



The Scoop

The news that matters from
Smith Street Unit

Volume 2, Issue 6

July 2015

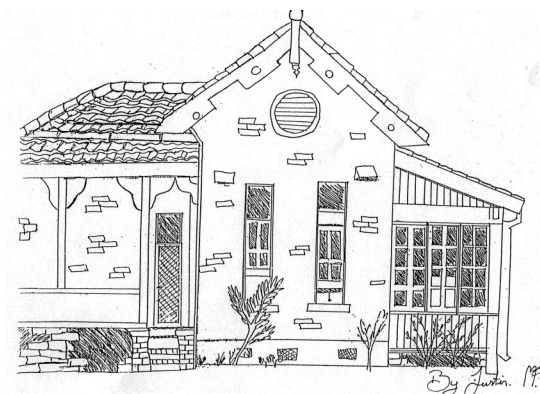


From the desk of Dale-Myree

Welcome back to term 3 and the many changes and new endeavours for this coming semester.

I would like to wish Catherine Jack well in her work placement and welcome Petrina Tairua to the team. Kim Johnston is exploring new challenges and Jay Gallagher will be returning to take up her position this term-looks like football is back on the program.

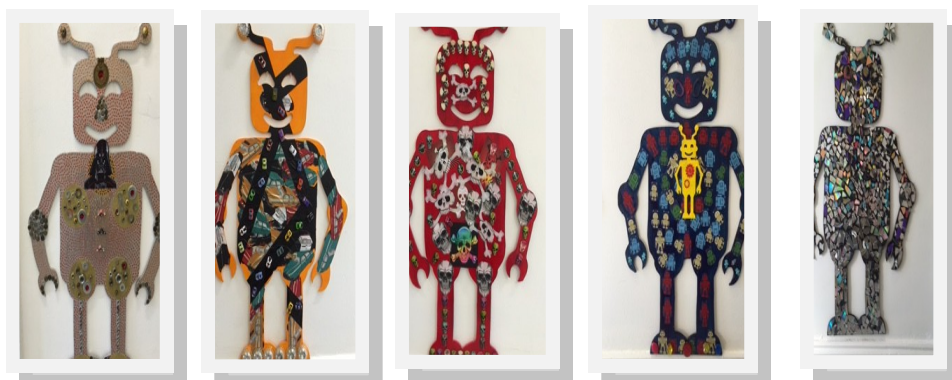
The students have also entered work in the Illawarra Disability Options Art Program. The ROBOTS guarding our Art Space are our first foray- wish us luck in the 'I create' category, to be judged at the Master Builders Club on Wednesday, 5th August.



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Dale-Myree



Star of Smith Street

We're excited!

The Smith Street Unit were pleased to see another student go off to a week of work experience. Sam Aitchison, Yr 11, spent a week at Notts Smash Repairs, Kemblawarra.

Sam is enrolled in a panel beating course, as a TVET subject for senior students. When visited onsite by Smith

Street Unit staff, Sam was too busy to catch up. We hope we see more of Sam wearing overalls and steel capped boots. He was so happy to be working there. It'd be great if it led to a job in the industry for Sam.

Fantastic effort, Sam!

Chahla



Sam Aitchison at Notts Smash Repairs

Special points of interest:

- Work Experience Legend
- Catch up with Sue
- Student successes
- Staff news
- Assembly Award excitement- Bailey Murray earns the first Bronze Award in 2015

