



Broderick Gillawarna School

Term 2 Issue 2 2018

School vision: Connecting communities to enhance the development of students' living and social skills through innovative practice. Empowering students to become independent successful lifelong learners.

Firstly, let me thank all those parents who have supported our school community activities this semester, including our 'community kitchens' programs, yoga and Zumba sessions, workshops and parent excursions. We would like to think that we are making a difference to our families by providing these opportunities and look forward to providing more activities next semester in response to the success of these programs. If you have not already done so, please join in and check out what is on offer for Term 3 and beyond. Much more fun to come!!!

As there continues to be a growing interest in NDIS funded therapy provided during school hours, there is now a need to highlight certain guidelines for providing of therapy in schools through the Department of Education. The school is currently supporting over 27 therapists working with our students and there are a number waiting to meet with me next term. As a result, I will be seeking feedback from teachers early Term 3 as to the impact of therapists in their classrooms to find the best way forward in accommodating future therapy requests. I thank you for your understanding and patience as we navigate the NDIS together in support of all our students and their families.

A REMINDER: If you have a therapist attending the school and your child is going to be absent on a therapy day, it is your responsibility to notify your therapist. The school will not do this for you. You may be charged for that therapy appointment even though your child did not receive the therapy.

As a result of significant student absences since the introduction of NDIS, it has become necessary to highlight some important Departmental requirements regarding student absences.

Student absences for therapy during school hours off site:

All student absences to attend therapy appointments during school hours, require prior approval from The Director, Public Schools. Therefore, an application for exemption from attendance at school is required to be completed and forwarded to Riverwood office for approval. The school requires a letter from the parent requesting the therapy and a letter from the therapist providing the therapy. Reasons must be given as to why the therapy cannot be delivered outside of school hours. NB: Applications are only being approved under exceptional circumstances. You will be notified if your application has been successful. Students should not be

accessing therapy in school hours without approval from the Director. This would be an 'unjustified absence'.

The NDIS Operational Guidelines state that: "NDIS- funded therapy services should generally not be delivered at school. Nor should children or young people be taken out of school to receive these supports"

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Student absences:

Unsubstantiated student absences appear to be growing and teachers have been alerted to ensuring all student absences are explained in the class roll as part of their responsibility as a classroom teacher. As the school has regular roll checks, it is the responsibility of parents to ensure their child's absence is explained to the school so the absence is recorded appropriately. Our school is a Department of Education school and we are required to keep appropriate records of student attendance and all students are required by the department, to attend school on every day the school is open for instruction. Therefore, if your child is too unwell to attend school, you are required to inform the school of their absence and inform us of when they will return. If your child attends a doctor's appointment due to illness, please request a doctor's certificate to be forwarded with your child when they return to school which will be placed on your child's file. All unexplained student absences of 3 days or more, will be followed up with a phone call from your teacher or the office to ensure there are no concerns or need for support from the school or School Councillor.

Erratic Attendance: (Students not accessing Assisted School Travel buses) where the erratic attendance is occurring regularly (at least once or twice a week)

Erratic attendance of students, including those where the student is continually late to school, will also be followed up by the teacher. As per Departmental guidelines, all students are expected to attend school for the hours the school is open and our students are expected to be ready to start classes at 9.00am. Late arrival to school can impact significantly on classes and on individual student learning outcomes. Any late arrival to school must be explained in the class roll so the leave can be substantiated. There are a number of reasons why students are late to school that are appropriate and these reasons will be marked in the role as 'justified'. However, other reasons such as 'sleeping in' are not and if occur regularly, will be marked as 'unjustified'. If, after an initial discussion with the parent regarding the absences does not resolve the issue, a follow up letter may be required explaining further action and the possibility of intervention of the 'Home School Liaison Officer'.

PLEASE NOTE: The school will always attempt to resolve any issues of attendance with the parent prior to any follow up action. We understand that individual circumstances can impede on getting students to school on time and illness of a student or family member can directly impact on attendance. Therefore, it is imperative that initial communication with the school, class teacher or myself occurs as soon as possible and regular updates are provided to ensure the school can continue to support our families appropriately and in a timely manner.

Overseas travel during school terms:

If you would like to take your child overseas for a holiday or for family reasons, during a school term, prior exemption is required to be given before the travel commences. A letter advising of the intention to travel overseas is required before the travel date, to ensure the appropriate exemption paperwork is completed. The letter should include the date of travel and the date of return to school. A certificate of exemption will be issued that will need to be carried with you when leaving the country to inform Immigration that the school is aware of your travel plans. If there is a change to the date of return to school, you will be required to advise the school of the new date of return.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the above information, please call the school to make an appointment and I will be happy to discuss further. Further information regarding student attendance is available on the Department website.

