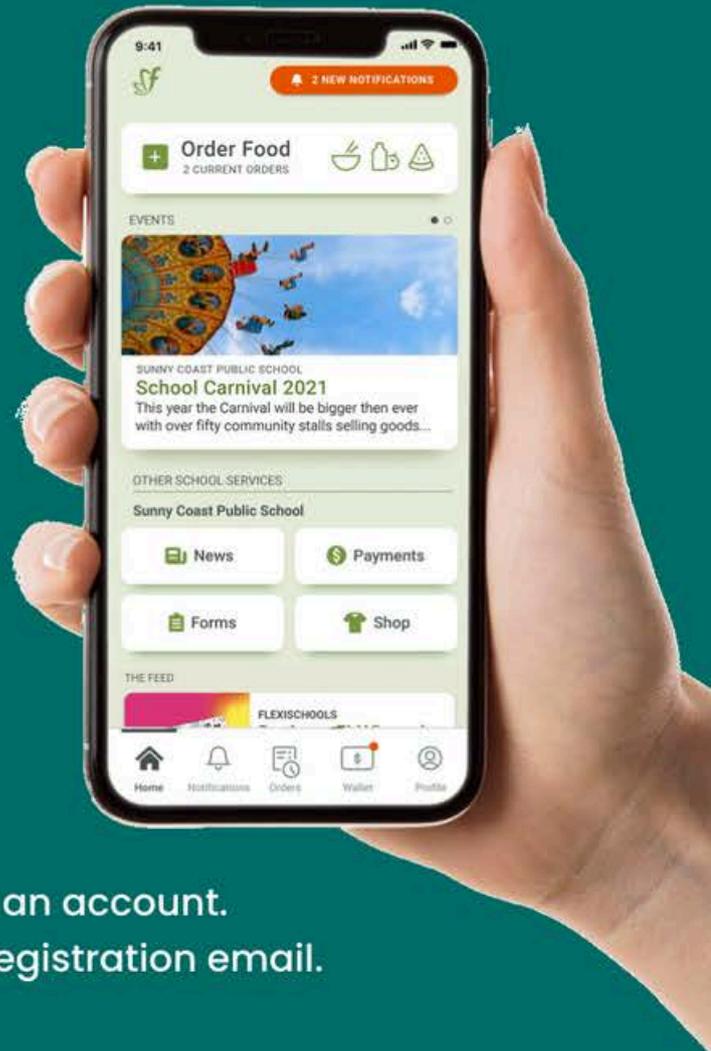


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