

WARRAH

SPECIALIST SCHOOL

Newsletter



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May 2021

Principal's Message

Dear Parents

Welcome to Term 2. We warmly welcome new students Tyler, Talara and Harry, and their families, to our school community.

We have growing interest in our work here and are meeting many new families seeking an education that meets the child in his or her fullness - fostering growth, skill and self-confidence. It is your children who bring the work to life and we believe the approach we work with now serves their physical, mental, emotional development.

Despite the sudden change in weather we continue to wrap up and be outdoors as much as possible. As we know the farmer works in all weathers and we strive to be also, to continue to build the relationship with the elements and environment.

Term 1 closed with our Easter festival and it was a joy to bring all of Warrah together to celebrate after so long. It was a day of storytelling, songs and music, a short service, picnics, Easter egg hunts and egg and spoon races.

Many of you received bags of deliciously fresh apples at the end of term, picked with great enthusiasm by the students. It was a wonderful day and we are grateful to Cedric at Bilpin Springs Orchard for the warm welcome he gave us.

A highlight of this term was being able to offer a group of students the opportunity to go sailing with the Making Waves Foundation. It was a wonderful day and we all shared in the success when we saw students return with big smiles and lots to tell.

We are so pleased to have an Exercise Physiologist working with the students now and the team are currently assessing all students in order to develop individual and group programs for them. We will keep you informed of progress.

While we are only at the end of week 3 it seems to have been a full and busy few weeks.

Jan

Class Updates

It's been a great start to term two in **Early Childhood**. We are very excited about our new play equipment and sandpit being installed. We've been on a few excursions including The Ku-ring-gai Wildflower Garden, Fagan Park and Cumberland State Forest. We've been noticing what happens in autumn and how the leaves change colour. We've been collecting our findings on our nature walks and then using them to weave beautiful hangings for our room. Each week we visit the chickens up at the farm to see how many eggs they've laid and to spend some time feeding them. On one particular day we counted 14 eggs! The children have especially loved creating a shop out of a cardboard box I brought into the room, they have been selling fruit and vegetables! They also like to hide in it when it's time to pack up our things :-)

Lizzie, Soumya, Angela

The **Farming and Gardening group** have been working in the Market Garden planting brassicas (leeks, chard, cabbage, kale) in preparation for pickling and preserving. In the classroom, they have been learning the process of brining the olives they harvested at the beginning of the term, Each students is also tending to their individual gardens on a daily basis.

Mike, Jenn, Adrienn and James & Jan (volunteers)

This term students in the **Woodcraft group** have been striving towards developing their skills in the design and planning process in woodworking. Working with natural materials such as clay, leaves and sticks, we created little gnome shelters. It has been amazing to watch the students work creatively in problem-solving, sparking connections as they figure out the best way to keep their shelter upright. We continue to build on last term's woodwork project, refining and extending their handskills especially in using handtools such as handsaw, auger and brace, mallet, drawknife, and spokeshave among others. Students also experience the wonders of Autumn - listening to the frogs sing in the rain as we explore the bush in our morning walks, and noticing the changes in colors in our school's garden and campus.

YK, Toni and Di

Life Skills have begun working in the garden beds around their cottage preparing the beds for winter planting. As well as their usual daily work they have established a weekly café whereby they plan what food will be for sale, purchase ingredients within budget, prepare the food, invite all students and staff to come and shop then serve the food and drinks, managing the money and change. Remembering these are teenagers, food for sale this term has been hot chips, waffles, pizza, pancakes accompanied by tea, water or hot chocolate.

Nalini, Di, Lauren, Cristy, Pixie.

There have been many wonderful things happening in **Weaving** this term so far. We have had some changes in the group dynamic with a new student joining us and a few coming in from other groups. There are some nice friendships developing and some new skills learned. Some of the themes we've been exploring are friendships and seasons, with the focus on Autumn. In weaving, students are continuing work on their small hand looms and table looms. Those new to the program have enjoyed working on the table loom and are grasping the skill quite easily. We were lucky to acquire another table loom this week and students will be able to learn more complex weaving techniques and patterns. We are also cooking shared lunch every Tuesday. We prepare, cook and serve the lunch as well cleaning up afterwards.

Claudette, Sally, Natalie, Nathalie.

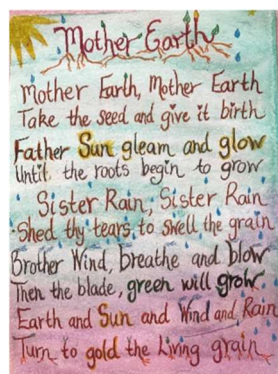
Staffing

It is with disappointment we have to say goodbye to Michael Pasch. Michael will leave for the USA to reunite with his family at the end of term. It has been a long time to be away from his family and with the ongoing COVID restrictions it is unlikely they will be able to move here in the near future.

We are grateful and give our thanks and very best wishes to Mike for the future.

Upcoming Events

Making Waves Sailing Trip	Tuesday 18 th May
Kindlehill Steiner School Farm visit	Tuesday 25 th May
Queen's Birthday Public Holiday	Monday 14 June
Parent Meeting	Wednesday 16 th June
Mid-Winter festival	Monday 21 June
Last day of term 2	Friday 25 June



School Photos





