

JUNIOR SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



IMPORTANT DATES

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Dr Toni Pikos-Sallie

OCTOBER

MONDAY 4TH: Term 4

Starts

MONDAY 11TH: Science
Week (JS)

DECEMBER

FRIDAY 3RD: Yr. 5

Graduation Ceremony

TUESDAY 7TH: Last Day
(Yr. F-5)

FRIDAY 10TH: Term 4
Ends

As-Salaamu Alaykum & Greetings!

Dear Parents/Carers & Community Members,

There is no doubt that Term 3, 2021 might have been the toughest term this year. For a time, the lockdowns looked like they were never going to end. However, I am extremely proud of our students, parents/carers and staff for hanging in there and getting through this really challenging time masha Allah. Our Year 12 students are to be particularly commended, as they faced disruption and uncertainty in both years of their VCE studies!

Despite the restrictions and challenges, our staff and parents worked together to make some memorable moments this term. Most notably we had our annual Hajj Simulation at the beginning of term. A big thank you to Mr Muhammed Sezgin and our Religious Education department for running this event which aims to give students a real-life taste of the Hajj / Pilgrimage experience. Students visited all the stations and went through the rituals that constitute the fifth pillar of Islam – the Hajj.



I was particularly impressed with our Hajj customs officials who checked our passports and did security checks on entry.

Well done to all our students and staff who participated in this event!



During the Term 3 lockdown, our Health and Physical Education

Domain ran a 'Trick Shot' competition. Our students across all year levels had a lot of fun testing out and recording their trick shots. The two talented winners of this competition were **Kivanc Oz in 2M** and **Layla Quinn in 8H!** A big thank you to our HPE Domain for taking the initiative to run this competition.



During the lockdowns, our onsite staff and I also had the pleasure of supervising our students whose parents are essential workers. They brightened our otherwise quiet classrooms and playgrounds with their presence. On 15 July, my day was seriously brightened when a special little visitor Zara Cajic from Foundation asked to speak with the Principal. Zara inquisitively explored my office, made great conversation and kindly helped me consume this lovely 'thank you' biscuit. Thank you Zara!!

Again, a massive thank you to all our students, parents/carers and staff for your ongoing resilience and support during our most challenging term!

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Toni Pikos-Sallie".

Dr Toni Pikos-Sallie
College Principal

Dear Parents, carers and students,

This newsletter entry is a particularly challenging one to write. The unprecedented nature of having lived through over 200 days of lockdown in Victoria has clearly impacted on all of us in so many ways. There is no doubt that every member of the school community has been tested by yet another extended lockdown. Despite this, as a College we still experience constant positive feedback regarding student growth and achievement. For those attending on-site supervision we get to see them enjoying their learning and being able to engage in some socialising with their peers. I'm very proud of the efforts of all of our students, parents and staff as we try to get the best out of a very unfortunate situation. I pray for the continued good health of all of our community members and their extended families.

My biggest hope for each and every person affiliated with the College at the moment is that we are taking steps to look after our own health and wellbeing. Remote learning requires additional screen time for our students and this becomes very difficult to avoid. Teaching staff are constantly reminding our students of some of the little things that they can do to maintain their physical, mental and social health. Examples of this are engaging with family members and having genuine conversations, getting exercise, spending plenty of time outdoors (particularly as the weather gets better), maintaining routines and structure (particularly around sleeping times) and having a well-balanced diet. We have tried to proactively support this through adjusting our assessment expectations, shortening classes and including wellbeing initiatives (such as Feel Good Fridays where students have the afternoon free of timetabled classes to focus on activities that will benefit their well-being) and College themed days.

If additional support is required for our students then please get in contact with the College. The challenges all of our students are facing are very unique and we want to put as many steps in place to support our students, understanding that everyone responds differently to each situation and that some individuals may need more understanding or help than others. My heart goes out to all of our students but particularly our Year Twelve cohort who have had as much time spent learning from home as they have learning on-site during their VCE experience.



We look very forward to (hopefully) having our students back on-site to commence Term Four. We understand the disruptions students have endured because of these extended periods of remote learning and we continue to marvel at the resilience that they show in the face of all the current challenges. I do believe it is even more important than ever that our students make the most of the upcoming school holiday period. Having less screen time, spending increased time outdoors and doing lots of activities that create happiness may never have been more important. Everyone needs to refresh and recharge for Term Four, a term that will hopefully allow students on-site and for the first time in 18 months be free of remote learning (once everyone returns).

Tim Campbell
Vice-Principal (Administration)

Dear Students, Parents and Carers,

It feels as though this year has flown by; we are already at the end of Term Three. Where has the year gone!

