



Newsletter

Term 2, 2021

Principal: Marianne Mitchell

Dear Parents/Carers,

We've had a very busy Term 2 and welcomed quite a few new students, particularly to our new K-2 class. They have all settled in exceptionally well, particularly as most are spending time here at The Bidgee and back at their mainstream school everyday. You will notice the new look of our newsletter and in particular our new logo. As we have grown and changed considerably over the years we have designed a new logo incorporating the Kurrajong tree and our values of Kindness, Growth and Effort. You may have already seen your child/child in care come home with one of these new awards. If so, encourage them to tell you about it. We focus on one of the values each week across the school and in class.



During the last week of term, we celebrated NAIDOC week. The theme this year was Healing Country. Students participated in many cultural activities such as traditional games, visits to the wetlands to participate in boomerang throwing and weaving with traditional food for lunch after they returned. A highlight was a visit from the Ashmont Public School Dance Group. Today we participated in a healing smoking ceremony led by our visitors Peter and Michael. Thoroughly enjoyed and appreciated by staff and students alike. A huge thank you goes to our Aboriginal Education Officers Dylan and Tyson.



A reminder to all parents that students are expected to attend school every day that it is open during the year unless there is a legitimate reason. A number of students are arriving at school well after the day has started and therefore missing out on prime learning time. School starts promptly at 9am and finishes at 2.30. Students are expected to attend every day for the whole day.

Wishing all students and their families a safe and happy holiday and I look forward to seeing everyone back in Term 3. Following is a report from each class detailing some of the activities /learning experiences they have been involved in this term.



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The Bidgee School

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Class 6

Term Two has been a very busy term for Class 6 and we are all eagerly awaiting our school holiday break. The Winter season has hit some of us hard and we are all looking forward to slowing down over the holidays and getting in some rest and relaxation so that we are ready to hit Semester Two at full capacity.

Some of the memorable moments of this term included:

-The Sydney Theatre Company School Drama Program. Class 6 was joined by students from other classes to work with resident actor Alyson Evans. The program involved students using drama games and activities to explore the story 'The Werewolf Night'. Students experimented with characterisation and improvisation and both Blair and Kyle displayed some creativity and a flair for acting.

-This term in cooking Class 6 focused on making soup. Students were able to see how cheap, easy and healthy soup can be particularly in the winter months. Class 6 also prepared our celebration afternoon tea to celebrate the conclusion of School Drama. Big congratulations to Annalyse for preparing the most delicious sausage rolls ever!

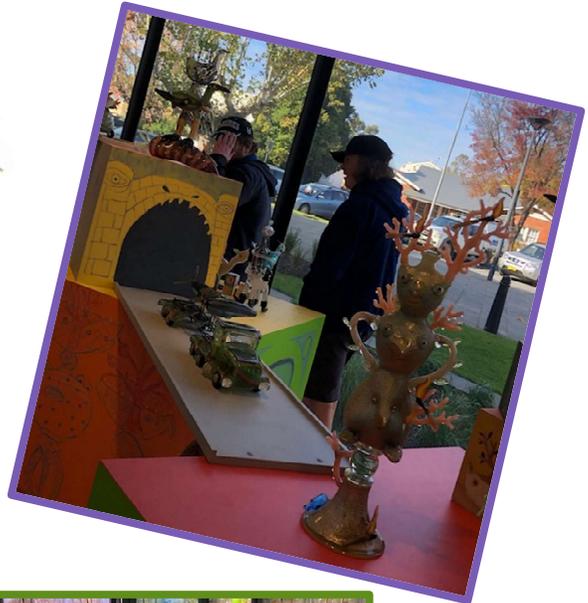
-This term we welcomed Shi-Lo to Class 6. Shi-Lo came to us from Narrandera and quickly found her way into our school routines and expectations. It has been a pleasure to welcome Shi-Lo to our school and I was extremely proud of the way Class 6 made her feel part of our community.

Thanks to all Class 6 students for a great term, I look forward to being back with you all again in Term 3.



