



NEWSLETTER

Term 1, Week 9
2024

Harmony Week Celebrations "Everyone Belongs"

During Harmony Week students and our preschool children had a lot of fun participating in many activities to celebrate and understand the importance of the Harmony Week theme **'Everyone Belongs'**. During the week our children, students and staff have heard stories and participated in dance, singing and art from many different cultures.

The ongoing message of Harmony Week **'Everyone Belongs'**, aims to engage people to participate in their community, respect cultural and religious diversity and foster sense of belonging for everyone. At Cowandilla Primary and Children's Centre we celebrate 50 different languages spoken by students and their families.

Orange is the colour chosen to represent Harmony Week. Traditionally, orange signifies social communication and meaningful conversation. It also relates to the freedom of ideas and encouragement of mutual respect. Students enjoyed wearing orange and traditional clothing during our Harmony Week celebrations.

Our students have shared their response to the following question:

The theme this year is "Everyone Belongs," We asked students what they thought this means to us at Cowandilla Primary School and Children's Centre?

At Cowandilla it means:

- Including everyone when we play and learn
- Spending time with friends and family
- All cultures come together to share their cultures with each other
- Everyone needs to belong

- Harmony Week should be every week
- Harmony week helps us to learn about other languages
- To meet and accept other people that are different to us
- Harmony week helps us to not feel alone
- Being kind to everyone and accepting their culture and beliefs
- Celebrating your culture and respecting other people's culture and having fun together
- Harmony week is a happy time
- At Cowandilla Primary School it means to respect Aboriginal Culture and all cultures in our school.

Ramadan

We acknowledge that for many of our Muslim families, this is the month of Ramadan. Ramadan, (also known as Ramadhan or Ramzan) is the ninth month in the Islamic calendar, which consists of 12 months and lasts for about 354 days. It is considered to be the most holy and blessed month in the Islamic faith. The first verses of the Koran, (Qur'an) were revealed to the Prophet Muhammad, making this an especially holy period. The month of Ramadan traditionally begins with a new moon sighting, marking the start of the ninth month in the Islamic calendar. Many Muslims, (except the very young, the sick and the elderly) abstain from food, drink and other specific activities during daylight hours in Ramadan. It is a period of prayer, fasting, charity-giving and self-accountability. Ramadan ends when the first crescent of the new moon is sighted again, marking the new Lunar month's start. Eid-al-Fitr is the Islamic holiday that marks the end of Ramadan and is celebrated with special food and gifts.

Congratulations to our 2024 Student Leaders

Recently our Year 6 students participated in process with support from staff to elect our 2024 Student Leadership Groups.

This year there are three leadership groups:



Student Leaders Executive Group

These student leaders work as representatives of the student body. They attend and plan school events, they attend community events, they consult with students in regard to decision making and work together to make a school an even better place to learn and thrive. These student leaders meet with Mrs Sexton every fortnight.

Congratulations: Daksh, Dior, Elsie, Frankie, Hunter, Lucy, Ruby, Sahill, Summer, Tejas and Tulley.



Wellbeing Student Leaders

The Wellbeing Student Leaders group is a new leadership initiative in 2024. These students will provide support, advice and help to promote student wellbeing and lead the implementation of the Zones of Regulation across the school and within classrooms. They will also consult with students and children in the preschool to seek ideas about how we can strengthen wellbeing. These students will meet with Kylie Campbell, our Student Wellbeing Leader fortnightly.

Congratulations: Audrey, Avneet, Charlie, Elsie, Gigi, Gurnoor, Katie, Lavanya, Lexi, Lydia, Mia, Oceania



Sports Day Leaders

These student leaders lead Sports Day teams during (and prior to) the event to ensure a fun and inclusive day for all. They work with our physical education teachers to organise events, train classes in how to play the activities, lead in demonstrating team work, participation and inclusion, and assist our preschool and R-2 classes to participate in the tabloid events on Sports day. This year the students will also be helping to run break time activities as well as activities during physical education Week in Term 4.



Lydia: Blue Team Captain

Sahill: Blue Team Captain

Lucy: Blue Team Vice Captain

Ely: Blue Team Vice Captain



Maria: Green Team Captain

Billy: Green Team Captain

Tejas: Green Team Vice Captain

Jaslyn: Green Team Vice Captain



Marnel: Red Team Captain

Dior: Red Team Captain

Daksh: Red Team Vice Captain

Ruby: Red Team Vice Captain



Lyla Hannett: Yellow Team Captain

Tulley Redman: Yellow Team Captain

Hunter Paterson: Yellow Team Vice Captain

Summer Dunchue: Yellow Team Vice Captain



Holi – Festival of Colours

Last Monday 25th March many families in our school community celebrated **Holi – Festival of Colours**.

