Week 4, Term 1

# Newsletter

Friday 23 February 2024





### Important Dates

- Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> February: Dental Van
- Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> February: Dental Van
- Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March: Curriculum Day (student free day)
- Tuesday 19th March: School Council Meeting 9am
- Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> March: Life Education Incursion PrepA, PrepB, PrepC
- Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March: Life Education Incursion PrepD. Year 1A & 12B
- Monday 25<sup>th</sup> March: Life Education Incursion Year 12C, 12D, 12E
- Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> March: Grade 3-6 Athletics Carnival
- Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March: Last day of Term 1 (2:30pm finish)

### Principal Report

Dear Community.

So much can happen in a fortnight! Thank you to our dedicated staff for their ongoing work and commitment to shaping the education provided at Deanside. We are achieving so much, and I am super proud of what is being delivered in all learning areas.

### School Growth and Enrolments

Deanside Primary School sits in a 'growth corridor' in a new suburb. As a result of this we are seeing new homes being built and families moving into their dream home or their ideal rental property. This is an exciting time for families to connect with their community and children to transition into school. In recent weeks our enrolments have increased, and it has seen our class sizes grow. As a result, I have decided to restructure our classes to cater for the number of students and anticipated growth in the coming months. As we head towards Term 2, we will be modifying our classes from 15 to 16 classes. On this occasion, the change will only affect Grade 3/4 as we expand from 3 classrooms to 4. Our staff have begun the processes of distributing students across classes based on their learning needs. Once this is finalised and we have committed to transitioning to the new classroom, we will let the families of students in the Grade 3/4 area know of the change.

We have advertised a classroom teacher position - recruitment process can take some time to finalise, so I just wanted to be transparent with our intentions to support the needs of your children while we strive to continue to recruit the best possible teachers. Initially Ms Lay was going to transition from STEM teacher to Grade 3/4 classroom teacher, but that will not be happening any longer and she will remain the STEM specialist teacher for now.







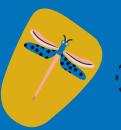


















### Students of the Week

Week 2 - Term 1 1/2A-Grayson Aashat 1/2B-Yashvi Amin 1/2E – Hashir Bilawal 3/4A-Aryan Amiri 3/4B-Jennifer Hoang Tran 3/4C-Dema Zakoo

5/6A-Tava Wynne 5/6B – Blake Anthony

5/6C - Aruth Nissanka

Week 3 - Term 1 PrepA-Aayra Trehan PrepB-Isaac Rogers PrepC-Easton Knight PrepD-Abdulrahim Balde 1/2A-Ishika Saha 1/2B-Reet Sodhi 1/2C-Baani Kaur

1/2D-Brittany Le

3/4A-Avneet Saini

3/4B-Louisa Foaese

3/4C-Ariyana Dangol

5/6B-Ai Johnson

5/6C-Aarnay Corotania

Based on our current enrolment numbers; the future breakdown of classes are shown in the table below.

Current Grade	Class Size	Current Grade	Class Size
Prep A	21	Prep A	21
Prep B	21	Prep B	21
Prep C	20	Prep C	20
Prep D	20	Prep D	20
1/2A	20	1/2A	20
1/2B	19	1/2B	19
1/2C	21	1/2C	21
1/2D	21	1/2D	21
1/2E	19	1/2E	19
3/4A	29	3/4A	21
3/4B	28	3/4B	21
3/4C	29	3/4C	22
5/6A	24	3/4D **NEW**	22
5/6B	22	5/6A	24
5/6C	22	5/6B	22
		5/6C	22

As a school we aim to achieve the desired minimum class sizes based on the school budgets and resources. Based on our future grade formation we will also be aiming to maintain average class sizes where Prep to 6 are below the average of 26 students and the class size of 21 at P-2 is maintained. We appreciate your patience and understanding while we work our way through this highly complex task.

