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14 June 2019

## PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Dear Soldiers' Settlement Families,

### Lost and Found

Please label everything with your child's name (unnamed goods cannot be returned). Lost items can be found in the blue tub near the COLA. Please remind your children to take care of their clothing and check they take home the correct uniform and that the uniform belongs to them. Pre-loved uniforms are always needed in our second-hand uniform shop.

### Kindergarten Enrolments 2020

Do you have a child, sibling or know someone starting Preschool or Kindergarten in 2020? If yes, please ask them to visit our office to collect enrolment forms. Our friendly office staff, Silvana, Patty and Rebekah will be more than happy to answer any enquiries.

### Save the Date

Our Preschool – Year 6 Athletics Carnival is again taking place at Hensley Field. Please mark your diaries for Thursday 4th July. A detailed note will be sent home over the next week with more information.

### Solar Panel Installation

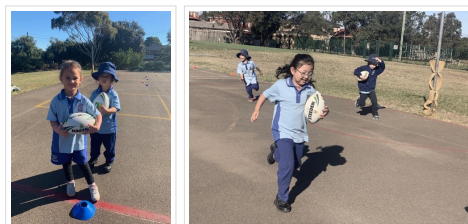
I am excited to announce that the installation of the solar panels onto our school buildings will take place during the school holidays. The installation is funded in part by several grants made up of \$13,500 from the NSW Community Building Partnership and \$5000 from Randwick Council. A huge thank you to Melissa McLean for her hard work in coordinating the initial solar installation and grants process. The remainder of the cost has been covered by the Department of Education.

**Polly Palaitis**  
**Principal**

## SPORT REPORT

### NRL Clinic at Soldiers' Settlement

Last Friday, students in K-2 participated in rugby league drills and games at school. The students had a great time participating in the fun games prepared and ran by the NRL.



Soldiers' Settlement will be hosting a 4 week rugby league clinic beginning this Wednesday at 3:30pm!

The NRL clinic is designed for students from Soldiers' Settlement that are aged between 5-12 years.

For more information and/or to register, please click on the link below.

<https://membership.sportstg.com/regofrm.cgi?formID=86277&programID=46119>

### PSSA Sport

The Winter PSSA teams began their seasons last Friday. The students were all very excited and eager to take the field and courts. From all reports, the students all displayed great potential in their first game playing as a team this season.

A reminder that students must have the correct sports uniform, including the school hat in order to represent our school at PSSA sport. Students should also be bringing bottled water with them to sport each week so they are able to stay hydrated.

Thank you to the families and friends that turned up to support our PSSA teams last week. Your support is very much appreciated by the students and the staff here at Soldiers' Settlement. Please do keep in mind that while it is a competition, the students from our school and other competing schools are still learning and improving their skills, therefore,

sideline cheering should be done in a positive, calm and supportive manner.

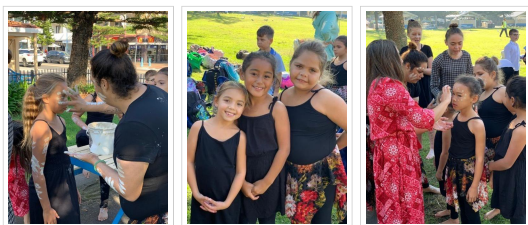
Please find attached the Term draw for each of our sports.

## P-6 Athletics Carnival 2019 – Save the date!

This year's athletics carnival will again be held at Hensley Athletics Field on **Thursday 4th July 2019**. All students from P-6 will be attending the carnival. A note will be sent out in the coming week with further information regarding the event. We are very much looking forward to another wonderful Soldiers' Settlement sports carnival.

## KOOJAY CORROBOREE

On Friday the 2th of May, the Koori Dancers from Kindergarten through to year 6 performed at the annual Koojay Corroboree at Coogee Beach as part of Reconciliation Week. The students showcased some of their better known dances and a brand new dance for the large crowd of onlookers, community members and special guests. As always, the students represented their school and culture with pride.



