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Newsletter

Principal: Russel Cowan

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15th September, 2021

It has been wonderful to welcome back the Prep -2 students last Friday. Schools are meant to have children in them, I can't wait to welcome all students back. While we don't know when this will be, fingers crossed its soon, we do know that the higher the vaccination rate, the sooner things will get back to a sense of normality. If you haven't already done so, please speak to your doctor or trusted medical professional.

We have continued to be busy over the lockdown period with works about to commence on our new shade sail and outdoor eating / classroom area. Many years of fundraising and dedication have gone into this project.

For those of you who have purchased tickets in the Thermomix raffle, thank you. If you haven't already done so, please snap up one of the few remaining tickets before the closing date next week.

MASKS – Our students have been fantastic at adapting to wearing a mask indoors and outdoors. A huge congratulations and thanks to everyone involved in making this happen so seamlessly. Why are children asked to wear a mask? The Chief Health Officer has made the recommendation for all primary school students to wear a mask to limit the spread of this virus. I fully support this recommendation as it looks out for the wellbeing of the whole community. I thank the large majority of families for supporting this recommendation as well. We have approx. 99% of students in masks with the support of their families. A reminder to families who do not wish for their child/ren to wear a mask that they must communicate this with the teacher.

HYGIENE – We are encouraging all children to frequently wash and sanitise while in school. This is one of the numerous COVID safety measures we have in place.

COVID Clean – I have engaged our cleaning company to complete thorough COVID cleaning every day. This involves a thorough cleaning of all touch and high use areas.

CAMPS Camping program Term 4 – Thankyou to all parents who completed the short survey sent out in regards to the 3 – 6 camping program. I have reviewed the results. In the 3/4 area 80% of families are happy to send their child/ren on camp. In the 5/6 area 82% are happy to send their child/ren on camp.

If restrictions allow and if we can obtain a spot we will endeavour to get our students on a camp in term 4. Canberra camp has now been postponed to 2022. This means that our cycle rotation has now moved to even years. Parents of years 4 and 5 students this year will receive communication in regards to next year's Canberra camp.

REMOTE LEARNING - While in remote learning, the Teams meetings happen daily for students to check in with their teachers. Please contact your child's teacher if you have any questions about the work being set.

CONCERT UPDATE – we have once again been forced to move the concert date. The new date is now Thursday 14th October at 11:30am. This will be performed via livestream. The link is on our school webpage (see below). It is important to note that only immediate family members (parents, grandparents and student siblings) can view the footage.

ON THE DAY visit www.gordonps.vic.edu.au and click on the homepage concert link .

TRANSITION PREP 2022 We are now beginning the planning for 2022 and early in Term 4 we will be finalising the number of classes and staffing. If you know of anyone in our community considering enrolling for 2022, please encourage them to do so ASAP.

Prospective parents can access the virtual tour from our school website. I am committed to smaller class sizes, however, this comes at a significant cost to the school. Please continue to promote our fantastic school and community. Simply put, our students are lovely with a very supportive community surrounding them.

We have come to the end of the term, where did it go! Students, you have a very well deserved holiday coming up, what an amazing effort! Parents, I do hope that you are also able to take a break as you thoroughly deserve one as well. Together with the amazing efforts of our staff we have ensured that or students have continued to progress. Its hard to believe, but we are only one term away from 2022. Lets recharge over the break and reset for a great term 4. We are committed to engagement and motivation when the kids return. Student wellbeing is always at the forefront of our minds and if you have any concerns please reach out and let us know ASAP. Have a great break everyone!