### School Tours

We are currently experiencing a high number of enquiries regarding school tours for 2025 enrolments. We are not yet able to run tours or even thinking about 2025 just yet. If you have friends/family wanting school tours, we will begin offering them in Term 2. Keep an eye on our socials for more details.























### 2024 Preps

I wanted to take a moment to congratulate our 2024 Preps on the way they have started primary school life. They have quickly developed routine and are engaging in learning opportunities with confidence. A special thank you to Ms Melissa, Miss Anna, Miss Richelle and Ms Merryn for the way they have transitioned our students into school life. We also want to thank parents for following advice of naming hats/jumpers, keeping water bottles full and following our advice around brain food and healthy lunch boxes.

### School Council – Calling for Parent Representation

I would like to thank our 2023 School Council committee members for their commitment to Deanside Primary School. Thank you to our parents Redwanur Rahman (President), Samantha Pahlke (Vice President) Mehreen Raza Khan, Harleen Kaur, as well as our Department of Education representatives Lina Stephens and Victoria Magafas for their commitment to this group and overseeing the essential policy and decision making required to ensure the school was able to meet all aspects of school operation.

Special thank you to Shana Brooks who manages many aspects of School Council operations and documentation behind the scenes.

Thank you to Mehreen Raza Khan and Lina Stephens for their dedication to School Council for the past two years. As a result of their tenure coming to an end, their positions are now being put forward for re-election.

Thank you to both Frank Harris and Victoria Magafas for being a part of School Council and have respectively stepped down from their roles for 2024.

As we head towards the election period for 2024, I want to inform our community that Deanside Primary School Council Constituting Order consists of 8 members (5 parents and 3 DET representatives).

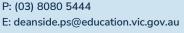
Parent	Department of	Community
Representatives	Education	Representative
Redwanur Rahman	Stuart Telford – Executive Officer	VACANT
Samantha Pahlke	VACANT	
Harleen Kaur	VACANT	
VACANT		
VACANT		

























Therefore, the 2024 Deanside Primary School Council requires two (2) Parent Representatives and two (2) Department of Education representative to form a School Council quorum.

School Council can also determine whether a Community Representative is required to meet the needs of any future projects.

I invite all parents to consider nominating for School Council and take an active role in their child(ren's) education.

Please use this link as a source of information.

- https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/school-council-elections/policy

### What is the School Council?

The School Council is a voluntary group which consists of the Principal and elected parents and Department of Education representatives. The School Council is responsible for determining school policy, the management of the school's finances, buildings and grounds.

The school council runs the sub-committees. These committees are open for any member of the school community to be a member and parents are urged to be involved in any area in which they may have an interest. Each sub-committee has a nucleus of members of the School Council and Staff with a School Councillor as convenor. These meetings are run in the week prior to the school council meeting.

The *Finance Sub-Committee* is responsible for bringing recommendations to School Council regarding the budget and for expenditure control.

The Community Sub-Committee, members of this committee are involved in organising fundraising initiatives, researching and applying for grants as well as maintaining the buildings and grounds and ensuring we maintain an environmentally friendly and attractive school.

School Council meets twice per term for a minimum of eight meetings for the year. We have assigned this years meeting time at 9am on a Tuesday that aligns with the school planning and meeting schedule.

Term 1 - Meeting 1 - Tuesday 19th March 2024 @ 9am

Term 2 - Meeting 2 - Tuesday 30th April 2024 @ 9am

Term 2 - Meeting 3 - Tuesday 21st May 2024 @ 9am

Term 2 - Meeting 4 - Tuesday 25th June 2024 @ 9am

Term 3 - Meeting 5 - Tuesday 23rd July 2024 @ 9am

Term 3 - Meeting 6 - Tuesday 27th August 2024 @ 9am

Term 4 - Meeting 7 - Tuesday 29th October 2024 @ 9am

Term 4 - Meeting 8 - Tuesday 10th December 2024 @ 9am





Excellence















If you are interested in being a member of School Council or would like information about what is required in this role, please do not hesitate to contact me at the school for more information.