## RECONCILIATION WEEK

Last week, students took part in activities that focused on the Reconciliation week topic "Grounded in Truth, Walk Together with Courage". Akeisha organised an exciting walkathon to raise money for the drought in Walgett. Due to the wet weather, the students came together by completed a mini walkathon instead! The day ended with an assembly with performances by the Koori dancers and some heartfelt speeches from both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal students sharing their connections to land, culture and dance. Members from the Aboriginal Education team, including Auntie Calita handed out the Reconciliation awards. Well done to those students who received awards.



## KINDERGARTEN CELEBRATE RECONCILIATION WEEK

For Reconciliation week, the students in Kindergarten Burumin and Kindergarten Garadi worked together to recreate the 'Tree of Truth' from the 2019 Reconciliation Week poster.

Every student contributed to the poster by adding their own artistic touch. Some used oil pastels to design their own foot print to symbolise a tree root. While others used acrylic paints to make a handprint representing the branches on the trees, painted a silhouette of a person to show community members coming together or a heart as a symbol of love.



*Kindergarten Reconciliation Artwork*

## INDIGENOUS VETERANS CEREMONY

What an honour it was to be invited to sing the National Anthem for the Indigenous Veterans Ceremony at the Anzac Memorial and Pool of Reflection in Hyde Park on Friday 31st May. A small group of 26 students had been involved in extra rehearsals of the Australian National Anthem in local Sydney Aboriginal language and English (as we do each week in school assembly) over the past weeks and made our school proud as they performed in the VIP section with the Navy band at this important and sombre occasion. The executive students joined us and looked very smart in their blazers as they represented our school. The ceremony included many historical and emotional stories from speakers as we learnt about what it was like for different Aboriginal families during, and post-war, and the stories of different men and women currently serving in our armed forces. At the conclusion of the service a member of the public approached us to thank us for the performance and to compliment us on our singing. After we had lunch in the beautiful grounds of Hyde Park, we had a quick tour of the War Memorial. The students found the exhibition room particularly interesting and enjoyed looking at all the old memorabilia and videos showing interviews and photos of service men and women. I highly recommend taking a trip in to Hyde Park one day and spending some time there. The students were wonderfully behaved and Akeisha, Miss Barr and myself were very proud of them.

**Mrs Christian.**



## KINDERGARTEN BURUMIN: MEET GROOT, OUR SPINY LEAF INSECT

In science this term, we have been learning about the needs of living things. To help us learn more about the unit, Mrs Keegan surprised us with our very own class pet. His name is Groot! Groot is a Spiny Leaf Insect. We have been learning a lot about his needs such as his diet and habitat and are looking forward to learning more as the term goes on!

*By Kindergarten Burumin*



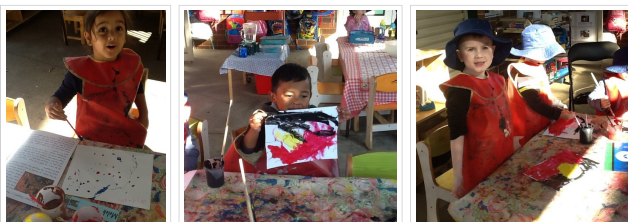
*Groot and K Burumin*

## PRESCHOOL NEWS

### Reconciliation Week

At preschool we always try to incorporate aspects of Aboriginal culture into our program. This week we spoke about what Reconciliation means, so children can start gaining an understanding of Australia history. We examined a map of Australia that showed the many Aboriginal languages. Children also listened to dreamtime stories and started examining Aboriginal artworks. We spoke about the elements of the Aboriginal flag and children got the opportunity to create their own flags.

Children were delighted to attend the school's Reconciliation Assembly. Children listened to speeches from older students and special visitors about reconciliation and what it means to them. Children especially loved watching the school's Koori Dance group perform. We would like to thank all our families who attended this special assembly.



## Walk Safely to School Day

In preparation for Walk Safely to School day we felt that it was important to teach children lots about road safety. Children learnt how to cross our preschool road safely using a zebra crossing. Each time they crossed they needed to practice 'Stop, Look, Listen' and pretended to hold an adult's hand as they walked. We further researched on the internet to find images of different types of crossing and discussed the safest way to use each one.

On Walk Safely to School Day children were delighted to show us their crazy socks and stories of how they walked safely to preschool. They further participated in a range of activities around Road Safety and even bought an ice block to refresh them after their day. We would like to thank everyone for participating in our 'Walk Safely to School Day' and feel so proud to have been able to present each child with their own Walk Safely certificate!



