



# THE BIDGEE SCHOOL

## Newsletter

TERM 1, WEEK 10 Thursday 1st April 2021

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### From the Principal

Dear Parents/Carers/students,

Easter is almost here!

We've had a very busy Term 1 with new students settling in, new classes established, a brand new building and new friendships formed. 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.

On Friday 26/3 we celebrated Harmony Day with each class researching the customs/food from a particular country and cooking a dish for everyone to share. The opportunity for everyone to sit and chat whilst trying many varied dishes was thoroughly enjoyed by all. To celebrate the day we were honoured with a visit from Felix Simba Machiridza bringing music from his homeland of Zimbabwe and a powerful message of hope and gratitude. Thoroughly enjoyed and appreciated by staff and students alike.

A reminder to all parents that students are expected to attend school everyday 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 everyday for the whole day.

Wishing all students and their families a safe and happy Easter and I look forward to seeing everyone back in Term 2. Following is a report from each class detailing some of the activities

/learning experiences they have been involved in this term.

### ***Students will commence Term 2 2021 on Tuesday 20th April 2021***

#### **Class 3—Tammy**

2021 is shaping up to be a superb year for class 3. Jack, Alisha and Jorga are working hard to complete their DE studies each week. We are all excited to see Jack be the first student to complete his HSC at The Bidgee School. Alisha has been working hard on her HSC Major artwork and I can't wait to see the finished product. Jorga is extremely organised and efficient in everything she does and has received pleasing results and feedback from her Finnigan teachers each week.

This term Max has put in a stellar effort to improve his spelling, reading and writing skills by turning up every morning and giving his best with a mature and focused approach to his learning. He takes on board teacher feedback and applies it to his learning. Max also brings a great sense of humour to the classroom and lightens the mood.

Cory has impressed us all with his ability to play a variety of musical instruments. He thrives on the opportunity to play the keyboard and guitar in the classroom and tries to get us to guess which song he is playing. He is always happy to share his knowledge of music with the rest of the class.

In week 9 we welcomed Josh into our class. He has fitted in quietly and we look forward to supporting him to gain a sense of belonging in our classroom.



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For the past couple of weeks, we have played Bocce in the classroom for PE. This has been really positive for developing student relationships within our class. The room has been filled with banter and lots of laughs.

Thank you, class 3 students, for an awesome start to 2021. I wish you all a Happy Easter. I'm looking forward to continuing to support each of you in your learning journey in term 2.

## Class 4-Carla

Wow, here we are at the end of Term 1, already! And what a term it has been. We've all been adjusting, to having a new class, new teacher, new systems in place at school, and new challenges that come with growing older.

We're all looking forward to a well-earned break over the holidays, and can't wait to get back to learning and growing next term!



## Reading

Our class novel this term has been "The Explorer", by Katherine Rundell. It's about a group of kids who survive a plane crash when their pilot has a heart attack while flying over the Amazon Rainforest. Their resilience and ability to get along (and "The Explorer") help them survive and get home. We have learned about rainforests, Brazil, Goliath bird eating spiders, bullet ants and piranhas... I hope everyone reads as much as they can over the holidays!



Playing games, doing puzzles, STEM & creative challenges, and learning new games are all great ways to develop and practice problem solving and social skills.



As part of learning about Harmony Day, we organised a whole school celebration, with each class choosing a different country to learn about, present information on, and cook and share a traditional dish. Our country was Greece, and we made grilled vegetable and haloumi skewers.



I hope everyone has a fabulous Easter, and a safe and happy holiday.

See you all next term!

## Class 5—Paige

Term One has been such an amazing and busy start to 2021 in Class 5. We welcomed some new faces to The Bidgee School, with all students being new to the school. We welcomed Levi, Aiden, Cooper and Josh to the class and towards the end of term we were joined by Raurii and Tyrone. We said goodbye to Cooper and Josh as they moved to different classes, but still enjoy seeing them on the playground. Our most consistent face has been Humphrey, one of the schools therapy dogs. Class 5 have been lucky enough to have Humphrey working in their class every day, he particularly enjoys stillness and taking time to lay with the boys and support them in self-regulation.



Each day students have engaged in engine



room through a number of physical activities and gained an understanding around how exercise activities can improve the function of their brain to make learning more accessible. Class 5 have done a range of circuits on the equipment, boxing rotations and tabata workouts with an Avengers theme.