Nomination forms can be collected from the office. You can choose to 'self-nominate' or you can nominate a parent (with their consent).

In alignment with the Department of Education School Council Election Guidelines we will now conduct the process and call for nominations, this will determine whether voting will be necessary.

1.	Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> February 2024	Notice of election and call for nominations
2.	Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> March 2024 at 4pm	Closing date for nominations
3.	Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> March 2024	Date by which the list of candidates and nominators will be posted
4.	Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> March 2024 (if required)	Date by which ballot papers will be prepared and distributed on or before
5.	Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> March 2024 at 4pm (if required)	Close of ballot
6.	Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> March 2024 at 9:00am (if required)	Vote count
7.	Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> March 2024	Declaration of poll
8.	Tuesday 19th March 2024 @ 9am	'First Council' meeting to elect office bearers (Also date of next School Council Meeting)

### Duty of Care for Students

The school grounds are supervised by staff between 8:45am and 9:00am and children may be left by parents from 8:45am onwards when the gates are opened. Students are supervised at 3:30pm to 3:45pm after school. This is the Duty of Care offered by the school at these times. If you are not able to work to these times, it is a parent's responsibility to oversee the care of their children. For a small fee, children can attend our Before and After School Care Program run by BIG Childcare. It operates every morning (from 6:45am) and every afternoon (until 6:30pm). Student numbers continue to grow as families become more aware of what this program offers.

Students are provided with a range of foods and activities while they are attending this program. It is great to see such a structured and caring program in our school. For more information head to https://bigchildcare.com/





















Thank you to our families, for your efforts in getting the children to school between 8:45am and 9:00am and for adults being out of the school yard by 9am. Schools do run by very tight timetables, so we thank our community for your cooperation allowing yard duty to be able to conclude their duties and attend to classes/meetings. This also allows for our morning routines for our leaners to be much more settled. Our morning circles start right on 9am and they are very important in setting your child up for success each day. We know the traffic is bad but unfortunately this is beyond our control, and we cannot delay the start of the school day. If we lose 10 mins each day over the term, we lose 8.5 hours of teaching time. Every minute counts in our learning time.

### Arriving Late to School

Please remember that if your child(ren) are late to school they must present to the office before heading to class to receive a late pass and have their attendance recorded. This eliminates absence notifications being sent to parents causing unnecessary worry.

### Every Day Counts

Going to school every day is the single most important part of your child's education. Students learn new things at school every day – missing school puts them behind. The importance of daily attendance is a priority for our school.

### Why it's important?

- We all want our students to get a great education and the building blocks for a great education begin with students coming to school each and every day.
- If students miss school regularly, they miss out on learning the fundamental skills that will set them up for success in the later years of school.
- There is no safe number of days for missing school each day a student misses puts them behind, and can affect their educational outcomes.
- Each missed day is associated with progressively lower achievement in numeracy, writing and reading.

### Getting in early

Attendance patterns are established early – a child regularly missing days in kindergarten or in the early years of school will often continue to miss classes in the later years, and receive lower test scores than their classmates.

It's vital that students go to school every day – even in the early years of primary school. Being on time to school is also an important routine to establish in the early years.



















### What we can do

The main reasons for absence are:

- Sickness There are always times when students need to miss school, such as when they're ill. It's vital that they're only away on the days they are genuinely sick and setting good sleep patterns, eating well and exercising regularly can make a big difference.
- It's vital that holidays are planned during school holidays where possible, and not during the school term. Any student on a family holiday must have some written correspondence with the office that confirms the dates they will be absent from school. This will support good attendance documentation practice and avoid any confusion.
- "Day off" Think twice before letting your child have a "day off" as they could fall behind their classmates – every day counts! Staying home because its your birthday or because they want a 'sleep in' is not a valid excuse.
- Truancy This is when students choose not to go to school without their parent's permission. There can be many reasons for truancy. The best way to address this is for schools and parents to work together. Please contact your child's teacher for advice if your child presents this behaviour.