TERM 2 FINISHES ON FRIDAY, 6TH JULY.

TERM 3 COMMENCES TUESDAY, 24TH JULY.

MONDAY, 23RD JULY IS A STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY. NO STUDENTS ATTEND ON THAT DAY.

Wishing you all a very restful and relaxing holiday and we look forward to welcoming you back next term

Regards,
Karen McDonell
Principal

Important Dates:

Term 2 Ends - FRIDAY, 6TH JULY.

Term 3 Begins - TUESDAY, 24TH JULY.

Naidoc Week Gardening and Cooking Workshops - TUESDAY 24TH JULY

Term 3 Ends - FRIDAY 28TH SEPTEMBER

Schools Spectacular - FRIDAY 23RD NOVEMBER – SATURDAY 24TH NOVEMBER

Look out for the new Community Kitchen timetable during Week 1 Term 3



Butterfly Class



Butterfly class have been enjoying using the new musical instruments in the sensory garden, including the drums and xylophones. On a sunny day we also practice being safe by staying with our group during walks around the garden.



Bandicoot Class Bike Riding



Learning to ride a bike strengthens kids with special needs physically. The exertion of the pedaling allows them to develop the leg muscle organization and endurance they might have lacked before. Bike riding can fine-tune motor skills and physical coordination as well as aid with balance.



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Badger Class



Did you know that accidental drowning is the leading cause of death of children with ASD?

During weeks 8 and 9 we are participating in the Swim Scheme, to learn water survival skills. Our confidence in that water has increased and our skills in floating, treading water, and swimming to the edge of the pool, have improved so much over these two weeks.



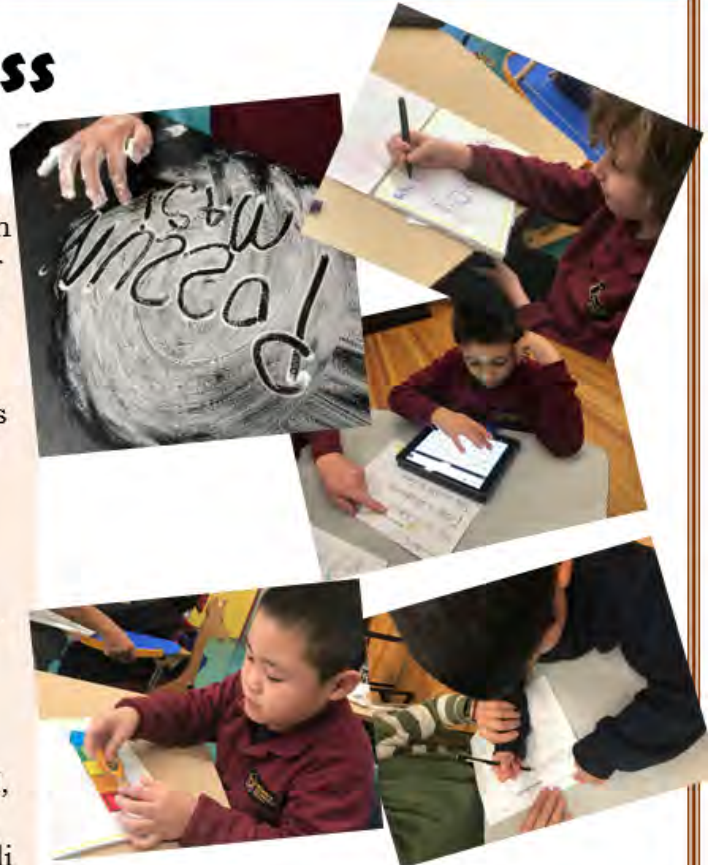
Bear Class

Our mornings get very busy in Bear class with Morning Circle and desk work. This semester we have been developing our pencil grip and writing. We write in many different way – sometimes it's through sensory activities, other times matching the letters of our names with colours, using a pen, tracing and also using the iPad. Sometimes it can get a bit tricky to do by ourselves so Bronwyn and Kristy help us.

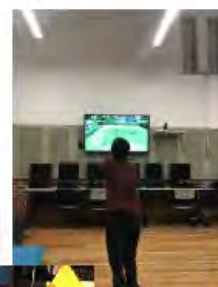
We look forward to showing you some of our progress later on in the year.



Kristy, Bronwyn, Ali H,
Ali M, Andrea, Ayan,
Jordan, Kenny and Soli



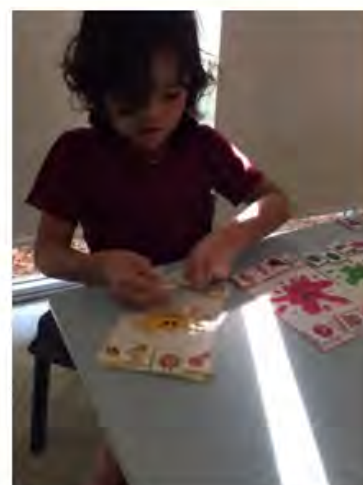
Caterpillar Class



In Caterpillar Class we love getting out and doing some physical activity! We are moving around the school and staying healthy by doing lots of different activities.

