

# Cross Curriculum Priorities

**Welcome** to the March 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

### 100 Tonne Plan Achieved ... Next Target?

Last year we achieved our 100 tonne target to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions. Students are currently voting for their preferred target for the coming year.

What do you want our next greenhouse gas emissions reduction target to be? Please provide feedback to Elaine Lewis about the 100 Tonne Plan and what we should aim to do next. You may do this by:

- emailing Elaine – [Elaine.Lewis@education.wa.edu.au](mailto:Elaine.Lewis@education.wa.edu.au) ;
- talking with Elaine on Tuesdays when she is at school.

Your input is vital! Please provide feedback. Thank you.

### Eco Footprint

#### 1. Biodiversity Action:

#### River Rangers

Our River Rangers cadets – all Year 6 students – have been very busy already. They have

- documented their activity preferences;
- learnt about how a catchment works using a catchment model;
- worked in the bushland setting up and monitoring quadrats; and
- participated in 'living with fire' workshops at the Perth Hills Discovery Centre.

Catchment Model – students added different pollutants to the Swan Canning catchment and observed the impact these had on the environment.





From black in January to a touch of green in February - signs of regrowth ...



Hardenburgia, Zamia Palms and Grass Trees are sending forth green shoots. Students are measuring the regrowth in their quadrats on a monthly basis.



### Turtle Watch

Coolbinia Primary School is the first school in WA to be officially recognised as a Turtle Watch School by the Turtle Watch Committee of the Australian Association for Environmental Education (WA Chapter).

The accreditation certification was forward to the school last month in recognition of the work done by our students last year to support the conservation of our local freshwater oblong turtles.



The school was required to identify at least three actions it had taken to enhance awareness of the turtles' plight due to loss of habitat, predation and changing climate. One of the actions outlined to the Turtle Watch Committee was our work with Noongar totems, including promotion of the turtle at the totems concert at the end of last year.



Oblong turtle in the painting by Peter Farmer, Noongar artist, and students from Years 4-6.

## Volunteers

Special thanks to our Sustainability volunteers this term:

- Gardening: Leonie Tanner and Tom Hallam
- Garden produce stall: Leonie Tanner
- Kitchen: Sophia Dimovski and Barbara Makrides

These helpers make a huge contribution to the running of our education programs. Sincere thanks.

If you would like to volunteer in any area of the Cross Curriculum Priorities please see Elaine. Your support is greatly appreciated.

## 2. WasteWise:

### Schools Clean Up Day

As part of the Keep Australia beautiful initiative, Schools Clean Up Day was held on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> February. Classes selected an area of the school grounds to collect any litter.

Year 6 Mentors conducted a safety check of all sites before collection commenced and weighed and categorised the litter at the end of the day. Total waste collected: 10.5kg. This was 4.25kg more than last year because of an extra effort by the River Rangers in cleaning up the burnt area of the bushland.

The most common categories of litter were:

- 55% paper and cardboard
- 20% plastic bags and gladwrap
- 10% glass
- 5% chip and lolly wrappers
- + smaller percentages of plastic bottles, aluminium cans, caps and lids.



Room 9 students cleaning up around the Kwobadarn

Sincere thanks to all participants. You enhanced the appearance and cleanliness of our school by your actions!

### Free Woodchips

If you need woodchips for your garden you may access the huge pile near the garden shed on Glick Street.

Please advise the office if you will be taking a load of woodchips. Thank you.



### Bobtail Recycler

The bobtail recycler, located in the undercover area, has been emptied again! Proceeds go towards solar lanterns for schools in Uganda. Congratulations and thanks to all recyclers!



### Wastewise Action Plan

The report on the school's Wastewise actions for 2014 and the Wastewise Action Plan for 2015 have been submitted to the Environmental Regulation Authority. We will therefore be receiving our 2015 Wastewise Accreditation Certificate shortly.

