

NextSense School Newsletter

Term 1 2023

Hello!

Welcome to the **NextSense** School Newsletter.

This newsletter aims to keep you up to date with current information on what is happening around our school. We hope you enjoy reading some stories from all three programs and we are happy to have any feedback and suggestions from our families.

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Note from the Principal

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a terrific term and we have all enjoyed the opportunities to involve our school community once again in our school activities. We celebrate as a school community all the great achievements the students have made, friendships formed and the progress of our new school building. The students have leapt ahead in their learning and social skills throughout the term, and I congratulate them all for their hard work and their contribution to making our school safe and inclusive.

Parents are invited to join us on Thursday 6th April 2023 at 11am in the school hall when the students will participate in the Easter Hat Parade & Easter Egg Hunt. Children are encouraged to decorate their hats using things that they can find at home and bring their hats in on the day of the parade. Be creative!

As you will see in photos below the new school build is now progressing rapidly and the excitement and discussions around the school is growing. The school staff will be visiting the school building site on the 24th of April to get their first glimpse of the school site and view their new classroom spaces. We will keep you updated with further information and photos as we continue along our building journey.

A special thanks to all staff who have been called to contribute extra this term. You would know through the media there has been a focus on teacher shortages and the impact on our schools is real especially with the lack of casual relief staff. I would like to thank a great team of staff, and their dedication, patience, and perseverance to ensure that that every day is a 'normal' day for our students.

I would encourage families to check their local community news sites, brochures, flyers etc. to note what school holiday activities and events are available to you and your children and for those travelling to the Easter Show at Sydney Olympic Park over the next couple weeks, I trust that you enjoy all that is on offer to you and your children.

For families travelling out of Sydney, we wish you a wonderful holiday and safe travels.

I trust you all have a safe and pleasant break, and we look forward to seeing you all again in term two.

Best wishes



Sandi Ambler

Macquarie Update

Did you know

Our new school and preschool building at Macquarie University campus will use shading, ventilation and insulation to minimise energy consumption?

We're using recycled brick, storing and re-using water, and including non-toxic finishes to improve environmental air quality.

We will also have 368 solar panels on the roof of our central and school buildings and will be installing six electric vehicle charging stations across the site.

We're excited about the highly specialised design of our new school and preschool spaces. Our preschool and outdoor learning areas include a sensory garden as well as sensory and retreat play areas. This will ensure students in our different streams can all enjoy the outdoors, where so much learning can happen.

We've created these outdoor spaces as an extension of the indoor learning environment and to accommodate all the different age groups in our school.

Our builders have made amazing progress on construction despite the regular rain. The images below show how far we've come. And we also include some more artist impressions of what our new spaces might look like. We will keep sharing updates with you each term, as we get closer to moving into our incredible new home – purpose built for our wonderful students.

Construction work



Artist's impressions



Classroom



Preschool



School entry

School Hall



What's Been Happening

Clean Up Australia Day – 3 March 2023

On the 3 March 2023, Class 1 of the Blind Low Vision stream joined the rest of the school for Clean Up Australia Day! Class 1 students were particularly excited to wander out of the school campus and be able to check out the greater NextSense North Rocks campus, some even for the first time. While they explored, they also kept a keen eye out for rubbish that went inside white bag and recyclables which went into the yellow garbage bag. All in all, it was a fun experience, and Class 1 students will work hard to make Clean Up Australia Day their everyday!





Spoken Language – Clean Up Australia Day

We participated in “Clean-up Australia Day” and learnt valuable lessons in sorting out rubbish and recycling. We took pride in cleaning up our school.



Elizabeth Farm Excursion – 6 March 2023

We had a fabulous time at Elizabeth Farm, exploring the lives of people in the past. We learnt about convict servants and their jobs - we even got to do some washing and building ourselves. We also learnt about the lives of wealthy people in the past, including what they did for fun and the food they ate.