Chipmunk Class

This term Chipmunk Class have enjoyed experimenting with different mediums to create artworks, sequencing the alphabet, sorting colours, matching our numbers and going on our very first excursion. We have all had a great term getting to know each other, bring on term 3!



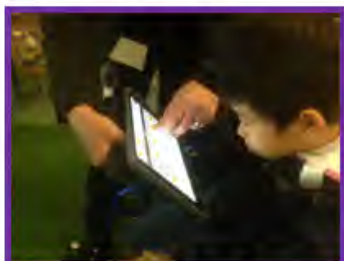


Dragonfly Class



Class Dragonfly techno experts at work!!!!

Phu using iPad



Ibby listening to online story



Meena requesting for more



Rabih watching 'Mr Maker'



Meena playing the guitar



Olivia using wireless switch



Dalmatian Class



Our recycling program has begun with the arrival of a new recycling bin. During our unit work Sustainability, the Dalmatian class have focussed on Rainforests as a sustainable environment. They have made many animals for our rainforest wall including sloths, tigers, boa constrictors and frogs.



Class Barrett



We are remaining active even in the cooler months. Some of us are practising ball skills and others are still busy in the garden and planting.



Safiyah tiding up Zen Zone Cafe



Angus tiding up after Zen Zone Cafe



Darell sweeping the sand into the sandpit



Anna collecting pasta bake order forms

Class Deer

Work experience



This semester, Class Akuete (Macaw) has been participating in investigating how plants grow. Each student planted spinach and spring onion in a small plastic container. The students participated in looking after the plants by using a watering can to water the two plants daily. The students demonstrated excitement when they see the small plants sprouting from the seeds after one week.

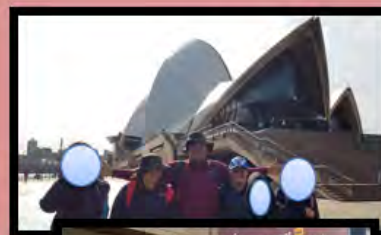


Mouse Class



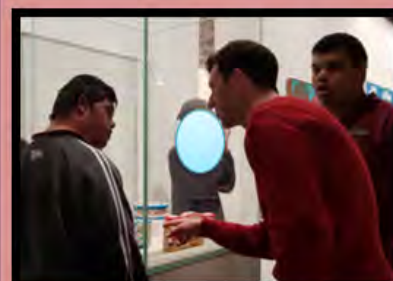
Mouse Class participates weekly in cooking lessons which incorporate TEACCH and PECs. We are all working towards Phase 2 of PECs.

MEERKAT CLASS



Meerkat Class have been busy with travel training trips to the city during the term. They have visited Circular Quay, the Opera House and the Botanical Gardens, learning about how to get around on public transport with appropriate behaviour.

We also had a guided tour at the Art Gallery of NSW, looking at how different artists represent the built environment. Students even made their own artwork of the city!



Magpie Class



Class Albatross



This term, Class Albatross have been participating in packing items to build work experience skills. Students worked with a number of different packing items to increase their numeracy skills of counting and matching objects.