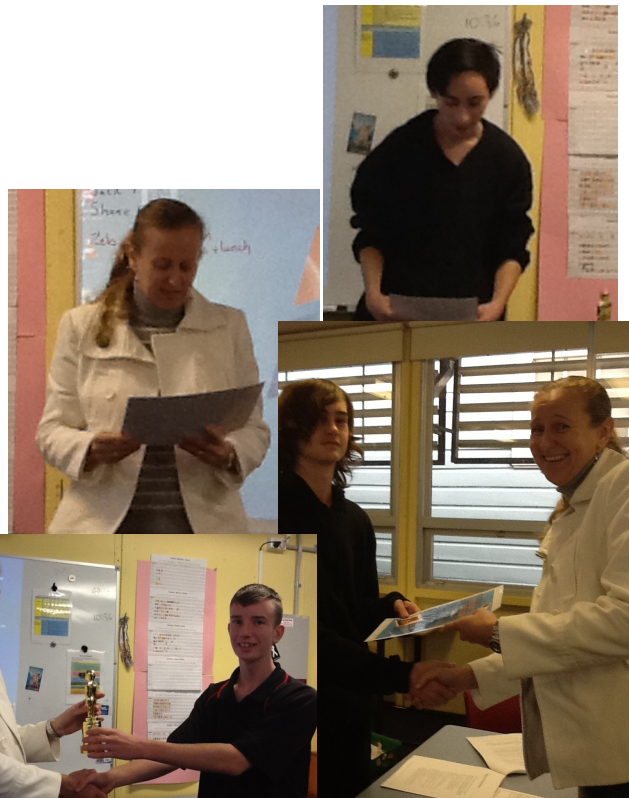
Assembly Highlights

Our June assemblies were led with maturity by students from years 9 & 10. David Hermann read the Welcome to Country with dignity and grace. We were so proud of Zeb Cullen for reading it too. Jack and Dryden have once again made the staff of the Smith Street Unit proud with their leadership. They run the assemblies without staff input. In fact, they've put a few of us in our place at THEIR assemblies! Assemblies have proven to be an opportunity to develop leadership skills in the Smith Street Unit students. We often comment on their willingness to try something new.

David Hermann was the most recent Student of the Fortnight. He has worked with consistent application and has put through great amount of work. Well done , David.

I was the nominee for Staff Member of the Fortnight, and was thrilled to be awarded the statuette by Jack. Thanks, boys. It's lovely to be appreciated by the students.

Danna



Hi from Sue, the counsellor at The Smith Street Unit.

HOW DO YOU COMMUNICATE? And how does it affect the people around you?

Aggressive

When a person is aggressive, they:

- stand up for their personal rights and express their thoughts, feelings and beliefs in a way that violates the rights of the of the person
- attack when threatened
- use put downs to maintain superiority, e.g. "Don't be so stupid"
- use aggressive body language, e.g. clenched fists, crossed arms, staring, tensing their jaw.

When people have an encounter with somebody who is being aggressive, they often feel:

- Resentful
- angry
- devastated
- uncooperative.



Assertive

When a person is assertive, they:

- stand up for themselves while respecting other people's beliefs and feelings at the same time
- communicate how they feel in a firm, relaxed voice
- provide constructive criticism without blame, e.g. "I feel irritated when you interrupt me".
- use open body language, e.g. using open hand movements, maintaining eye contact without staring.

When people have an encounter with somebody who is being assertive, they often feel:

- that they now understand the other person's position
- respected
- like cooperating with that person



Chahla's Kitchen



Our kitchen really is the heart of Smith Street Unit. There are always happy voices and yummy smells.

The end of the term saw both classes wrapping up units. The senior class continued to explore the issue of food inequity and nutritional values. We cooked and baked, and made comparisons to find out which were tasty and healthy options.

The junior class finished their healthy alternatives unit with the most delicious chocolate chip pancakes, served with real Canadian maple syrup.



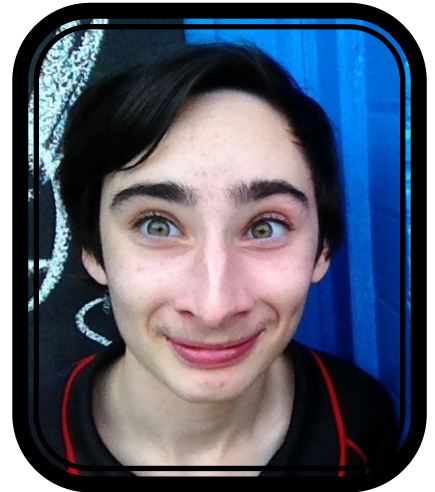
Chahla & Loretta

At the end of last term, Zebastian turned 17. You're probably wondering why that was a big day. It wasn't just that he didn't want the customary Smith Street Unit birthday cupcakes and indulged in a bowl of raspberry ripple ice cream instead!

