

CROSS CURRICULUM NEWS

Sustainability

100 Tonne Plan!

Our '50 Tonne Plan' goal was achieved at the end of first term. We reduced our greenhouse gas emissions by 50 tonnes, through various actions including:

- use of solar energy (at school and replacing kerosene lanterns with solar lanterns),
- tree planting,
- being wastewise, waterwise and travelsmart.

After consultation with students, staff and community members during second term, our new target was set at 100 Tonnes!

Our 10, then 50 and now 100 Tonne Plans are being adopted by other schools. Schools, like Churchlands Primary School who recently launched their 20 Tonne Plan, are starting to implement their own greenhouse gas reduction plans. Congratulations Coolbinia PS for being a lighthouse school demonstrating environmental stewardship in this whole systems thinking approach.

1. Biodiversity Action:

Who cared for our rabbit during the holidays? Sincere thanks to Bronwyn Howlett & Bill Thomson's family for their excellent care and support. Thank you.

Sustainability students from Swinburne University visited our school on Thursday 25th July to learn about our sustainability program. They toured our gardens and noticed the passionfruit, eggplant, carrots, beetroot, potatoes, silverbeet and herbs growing vigorously, along with various food species in our bush tucker garden. The visitors were impressed by the Kwobadarn and evidence of our 50 Tonne Plan.

All the garden produce is resulting in more cooking. The kitchen has been very busy with students from Year 1 to 7 developing their culinary skills. Special thanks to Katia Defendi, our kitchen support specialist. Katia ensures the facilities are spotless and the equipment is ready for use in the correct stations. Sincere thanks to Katia for this excellent support.

Schools Tree Day was held on Friday 26th July. On that day, and during the following week, students from K-Year 7 planted over 500 native seedlings in the bushland and the school grounds. The photos show how much the children enjoyed the experience. Sincere thanks to the Coolbinia bushcare group and the South East Regional Council for Urban Landcare for donating the seedlings to the school.





Our school is again participating in the Curtin University *Mildew Mania* project. Powdery mildew on barley is a huge problem for WA farmers and schools are helping in this state-wide experiment by growing barley to ascertain the distribution of barley powdery mildew across the state. This is the third year we have grown barley and will be sending leaf samples to researchers at Curtin University. Year 3 students started work on this citizen science project last Friday, 2nd August, by sowing barley seeds. The photos show the seeds being planted in soil and hydroponic trays.



During lunchtime this week Cool School Adventurer students had the opportunity to join a Fungi Foray in the bushland.

Many different species of colourful fungi were discovered.



2. WasteWise:

While the students were planting seedlings in the bushland, many noticed litter scattered around and spontaneously collected it. This was very heartening to observe and shows a positive attitude to caring for their environment.

Thanks to our new Term 3 Waste Warriors in Year 4 for their commitment to emptying the food scraps buckets into the compost bins and worm farms. These students are demonstrating leadership and responsibility by independently working on these tasks. Congratulations!

3. WaterWise:

Since 2013 is International Year of Water Cooperation, the Year 5 Waterwise students have been thinking about the importance of clean water. They have decided to support the “Clean water saves lives” project. This project is vital because 2000 children worldwide die every day from infectious diseases caused by dirty water. The “Clean water saves lives” project helps by, for example, raising \$240 provides three families in Cambodia with a “Clean Water and Hygiene Kit”. The students are planning a project that will support this cause.

4. EnergySmart:

Even though we have been experiencing rainy weather, our solar power system has continued to produce electricity and reduce our energy costs. For example, on Wednesday 7 August, a very wet and rainy day, the school’s solar panels still produced 30kWh.

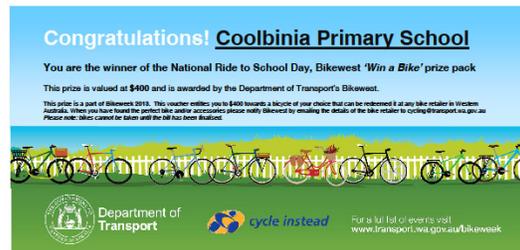
5. TravelSmart:

Strideboard Results

The interschool TravelSmart competition finished at the end of Term 2. Throughout the term data was collected on students who walked or rode their bikes/scooters to school on TravelSmart Tuesdays. Using the Strideboard, a tally of TravelSmart students in the different classes was recorded. At the assembly on Friday 2nd August the results of the competition were announced.

