



The Scoop

The news that matters from the
Smith Street Unit

www.smithst-s.schools.nsw.edu.au

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From the desk of Dale-Myree



Meet Our Staff

I am thrilled to introduce Petrina Tairua, Rennay Hogan and Ziik Savu our School Learning Support Officers (SLSO), working in the unit this year. This amazing trio provides the mortar for the teaching bricks and is vital to the service we provide for the students here at the Smith Street Unit. Ziik and Rennay share the office duties and Petrina does an amazing job preparing the canteen lunches. She manages to hide lots of goodness (vegetables) in the food and the students love them. We are lucky to have Ziik. She helps around the school and fixes what is broken. She managed to hang our punching bag, fix our tables and do the maintenance needed to keep everything safe.

The unit would not run smoothly without the effort and contributions of our SLSOs and a little glitter from Rennay.

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<i>Last Day of Term 1</i>	Friday 8 th of April	Enjoy the holiday!!!
<i>First Day of Term 2</i>	Wednesday 27 th of April	Welcome Back!
<i>Last Day of Term 2</i>	Friday 1 st of July	Enjoy the holiday!!!

Arts, crafts and creativity



Dale-Myree keeps trying to find art projects to engage and motivate our students. In the past few weeks the students have been building figurines. It was a difficult task as the pieces were small and Dale-Myree had to assist the students to complete the project. *Turns out Nano blocks strain the **eyes** and challenge the **brain**!!!!*

SPORTS



The students at the Smith Street Unit had the opportunity to participate in a Bocce game on Wednesday as part of PDHPE class. Cyndy Starr ran the session and made sure the students enjoyed the physical challenges while practicing accuracy skills. Cyndy is quite impressed with their behaviour and positive attitude towards learning a new skill.

Staffroom News

Dale-Myree is now a grandmother to Beau Ziggy Von Harten. He is 6 weeks old.



Congratulations!!!

Dale-Myree and Chahla attended two workshops:

"Drug Use- Choice and Change" presented by Peter Slattery. More information about talking with Young People is available on <http://peterslattery.com/resources/talking-with-young-people/>

"Unlocking your Son's Genius" presented by Andrew Fuller. Andrew has established programs for the promotion of mental health in schools, substance abuse prevention, and the reduction of violence and bullying, suicide prevention programs and for assisting homeless young people. <http://andrewfuller.com.au/free-resources/>

SSU Harmony Day



Harmony Day, 21 March, celebrates Australia's cultural diversity. It's about inclusiveness, respect and a sense of belonging for everyone. It is a day for all Australians to embrace cultural diversity and to share what we have in common. The central message for Harmony Day is that 'everyone belongs', reinforcing the importance of inclusiveness to all Australians.



We celebrated Harmony day by wearing orange colours, having sliced oranges and mango Weiss ice cream bars after lunch. We also had a special Harmony Day assembly.

We value and celebrate the diversity within our unit each day.



The staff and students would like to welcome the new students at the unit Jaydan Clifford, from Warrawong, Daniel Rowe from Kanahooka, and Nicholas Scott from Engadine High School.

I started at the smith street unit this week so far it's been great. I have made new friends and have been doing more work then I used to. It's really great!!!

By Daniel Rowe, Year 9



links to learning

Congratulations to Dryden Jack for participating in the Links to Learning Program at Bellambi Neighbourhood Centre. Dryden is completing units from Cert II in Business and studying Business Services through Karabar Distance Education. Thanks to Grahame Glover, relieving coordinator, for supporting our students.

Assembly Highlights

This year, Ben Hightower has taken over the organisation of our fortnightly assemblies, which are now held on Monday morning. Dale-Myree introduced a new segment on the assembly's agenda "a short presentation about a health topic" and the links will be part of the monthly newsletter.

The topics covered in March were:

- Basal Cell Carcinoma and the photodynamic therapy
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BD1zBjto3xY>
- Energy drinks fact sheet and video
<http://www.druginfo.adf.org.au/fact-sheets/energy-drinks-do-they-really-give-you-wings-web-fact-sheet>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s-7vEPOo-uY>

The students were fascinated and interested in the topics.

Student of the fortnight

Congratulations to Jackson Brightling, Daniel Rowe and Matthew Thomas.



Well done!!!





The stump is gone!



Big "Thank You" to Chris



The unit was lucky to have Chris Cassar engaged to remove a large stump from our limited playground area. He did a fantastic job and also removed six smaller stumps **FOR FREE**.

A big "Thank you" to Chris and his stump and tree removal service.

By Dale-Myree



Jacob worked hard in Science learning about the body systems. He really enjoyed making the skeletal system.



Well done!!!



Sue, the unit's counsellor, started running Smiling Mind sessions with our senior students on Thursday afternoon. "Smiling Mind is modern meditation for young people. It's a simple tool that gives a sense of calm, clarity and contentment. Smiling Mind is a free tool that will assist in improving the lives of young Australians, and is available online or as a smartphone App. In recent years, Mindfulness Meditation has surged in popularity for use in the treatment of stress, resilience, anxiety, depression and other physical and mental illnesses".

<http://smilingmind.com.au/>

The Smith Street unit is a service of the New South Wales Department of Education providing specialised support in a unique environment. Students are provided with individualised learning programs to meet the educational needs.

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

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