It's OK to get a little messy while celebrating this holiday!

Bright neon powder covers revellers during the annual Hindu celebration called Holi, usually held in March. Known as the festival of colours, Holi is celebrated on the last full moon in the lunar month of Phalguna.

Everyone is sticky in blue, yellow, green, and pink during Holi, a festival of colours and love that ushers in spring.

This ancient tradition marks the end of winter and honors the triumph of good over evil. Celebrants light bonfires, throw colourful powder called gulal, eat sweets, and dance to traditional folk music.

Goal Setting Discussions

Thank you to parents and caregivers that have been able to make a time with their child's teacher to attend goal setting parent/ teacher/ student interviews over the next two weeks. These discussions are an important opportunity for parents to share with teachers, their child's strengths and to work together to develop achievable goals with your child. A continued priority for us at Cowandilla is to ensure that students know where they are at with their learning, what the next steps are and how they will get there. Throughout the year children will be reflecting on their progress and resetting their goals to ensure they are being challenged with their learning. Please also remember that parents and caregivers can make a time to meet with teachers throughout the year if they would like to discuss anything.

NAPLAN

Last week our year 3 and 5 students participated in the Literacy and Numeracy NAPLAN Assessments. These assessments were completed online except for the year 3 writing task. Our students demonstrated resilience and perseverance throughout the four days of the assessments. Schools will receive student results during Term 2 and information will be shared with parents not long after these arrive.

NAPLAN is just one aspect of a school's assessment and reporting process. It doesn't replace ongoing assessments made by teachers about student performance, but it can provide teachers with additional information about students' educational progress. Information about how to interpret the results will be provided for parent and caregivers.

CPS Gardening Club

Why: Our school has a Climate Change Focus. The Gardening Club is a subgroup that focuses on gardening for the school community. For the past 6 years, we have had a very hard working group of students and parents developing the garden. Many thanks to those who came over the holidays to water and look after the plants. This year we will try to do even more to make sure our school can help students and the community learn the importance of plants in our environment.

This year we will meet every 2nd week. so only even weeks! (2,4,6,8,10)

When: Even Tuesdays after school (3:30 – 4:15pm)

Starting Week 4. 20th of February 2024

Where: Meet in the back garden to start. We usually have a snack of fruit, sometimes from the garden and some biscuits/cookies as a reward for the hard work!

Who: Any **students with parents/carers** can come along as long as you want to dig or get your hands dirty! We would love **grandparents** and anyone else in the community to help organise the garden and the work.

What will we do: Gardening jobs, eating harvested crops, collecting food to share with community and any activities that we can plan together to make our environment better.



HARMONY WEEK



HARMONY WEEK





In Fiona and Anna's Class, we have been learning about growth mindset and the Learning Pit. Ms Anna presented the class with a four-piece puzzle and before we started solving it, we all felt confident that it was going to be an easy and quick puzzle to solve. This definitely wasn't the case and the puzzle was more challenging than it first appeared.

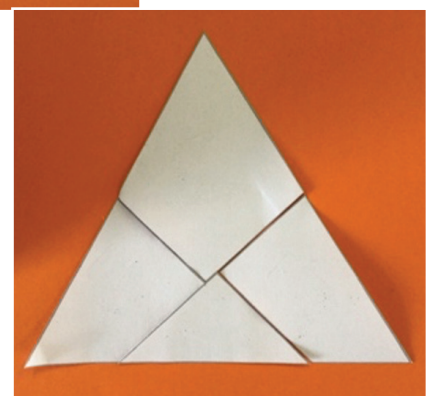
We created our own class learning pit to demonstrate how we might feel at each stage.

Before we all knew it, we were at the bottom of the learning pit. We talked about strategies that we could use to help us overcome the challenge; using prior knowledge, asking a friend, working together, trial and error.



After trying a few different strategies, we started solving the puzzle and working our way out of the learning pit. As a class we discussed how we learn more when we step out of our comfort zone and embrace challenges.

After completing what we originally thought was going to be an easy task, we felt a sense of achievement when we were all able to finish the puzzle and overcome the challenge that we had been given. Learning isn't always easy or comfortable but the sense of achievement on completion can be worth jumping into the pit for.



When students considered and reflected on how they moved through the learning pit, they know they can use similar strategies when faced with new learning challenges. Developing our resilience and perseverance will help us to overcome future problems and learn to be independent learners.

Marine Discovery Centre

On Wednesday our class went to the Marine Discovery Centre. We went on a bus. When we got there we met Georgie. She told us the rules. Then we went to the beach. My favourite part was seeing Carno play the didgeridoo.