## LEARNING AND WELLBEING TIPS: USING PLAY TO SUPPORT POSITIVE WELLBEING

### What is play?

Play can be pretending, learning a new skill, dressing up, being active or being quiet.

Play can involve other children or be alone. Adults can join in if they're invited – in fact, young children often love to play with close adults. Children decide what to play and how to play. Play is their time to be free and enjoy. It's their language, their work and their relaxation.

It's for all children, of all ages from birth on, and of all abilities.

Unstructured, free play is the best type for young children

This is play that just happens, depending on what takes the child's interest at the time. It isn't planned and lets children use their imagination and move at their own pace. Examples of unstructured play might be:

- creative play alone or with others, including artistic or musical games
- imaginary games (for example, making cubby houses with boxes or blankets, dressing up, playing make-believe)
- exploring new or favourite play spaces like cupboards, backyards, parks, playgrounds and so on.

## You can be part of a child's unstructured play – or not

Sometimes all you'll need to do is point them in the right direction – say, towards the jumble of dress-ups and toys on the floor, or to the table with crayons and paper.

Sometimes you might need to be a bit more active – for example, “How about we play dress-ups? What do you want to be today?”

## Structured play is different.

It's more organised and happens at a fixed time or in a set space, and is often led by a grown-up. Examples of structured play include:

- swimming lessons – you might see these as important lessons for your child, but they might just think they're fun
- storytelling groups for toddlers and preschoolers at the local library
- dance, music or drama classes for children of all ages
- family board or card games
- organised team sports for older children, like basketball, netball and football.

## Why is play important for mental health?

Through play, children can make sense of their world and practise for their future.

Play is essential for children. It helps them to:

- build confidence
- feel loved, happy and safe
- learn and develop new skills – including social skills, language and communication skills, physical skills and emotional skills
- learn empathy.

## Play is vital for children's mental health and wellbeing

It supports the development of skills, attitudes and sense of self (discussed above) that are known to be protective (for example, social competence, good coping and problem-solving skills, resilience, connectedness and the availability of support at critical times). The development of these skills, however, requires adult intervention at critical times for social learning. Most children need help to negotiate these things, and you need to be aware and available to help when needed.

This might be achieved by:

- being nearby to help a child feel safe, included and able to talk about how they feel
- providing encouragement to a child to get started or to feel comfortable enough to join in
- ensuring the play is inclusive
- watching and commenting occasionally on what's happening – which can help children to notice how

their behaviour might be affecting others and to develop empathy.

As well as providing pleasure and joy, play can also lead to children feeling negative emotions such as hurt, disappointment or frustration – both in individual play and in social play with other children. A child's need for belonging or power can become hurtful either to themselves or to others. This can lead to children being excluded or excluding others. Your supervision and guidance are important to protecting young children's wellbeing.

You can:

- encourage children to have more than one playmate
- help them to manage temporary disappointment or occasionally being left out, which happens to most of us at some point in our lives.

However, when there are ongoing patterns of exclusion or unfair use of power, children will need you to help them to express their feelings and get their needs met. This is crucial for a child's developing sense of self and their mental health and wellbeing, now and into the future.

## ROBOGALS WORKSHOP

There is a great opportunity for any girls aged 5 – 15 wanting to take part in a free Science and Engineering Day at UNSW.



### Robogals

## Science & Engineering Day 2019

SYDNEY





Who: Girls  
Age: 5-15  
Cost: FREE



Date: 22nd June 2019, Saturday  
Time: 1PM - 5PM (Arrive at 12.30pm for 1pm start)  
Location: Ainsworth G03,  
University of New South Wales, Sydney  
High St, Kensington, NSW 2052, Australia

Register here: <https://sydney-june-sed.eventbrite.com.au>

For more info contact the Science Challenge  
Team: [scichal@robogals.org](mailto:scichal@robogals.org)


## STUDENT ABSENCES – REMINDER

- The Department of Education deems that all students must attend school every day.
- Families are also advised that holidays should be taken during school holiday periods.

