

Cross Curriculum Priorities ... 2020



Continuing our school wide STEM project in our bushland,
including a focus on beetles later this year.

Welcome to the Term 2, 2020 edition of news from the Cross Curriculum Leader. The WA Curriculum identifies three Cross Curriculum Priorities (CCPs):

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

These priorities are embedded across a wide range of learning areas, from English to Science, Technologies, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM), Geography, The Arts, Health and Physical Education.

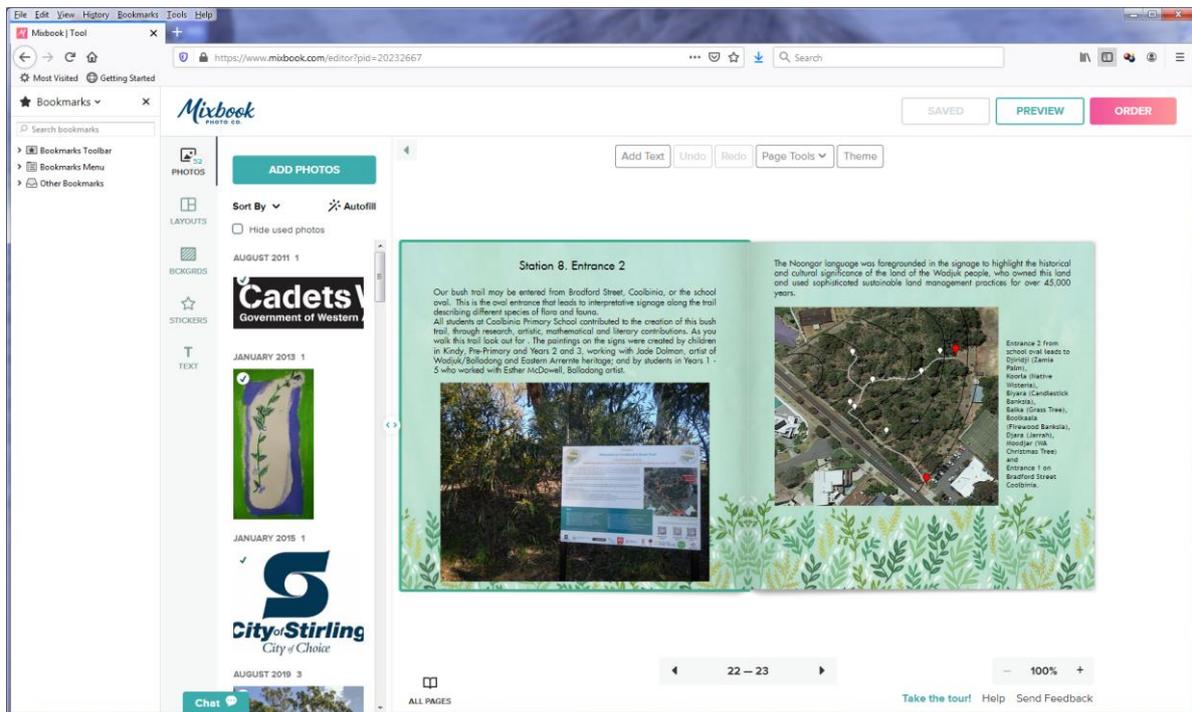
This newsletter gives you a taste of the 2020 learning adventures conducted in Term 1 and outlines plans for Term 2.

Innovative Bushland STEM project

The whole school bushland STEM (Science, Technologies, Engineering, Mathematics) project is continued in 2020. This builds on the achievements of 2019, specifically incursions related to the bushland project, the creation of interpretive signage and the official opening of the bush trail in third term last year. This bushland project was showcased at the STEM Innovation

Expo in Term 4, 2019, resulting in more community contacts for the 2020 bushland investigations. One of these contacts was with CSIRO, developing a joint Professional Learning workshop with CSIRO staff and Coolbinia Primary, based on *Two-Way Science* learning programs that connected Aboriginal cultural knowledge, Western science and the WA Curriculum. This workshop was developed last term.

Also, during Term 1, work on a new bushland book commenced, detailing the children's learning and artworks (Kindy-Year 6). A team of students from Year 6 volunteered to be on the Editorial Committee, supported by Dr Lewis. Here is an early sample from the book:



Pre-Primary children also visited the bushland as part of their investigations into different types of housing. In small groups, the children reviewed different mia mia designs, selected the design they wanted to make, collected natural materials from the bushland, made their mia mias, tested them to determine if they were waterproof, then modified their designs until they had created waterproof shelters. The following photos summarise this process:





Eco Footprint

1. Biodiversity Action:

Visiting Microbat

Last term we cared for a disoriented microbat, then returned it to the bushland. Students installed microbat boxes in the bushland some years ago and these are in use.



Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Program

Our new gardener has started preparing class garden beds for planting this term. You will be



seeing these beds sprouting green shoots soon ...



River Rangers

Coolbinia Primary is a River Rangers school. All classes are involved in this environmental and citizenship program, on a graduated scale in terms of funding allocated, with a large proportion of the funding going to learning experiences for our senior students.