If for any reason your child must miss school, there are things you can do with your school to ensure they don't fall behind:

- Speak with your classroom teacher and find out what work your child needs to do to
- Develop an absence learning plan with your teacher and ensure your child completes the plan.
- All absences must have parent explanation regarding the missed school day. This can be completed via Compass, writing an email/letter to the school or calling the school on 8080-5444 to record the details of the absence.
- Remember, every day counts. If your child must miss school, contact your classroom teacher as early as possible. Openly communicating with the school about all absences is a good way to prevent attendance issues being escalated to a Department of Education School Attendance Officer. If you're having attendance issues with your child, please let your classroom teacher know so we can work together to get your child to school every day.



















### Mobile Phones Policy

A reminder that students who bring phones to school are asked to hand them into the office on arrival at school. If you require further information, please refer to our mobile phone policy on our school website.

https://deansideps.vic.edu.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/35-Mobile-Phones-Student-Use-Policy.docx

### NAPI AN

NAPLAN is taking place in March this year for our Year 3 and 5 students:

- Writing Wednesday 13th March
- Reading Thursday 14th March
- Conventions of Language Monday 18th March
- Numeracy Tuesday 19th March

Some make up days will be provided for children who are absent. If families do not want their child to take part in NAPLAN, please contact Juliet Berger. These tests are a snapshot of your child's development in the above 4 areas, they do not capture everything about your child as they cannot measure many other skills you value such as Care, Collaboration, Creativity, Critical Thinking and Character. We ask families to maintain normal routines on the days of tests and do not over stress children about them.

### Dogs on school grounds

School guidelines are that all dogs are to please remain outside of school grounds with the exception of working or therapy dogs. Please be mindful that some students are not comfortable around dogs. Owners are encouraged to respect others when walking their dogs outside the school grounds.

### School Assembly

Please note, we are now starting assembly 15 minutes earlier.

There will be an assembly every Friday afternoon @ 2:45pm in the gym. Parents are always welcome to attend. Gates open at 2:35pm.

### School Values

Our School values are important to us. Remember to Respect, Be Responsible, Strive for <u>Excellence</u> and show genuine <u>Care</u> for others and the environment.

### Stuart Telford

Principal



We respectfully acknowledge the Traditional Owners of country throughout Victoria and pay respect to the ongoing living cultures of First Peoples





























### Assistant Principal Reports

### Meet the Team

This week, a compass notification went home outlining our Meet the Team information sessions happening in week 6. These information sessions are a chance for teachers to inform all parents of the key processes and information needed to ensure success for all students. It also will give families a chance to ask questions and clarify any wonderings they may have.

Please refer to the timetable below regarding when your child's Year Level team is presenting.

### Tuesday 5th March at 3:40pm:

- Prep Team will be presenting in the Gym.
- Year 3/4 Team will be presenting in the Resource Centre

### Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March at 3:40pm:

- Year 1/2 Team will be presenting in the Gym.
- Year 5/6 team will be presenting in the Resource Centre.

Please ensure you confirm your attendance through the google form link below.

### https://forms.gle/JyfVZmdVud5bYbRV8

### Food, Allergies and Anaphylaxis

We have 4 children who are anaphylactic to nuts in our school. We cannot be 100% nut-free as a lot of things may contain traces of nuts, however, we recommend that all families be mindful when packing your child's snack and lunch. Please, if you can, steer away from sending raw nuts to school, as well as any nut spreads. This is to ensure the safety of our students. If by chance students do bring nuts to school, we have a school process in place to ensure our anaphylactic students are not exposed or harmed. We thank you for your assistance in this area.

### Homework

Homework will be sent out next Tuesday 27th February. The main purpose of homework is to support the learning that is happening at school. It also should promote an authentic connection and a sense of independence and choice, as they choose the activities they wish to complete, as well as some tasks that must be completed. Homework is an independent task. It should require little support from you, so please ensure you are reminding your children to complete it. More information will be provided when the homework is sent out.