Russel Cowan

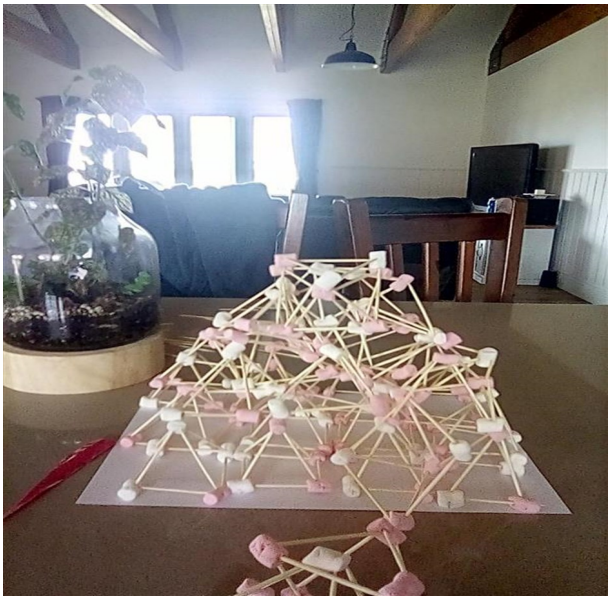
(Principal)

Lily Ashton And Lilly with their STEM prizes

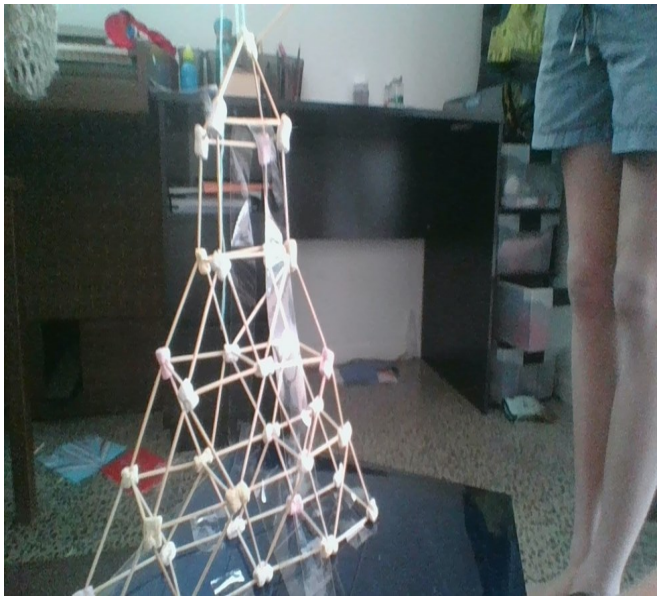
As you know, recently we had STEM days for grades 3 to 6 during remote learning. There were some amazing efforts and a terrific amount of work completed producing some amazing results! There were different prizes up for grabs for the different year levels including the tallest, strongest and most amazing constructions. There were some amazing efforts with both towers and bridges being constructed. Mr. Renfree.