All students have been working very hard to learn the rules and routines of the school, engage in a range of learning tasks and growing as individuals. As a class we have enjoyed doing a range of creative art pieces, with the favourite being a piece where they blew water colour paints around with straws to mimic crazy hair.



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## Class 6—Laurinda

Term 1, 2021 has flown by and Class 6 have established some great working relationships with each other as we have focused on building strong interpersonal communication skills.

Class 6 students have demonstrated patience and empathy with each other as they have learnt about what makes them similar and different to their peers.



Class 6 students have been improving their information technology skills while learning about G-Suite apps. It has been great to see the development in confidence of all students and the quality of their written responses has improved as a result. Furthermore, students learnt to use Audacity to mix songs together and learnt to record audio introductions.

Our focus for Geography this term has been on expanding our awareness of the world through the use of Google Earth. In addition, we delved further into world cultures as we prepared to celebrate Harmony Day by watching the Woven Threads series.

This series presents the stories of refugees who have arrived in Australia from war torn



countries. We all agreed that we are fortunate to live in such a peaceful country like Australia. The diversity we have in our community as a result is enriching for us all.

As part of supporting community organisations Class 6 created Heat Packs to sell at the Taster Property Op Shop. The Taster Property provides a range of workshops and programs to engage young peoples' interests and ambitions. Students learnt to upcycle second hand fabrics, cut out a



pattern and use a sewing machine. The finished products will be available for purchase from the Taster Op Shop located at Tolland Shopping Centre.

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## Class 7—Karen

What an amazing term we have had! I have been warmly welcomed into my new role as Teacher of Class 7 here at The Bidgee and am thoroughly enjoying supporting the learning and wellbeing of this amazing group of young people.

Supporting student's social emotional awareness and wellbeing and mindfulness is a critical aspect of our daily routines. This learning is delivered through a MINDUP program that is explicitly taught. Developing effective learning habits is taught and modelled through the HOW 2 Learn program that teaches students the language, habits and dispositions that promote successful learning. I am passionate about developing our school garden and together with the students of Class 7 have begun to prepare our garden beds, greenhouse and composting areas to begin planting next term. As part of a small fundraising project Class 7 has been busy planting flower seeds and preparing crockery cups as planters to sell to family and friends to raise funds for Ronald McDonald House.



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This term we structured our learning journey around core learning areas of English, Literacy, Maths, Numeracy, Geography, PDHPE, Careers and Wellbeing. It has certainly been a busy time for all of us as we adjust to new routines and new classmates. As a class we have studied the Bush Ballad *The Man from Snowy River* and developed an understanding of oral storytelling. Students are also developing core skills in comprehension and imaginative writing.

Our Maths learning uses the online *Mathletics* tool to support student learning and engagement with number and algebra and Maths Mentals to develop skills in mathematical computation.

Students have engaged with their Geography studies this term and we have explored the earth's biomes and considered the impact of palm oil production in Asia and the devastation of deforestation on critically endangered animals such as the Orangutan.

Additionally, students have been busy developing their resumes and some of the students are actively seeking work experience and casual work opportunities in the area.

I wish to congratulate all our students who are studying additional subjects delivered through Distance Education (Finigan). I have been proud of their motivation and independence in their learning as they navigate online delivery.

I look forward to a busy and productive Term 2! Happy Easter Holidays to all.



## Class 8—Maree

2021 is shaping up to be an awesome year for Class 8! The students have already formed strong friendships and are working together so well in the classroom. We started the year with a scavenger hunt at the Botanical Gardens. Many of the students have actively engaged in activities throughout the term such as swimming, bike riding, cricket, and basketball.

An important part of our curriculum is Wellbeing and this term we are learning about our Brain and Body. In addition, the students hear a lot about The Bidgee School's core values of Kindness, Growth and Effort.

Class 8 have participated in team building activities this term including the four-chair challenge, tug-o-war, and helicopter. We have built the World's Healthiest Sandwiches and some incredibly constructed famous landmarks.



In English we all look forward with anticipation each day to the next instalment of our podcast "6 Minutes". During Numeracy, we have worked with Professor Dede to help him with his "Dimensionator" machine when we have explored 2D and 3D shapes.



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Welcome to all our new students, carers and parents who have joined us at The Bidgee School this year. I love hearing from families throughout the year. Please contact me through the school office about any questions or concerns you might have. Maree

The Bidgee School Facebook page is

[The Bidgee School Wagga Wagga](#)



*Regards,  
Marianne Mitchell  
Principal*