

CROSS CURRICULUM NEWS

Sustainability

... a year of action ...

1. Wastewise

Kids Teaching Kids students perform at Target

On Tuesday 3rd December the Year 5/6 class visited the Target store in Perth to conduct their workshop on ... *The Amazing, the Sensational 100 Tonne Plan!* The presenting students did an outstanding job and the whole class represented our school in an exemplary manner.

After the workshop Target staff conducted the students on a guided tour of the store's waste management initiatives. This experience enhanced our children's knowledge as well as their presentation and critical thinking skills.

2013 has been an extremely successful year in terms of the *Kids Teaching Kids* leadership program. Last term eleven students presented a workshop at the *Climate, Coasts and Communities Conference* in Mandurah. (Target was a *Kids Teaching Kids* conference sponsor.) Then, on Wednesday 6th November, eight students from our Year 5/6 class and two from the Year 6 class presented a *Kids Teaching Kids* workshop at the *TravelSmart Showcase* at City Farm. The final workshop at Target affirmed the impressive performance skills of our students. Sincere thanks to Mrs Melville and all the parents, students and other staff involved in the *Kids Teaching Kids* program.

Resources Rescuers

Anne Pettit, a waste education officer from the Mindarie Regional Council, recently visited our school for the last time this year. Anne has been working with the Year 3 & 4 students to deepen their knowledge and understandings of waste. She is supporting them to become *resource rescuers!* See the photos of the students in action during this lesson.



Many thanks to Anne for supporting our Wastewise Schools program.

2. Biodiversity

Eco-forensics

As a member of the Carbon Kids program, Coolbinia Primary School was offered the opportunity to participate in an Eco-forensics workshop. Our Year 5/6 students enthusiastically investigated water and soil samples, as well as animal specimens, to determine the health of our ecosystem. The photos show very engaged students...



Worm Farming

Sessions were conducted for the PP children to engage them in caring for their worm farms. Students learnt how to care for the worms and what to feed them. They also examined worms with a magnifying glass and drew a labelled diagram of the external features of a worm. The photos below illustrate the high level of interest in this topic ...



3. TravelSmart

The final whole school TravelSmart event was held on Friday 29 November. This term's Year 6 TravelSmart team conducted pre and post hands-up surveys to ascertain the impact of their TravelSmart Day. They achieved nearly 10% increase in students travelling to school by walking or riding bikes /scooters due to their event. Congratulations to all participants!

Overall the year has been an outstanding success from a TravelSmart perspective ... we achieved our "Gold" award as a TravelSmart School for all our initiatives to increase TravelSmart behaviours across the whole school community. Congratulations to all our TravelSmart leaders this year and to all the enthusiastic TravelSmart participants.

4. EnergySmart

This year Coolbinia's EnergySmart focus was embedded into Physical Science lessons and relevant Society and Environment programs. Our solar power system continued to not only reduce our electricity costs but also provide an outstanding learning context. This year we generated 12525kWh and saved 11816 kg CO₂. On an average day we generate 58.5 kWh, and our maximum power generated was 102.6 kWh.

5. Waterwise

Drop by Drop Workshops

The education officers from the Water Corporation have visited most classes this term. Students participated in workshop related to water conservation, water and health, and water and plants. The last workshop, involving the use of microscopes to examine different plants, was held last Thursday in the Year 4/5 and 5/6 classes. The students were highly engaged and thoroughly enjoyed the lesson. Many thanks to the Water Corporation for providing these free workshops that facilitate a deeper understanding of water issues in WA and across the world.

Water focus in Year 2

If you were fortunate enough to attend recent school assemblies, you will have seen the outstanding work being undertaken by our Year 2 classes on 'water'. The powerful integration of this sustainability issue into the students' learning programs was very effective. See the students in action last Friday:



100 Tonne Plan

Our new 100 Tonne Plan, which aims to reduce greenhouse gases from the atmosphere by 100 tonnes by the end of 2014, is progressing well. This plan links all the foregoing Eco footprint (biodiversity, waste, water, energy and transport) actions together, supported by our Social Handprint (wellbeing, partnerships, social &

cultural diversity) actions, and helps us move towards the removal of our 10 tonne 'cans' on our Upside Down Thermometer.

Great news ... Sir David Brand School and Mt Lawley Senior High School have joined us to work towards the 100 tonne goal. Isn't this empowering community cooperation and action ... together we are making a difference! Thank you.

Performing for RSL Care Residents

Year 3 students visited RSL Care recently to perform a short concert for the residents. They sang beautifully and enthusiastically, touching the hearts of the residents. This excursion not only provided students with the opportunity to showcase their performance skills but also to link with the wider community in a caring way, which is an important part of our Social Handprint and sustainability commitment.



Aboriginal Cultures and Histories

Over two days last week students from Years 2-4/5 created bird and frog murals with Peter Farmer Snr, the renowned Noongar artist. Peter farmer Snr was joined by his son, Peter Farmer Jr, to work with the students. The bird mural was painted on the outside of Room 12 and the frog mural was created on Room 11. See the fabulous photos of the students in action.

These huge art works completes our whole school focus on the Australian Curriculum Cross Curriculum Priority *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures* for this year.



Sincere thanks to Peter Farmer Snr and Peter Farmer Jr for guiding our whole school in deepening our understanding of Noongar culture, from the creation of the six seasons mural earlier this year to the new bird and frog murals. Year 7 students also decorated the fascia boards of the new gazebo with Aboriginal symbols, also supported by Peter Farmer Snr.



2014 has been a phenomenal year for our engagement with the Aboriginal Cultures and Histories Cross Curriculum Priority which resulted in Coolbinia Primary School being awarded the Winner of the 'Environment' and 'Overall Schools' categories of the PALS Awards. The PALS acronym stands for the qualities of **P**artnership, **A**cceptance, **L**earning and **S**haring. This program encourages young people to take a leadership role in strengthening relationships in their local community between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people. Many congratulations and thanks to all involved in these sensational learning experiences over the year.





Australia's Engagement with Asia

Coolbinia's engagement with the Asian Cross Curriculum Priority of the Australian Curriculum continued throughout the year from a whole school perspective, as well as being embedded into class programs. You will recall 2013 started with our Harmony Day celebrations, which also involved our whole school project to raise funds to provide solar lanterns to replace polluting and dangerous kerosene lanterns.

This term another wellbeing project was completed. It linked with our Waterwise Schools program and involved students raising funds for Oxfam's *Clean Water Saves Lives* initiative. Through the sale of finger puppets and other items \$110 was raised to provide clean water to families in Cambodia.

Sincere thanks to everyone who supported these caring initiatives.

Have a sensational and safe holiday...

Elaine Lewis

Cross Curriculum Coach

10th December 2013