### Lina Stephens

Assistant Principal





















### Food at School

A reminder that all students require a fruit snack, morning tea and lunch to keep them sustained throughout the school day. All classes have a Fruit Break at 10am each day and are given time to eat their morning tea and lunch in class before heading outside to play.

If any families need support with providing lunch to their child/ren each day, please contact Emma Bainbridge.

Emma Bainbridge Assistant Principal

### Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund

The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF) will provide payments for eligible students to attend camps, sports and excursions.

### Eligibility:

Families holding an eligible Centrelink Health Care Card, Pensioner Concession Card, Veterans Affairs Gold Card on the first day of Term 1 or the first day of Term 2 or be a temporary foster parent are eligible to apply for CSEF.

### How to Apply:

Application forms are available from the Deanside Primary School Office. The form will need to be completed and returned to the school office by 21 June 2024 (no applications will be accepted after the closing date).

If you applied for CSEF at <u>Deanside Primary School</u> in 2023 there is no need to complete another application.

If you have any queries please speak to Shana or Sue in the office.



















# Newsletter article: Schools in Category 3 on the Bushfire At-Risk Register and the Category 4 list.

School preparations for the bushfire season

Each year, to prepare for bushfires and grassfires, schools and early childhood services complete a range of activities.

The Department of Education runs an annual fire risk assessment of schools and early childhood services. They are allocated a category of risk (categories 0 to 4) and are published on the Bushfire At-Risk Register (BARR).

All schools and early childhood services listed on the BARR and Category 4 list will also close when a Catastrophic fire danger rating day is forecast in their fire weather district.

When the Bureau of Meteorology provides public fire danger rating forecasts or fire weather warnings, they use fire weather district areas. In Victoria, there are 9 fire weather districts, which are based on Local Government Area boundaries. Our school is in the Central fire weather district.

As part of preparing our school for the fire season, we have updated and completed our Emergency Management Plan and reprioritised any maintenance works that may assist in preparing for the threat of fire.

What does this mean for our school?

Our school has been identified as being at risk of bushfire or grassfire and is a Category 4 school.

Our school will close on a day forecasted as Catastrophic fire danger rating in Central fire district.

What is the department's policy?

The department's Bushfire and Grassfire Preparedness Policy requires all schools and early childhood services on the BARR and the Category 4



list to

close when a Catastrophic fire danger rating day is forecast in their fire weather district. All school bus routes which travel in or through a district with Catastrophic fire danger must also be cancelled.

When will our school be closed due to Catastrophic fire danger?

Our school will close on a day forecasted as Catastrophic fire danger rating in Central fire district.

Closure of the school due to a forecast Catastrophic day will be confirmed on the day prior and we will provide you with advice before the end of the school day. Any information regarding potential or confirmed Catastrophic fire danger days will be communicated to you by Compass.























Once confirmed, the decision to close will not change, even if the weather forecast changes. This is to avoid confusion and help your family plan alternative care arrangements for your child. It is also important to be aware that:

- No one will be on site on days where the school is closed due to a forecast Catastrophic day.
- Out-of-school-hours care will also be cancelled on these days.
- School camps will be cancelled if a Catastrophic fire danger rating day is forecast for fire weather district in which the camp is located, or if the travel involves passing through areas that have Catastrophic fire danger.

Families are encouraged to action their Bushfire Survival Plan on Catastrophic fire danger rating days. On such days, children should never be left at home alone or in the care of older children.

For those of us living in a bushfire prone area, the Country Fire Authority (CFA) advises that when Catastrophic days are forecast, the safest option is to leave the night before or early on the morning of the Catastrophic day.

What can families and the school community do to help us prepare?

