



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



Kieran Hill

I started working at the Smith Street Unit in 2015. I also work at Flametree on a casual basis. I really enjoy working in both units however; I will be finishing work in Term 3 to travel to Iceland with my partner for a new adventure and learning experience.

Gangi þér vel! (Good Luck)



Meet Our Staff

Kieran has been a quiet asset here at the Smith Street Unit. He relates well to all the students and is valued by all the staff. He is a champion in building the Nano blocks and he assisted Jacob Newman to gain skills crucial for independent living to build the confidence in catching public transport to and from school. Sadly, Kieran is leaving the unit to pursue a different line of work in Iceland. He will be missed by all and we look forward to hearing his travel stories.



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Queen's Birthday	Monday, 13 June	Public Holiday
Last Day of Term 2	Friday, 01 July	Enjoy the holiday!!!
First Day of Term 3	Monday, 18 July	Welcome Back!

Arts, crafts and creativity



Dale-Myree keeps trying to find art projects to engage and motivate our students. In weeks 1 and 2, the students prepared their art boxes for Mothers' Day. Loretta will be making chocolate spiders with the students to fill the boxes. ***Yum Yum and Happy Mothers' Day!***

SPORTS



The students at the Smith Street Unit had the opportunity to participate in a volleyball using the 'Fit Ball' as part of PDHPE class. Cyndy Starr ran the session and made sure the students enjoyed the physical challenges while practicing offensive and accuracy skills. We are so pleased to be able to use the reclaimed space for the sports games and we are proud of the students' engagement and positive attitude towards learning new skills.

Staffroom News

The staff attended a staff development day on Tuesday the 26 of April. Greg Mitchell presented three workshops "Team Building", "cooperative learning" and "boys in education". Greg is an enthusiastic, highly experienced and passionate educator, from Western Australia. Greg brings all of his experience, knowledge, creativity, wisdom, optimism, and humour into his workshops to empower teachers to become better team members, and to develop a deeper understanding of how boys learn.

I found the session on team building very inspiring.

The four skills that Greg highlighted as crucial for effective team building were:

- ❖ Give up the past
- ❖ Listen with respect
- ❖ Learn as much as you can
- ❖ Help as much as you can

At the unit, the staff are exemplary in demonstrating and modeling these four skills to create a positive safe environment for all. **Thanks Greg for very informative workshops!!!**

ChahLa

Mother's Day Celebrations



Joshua



Nicholas



Jacob



Bailey

Loretta and the junior class made delicious "White chocolate spiders and Dark chocolate spiders" as gifts for the carers and parents. The Smith Street Unit Staff would like to wish all the mothers, grandparents and carers a happy mother's Day.
Hope you enjoyed the yummy treats!!!



The staff and students would like to welcome a new student at the unit Nicholas Scott from Bulli High School.



Congratulations to Jaydan Clifford and Jackson Brightling for participating in the Workers of Wollongong Program WOW induction sessions at TAFE. WOW is a work experience program coordinated and organised by Merryl Bennett. Jackson and Jaydan will learn gardening and horticulture skills when they start working at Greenhouse Park every Tuesday this term.

Thanks to Merryl Bennett, and Rod Hall (relieving for Merryl) Department of Education Transition Support Teacher, for supporting our students.



Assembly Highlights

On Monday 9th of May, Matt Ball and Emily Loomes (Youth Development Workers from Wollongong Youth Services) visited the unit to chat with our students about youth related issues in Wollongong. Matt, Emily and Hayley (student at Wollongong University) spent 40 minutes discussing issues that are relevant to our students. "Wollongong Youth Services" aims "to provide a safe and supervised environment where young people can come and socialize, learn and enjoy activities". "Youth Services" is a "recreational drop-in centre from Tuesday to Saturday outside of school hours". The students enjoyed having the visitors and they shared their insights and opinions. They displayed positive attitude, social appropriateness and genuine understanding of the challenges facing them after school.



They made us proud!!!

MISSION AUSTRALIA

together we stand

Since December 2014, the Smith Street Unit has been involved with the Mission Australia Transition Support Project. The program is a joint project between Ageing Disability and Home Care (ADHC) and NSW Department of Education and Community (DEC). The project aims to provide support for students with disabilities to prepare them for post school life. A special thanks to Jeniveve Podmore from Mission Australia for assisting our students to successfully transition into the big world!!!

Jeniveve has helped with Zeb's transition to Northcott, James's transition to IVS and currently working towards transitioning Dylan to a 6 months course TAFE "pre-Apprenticeship" course.

Thank you for your continual and relentless support!!!



The garden needed so much Tender and Loving care after the holiday. The students, guided and supervised by Cyndy have weeded, pulled the old plants, and prepared for the winter planting.



Petrina continues to be creative in using all the yummy vegetables when preparing the students' lunches.

Thanks Cyndy and Petrina for ensuring the students at the unit are provided with healthy eating options.



Daniel worked hard in Science learning about Chemical Reactions. He really enjoyed making the elephant toothpaste. Well done!!!



Mindful Schools

Engaging children. Supporting educators. Transforming schools.

The staff at the Unit are undertaking an online course on Mindfulness to assist us to promote the well being of our students and ourselves. "Mindfulness is a simple, powerful technique that reduces stress and promotes well-being. Backed by over 30 years of research, mindfulness develops awareness of thoughts, emotions, and the body. This awareness allows you to identify sources of stress and anxiety before they intensify and become overwhelming" (www.mindfulschools.org/pdf/training-level11.pdf).

Good Luck to us all!!!!

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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