Class 7

What a busy term! Class 7 has been busy with a range of curricular and extracurricular activities that have been designed and programmed to meet our learning and wellbeing goals. We have studied two plays (*Animal Farm* and *Twelve Angry Men*) this term in some depth as part of our English studies, extending our understanding of how authors convey meaning through drama. We have explored historical sources and the role of Chinese migrants in the Gold Rush of the 1850s as part of our *Making a Nation* History studies. Developing relationships and connections with our community has been a significant part of our work in Class 7 this term with visits to *BaptistCare*, library visits, cooking for Care Van, visiting *Kurrajong Recycling*, raising funds for *Ronald McDonald House* and *The Smith Family* and supporting our younger Bidgee students with a weekly Gardening Club. We continue to develop skills to prepare ourselves for the workplace through a Workplace Readiness program that has generated considerable interest and support. This work, with the support of Training Services NSW will continue into Term 3. Three students have successfully continued their Distance Education studies in Japanese, Physical Recreation Studies and Visual Arts – Cartooning; two students are engaged in preparatory TAFE units of study and two students have completed Work Experience placements this term. We welcomed two new students to our class this term who are settling in well to new routines.



Class 4

Class 4 enjoyed a variety of new learning activities throughout Term 2. It was my pleasure to become their main teacher from the beginning of Term 2, and we have had an eventful term.



We all enjoyed reading 'The Twits', by Roald Dahl. We especially got into the pranks that Mr and Mrs Twit played on each other, incorporating pranks into our creative writing. Towards the end of the term we began reading The BFG, enjoying the creative language The BFG used in his conversations with Sophie, as well as investigating how the author provokes a sense of fear from his readers.

In Math we consolidated our skip counting and spent time working on skip counting in order to begin times tables tasks. We also consolidated our knowledge on place value and working with two and three digit numbers.



Zeth, Ayden and Raurii were lucky enough to participate in our indigenous program run by Shane, an Indigenous Park Ranger from Tumut. The boys worked together to create Coolamons, spears and stone axes.



Uma and Em are both to be congratulated for their consistent approach to Engine Room and stillness each morning, working well to regulate their bodies at the beginning of each day to get ready to learn. Class 4 enjoyed the new weekly opportunity to go bike riding on a Friday, especially Ayden, Zeth and Levi. Levi learnt this term to ride within his limits, and to adjust his speed on the downhill slopes to stay safe.

Class 4 participated in gymnastics with enthusiasm this term, impressing our coach, Chrissie, from Airborne Gym. The class were excited to farewell Ericka towards the end of the term, and we look forward to her returning to The Bidgee School soon to visit with her new baby.

Have a happy and safe holiday my little cherubs, and I will see you after the holidays.



Class 3

This term has flown by quickly. I can't believe we are already halfway through the year. In writing, students learnt about poetry, studying poetic language and poetic forms. They have written a range of poems using alliteration and allusion. Students particularly enjoyed experimenting with spoonerisms when writing limericks.

Class 3 covered a range of topics in Mathematics and students' learning was evident in their ability to apply a greater range of mental strategies to mathematical tasks including; reasoning, questioning and making links to prior learning.

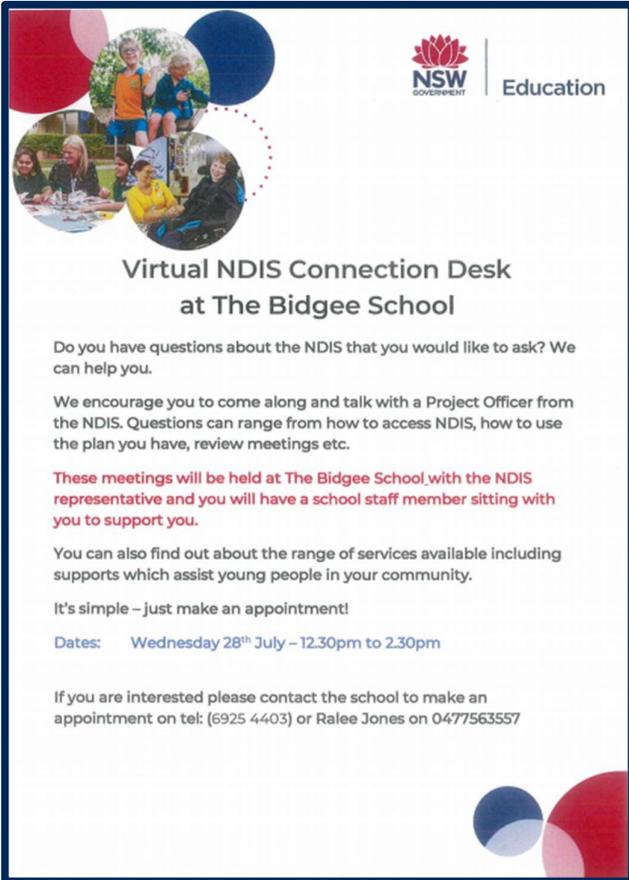
Students engaged in a variety of art therapy lessons where they explored their emotions, developed self-awareness and boosted self-esteem. They experimented with different techniques when using media, colour and lines to make a variety of artworks.