No! It was a big day because it meant that we could start the process of

transitioning Zebastian to a post school program. Chahla, together with Jenevive from Mission Australia, and the DEC Transition Support Teacher, Meryl Bennett lodged an application for him join the Northcott Transition to Work program. Zeb has been for visits already and is keen to start. Northcott will help him with work

readiness skills, enrolling in a TAFE course and using their contacts to find him suitable work experience. Zeb is keen to work at a zoo, so it's likely that he'll complete a Cert 3 in Animal Care while he's there. We can't wait for the day he comes back in a uniform that isn't ours! It's always bitter-sweet to see our students move on.



It was a big day in the life of Zebastian

The Dirt on Gardening at The Smith Street Unit

Did your child order lunch from the canteen recently? If so, then they've been enjoying a sample of the produce we grow here at the Smith Street Unit. In particular, the herbs have been adding flavour to tacos, mini meat pies, fried rice and pizzas. Yum!

This term, we're looking forward to crops of tomatoes as well as seasonal

winter vegetables. These will be used in both the canteen and food tech taster classes.

After some research and experimentation, we're using crushed egg shells, from the canteen, to keep snails away. We're also collecting vegetable scraps to feed the worms in our worm farm. Our goal is to produce fertilizer

The fertiliser will be used on our garden, reducing our reliance on purchased fertilisers and minimising our green waste.

Cyndy



Smith Street End of Term Activity

Danna & Cyndy

Term 2 ended up with a **Thud** and a **Stomp!!!**

Jack, Dryden, Jaemee, James and Bailey went to Wol-longong Cinema accompanied by Danna and Cyndy on the last day of the term. They watched the movie "Jurassic World". Although they did not have huge expectations, the movie was "the best movie ever" according to Jack.



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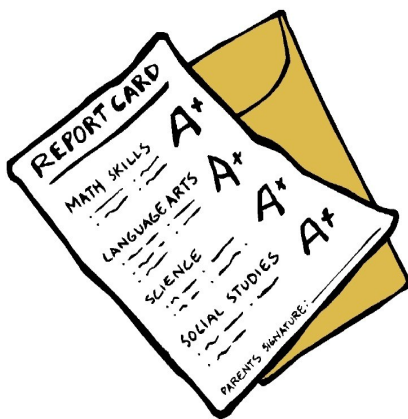
The Smith Street Unit is a service of the NSW Department of Education, providing specialised support in a unique environment. Students are provided with individualised learning programs to meet their educational needs.

The Unit has served the students of the Illawarra for over a quarter of a century with the key mission of providing a nurturing environment where students can grow into mature young men and women. It's always exciting to see a graduate come back to share their success stories.

What is your child achieving?

We were delighted to send out reports at the end of last semester. It was a real joy for the staff to reflect on all that had been achieved. We're excited to see how we can work with your child this term.

The classroom teachers are available, by appointment, to discuss your child's program. Call to book in for a chat and update on their progress.



Watch this space for more samples of excellence from the students at the Smith Street Unit.

Blake's Poem

We're always happy to see the students extending themselves. Sometimes the challenge seems too big, but then they experience success and want to do it all over again. Blake's task was to create a word picture. Can you close your eyes and see what he sees?

"From my window, I can see

Lush leaves, as green as grass,

A house in the distance as small as a flea.

The sun lights up my room through the glass.

From my window, I can see

Blue skies as clear as a diamond,

Houses, roofs, bushes and a huge tree.

Happy people talking in the garden."

Flash News from the Staff room

We are excited to announce that Danna is expecting her first child!!!

The baby is due in January.

CONGRATULATIONS!!!