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

- Recycle batteries 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:

#### World Water Day

International World Water Day is held annually on 22nd March to focus attention on the importance of freshwater and advocate for the sustainable management of freshwater resources.

Check out: <http://www.unwater.org/worldwaterday>

We will be celebrating World Water Day during Week 8, 23-27 March. Students will learn about water, by for example, viewing "Water Changes Everything" and engaging in water based morning fitness activities.



Our students will engage in collection and water saving activities.



### Waterwise Action Plan

The school's Waterwise Action Plan for 2015 has been submitted to the Water Corporation and we will be receiving our 2015 Waterwise Accreditation Certificate soon. Many activities have been scheduled throughout the year to enhance awareness of the following topics:

- Water supply
- Water conservation
- Wastewater
- Water and health
- Water and the natural environment
- Stormwater and waterways

### Waterwise Song

Cathy Smith, Music Specialist, will be showcasing the award winning Waterwise song our students wrote last year at a Teacher Development School professional learning session for teachers this month. Cathy will be illustrating how our teachers integrate The Arts, Science, Geography and Sustainability from a holistic perspective.

Thank you Cathy for your outstanding support for our students and willingness to share your creative approach with other teachers.



Our students performing their waterwise song

### Waterwise Fact

Water is a combination of two flammable gases but can put out fires!

### 4. EnergySmart:

Our EnergySmart program is ongoing. Today I visited a pre-primary class (ELC 3) and talked with them about how to save energy ... and the children were already knowledgeable about turning lights off when they were at play outside. Well done pre-primaries!

Pre-primaries Ecological Footprint showing the energy efficient light globe along with other sustainability issues (travel, waste, water & biodiversity)



## 5. TravelSmart:

Year 5 is the TravelSmart year in our K-6 Sustainability program. On Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> February Mr Owen's class reviewed understandings about the Ecological Footprint and where 'transport and air quality' fitted into sustainability education. The Term 1 TravelSmart team then met to organise TravelSmart activities for this term:

- Travel survey ... a pre survey was conducted to obtain baseline travel data for the school.
- Fume Free Fridays ... to reduce congestion around the school and help the environment. Please walk or ride to school every Friday.
- Ride to School Day ... on 6th March. A post survey will be conducted that day to determine the difference a special TravelSmart day makes to how students come to school.
- Walking School Bus ... they are fun, healthy and good for the atmosphere!
- Idle Free Zones ... in school car parks to reduce carbon emissions.



Overall, the students are aiming for double Platinum level this year, as they achieved initial Platinum status as a TravelSmart School in 2014.

Click here for: [Active Travel results for the school in March and November 2014](#). This document shows improvement over the year as well as the positive impact of special TravelSmart days.

Please be TravelSmart and support the students' initiatives. Thank you.



## Social Handprint

### 1. Student Wellbeing:

#### RSL Care Visits

Coolbinia's supportive relationship with RSL Care, Menora, has resumed this year.



Students singing at RSL Care

Discussions are underway about scheduling our first concert at RSL Care for this term. Students are looking forward to presenting before such an appreciative audience.

### 2. Aboriginal Cultures:

Last year the school worked with Peter and Miranda-Lee Farmer on our award winning 'Understanding Totems' project. Peter worked with our students on a large artwork representing our totems, while both Peter and Miranda-Lee provided information about the different totems. This painting is now on display in our school library.



### 3. Cultural & Social Diversity:

Coolbinia PS will be celebrating Harmony Day again this year. Harmony Day, 21<sup>st</sup> March, celebrates Australia's cultural diversity. It's about inclusiveness, respect and a sense of belonging for everyone. See: <http://www.harmony.gov.au/> We are planning our usual Multicultural Dress-up Day and associated celebrations this month.



### 4. Community Partnerships:

Coolbinia PS has close links with many community organisations and government departments. The South East Regional Centre for Urban Landcare, known as SERCUL, has been very supportive to our school. SERCUL was formed in 2003 as an independent Natural Resource Management body in Perth and brings together the community, business and government to develop and implement projects that improve the health of our waterways and other ecosystems.