Last term our Year 6 students were involved in weekly River Rangers activities, that included attending a leadership conference and an International Women's Day (IWD) event, as well as participating in class workshops about migrants and refugees in our community, and community service by collecting litter in the bushland and raising funds for the Red Cross Bushfires Appeal.



IWD
Breakfast



Roots and Shoots Club

Native Bee Hotels

The first three weeks of Term 1 were devoted to doing maintenance on the Native bee hotels. Students cleaned out the hotels and replaced old straws containing the remains of native bee brood chambers.



Investigations

Other Term 1 activities included refreshing the wheelbarrow gardens located in the quadrangle and investigating different types of sand across the school grounds.



School and back yard safari

Following the highly successful school yard safari program, which was conducted by Roots & Shoots members during 2019 with over 50 students attending the weekly sessions, this term we are focussing on birds and all creatures with wings.

Some of winged wonders already identified are mudlarks and wattlebirds:



Students like Peter in Year 4, submitted photos of his observations of a grasshopper moulting:



2. WasteWise:

National Clean-Up Day

The whole school participated in National School Clean-Up Day on Friday 28th February, collecting litter from the school grounds and the bushland. The students collected 6.35kg of litter. The main categories of litter found were: plastic food wrap and bags, fruit juice cartons, paper and cardboard. This is a huge improvement on the 2019 results due to a significant reduction in dumped builders' rubble.



Recycling

We are continuing our recycling initiatives this term:

 batteries

- ✚ old toothbrushes & oral care items (no cardboard toothpaste boxes)
- ✚ mobile phones
- ✚ plastic bread bag clips
- ✚ old writing implements
- ✚ old pairs of glasses
- ✚ ink cartridges
- ✚ paper and cardboard (include cardboard toothpaste boxes here)
- ✚ plastic bottles
- ✚ plastic bottle tops
- ✚ aluminium cans
- ✚ coffee pods
- ✚ All these bins may be found at the Kwobadarn (student kitchen).



Our school also recycles:

food waste by worm farming and composting. Students learn about the benefits of worm farming and how to care for the worms. Here two Waste Warriors are collecting food scraps for the worm farm ...



Coolbinia Primary was recognised for 10 years continuous WasteWise Accreditation last year and this sustainable journey is ongoing.

The two Year 5 classes manage the WasteWise program. Here two of the Year 5s are attaching the 2020 Accreditation sticker to the WasteWise sign at the front of the school:



3. WaterWise:

Proud to be a
**Waterwise
School**

Perth Catchment Model ...

2020 marks our 10th anniversary as an active Waterwise School. This is a huge achievement ... congratulations to all Coolbinians for your efforts over the years.



Year 3 students are our Water Warriors. They use rainwater for watering the gardens and hanging baskets, as well as topping up the bird baths and frog habitat pond. They also monitor taps for leaks.

As an active Waterwise School we have representation on the Water Corporation's Teachers Reference Group. Education is the key for water saving at home. Visit watercorporation.com.au/save-water and watercorporation.com.au/whatsyourwaterstory to find out how you can save water.

4. EnergySmart:

Earth Hour

The first EnergySmart event this year was our Earth Hour initiative, held on Friday 27th March. Classes organised their own switch-off times to suit their learning programs.



Solar Power

Since September 2012 the school has been recording how much power has been generated by our solar power system, as well as how many tonnes of CO2 have been saved from being released into the atmosphere. Please see Dr Lewis if you would like further details.



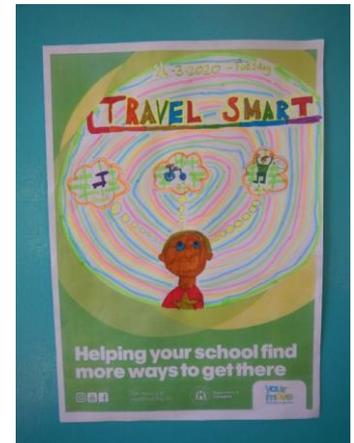
Student Learning

Year 6, Room 12, students are the EnergySmart leaders. We continue to monitor our electricity usage and implement actions to reduce our school electricity costs. Students learn how they can contribute to this aim.

5. Your Move:

Coolbinia PS is a Platinum level school in Your Move (TravelSmart). Congratulations to all Your Move (YM) supporters!

Year 4 students organised a YM event in Term 1. They prepared posters and promoted our YM actions. Raffle tickets, stickers and other prizes were distributed to children coming to school in a YM way.