Jorga, Jack and Alisha joined with Class 7 this term to begin careers lessons. They are to be congratulated for stepping up and engaging fully in these lessons that begin looking at how we can transition from school to work, understand safety in the workplace and begin getting ready for work experience.

I would personally like to thank Max, Cory, Josh, Jack, Alisha, Brooklen and Jorga for turning up to school every day enthusiastic and committed to their learning. I'm looking forward to continuing to support you in your learning journey next term. Have a happy and safe break.

Tammy





NSW GOVERNMENT | Education

Virtual NDIS Connection Desk at The Bidgee School

Do you have questions about the NDIS that you would like to ask? We can help you.

We encourage you to come along and talk with a Project Officer from the NDIS. Questions can range from how to access NDIS, how to use the plan you have, review meetings etc.

These meetings will be held at The Bidgee School with the NDIS representative and you will have a school staff member sitting with you to support you.

You can also find out about the range of services available including supports which assist young people in your community.

It's simple – just make an appointment!

Dates: Wednesday 28th July – 12.30pm to 2.30pm

If you are interested please contact the school to make an appointment on tel: (6925 4403) or Ralee Jones on 0477563557



Compulsory School Attendance

Education for your child is important and regular attendance at school is essential for your child to achieve their educational best and increase their career and life options. NSW public schools work in partnership with parents to encourage and support regular attendance of children and young people. When your child attends school every day, learning becomes easier and your child will build and maintain friendships with other children.

Class 9

Week five saw the commencement of Class Nine. We have very quickly settled into a new routine and are enjoying our new classroom. Jayden says he is enjoying spending time with our friends. Holly says Alison is awesome. Hannah says our SLSOs are cool. We are also enjoying doing more art, especially our Growth, Effort, Kindness tree and our Zentangles. We are enjoying joking with our peers and the staff. We are looking forward to Term Three.

Written by the students of Class Nine



Class 8



This term, Class 8 participated in many learning opportunities. These included physical activities such as gymnastics, touch football, indoor soccer, and bike riding. Students learnt about the importance of making good decisions with Healthy Harold, and the value of recycling at Kurrajong Waratah Recyclers.

The boys encountered the remarkable resourcefulness of the First Nation's people at the Wetlands, and the girls spent time with the fantastic staff at the Riverina Environmental Education Centre. A few of the students participated in a specialised drama program throughout the term and developed their literacy skills and confidence.



In Week 8, students enjoyed preparing, cooking, and eating our big breakfast as we discussed the importance of having a healthy meal at the start of each day.

In the classroom students discovered the hardships and challenges of living and working on the gold fields. They tried their luck panning for 'gold', bought a licence, and banked their riches. We studied the novel *Black Cockatoo* and started to write our own campfire stories to share with one another.



Students in Class 8 demonstrated generosity and kindness by supporting many fundraising events throughout the term. These included Autism Day, Australia's Biggest Morning Tea, Mental Health Day, and the Bunning's BBQ for our school's charity Ronald MacDonald House. We can hardly wait for all the exciting things to be learnt and activities to be shared in Term Three with these outstanding young people.

Maree 😊



Class 5

CLASS 5



What a jam-packed term the boys of Class 5 have had! Aiden, Levi and Tyrone welcomed Amir to the class, continuing to outnumber the only girl in the class – which they love.

Students have been working hard during all learning tasks and enjoyed the flexible learning that literacy rotations allowed. The boys have developed independence in moving through the activities and enjoy the many hands-on tasks.

As part of the PDHPE program students engaged in gymnastic sessions at Airborne Gym where they learnt a variety of tumbling, balance and coordination skills. This was done while having a lot of fun and getting to enjoy some free play on the more advanced equipment.

Healthy Harold paid a visit to The Bidgee School and students participated in a program about friendships and safety. Harold taught the students all about seeking help in emergencies and he was quite cheeky when interacting with the students.

Some students from the class attempted NAPLAN this term and should be very proud of the effort they put in. This was an unfamiliar and challenging task but the boys took it in their stride and gave it their all.

We have officially made it through half of the school year, what an accomplishment for Class Five. I wish everyone a safe and happy school holidays and I hope the boys get plenty of time to rest in preparation for a busy Term 3.

– Paige Howarth

