News from 5/6

During the last week 5/6 have worked on making paper mâché coolamons. These were then decorated with string art in various patterns. The students were shown examples of aboriginal string art which they were able to use or adapt to their own design.

The finished works of art will be displayed in the classroom. Thank you to the parents who visited our classroom to observe and lend a hand.

Robyn Ward

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Thank You!

On Monday the school held its 2015 Open Day and I am so pleased to say that it was a huge success. We had existing families, prospective families, visiting pre schools, special guests and of course our awesome students, teachers and P & C representatives all come together to celebrate the start of Education Week. The theme for Education Week is Local Heroes and what better way to celebrate this than to bring all our local heroes together in this way.

To all that organised before, cleaned up our school grounds the day before, helped on the day by cooking, talking to parents or leading school tours I would like to say a massive thank you. The effort was well worthwhile with many prospective parents expressing their satisfaction. It is through word of mouth and building our profile with our local community that we will build the school’s future.

Nadia Wheatley

As part of our Open Day events, our special guest, the award winning children’s author Nadia Wheatley visited our school, presented at our special assembly and toured the school with our prospective families. Nadia announced that she would be working with the school in a special partnership (a writer’s residency) for at least the next three years. She will be focusing on linking literacy to the important cross curricular priority, ‘Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures’.

In her presentation at our assembly she showed how she was inspired as a writer to write about the St Peters area in her amazing book My Place. She capped her visit off by presenting the school with a signed big book version of the book My Place and a poster celebrating the 20th anniversary of the publication of the book.

What an amazing opportunity for the students this will be. Thank you Nadia for your visit, we all look forward to your future visits to the school.
Working Bee
This past weekend a number of parents and their children led by Kate Strang, came into school as a working bee to help improve our school grounds. Their hard work is evident with fantastic improvements in many areas of the grounds. Garden beds have been improved and many surfaces thoroughly cleaned. Coupled with some hard work by our fantastic GA Mr Campbell the school grounds look brilliant.

Festival of Instrumental Music
Over the past two terms Mrs Ward and some hard working year 4, 5 and 6 students have practised and perfected a number of pieces of music for the NSW Festival of Instrumental Music. The Festival’s performance will be held at the Sydney Opera House this coming Monday 3rd August. We were lucky enough to hear the pieces at our Open Day Assembly and I am sure that everyone there will agree that they sounded excellent. The students will be spending Monday attending the Opera House for a rehearsal before returning on the Monday evening for the performance. We wish them the very best of luck and thank Mrs Ward for her hard work in preparing them for the festival.

Athletics Carnival
Yesterday the entire school attended the school’s 2015 Athletics Carnival. All students participated in races, K-2 students participated in novelty events and 3-6 students entered jumps, shot put and discus events. A lunchtime sausage sizzle topped off a great day. In the next newsletter we will have some student perspective reports. Thank you to Miss Thomson and Mrs Ross for their organisation leading up to the day and to all the teachers for their help in making the day run smoothly.

Twitter News
The school now has a Twitter account. The account will be used to share short term news and to celebrate events at the school. We will be kicking this off with a live tweeting of the events of the year five and six overnight excursion to Canberra. The account name is @SPPSnews and the tweet stream can be followed by following the school or by simply going to our twitter page at: https://twitter.com/SPPSnews

Rubbish destroying school
Rubbish nightmare comes true

On Wednesday 15th July 2015, 3/4/T collected the rubbish from their lunch boxes. They wanted to see how much rubbish they made in a day.

At recess and lunch, 3/4/T put all their rubbish in a black bag instead of a bin. They wanted to keep their rubbish separate from everyone else’s.

They measured the rubbish when they got inside their classroom. It totalled 261 grams.
They did the same with 1/2/S. It totalled 361 grams.

With 5/6, they got 415 grams.

So, the total amount of rubbish going to landfill sites each school day because of 3/4/T, 1/2/S and 5/6 is a whopping 1.037 kilograms!

Tired of rubbish going to landfill sites? Well, let us introduce you to NUDE FOOD DAY!
In Nude Food Day, we don’t eat anything with rubbish on it. It’s a day to have a break from throwing away rubbish.

If we have a Nude Food Day, then our total of rubbish going to landfill sites will go down by kilograms!

It’s a day to be aware of the rubbish we make. Support Nude Food Day. Lead a sustainable life.

Nude Food Day—a day to be aware of the environment.
1/2S
Week 3 already! I'm glad to be back and teaching the bright little minds of 1/2 S. Just a reminder that we are changing our home readers in the classroom. Students don't need to put readers in the usual tub, just bring them straight to the classroom.

A reminder that students in 1/2S need their recorders on Thursday for lessons with Mrs Ward and also on Fridays this term for Jellybeans music.

It was wonderful to have parents and carers visit our classroom on Monday. As well as showing off our great ‘My Place’ writing, we painted our paper mâché coolamons and wooden boomerangs.
Ngaire Sheridan

K/1MP
It is now Term 3 and in K/1MP we are wondering yet again where the time has gone! The children seem to have returned refreshed, rested, and ready for their learning after the school holidays.

On Monday this week we enjoyed Open Day as part of Education Week. In K/1MP we shared an Aboriginal Dreamtime story called When the Snake Bites the Sun and the children then chose from a variety of Aboriginal activities. We did Aboriginal dot paintings, a sentence cut-and-paste activity based on the shared book, rainbow serpent artworks, a "bush tucker" game and had the opportunity to read a variety of books from our book corner. We are not sure whether it was the children who had the most fun or if perhaps the adults enjoyed themselves more! Thank you to the parents and carers who were able to join us for the morning.

Thank you to those generous families who have sent us extra tissues. We now have enough boxes to get us through the winter months. Thank you also for the abundance of baby wipes, which we use to clean tables after messy activities.

Michelle Milner and Kate Paget-Campbell