Spoken Language - As part of our History Unit, we visited Elizabeth Farm and explored how people lived a long time ago





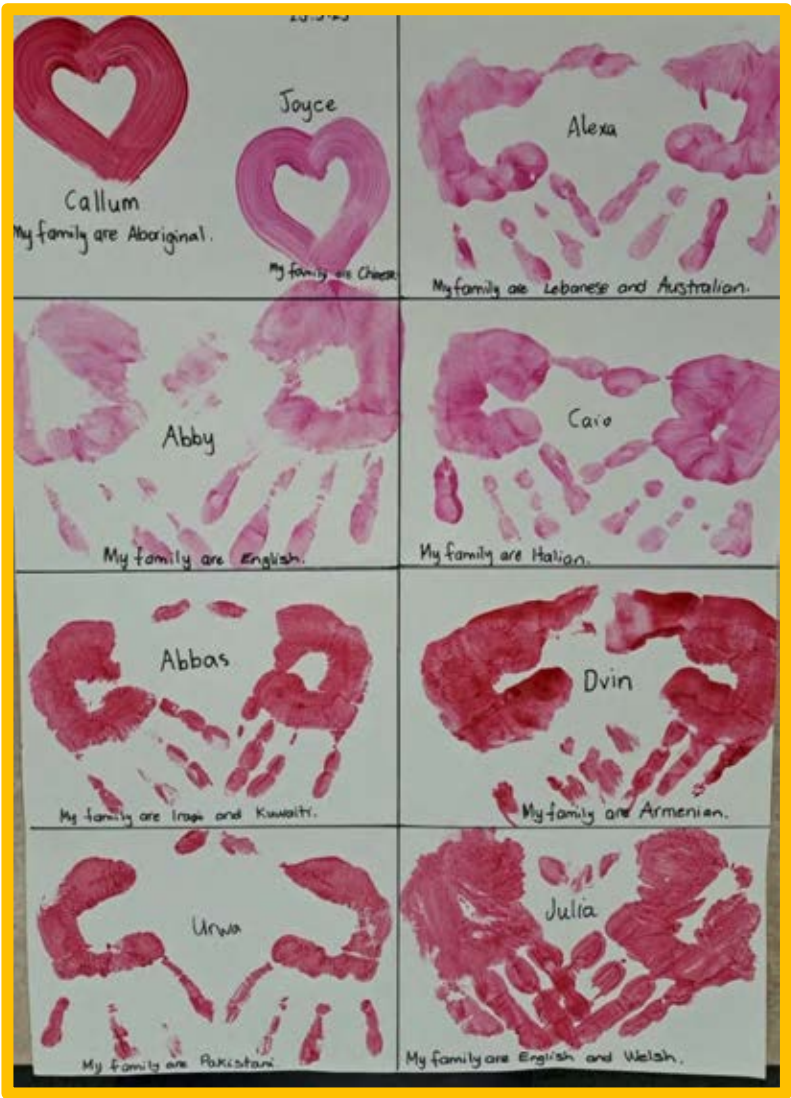
Harmony Day - 23 March 2023

We celebrated Harmony Day on 23rd March. It was so wonderful to share our culture, languages and family backgrounds with each other through our outfits, music and food. We especially enjoyed the Brazilian drumming!

Rebekah Power
Classroom Teacher - NextSense Schools Spoken Language Program

K/1 had an amazing Harmony Day. We spent the morning working together on collaborative artworks that celebrated where we all came from.









Sign Bilingual Program

Inspired by Harmony Day Celebrations, we have been discussing our family backgrounds.



Class 2 Blind and Deafblind Program

Harmony Day is about appreciating all of the different cultures that make up our nation. So, we decided to look at how Australia became the multicultural country it is now.

Students undertook primary research by interviewing people who have migrated to Australia from their school community. To apply that knowledge using a map, the students connected their country of origin to Australia using a string to demonstrate their migration journey.