Grade 3 winners

Lilly Sharpe

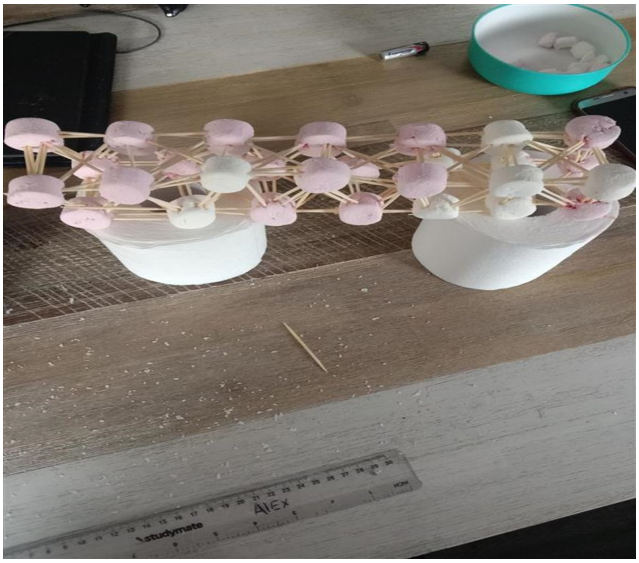


Josh Goss

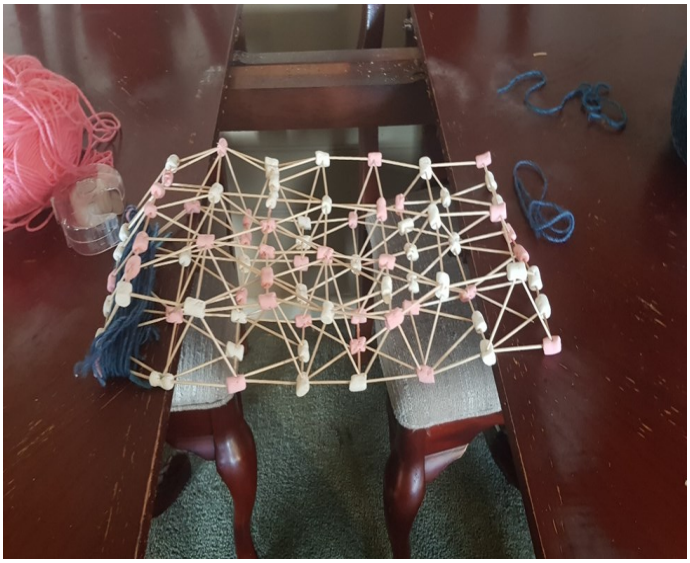


Grade 4/5 W winners

Alex Weston



Addison Chapman



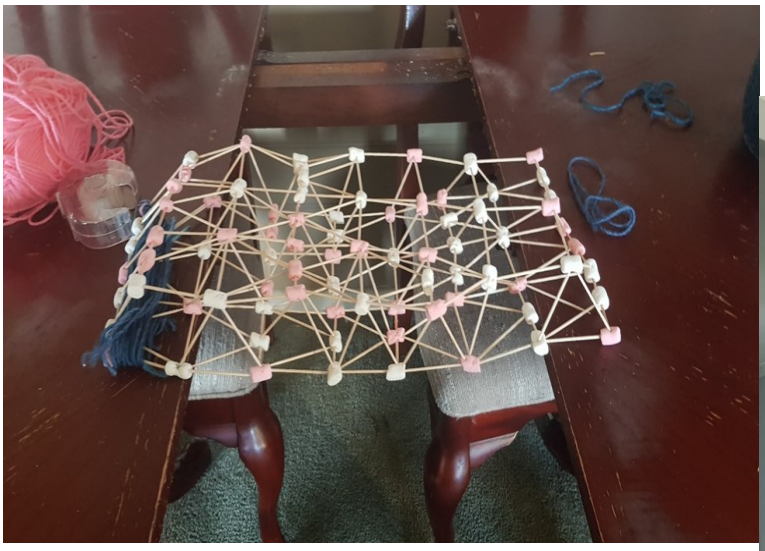
Darcy Summerfield

4/5M Winners

Declan Swan

Lily Gillespie

Paige Chapman



Grade 6 winners

Dakota Somerville

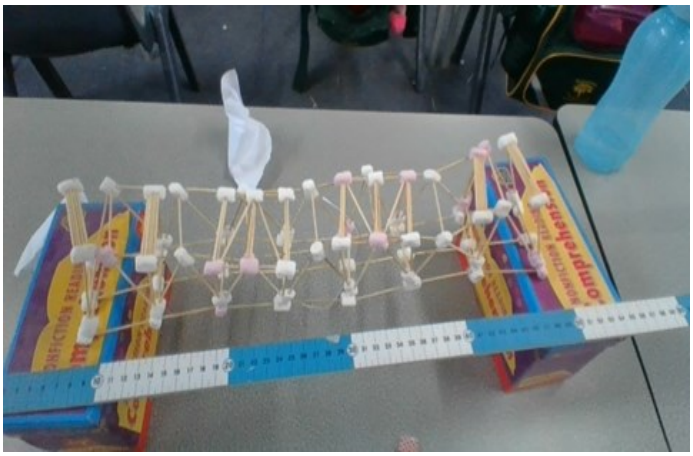
Ashton Hatcher

Special mention to Kael for the strongest work which while not a tall tower, was able to hold the weight of his brother!