- Ensure we have your current contact details, including your mobile phone numbers.
- Keep in touch with us by reading our newsletters, checking our Compass newsfeed, by talking to your child's teacher or any other member of the teaching staff about our emergency management plan.
- Make sure your family's bushfire survival plan is up-to-date and includes alternative care arrangements in the event that our school is closed due to elevated fire danger or closed due to a Catastrophic fire danger. Further information can be found on the CFA's website.
- Action your family's bushfire survival plan if your own triggers are met. Our school community may be spread out across many areas and some families may be at higher risk than others. Your family's safety is critical, so please let us know if you are actioning your bushfire survival plan and if your children will be absent on these days.
- If your child is old enough, talk to them about bushfires and your family's bushfire survival plan.

You can find more information on emergencies, warnings and preparedness actions here:

- VicEmergency app that can be downloaded on your android and iOS mobile devices
- VicEmergency Hotline (1800 226 226)
- Website https://emergency.vic.gov.au
- Facebook (https://www.facebook.com/vicemergency)
- Twitter (https://twitter.com/vicemergency)
- ABC local radio, Sky News and other emergency broadcasters



















# News from the Prep Classes

Across the Prep grades, we have been practising our routine of Circle Time to begin our day. Circle Time involves a good morning, check in, reading the acknowledgment of country, looking at our timetable for the day, discussing our school values as well as a Positive Primer- something to makes us laugh, have fun, and feel good before we start our learning.

The Prep students put away their bags and are now in the routine of forming a circle before we begin anything else for the day.

Our Preps have settled so amazingly into all school routines. We are very proud teachers. Ms Melissa, Miss Anna, Miss Merryn and Miss Richelle































# News from Grade 1/2 Classes

This fortnight in year 1/2 we have been following the writing process of planning, drafting, editing, and publishing a narrative. The students have developed their characters and settings and written imaginative stories.

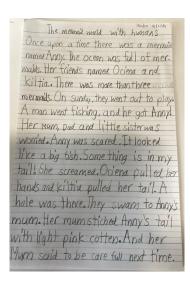
In numeracy we have been practising our problem-solving strategies by solving open ended numeracy problems. Students have used counters, created tables, and used drawings to show their solutions and mathematical thinking.

During reading we have completed sorting and labelling our classroom library and have sent home student reading diaries and books to read at home. It has been great to see how the students are excited about taking books home to read.

We are learning about health in Inquiry and have started by discussing and acting out different scenarios to include others in our school community. Students have worked collaboratively in small groups to play characters and solve social situations.

The students in 1/2 have embraced their learning and are enjoying working together to create a classroom environment where everyone is included.

Mrs Stirrup, Ms Dimovska, Ms Tara Ms Danielle, Ms Sacco & Ms Maddi



























## News from Grade 3/4 Classes

This fortnight in year 1/2 we have been following the writing process of planning, drafting, editing, and publishing a narrative. The students have developed their characters and settings and written imaginative stories.

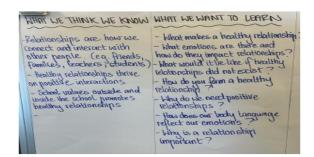
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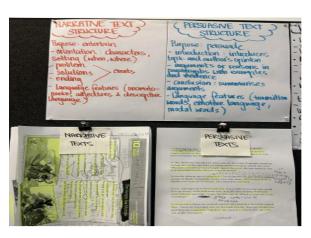
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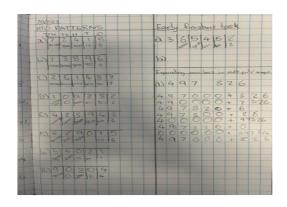
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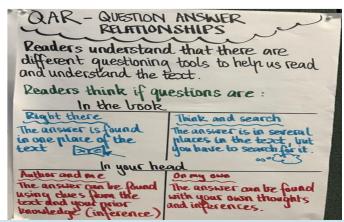
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Ms Lanie, Ms Jess & Ms Jules



