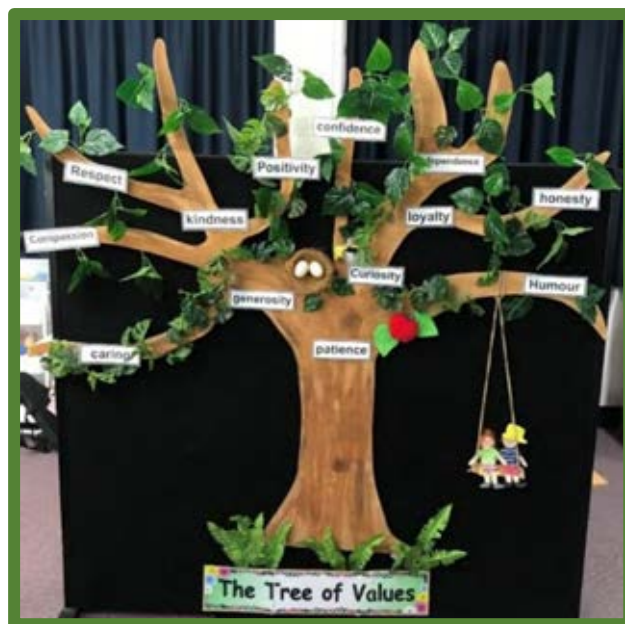
The Corner Shop

To practise money skills, class 2 got an opportunity to role-play shopping by setting up a corner shop in our classroom. Through this activity, they developed the language of money, e.g., cents and dollars.



Are you ready to find out our values?

As part of our PDHPE lesson Identity and Values, class 2 understands that everybody has their own identity and values, which have a major role in their life.





Class 2 learned about the **Story of Migration** as part of their Integrated unit this term.

To get more clarity, students got the opportunity to find answers to two inquiry questions through explicit teaching.

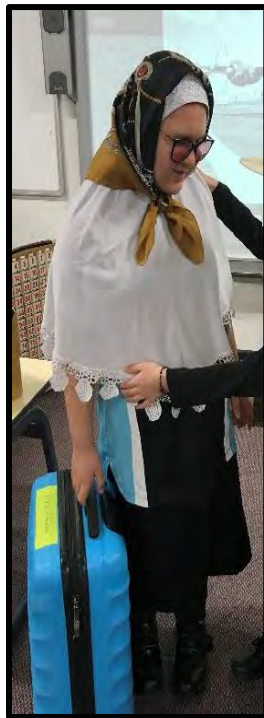
- Who were the people who migrated to Australia?

- What were their migration experiences?

To get a real-life experience, students enacted the life of a Greek migrant who came to Australia on the 12th of February 1948.

Students infer the feelings of the girl arriving in Australia and what her 'worldly goods' might have been. In groups, students role-play the family's greeting and introduction to their new home.





Spoken Language Program

Shared Crunch'n Sip and Bubble Breaks have been a highlight of the term. Students from Year 2 and 3 & 4 classes have been building on their social skills, conversational language as well as developing their speech skills by blowing bubbles.





In Art Club we have been exploring various techniques such as sketching, colour-mixing using paint, Pop-Art, cubism, colour blending using oil pastels and collaging. We have had a great time and cannot decide which technique we liked the best!





Students have had a great time during gardening club. A firm favourite has been hunting for worms!!!





We made damper! The Year 2 and Year 3 /4 classes worked together to make damper as part of learning about life in the past. We particularly enjoyed eating our damper smothered in butter and golden syrup.





Sign Bilingual Program

Maths

We have been learning fractions during maths by making a “pizza” from craft materials. The “pizza” can be shared by cutting slices.