- If your child is absent from school please notify the school in writing by either sending an email to the school email or sending a note to the class teacher explaining the absence.
- **If your child is sick for one day, you DO NOT need to ring the school but can send a note to school with your child on the following day.**
- If absences are not explained, a letter will be sent home from the class teacher asking parents to explain.
- Absences are recorded in the class roll and this roll is admissible as evidence in a court of law.
- Partial absences are also recorded in the roll, where a child arrives late to school or leaves school early.
- If a student is late to school, a parent should escort them to the office so they can give the reason for the late arrival.
- Sleeping in, bad traffic and general lateness are not justifiable reasons for being late to school and these absences are marked as unjustified.
- Students, who are constantly late to school, miss the morning lesson introduction leading to gaps in learning.
- Please endeavour to maximize your child's attendance at school to ensure that they have the best start possible, every day!

EVERY DAY COUNTS ... A day here or there doesn't seem like much but ...				
When your child misses just ...	that equals...	which is...	and therefore, from Prep to Year 12, that is ...	This means the best your child can achieve is ...
1 day a fortnight	20 days a year	4 weeks of school	Nearly 1½ years of school	Equal to finishing Year 11
1 day a week	40 days a year	8 weeks of school	Over 2½ years of school	Equal to finishing Year 10
2 days a week	80 days a year	16 weeks of school	Over 5 years of learning of learning	Equal to finishing Year 7
3 days a week	120 days a year	24 weeks of school	Over 8 years of learning	Equal to finishing Year 4

Give your child every chance to succeed ...



## ONLINE SAFETY TOOL

### Introducing a New Interactive Online Safety Tool for Parents and Carers

The Office of the eSafety Commissioner has introduced a new interactive online tool for parents and carers. This tool is to assist and teach the foundations of online topics such as social media, screen time, personal information, inappropriate content, cyberbullying and contact with strangers. Whether you're a parent, carer, aunt, uncle or grandparent it can be a difficult task keeping up with young people and technology or even knowing when and how to start the conversation about online safety in your household.

Meet Screen Smart Parent Tour - our new interactive self-reflective tool that helps parents and carers of pre and young teens keep on track with online safety.

The virtual tour takes you through six important online topics including **social media, screen time, personal information,**

**inappropriate content, cyberbullying and contact with strangers.** Each topic offers practical tips and advice on how to allow children to explore safely and manage online issues if they arise.

## 2019 STUDENT HEALTH CARE PLANS AND DIETARY REQUIREMENTS – DUE IMMEDIATELY

### 2019 Student Health Care Plans and Dietary Requirements

Student Health Care Plans are currently being updated for 2019. As part of this process, please contact the office if there are any adjustments to your child's health care and/or dietary needs.

All enquiries regarding health plans should be directed to Ms Cummings, Learning and Wellbeing Coordinator.

As with any school, we have children with severe allergies and a range of health care needs. In order to keep all of our students safe and healthy, we ask that you:

- do not send nuts or nut products to school with your child;
- Please do not send Nutella or peanut butter;
- remind your child not to share food at school; and
- contact your child's teacher in advance if you are considering bringing in food for the class i.e. birthday celebrations (this will allow your child's teacher to put provisions in place that support the wellbeing of all our students). We encourage healthy options and cupcakes/muffins in place of cakes.

## SCHOOL PAYMENTS

### Parent Support

One of the best ways you can support our school is by reading our newsletter each fortnight and paying your school fees and voluntary contributions in a timely manner. These funds are essential in enabling our school to provide all the learning opportunities for your child. They allow us to provide the very best education for your child, above what the government funding allows. Fees assistance is available for any families if required and can be arranged via a confidential phone call or email to the principal requesting assistance.

### Payments

Cash and cheque can be sent to school and given to your class teacher or can be directly dropped off at the office. If paying by cash please send the exact amount.

The preferred method of payment is Parent Online Payments through our school website. Parent online payments (POP) provide parents and school debtors with a secure payment facility to deposit into the school's account via a credit or debit card. The payment portal is accessed via the school's website

and allows parents to pay using either a Visa or MasterCard credit or debit card.

Please visit our school website below and click on “Make a payment”. Once you fill out the payment details, you have an instant receipt. It is a safe and secure way to pay for school fees, performances and excursions.