Ryma



**Marine
Discovery
Centre**

On Wednesday our class went to the Marine Discovery Centre. My favourite part was using the VR Headsets. Then we went to the beach and I made a sandcastle with shells on it.

Aviraj K



On Wednesday we went to the Marine Discovery Centre and my favourite part was the VR Headsets. We saw Carno play the didgeridoo and then we went to the beach. We all found shells and rocks on the sand. We made holes and put water in the holes. Then we went back to the Discovery Centre. We played with the equipment and on the Nature Play. Then we went inside and learnt about fish. We went in all different rooms and one had VR Headsets. We had two breaks at the Marine Discovery Centre. One when we got there and Georgie told us the rules and we had a fruit snack and one when we came back from the beach. We had lunch. Then we had a second play and went in the Nature Play. It was so fun.

Blake



On Wednesday our class went to the Marine Discovery Centre. My favourite parts were using the VR Headsets and seeing the seahorses. I found 20 shells.

Annabel R



On Wednesday our class went to the Marine Discovery Centre. We went on a bus. When we got there we met Georgie. She told us the rules. Then we went to the beach!

Leni



Buddy Class Activities



Mr. Liam and Mr. Kitsi's Class buddy up for activities on a fortnightly basis. The aim of the Buddy Class Activities is to help support a friendly and caring primary school community where strong cross-aged peer relationships can be built and maintained. This helps students to develop positive social skills. Both older and younger buddies learn from each other and see value in spending time with peers of different ages. Buddies will have several opportunities to work with buddies throughout the year.

Recently, both classes worked together to create a wall decoration for Harmony Week. Our school community provides us with an excellent opportunity to work with and learn from the different cultures and backgrounds here. Our activity aimed to teach an understanding of how everyone belongs. Students had to place an orange handprint on some card and add some words around the outside that promote cultural diversity.

Mr Kitsi and Mr Liam



Cowandilla Primary School Community Resource Committee

Breakfast Club

When: Friday morning

Where: Area between
STEM room and
library

Time: from 8am

All parent helpers
welcome!

Please let the front
office know you would
love to help out.

What skills can you offer to our school community?

Please don't hesitate to
come along to a meeting or
contact us via email
mandfarnham@hotmail.com

Current Members

Melissa Farnham
Olga Kotlarski
Lauren Kite
Lynette Barrett
Bridy Bartsch
Sasha Carroll
Sharisse Simicich
Bonnie Williams
Anna Murphy
Hannah Alyce
Rachel Beck
Erin Flynn
Lea Clark
Jess Coultard
Kate Streeter

Everyone is welcome!

Statement of Purpose

As a group we will be dedicated to help foster stronger connections and engagement of all students, families, staff and the local community through organised events. Fundraising and grant applications will be utilised when appropriate.

Colour Explosion School Run 4 Fun – Colour Run

Friday 12th April 1:00 – 2:10pm

- All students participating can wear a white or a light coloured shirt/t-shirt if they have one and closed in shoes.
- Students will be given free sunglasses and a rainbow headband for the event.
- Students will be covered in non-toxic, biodegradable colour powder. The colour powder is made of high-quality corn starch and permitted food colours.

We are asking students to please pay \$2 to participate in the Colour Run.

Fundraising for our Colour Explosion School Run 4 Fun is optional and can be done online. **Parents and Caregivers** are asked to follow the instructions in your child's sponsorship booklet to create a cybersafe, online profile page at www.australianfundraising.com.au.

Thank you so much for supporting our Colour Explosion School Run 4 Fun and fundraising for our school. This information and the fundraising instruction booklet will be sent home to families today.



CRC Quiz Night – SAVE THE DATE

Proposed date for 2024 – Saturday 31st August, 2024

Road Safety with the RAA

Over the past few weeks The RAA has been running road safety session with our students. These sessions have included a:

- A trained and qualified Road Safety Educator delivering a 45-minute road-safety lessons
- Interactive lessons catering for students from Reception to Year 6
- Providing opportunities for students to develop their knowledge, skills and understanding of road safety concepts
- Activity booklets linked to the lesson content that can further prompt discussion in the classroom and at home.



Diary Dates

Monday 25th March to Friday 5th April
Parent/Teacher/ Student
Goal Setting Interviews

Thursday 28th March
Sports Day

Friday 29th March and Monday 1st April
School closed due to public holidays

Friday 5th April
Assembly 9:00am

Friday 12th April
Casual Clothes Day, Student Disco and
Colour Run at 1:00pm

Friday 12th April
Last Day of Term 1 school finishes at
2:15pm

Term 2

Monday 29th April
Pupil Free Day

Tuesday 30th April
School resumes for students at 8:55am