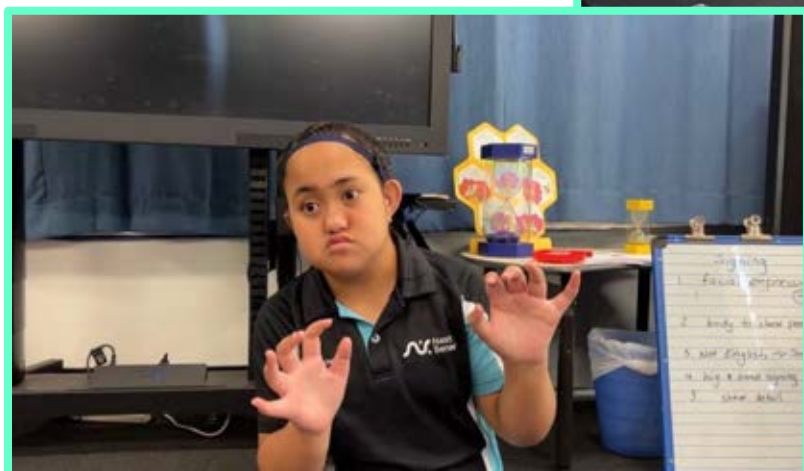
Annie's chair

We read the picture book "Annie's Chair" and performed it for Drama.



Auslan Day 13 April

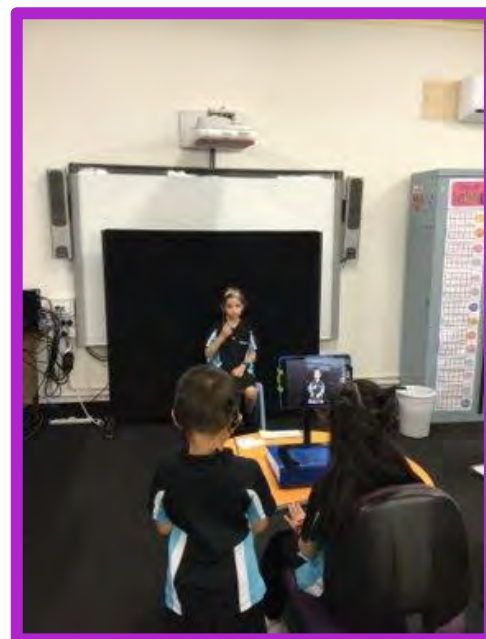
All of the children in the Sign Bilingual Program were lucky enough to have ex-student, sometimes teacher aid and signer extraordinaire, Shirley Liu, join us for a day of storytelling and language activities recently. The children were all very attentive and amused as she read the book "The Hundred Decker Bus" by Mike Smith. Following the story reading they worked on their own stories for the second annual Auslan Day Video Competition. We secretly hope we take out many places again but regardless we were so proud of the children's creativity and dedication to polishing their story.







We have been busy working on our stories. We have filmed the stories and will submit them to Deaf Australia, for their annual story telling competition. Last year our students won some of the story telling categories, fingers crossed we may be successful again this year.



Fun in the Sun

10 March 2023 - The girls from mine and Ragi's class joined the sign bilingual classes for sport today. Here are some pictures which could go into the fun in the sun section!



