

## Cross Curriculum Priorities

Welcome to the July edition of news from the Cross Curriculum Coach ...

The Australian Curriculum identifies three cross curriculum priorities:

- Sustainability
- Aboriginal Cultures and Histories
- Australia's Engagement with Asia

### Sustainability

#### Eco Footprint

##### 1. Biodiversity Action:

**Children's Gardens** In Term 3 we study Biological Science so the garden is full of activity ...



Yr 1, Rm 10 potatoes



Yr 1, ELC2 mixed vegies



Yr1, ELC1, barley\*

\*Barley growing is part of our Curtin Uni's *Mildew Mania* research to help barley farmers.



Yr 2, Rm 9 mixed vegies



Yr 2, Rm 8 pansies and snap dragons in recycled wheelbarrow and bed of mixed vegies



Yr 4, Rm 3 mixed herbs and vegies

## **Native bee Hotels!**

An environmental consultant, Joe Tonga, is conducting ‘native bee hotel’ workshops with our Year 5 and 5/6 students (Rms 4 & 5). The students are learning about the importance of stingless native bees in our ecosystem and taking action to conserve them by constructing bee homes for our school grounds and bushland. This unit of work is part of their Science and Technology studies.



Students using woodworking tools to make native bee hotels ...



Native bee hotels  
ready for painting ...



## **River Rangers**

### Bushland Research

Year 6 students are continuing their research, regularly monitoring their quadrats, observing and photographing changes over time.

The students have nearly completed their book on the bushland. This is a very exciting project that demonstrates how the Sustainability and Aboriginal Cross Curriculum Priorities are embedded into Literacy, Science and Geography.

### Environmental Singer

Kelly Newton-Wordsworth, world renowned environmental singer, visited our school to share her songs and knowledge with the River Rangers on Monday 27 July. Kelly inspired the students to create different ways of spreading environmental messages, as she has done through song.

After school Kelly also conducted a staff session, as part of our Teacher Development School: Science program.



Kelly singing with the students



Kelly sharing with staff

### Animal Encounters

Kaarakin, the Black Cockatoo Conservation Centre, visited our school at the start of second term. Kaarakin volunteers conducted a presentation on the biology and habitat needs of black cockatoos. This incursion, for classes in PP/Yr 1 and Years 3/4 & 4, was part of their bushland studies, integrated into Literacy and Science.



Students from Year 4 have taken action to support the conservation of black cockatoos. They held an assembly stall on Friday 31 July with a “Guess how many feathers in the jar” competition to raise funds for Kaarakin.

### 2. WasteWise:

Students in Years 4 and 5/6 (Rms 3 & 5) will be supported in their Biological Science studies this term by a visit from a Wastewise Educator (Mindarie Regional Council). This hands-on incursion will focus on the benefits of worm farming and composting. More details later!

Please continue to support the various wastewise initiatives across the school:

- Recycle batteries outside the Kwobadarn door
- Recycle used toothbrushes and oral care packaging outside the Kwobadarn door
- Recycle mobile phone inside Kwobadarn door
- Recycle food scraps using the green bucket in the undercover area
- Use a ‘nude food’ lunchbox without gladwrap or aluminium foil



### 3. WaterWise:

#### Water Incursions

This term water incursions have been organised for Years 3 and 5/6 (Rms 12 & 5) as part of their Biological Science studies. These incursions will be conducted by a Water Corporation education officer. More news later!

#### Waterwise Fact

Water travels a long way before it reaches your tap ... it travels through almost 35,000km of water mains ... and that's enough to circle the moon three times ... our water is precious!

#### **4. EnergySmart:**

Our EnergySmart program is ongoing. Recording our solar power system data commenced on 13 September 2012.

On 29 July 2015 our solar power system has generated over 49,661kWh and saved more than 46,850kg of CO<sub>2</sub>. This outcome contributes to our 200 Tonne Plan target.



#### **5. TravelSmart:**

The new Term 3 TravelSmart team from Year 5 (Rm 4) are organising the following TravelSmart activities for this term:

- Travel surveys ... pre and post hands-up surveys to obtain baseline travel data and evidence showing the impact of special walk/ride to school days.
- Fume Free Fridays ... to reduce congestion around the school and help the environment. Please walk or ride to school every Friday.
- Walking School Bus ... they are fun, healthy and good for the atmosphere!