<https://matravilss-p.schools.nsw.gov.au/>

**Please note:** As a Westpac-hosted solution cardholder and account details will be held securely, helping to protect the school and its customers from fraudulent transactions as well as assisting in meeting the Payment Card Industry Data Security Standard (PCIDSS) compliance requirements.

Please note, once your payment is made online, we still require signed permission notes for all excursions and sports for each child participating in the activity to be sent to the office. Please also ensure you enter your child’s name and not your own.

## OFFICE NEWS

### Reminders:

A permission note must be completed for every student in the family for all activities.

Please note the office does not carry change. If you are paying in cash we ask that you pay the exact amount.

### Absences Notes

Absence notes should be given to each child’s teacher on the day they return to school after an absence. Explanations should be clearly outlined so the reason for the absence can be accurately recorded.

If you are intending to take leave for more than three days, and you know in advance, it is important that this be discussed with the school as an application for leave may be required. If your child is absent for longer than three days it is important that you contact the school to let them know the reason for the absence.

### After school arrangements

If you need to get a message to your child regarding any change to their afterschool arrangements, please contact the office and ensure we have enough time to relay the message. Sometimes it is difficult to locate children just before the bell is about to ring. Students that are not collected from school at 3.00pm will wait with their teacher and a call will be made to confirm pick up arrangements. As a reminder, the office

## SCHOOL NOTICES

### Parking Safety around our School

A friendly reminder to parents to assist us in keeping our children safe when driving and parking around the school grounds. Several parents have been seen and spoken to about driving and parking illegally in kiss and drop zones in the surrounding streets. We appreciate that parking has become increasingly difficult due to local building works and increased student numbers. However, students’ safety is of greater

concern. Please ensure you park safely near kiss and drop zones and in the streets at all times. Also, please ensure when arriving at school and leaving the school grounds that the pedestrian gates and ramp gates are used. Those walking through the staff carpark entry are putting both themselves and their child at risk.

Please do not park in or across our neighbour’s driveways. Community members who do so risk a fine from the council rangers or our local constabulary.

### The staff carpark is for staff only

Please do not use the staff carpark to drop off or pick up your children from before/after school care. Entry to and exit from the school should be via the Menin Road ramp gate or Lawson street gate.

### After School Playground Use

Please be reminded that after the 3.00pm “home time” bell, no formal student supervision is provided either in classrooms or the playground, especially the synthetic grass at the rear of the school or the playground equipment. Students are asked to safely make their way home after the bell. Parents on site after 3.00pm are reminded of their Duty of Care and asked to watch their children to prevent any unforeseen accidents. Students waiting to be picked-up by parents will be asked to safely sit around our meeting tree at the Menin Road gate.

Your attention to these requests is greatly appreciated.

## POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR ENGAGING LEARNERS (PBEL)

Soldiers’ Settlement Public School promotes the values of Respect, Responsibility and Learning. PBEL plays a fundamental role in supporting the Learning and Wellbeing Policy whilst promoting positive expectations for student behaviour.

Positive Behaviour Engaging Students (PBEL) is a school wide program that is all about creating a positive and encouraging learning environment where students know what is expected of them.

PBEL provides a proactive school-wide system for defining, teaching and supporting appropriate student behaviours. The result of PBEL is a positive school environment in which learning and student engagement is enhanced through consistent expectations of behaviour.



## COMMUNITY NEWS

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### Vocal, Guitar and Performance Coaching

#### “CathymacmusiC” private Tutorial. Beginners welcome.

Private tuition for Cathy’s guitar and vocal performance group will be offered once again during the following lunch hours on Wednesdays. Beginners welcome.

**When:** Wed 11.15am (Jnrs) Wed 11.45am (Snrs)

Email Cathy for more information at [cathymacmusic@gmail.com](mailto:cathymacmusic@gmail.com). Include in your email your child's full name & class, & your mobile number.

All information including lesson cost, guitar purchase, classroom, and start date will be e-mailed to you on receipt of your email registering your interest.

Parents of existing students: Email me if your child/children are returning. I'll confirm by email with start date & classroom included.

Look forward to hearing from you.

**Cathy.**