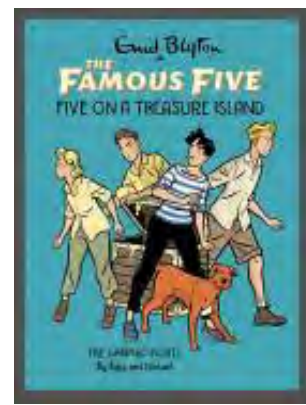






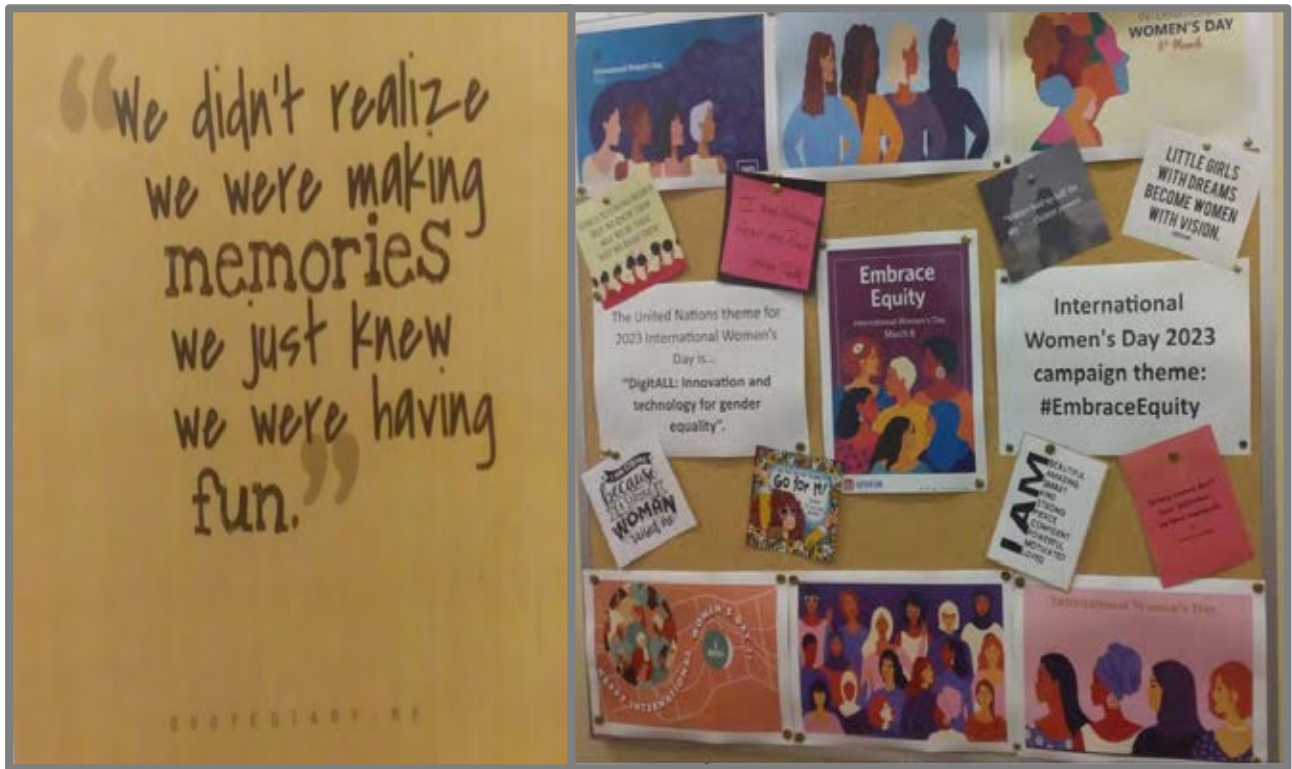
Library News Term 1 2023

The term started in it's usual busy pace with students booked in for library visits and lots of borrowing. The Graphic Novel collection has proven to be a great success, with a high rotation of titles.



Ongoing cataloguing of Large Print and Braille resources has bolstered those collections and loans are following suit. Hundreds of new classroom readers have also been added to the library collection.





Friendship Day and International Women's Day displays were popular this term with books connected to the displays being read to the classes.

Premier's Reading Challenge will start again next term, where the books borrowed by students and those read in class and in the library will add to their tallies. Remember to bring your Library Bag to school on your borrowing day!

Keep reading!

Karen Pentland

Librarian

School Term Dates 2023

Term 2 2023

School resumes for students - Wednesday 26 April 2023.

King's Birthday Public Holiday – 12 June 2023.

Last day Term 2 – 30 June 2023.

Upcoming Events

Easter Hat Parade – 11am Thursday 6 April 2023

During the holiday period the office will be closed. Please email schools@nextsense.org.au and we will respond when we return in Term 2 as soon as possible.