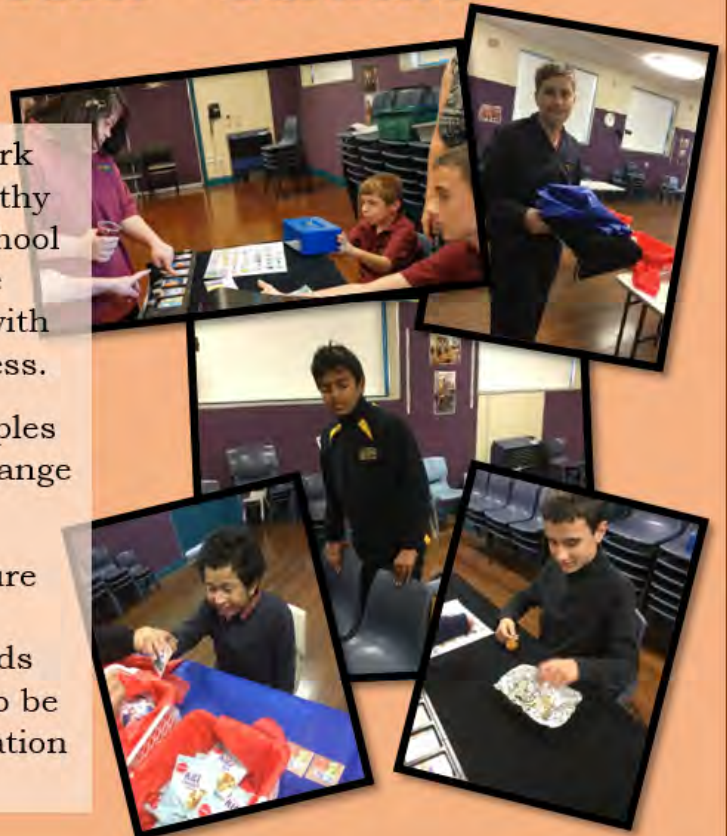
Class Anteater - Gardener



Class Anteater has been hard at work each week bringing yummy and healthy items to the Broderick Gillawarna School **Healthy Canteen**. This month we introduced carrot and celery sticks with hummus which proved a great success.

Other items we have included are apples and mandarins, while the fruit will change depending upon the season.

We are also hard at work making sure that everyone can have a voice implementing PECS folders and iPads with ProloQuo2Go in the hall ready to be used by students for their communication needs.





Combined Excursion



Some of our integration students participated in a combined excursion with Revesby Public School to Zone bowling at Revesby Workers Club. Students from both schools had a fun morning competing with each other and developing their social skills. We look forward to more integration opportunities with Revesby Public next term.



Minecraft: Education Edition @ BGS

Broderick Gillawarna School has been lucky to be part of the state wide rollout of a Minecraft Education Pilot program and we were one of the few special needs schools to be involved in the program.

Students from class Anteater and Albatross were involved in learning how to navigate in the world, school rules when socialising with others in a virtual world and how to build basic structures.

By the completion of the program students were independently accessing the program, designing their own simple structures and solving complex problems within the game world



Shining Stars



On Wednesday June 20th 5 students represented Broderick Gillawarna School and performed as part of the Shining Stars group at the Spotlight Dance Festival. We had a great time rehearsing and working towards our final performance. We caught up with old friends and made many new ones as well.



Reverse Integration

Some of our B + C Block students have been enjoying reverse integration with Revesby Public School. Each Wednesday they visit and we have engaged in literacy activities around the book 'Brown Bear, Brown Bear'. Our friends from Revesby, have helped us during shared reading and writing and we have shown them how we use Proloquo2go to communicate and engage in writing. We have really enjoyed the weekly visits from our friends.





Tickets now on sale through Ticketek

NSW GOVERNMENT

SCHOOLS SPECTACULAR 2018

SCHOOLS SPECTACULAR
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23 & 24 NOVEMBER QUDOS BANK ARENA

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Partners: T, Randwick Markets, REGIONAL, 7, AEG OGDEN

Northcott
Let's see what you can do

Supported School Transport

and transition to the National Disability Insurance Scheme

As the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) comes into place, the Australian Government wants to hear directly from NDIS participants, parents, carers, school communities and transport providers about how we could best support transport to and from school for NDIS participants into the future.



Transport provider and stakeholder workshops

We are currently working with state and territory governments and the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) to understand if and how supported school transport could be delivered in the NDIS. To help inform future options, we are holding workshops with the services and supports delivering supported school transport, such as transport providers, disability services, advocates and other interested stakeholders. Workshops will be held in a number of locations across all states and territories during June and July 2018.

Register your interest at

<https://engage.dss.gov.au/supported-school-transport-and-transition-to-the-national-disability-insurance-scheme/>

We encourage you to read the discussion paper about the future of supported school transport online at engage.dss.gov.au prior to attending. If you are unable to attend a forum/workshop, you can still have your say by making a submission directly to the Department of Social Services online.

Current supported school transport arrangements will remain the responsibility of state and territory governments until all governments have considered the outcomes of the consultation and agreed on an approach.

Please note: Places are limited. Registering your interest does not guarantee you will be provided a placement. The Department is not able to provide funding support to attend a forum or workshop. If selected to be part of a forum or workshop, you will be sent further details about the time and venue.

1800 818 286

northcott@northcott.com.au

northcott.com.au

Northcott Georges Hall Children's Respite House

41 HAIG AVENUE, GEORGES HALL NSW 2198



5 bedrooms 2.5 bathrooms 2 living areas and three outdoor areas

Northcott Blair Athol Children's Respite House

6 SAINT STEPHEN ROAD, BLAIR ATHOL NSW 2560



5 bedrooms 2.5 bathrooms 2 living areas, plus outdoor area

Northcott Normac Children's Respite House

28 NORMAC ROAD, GIRRAWEE NSW 2145



5 bedrooms 2.5 bathrooms 2 living areas, plus playroom

Call 1800 818 286
for more
information or to
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