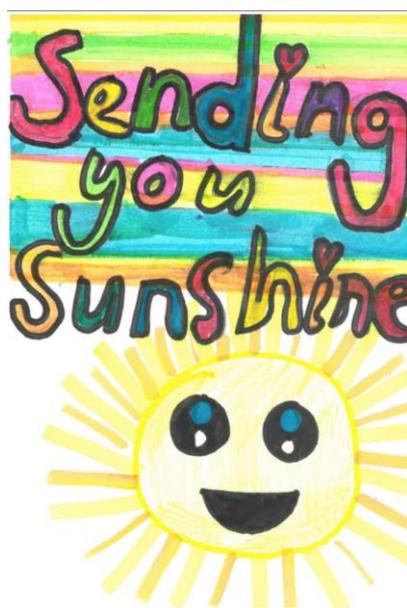


For the first time the YM team was able to track whether students came to school in an active way using their digital technologies skills. Many thanks to Mr Wilson for this initiative, as it saves time and is more efficient.

Social Handprint

1. Student Wellbeing:

Our school provides students with many opportunities to foster wellbeing through a range of clubs and community activities, like sharing with the aged residents of Acacia Living. Due to COVID 19 students were unable to visit Acacia last term, so they emailed cards and videos to convey their caring messages.



Acacia Living centre



Hope you're okay at these times...



All the ways in which our school is increasing our social handprint

Sustainable Schools WA
det.wa.edu.au/sustainableschools

Also, at the end of last term, with the uncertainty caused by COVID 19, teachers shared ways of empowering students to take positive action to build resilience. For example, Year 2/3 students in Room 2 innovatively decorated their own recycled flower pots:



Year 4 students in Room 9 made cards and rainbow posters:



During these times of social distancing and isolation these rainbows have brought a smile to many a local resident as they were exercising outdoors.

2. Aboriginal Cultures:

In addition to conducting an Acknowledgement to Country at assemblies, many classes also conduct their own Acknowledgement to Country at the beginning of each day. The wording and actions of each class' Acknowledgement is unique to that class. Here you can see a Pre-Primary class doing their actions associated with their Acknowledgement.



3. Cultural & Social Diversity:

Harmony Day this year featured Indonesian puppetry and a multicultural dress-up day. Early childhood and Years 3-6 enjoyed separate performances. To develop leadership skills Year 2 and Year 6 students thanked the presenters for their performance.



The multicultural dress-up day was a mass of colour and joy as always:



Gold coins were collected on the dress-up day by the Year 6 Mentors for the Red Cross Bushfire Appeal. Over \$800 was donated.

4. Community Partnerships:

Community partnerships are a feature of school life at Coolbinia Primary. For instance, we have been working with a former Friend of Coolbinia Bushland to support a Communities Environment Program grant to manage the weeds in our bushland. We have been notified that the grant application was successful, so we anticipate weeding work will commence this term.



5. Economics & Built Environment:

Our Shadehouse

Last year the Year 6 River Rangers funded the purchase of a new shadehouse as their gift to the school. This year's Mentors are caring for the plants in the shadehouse and sell them at our assembly garden stall. Money raised from these stalls supports other sustainability initiatives in the school.



Aboriginal Cultures and Histories

PALS Grant

Each year our school applies for a Partnerships Acceptance Learning and Sharing (PALS) grant. This grant aims to promote reconciliation and provides outstanding learning opportunities for our aboriginal and non-aboriginal children. Coolbinia Primary has won many awards for our PALS projects.

We have applied for the 2020 PALS grant, with a focus on 'student engagement and community participation'. This grant will enable students to work with Noongar educators as part of their Bushland STEM investigations. Last year, for example, Jade Dolman (Noongar artist) worked with Early Childhood classes; this year Jade plans to work with the senior students.



Australia's Engagement with Asia

Sustainable Development Goals

The key context for the Asian Cross Curriculum Priority has been based on the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):



Coolbinia Primary School supports the achievement of these goals by having active membership with the One World Centre and the United Nations Association of Australia WA Global Schools Project, as well as the actions we take to address the various sustainability issues outlined in the SDGs.

Also, our school demonstrates ongoing commitment to sustainability action, through our work to contribute to:

- ✚ Global Goal 13 (Climate action) through our numerous initiatives related to our carbon emissions reduction plan.

Further actions based on other goals include for example:

- ✚ Global Goal 3 (Good health and wellbeing) through participation in the Yolanda Frank Art Award and school based 'wellbeing' programs.
- ✚ Global Goal 5 (Gender equality) by participating in the *Tomorrow's Citizen Leaders – Local to Global*, conference at Parliament House and taking subsequent action to address this student concern.
- ✚ Global Goal 6 (Clean water and sanitation) by fundraising for wells overseas.
- ✚ Global Goal 15 (Life on land) through our planting and care of wildlife programs.
- ✚ Global Goal 16 (Peace, justice and strong institutions) by participating in NAIDOC Week, a Red Cross incursion called "In search of safety" and other fundraising and caring projects.

Our work on the Global Goals over the last year resulted in Coolbinia Primary being awarded the 2019 Sustainability Challenge Award from the United Nations Association of WA, Global Citizenship Schools program.



Many thanks to everyone for supporting the numerous cross curriculum initiatives. Your contributions make a difference to each other and to the sustainability of our planet. Thank you.

Sincerely

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Roots and Shoots Coordinator

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1 May 2020