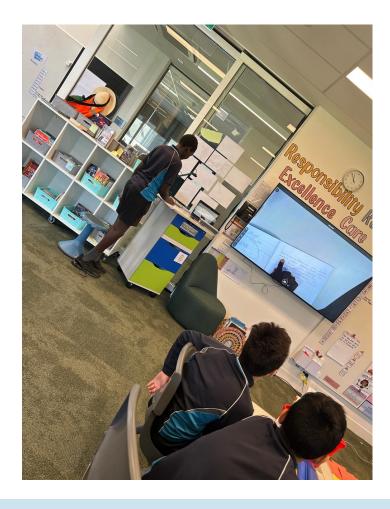


# News from Grade 5/6 Classes

What a successful start to the year we have had in 5/6! We have focused on developing new routines and processes within our Learning Community, as well as celebrating the uniqueness of each individual. We have enjoyed actively participating in collaborative tasks, such as our 'Island Adventure' that required essential skills such as communication, compromise and problem solving. One component involved helping our classmates safely across the 'island', otherwise known as our Sports Field. It involved many laughs!

As we are the new school leaders, we are also focusing on the ways in which we can set examples for other students in the school, by modelling expected behaviours within our school community. We look forward to achieving new goals this year and having lots of fun whilst doing so!

Miss Jade. Miss Jess and Miss Markovic



















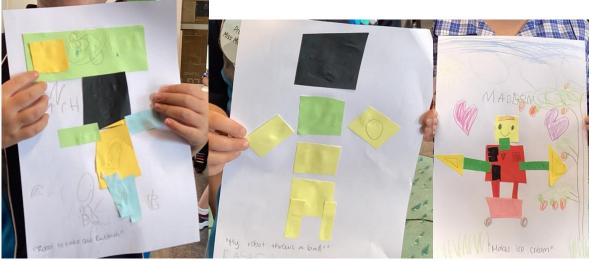


# News from STEM

The Preps have been discovering the different type of robotic devices in our everyday life. The students were excited to share they had a washing machine and robot vacuum at home! The students used coloured shapes to create their own robot that had an important job to do. The students ensured to include 4 important features of lights, sound, buttons and power.

Mrs Lay

























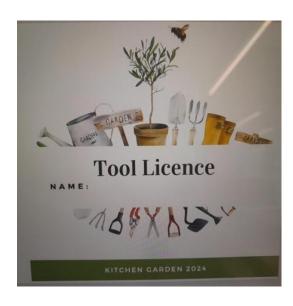


# News from Kitchen Garden Program

The Grade 3/4 students have enjoyed the opportunity to explore the new Kitchen Garden classroom. They have been learning about routines, expectations and how the Deanside values align with Kitchen Garden lessons. All students now know how to fold up gloves, so you can get them to apply these skills on your sock basket at home! Lastly, the students had fun getting their hands dirty while weeding the garden and then getting the opportunity to test out their new handwashing skills.

Mel



























# Kitchen Garden News

Thank you to all the wonderful families that have donated cooking equipment to help set up the Kitchen Garden classroom. We only have a few items remaining on our Kmart Wish List. If you are interested in donating an item, please see the link on Compass for more details.

Just a reminder that all families need to complete the Kitchen Garden Participation Form on Compass as soon as possible so we can begin to plan our menu for Term 2. We cannot start cooking until we have all forms completed.

Finally, we are amazed by the enthusiastic response from volunteers for the Kitchen Garden Program. We will be reaching out soon to everyone who expressed interest in assisting, providing information on our upcoming Induction Sessions.







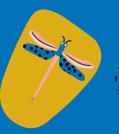


















# News from Visual Arts

In Grades 3 and 4, artists have been learning about the dispositions needed to be successful in art- perseverance, resilience and creativity. They created an image from a scribble provided by a fellow artist. The results are amazing! Grade 3 and 4 artists have also been practising these skills while recalling their knowledge of the elements of line and shape and how they can be used to make patterns.

### Ms Popcczyk