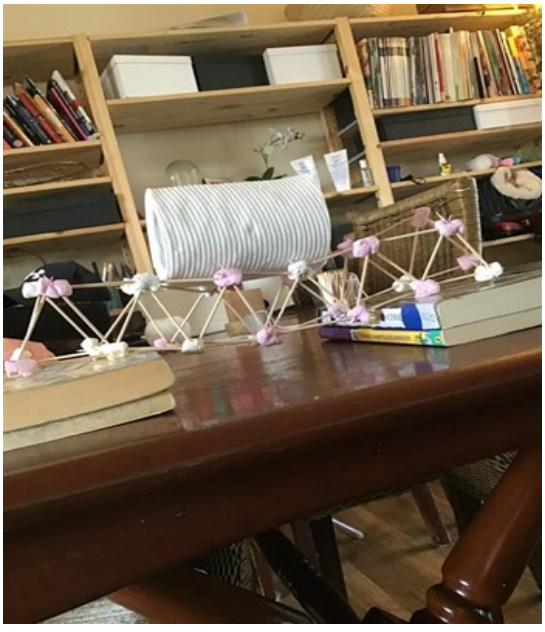
Winter Anderson

Hailey Burgoyne

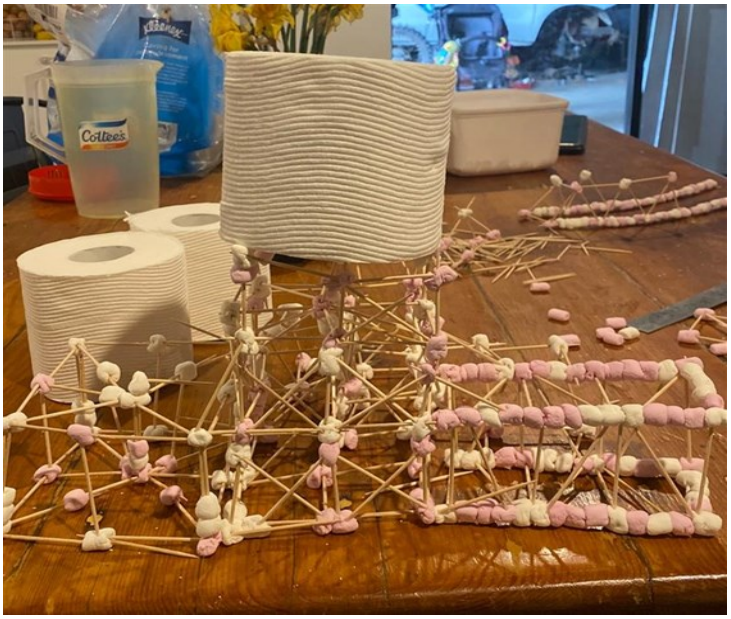
Zara Redfearn



Isabelle Ferrari



Liam Campbell



Prep/1s participating in "seated volleyball" as part of the Paralympics appreciation week in PE. Students participated in some modified games from the Paralympics, viewing some footage explaining the different categories at the games. Lots of laughter and excitement with balloon volleyball!

FRISBEE FRIDAYS

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BIRTHDAYS

We would like to acknowledge students who have or will be celebrating their birthdays. (Including during the school holidays). We will place your birthday bookmarks in your teacher's pigeon hole.

Happy birthday to: Lily Murray, Sophie Middleton, Riley Willie, Wyatt Hill, Brooke Balfour-Glassey, Aiden Sharpe, Sara Kanti, Madeline Brunk, Evelyn Schumann, Joss Ray and Tommi Bonar.

LAST WEEK'S STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

P/1H: William and Tyson

P/1C: Jake and Blair

Grade 2: Wolfgang and Pia

Grade 3: Cody, Hudson and Grace

4/5W: Hamish and Aidan

4/5M: Charlee and Isabelle

Grade 6: Connah, Dakota, Kael, Kai, Kate and Milla

STEM / PE: Charlee J and Alana G

THIS WEEKS STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

P/1 H: Cohen and Elliot

P/1 C: Flynn and Riley H

Grade 2: Tilman and Sophie

Grade 3: Liam and Maggie

4/5 M: Elke and Lily

4/5 W: Addison and Alex

Grade 6: Ashton and Makayla

STEM / PE: STEM Challenge winners

Grade 3: Lilly and Josh

4/5 M: Lily , Declan and Paige

4/5 W: Alex, Darcy and Addison

Grade 6: Dakota and Ashton

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

Thursday 16th September Last Day of Term 3

Assembly 2.00

Finish time 3.15

Monday 4th October First day of Term 4

Thursday 14th October Concert livestreamed 11.30 a.m.