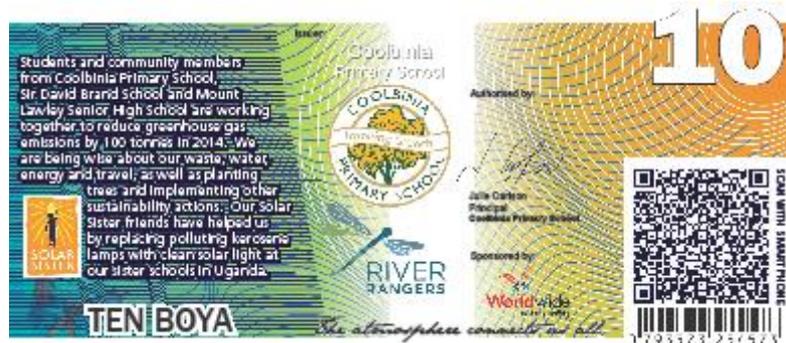
SERCUL has supported us by conducting workshops, developing resources and providing over 250 native seedlings for the children to plant in the bushland each year. Thank you SERCUL for your support.

## 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 boya notes from our initial 10 Tonne Plan in 2011,
- 5 boya notes from our 50 Tonne Plan in 2012-2013 and
- 10 boya notes from our recently completed 100 Tonne Plan, 2013-2014.



Boyas can be spent at assembly garden produce stalls and the canteen.

## 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 aim of this project is to create a trail through our bushland, identifying plant and animal species, in the context of Noongar culture. Issues such as the six seasons, regeneration after fire and the use of plants for food and medicines will be addressed.



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.



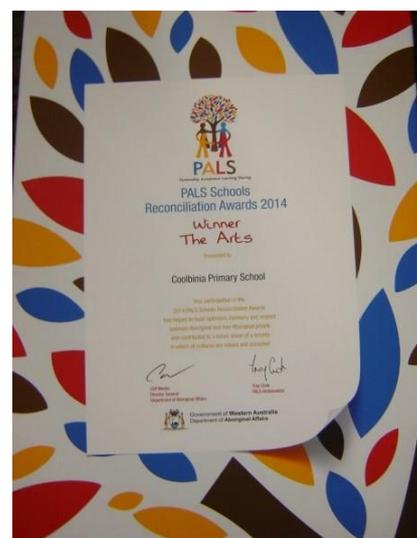
The “Bushland Trail” project will include a focus on the impact of bushfires, monthly monitoring of quadrats in the bushland, constructing and installing bat boxes, a planting program, weeding and litter collection. We will work with Aboriginal educators to enrich our learning.

The project will involve the whole school, K-Year 6, and beyond. It will expand to include parents, carers, grandparents and the wider community, Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people working and sharing together.

For two years running Coolbinia PS has won PALS awards for our work in this field, and we will be aiming for another successful year in learning from and engaging with Noongar people.



2013 PALS Overall Winner and Environment Award



2014 PALS Arts Award

The 2015 PALS project aims to enhance relationships and futures between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people. This aligns with Coolbinia PS's *Reconciliation Action Plan* that is working to develop sustainable community partnerships focused on building positive relationships for all.

## Australia's Engagement with Asia

To enhance the implementation of the Asian Cross Curriculum Priority of the Australian Curriculum, a new partnership has been established with the University of WA through Professor Lyn Parker, Anthropologist with the UWA School of Social Sciences, Asian Studies. Elaine and Professor Parker are exploring avenues for collaboration, such as starting a sister school relationship with a primary school in Indonesia. See: [http://jogjacommunityschool.org/?page\\_id=34](http://jogjacommunityschool.org/?page_id=34)



Sincerely

Elaine Lewis

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

2 March 2015