The competition was between other schools, as well as between our classes. For the inter-school component, we came second for the ‘most improved’ school category. For the class competition the winning class was Yr 6 Rm 5. All the names of the Rm 5 students were placed in an envelope and the winner was drawn at the assembly. The winner received a bike voucher worth \$400. The winner was: Heyang Guo! However Heyang volunteered to offer the prize to another student in the class. Thank you Heyang for your thoughtfulness and generosity. The new winner was: Lana Pavlovic. Congratulations Lana!





Rm 4, Yr 5/6 came second. The winner in this class won an Athlete's Foot gift Card worth \$80. The winner was: Elliot Kilcullen! Congratulations!

Rm 2, Yr 4 came third. This winner collected an Australian Geographic Gift Card worth \$50. Congratulations to Rm 2s winner: Lexy Starkowits.

Rm 7, Yr 7 was fourth. This winner also collected an Australian Geographic Gift Card worth \$50. Rm 7s winner was: Zahra Ussi. Congratulations!

Well done to all our students and staff who participated in last term's TravelSmart competition.

This term the Year 6 TravelSmart team are promoting Fume Free Fridays. Please come to school in a TravelSmart way ... walk, ride your bike or scooter, or use public transport every day ... and on random Fridays there will be prizes for our Fume Free day. Please support this initiative for health and fitness, to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and minimize congestion around our school. Thank you.

Leadership Program: Kids Teaching Kids Program

Our Year 5/6 class is participating in the *Kids Teaching Kids* youth forum, the WA Regional 'Climate, Coasts and Communities' Conference, which is being held at the Mandurah Performing Arts Centre on 29th August. Experts from *Kids Teaching Kids* visited the class at the end of last term to help develop the workshop theme. Our students will be conducting a workshop for other students on "Our Sensational 100 Tonne Plan!"



This is an amazing opportunity to enhance our children's presentation skills and participate in a youth conference. Congratulations to all involved as they prepare for this exciting event!



To find out more about Kids Teaching Kids visit www.kidsteachingkids.com.au



Aboriginal Cultures and Histories

For NAIDOC Week celebrations in July, our Yr 5/6 students sold 'cultural respect' wrist bands. They raised over \$100 and are in the process of deciding how they want to spend this money. Congratulations to our enthusiastic NAIDOC supporters!

Students continue to work on a huge six season's mural. Years 5-7 worked with Noongar Aboriginal artist, Peter Farmer, in creating this mural, while K-Year 1s are adding their handprints to the mural board. Students in the remaining classes will paint another mural on the outside of Room 12, also under the guidance of Peter Farmer. Watch out for these stunning art works!

Australia's Engagement with Asia

Coolbinia's is conducting several whole school projects that involve engagement with Asia and beyond:

1. Oxfam's *Clean Water Saves Lives* initiative in Asia;
2. Perth Zoo's *Adopt an Orang-utan*; and
3. Provision of solar lanterns to replace polluting and dangerous kerosene lanterns through *Solar Sister*.

All these projects ... and more ... are part of our commitment to the *Kids Who Give WA* program.

Kids Who Give WA Program

The *Kids Who Give WA* program aims to raise a generation of socially aware and caring Western Australians. To recognise our participation in the *Kids Who Give WA* program, His Excellency Malcolm McCusker AC CVO QC, Governor of Western Australia, and Mrs McCusker, invited our Year 7s, along with four other schools, to Government House to conduct a presentation on our giving projects. Our Year 7s did an outstanding job representing our school. They also enjoyed lunch provided by Government House and were privileged to be conducted on a tour of the grounds. See the photos below.



Coolbinia Parents and Staff Shine

At the annual Forum of the Western Australian Institute for Educational Research, held on Saturday 10th August at Notre Dame University, Coolbinia parents and staff were well represented. Eunice Sari, Julie Sulejman and Elaine Lewis were present to learn about critical issues in education. Eunice and Elaine also received awards for their research.

The title of Eunice's PhD thesis was "Teacher professional development in an online learning community: A case study in Indonesia".
Congratulations Eunice!

Elaine's doctoral thesis was on education for sustainability, but at the Forum she gave a presentation on the findings of Coolbinia's 10 Tonne Plan research, that was conducted last year with colleagues from Murdoch University.



Thank you

Elaine Lewis

Cross Curriculum Coach

10th August 2013