Monday 1st November Student Free Day

Tuesday 2nd November Melbourne Cup Day

Wednesday 3rd November Camp Wyuna departure

Friday 5th November Camp Wyuna return

Tuesday 16th November Prep Information Night for 2022

Wednesday 17th November Prep Transition session 9-11a.m.

Wednesday 24th November Prep Transition session 9-11 a.m.

Tuesday 7th December Prep Transition 9 a.m - 1.35 p.m.

Tuesday 7th December Yr.7 Orientation Day (Yr. 6 students)

All dates were correct at the time of going to print however they may be subject to change.

ONSITE DURING REMOTE LEARNING

Prep/One Castles Remote Learning

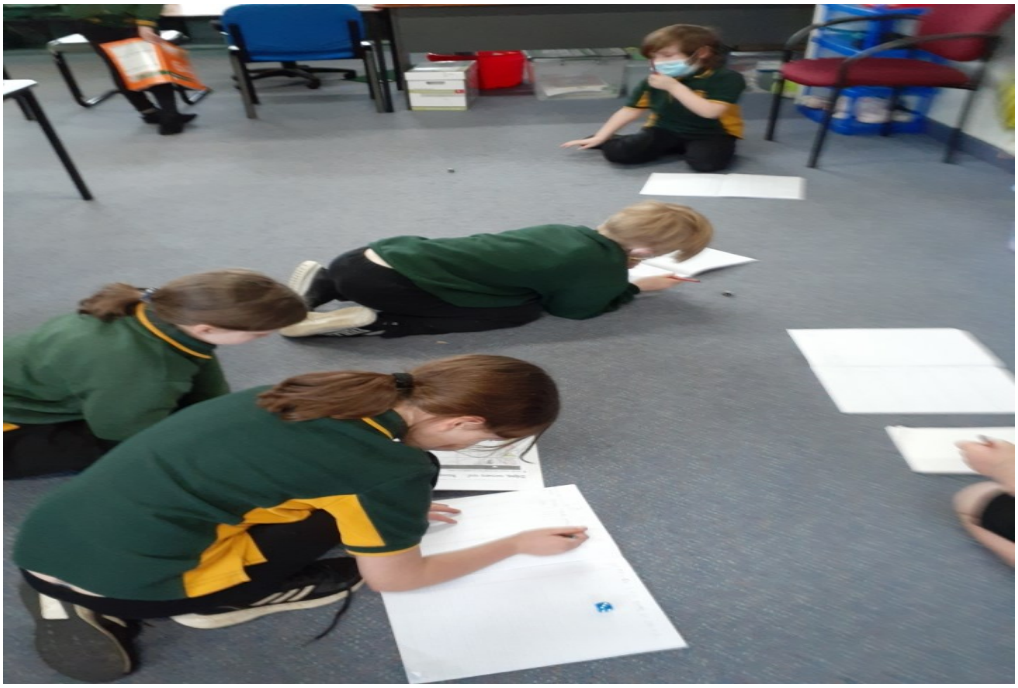
Wacky Wednesday Dress Ups

Winnie and Zoe's chicks and incubator.

Arthur is growing up thanks to Riley's great care.

Evie and Winston's pups are beyond cute!

Grade 2 working on their 'Chance' Experiments



Ballan Cricket Club

2021 / 2022 Season

October 2021 - March / April 2022

All abilities welcome - No experience necessary

SHOUT OUT TO ALL THE GIRLS

Come and make new friends and get active playing in our

All Girls Junior Cricket @ Ballan Cricket Club

Seeking Players for our All Girls - Under 14s Team
(Mixed Teams also available Under 11s, Under 13s, Under 15s & Under 17s)

Come and Try Day, Saturday 18th September 2021 - from 11am, Ballan Rec Reserve, Cowie Street, Ballan

Meet the Coaches I Try your skills I Enjoy a BBQ

Any queries forward to **sec_ballancc@hotmail.com**

COVID - Safe Protocols Apply

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