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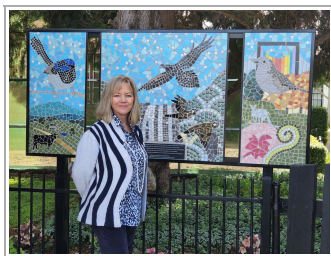


Term 1 Week 5

Principal's Message

The term is certainly off to a flying start, and we are nearly at the halfway mark!

It was lovely having the chance to meet with our Kindergarten parents this week to discuss each Kindergarten student's successful start to their schooling.



Parent, teacher and student meetings for Years 2 and 3 will be arranged to take place during the next two weeks.

Thank you to all families for helping to plan our Dubbo excursion. The prompt return of feedback has made the task of planning easier, a great collaboration that will ensure our trip to Dubbo, visiting Wambangalang Environmental Education Centre and the Taronga Western Plains Zoo, will be a positive and educational experience for students. I look forward to our meeting on 1 March as we finalise details for this exciting whole-school excursion.

One of the unique features of Hernani Public School is the outstanding support provided by all families and our P&C. The 1 March "Banana Split" afternoon provides a wonderful opportunity to celebrate our P&C and for students to say thank you!

NAPLAN 2023

The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) is a point in time assessment of literacy and numeracy skills. Each year students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 participate in tests for writing, reading, conventions of language (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and numeracy.

From 2023, NAPLAN is moving to Term 1 and will take place from Wednesday 15 March to Monday 27 March. The reason for this change is so that results can be returned to schools earlier in the year which will support teachers to understand the learning needs of their students and plan accordingly.

NAPLAN tests are just one part of our school learning assessment program and questions are primarily based on knowledge, understanding and skills gained from the prior year of schooling.

In preparation for NAPLAN 2023, our school will undertake activities to help students become familiar with the format and functionality of the online tests. These activities are not an assessment of student ability and will not be marked.

Students and parents can access the public demonstration site (<https://www.nap.edu.au/online-assessment/public-demonstration-site>) to familiarise themselves with NAPLAN and the types of questions and tools available. Excessive preparation for NAPLAN is not required nor recommended.

If you have any questions about NAPLAN, please contact the school for more information.

Good News Story

Hosted by the beautiful Hernani school staff, teachers from Hernani, Dundurrabin, Dorrigo, and Orama Public Schools joined together for professional learning with the focus of 'Close Reading'.

The Collaborative Support, Unique Settings (CSUS) team of Mel Sydenham (Literacy and Numeracy Implementation Coach) and Mel Morris (PSL) worked collaboratively with teachers, principals and APCI's to further develop teaching practice, plan for classroom implementation and develop school SIP's to reflect and plan for next steps.

The CSUS project has assisted schools in developing a data-based focus for teaching at point of student and teacher need, before supporting schools in building staff capacity through targeted professional learning and ongoing support.

Student learning data and principal feedback indicates the success of the project in creating measurable learning, with scaffolded SIP support a feature of the project.

Hernani Public School continues to provide outstanding learning experiences in the Creative Arts for students. The 2023 school year has commenced with two wonderful learning opportunities being implemented each Thursday.

Students are participating in weekly Zoom lessons with a staff member from the New England Conservatorium of Music (NECOM). Following our singing lesson students are enjoying learning to weave using table looms. Our plan includes each student creating their own pencil case and a bookmark. This unique learning experience has been facilitated by a member of our school community. This truly encompasses Hernani's motto: 'Community Achieving Success'.



NECOM MUSIC and WEAVINGFUN

THURSDAYS

What wonderful learning experiences our students are participating in each Thursday.

We are learning new songs, beginning to read musical notation, and having GREAT fun with actively involved movement games as we are singing.

Students are learning two songs in preparation for the Armidale Eisteddfod, "Monkeys are in the House" and "Seasons."

It is pleasing to see the skills and enjoyment acquired during our Thursday Zoom lessons with Mrs Mackson are being transferred to our weaving afternoon activities with Lis.

Our K-3 classroom weaving lesson today was a wonderful environment, with spontaneous song and intense focus and application by all students to their weaving tasks, sewing to create their own weaving designs, and using the two looms with Elias and Lis. The class was abuzz with energy, passion and positive wellbeing. We love the Creative Arts.

Keep it up Team Hernani!



LEARNING with the KINDERS

Our Kindergarten students are powering ahead on their learning journey, reading lots of stories, learning about language, sounds, and meeting two new friends. This week we met Maggie Mouse and Sammy Seal (introduction to the sounds m and s, and the letters S and M.) We have also been on a Bear Hunt, and we were not scared! Kinders waded through tall grass, squelched through mud, crossed a river and so much more!

We have also been hard at work on mathematics, investigating attribute trains, making attribute circles, exploring dot patterns, and subitizing.

The highlight for all Kinders this week has been starting My Lexia, Essential Assessment and making blueberry muffins - what a busy week! if your child is arriving home feeling tired, this is totally understandable. School life is so much fun and very busy. PS we forgot to mention learning to play Corner Spry and golfing skills with Brandon. Today we learnt how to use a putter.

My New Gallery



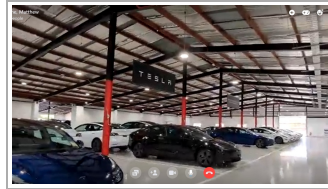
Golf with Brandon



My New Gallery



Tesla



The year 3 'Close Read' this week centred on an online news article detailing Tesla's current efforts to design and produce a new, cheaper car model, which will be

priced at around US \$25,000. As a complimentary activity, the Year 2 and Year 3 students were treated to a 30 minute video call with a Tesla employee (a friend of Mr Davis), who works at a Tesla showroom and warehouse based in Melbourne.

Students received a tour of both facilities, were shown the exterior and interior of both the Model 3 and Model Y, were given a tour of how to control all aspects of the car using the Tesla touch screen, and were able to see the Model 3 in 'dance mode'. The warehouse contained hundreds of Tesla cars, which have been purchased by Australians, shipped over from the Giga Factory in Shanghai, and are awaiting pickup.

Apart from receiving an explanation of electric cars, how they are charged and so on, the students had an opportunity to each ask three questions. My personal favourite was "does Tesla have any plans to make a new model, in which you can press a button and the car makes you a smoothie or chocolate milkshake?" I personally think that would be a very useful feature when stuck in traffic, or after a long day.