Overall, the students are aiming for double Platinum level in TravelSmart this year, so please walk/ride to school and support the students' initiatives. Thank you.

### **Social Handprint**

#### **1. Student Wellbeing:**

##### **New Year 6 Leadership Teams**

Our senior students start their new leadership groups this term. The Mentors will be assisting with the fortnightly assembly garden stall and the Ambassadors will be representing our school at the Kids Teaching Kids conference in Mandurah.

The lunchtime Garden Club continues this term too, providing children with a safe happy environment in which they choose to work together to help the environment.

#### **2. Aboriginal Cultures:**

The assembly on Friday 31 July was a special community event that welcomed many Aboriginal guests. The Moorditj Mob Dance Group from Wesley College performed a range of dances ...



We also welcomed Beverley Rebbeck and Abby Lamont from the Department of Aboriginal Affairs to accept a token of our appreciation for the support the PALS Team (see below) has provided our school. Rebecca Melville and students from her 2014 Year 1/2 class, presented Beverley and Abby with their totems board. This artwork was originally created for our 2014 PALS project:



### ***3. Cultural & Social Diversity:***

Year 2 students in Rooms 8 and 9 have been making pizza in their cooking sessions. This was a tasty component of their global education.

Many thanks to the hard working teachers and parent volunteers who support our cooking programs.



### ***4. Community Partnerships:***

Many thanks to Friends of Coolbinia Bushland for providing our school with over 400 native seedlings to plant in our bushland.

National Tree Day was held on Friday 25 July and students from seven classes planted that day. All classes will have the opportunity to plant native seedlings over the next few weeks.



## **5. Economics & Built Environment:**

### **Boya Currency:**

Boyas are our local currency created to acknowledge and reward environmentally and socially supportive actions. There are three different boyas circulating in our community and wider: 1 boyo, 5 boyo and 10 boyo notes. Boyas can be spent at assembly garden produce stalls and the canteen. Our new 200 Tonne Plan will include designing new 20 boyo notes, so watch out for these in the coming months.



## **Aboriginal Cultures and Histories**

### **'Bushland Trail' 2015 PALS Project**

The aim of the 'Bushland Trail' project is to enhance understandings of Aboriginal culture. The project is part-funded by a PALS grant. The PALS acronym stands for the qualities of Partnership, Acceptance, Learning and Sharing. This program encourages young people to take a leadership role in strengthening relationships in their local community between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people. This year our Aboriginal culture focus will be based in our bushland.

The 2015 PALS project will address the 'Community Participation' category of the PALS awards. This focus on community participation will be achieved in four main ways:

- working with and learning from Aboriginal educators;
- publishing and distributing a book about our learning experiences;
- conducting an arts festival reflecting student learning about Aboriginal cultures and histories; and
- celebrating our relationships with Aboriginal people on a community day.

### **Kids Teaching Kids Conference**



Year 6 students will be attending the Kids Teaching Kids Conference in Mandurah this term. They will be conducting a workshop based on the Bushland Trail project. Students will create games for workshop participants to learn about our bushland in relation to environmental and Noongar understandings.

### **Bush Tucker Garden**

Our bush tucker garden is blooming. These Eremophila maculata are displaying bright red flowers and will soon have fruit.



# **Australia's Engagement with Asia**

## **Wildways Program**

Our school has been selected to participate in the Perth Zoo-Asia Literacy Wildways Program. This program uses art as a vehicle to raise awareness about conservation issues and to promote positive action encouraging people to care for precious ecosystems in both Asia and Australia. The aim of the program is to enable deep and rich student learning to occur through collaborative planning between the Year 6 classroom teacher, Erica Graca, and the Cross Curriculum Coach, Elaine Lewis.

Students will investigate common environmental issues pertaining to their local and SE Asian regions and express their understandings of the role of sustainable practices and conservation in the environment through a banner. The production of a banner as the visual arts focus may also focus on the investigation into the loss of biodiversity within an ecosystem and the purpose the Perth Zoo plays in securing long term populations of species in natural environments. The students have commenced work on this project and the banner will be completed by 18 September. It will be submitted to Perth Zoo for public display.



Example of a previous banner created by upper primary students for the Wildways program for International Year of Forests ...

Sincerely

Elaine Lewis

Cross Curriculum Coach (Part time role; located in the Kwobadarn on Tuesdays & Thursdays)

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