Unfortunately, this year has almost been a repeat of last year with restrictions and remote learning. Our teachers, students and parents have had to readapt to the changes and to the unknown this has presented us yet again. All are champions in their own way having found ways to work through and soldier on through all the challenges faced. We have quite a remarkable community; parents, teachers, and students.

Junior School staff have tried to work around hurdles and make learning engaging as well as fun for our students. We celebrated Science Week with our students dressing up for the occasion. It ceases to amaze me how creative our parents and students can be. I thoroughly enjoyed seeing the effort families put into costumes and ideas with limited access to stores. There were some amazing Science Experiments run by teachers, and some great videos coming through with students conducting their own experiments. It was lovely to see the enthusiasm and the love for learning and trying new things. We celebrated Book Week this term with a dress up day and some activities run during our literacy sessions. We've had to reschedule the Scholastic Book Fair for Term Four with Ms. Ilkay and also the performance for Foundation – Year 2 by Perform Education. InshAllah we will be back on site for these activities, they are events our students really enjoy taking part in.

Our Foundation students had to celebrate their '100 days at school' celebration online as well. They took part in some activities with their teachers to acknowledge this day. They were quite proud of themselves and dressed up in their '100 days smarter' clothes, which definitely made them look a lot smarter! I must acknowledge and thank our Foundation parents here. They are putting in so much effort with assisting the Foundation students at home with remote learning. We, Mrs. Smith and I, seriously could not do this without them. Not only our Foundation parents but all our parents who are putting in so much effort with supporting their children, our children, at home. It's been amazing, and we as teachers truly understand the challenges you are facing with motivating the students to engage in remote learning.

There are a few wellbeing initiatives running at the moment to ensure that our students emotional as well as academic needs are met. We have the Feel Good Fridays, which aims to give students as well as teachers some time away from screens taking part in some relaxing and enjoyable activities. Junior School also has Wacky Wednesdays, where we have wacky dress up ideas for students and teachers. We've had Crazy Hair Day, Inside Out Day and Pyjama Day all to bring some fun and joy to our children during these difficult times. The students have thoroughly enjoyed seeing their friends and teachers in some of these wacky dress ups.

The mental health and wellbeing of our children is more important than anything, especially currently. If your child is not feeling fully up to joining live classes, inform their teachers and give your child the break they need. We understand that remote learning can get a bit too much for children sometimes. All schools are facing the same challenges and issues. Even with the efforts of teachers, parents, and students our students may not improve at the rate we want, they may even regress. This is something we must acknowledge and accept. But we have amazing staff who will try and ensure that the gap is closed through great teaching practice as well support. Together, lets all make sure our children's mental health is at a good place. If we achieve this, everything else, all challenges will be a lot easier to face.

Keep safe everyone.

Ms. Hulya Ucler
Head of Junior School

Assalamu Alaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuhu,
Esteemed Parents/Carers and Students,

Allah (s.w.t) mentions in Surah Al-Inshirah:

“Then truly with hardship there is ease; surely with hardship there will be ease.” Inshirah/5-6

The College community was saddened to hear that the burning down of forests, and the loss of innocent animals in Turkey mainly in the West province deeply saddened us. But we know and believe that there is no challenge that we cannot overcome as long as we unite around the values that make us “us”. There are responsibilities that fall upon every one of us, just like the ant that ran to put out the fire into which the Prophet Ibrahim (as) was thrown.

Thank You!

TURKEY FIREFIGHTER & BUSHFIRES APPEAL

With the help of your support, we have raised a total of **\$2000**

You can still donate:
**COMMONWEALTH BANK
AUSTRALIAN DIYANET ASSOC.
BSB: 063 - 243
ACC NO: 1035 5051**

AUSTRALIAN DIYANET ASSOCIATION Receipt No: 2389 Date: 11/01/2021 Received From: Mt Hira College The Sum of: Two Thousand Dollars Being For: Bush Fire Appeal (for Turkey) Total \$2000 received by A. Enayir



With the help of your support to the **Turkey Firefighter and Bushfires Appeal**, we have raised a total of \$2,000. May Allah reward you all. I would like to take this opportunity to wish the mercy of Allah the Almighty (swt) on those who have lost their lives in disasters, particularly in fires, and speedy recovery for those who have been injured. May our Lord Almighty (swt) facilitate those who have been risking their lives in the fight against disasters, and be their helper. Amin.



In Term Three, Mt Hira College **Early Learning Centre** Kindergarten students attended a Mosque Tour to understand the Islamic faith and its values. We would like to sincerely thank Abdurrahman Sahin Hoca for hosting the event. During this Term, the annual **Mt Hira College Hajj Simulation** took place in the College Gymnasium where the Year Seven students hosted the event. Students from Foundation to Year Six had the opportunity to experience the acts of worship required during Hajj. The students gained an understanding of the first revelation revealed to Prophet Muhammad (p.b.u.h) which is IQRA-READ. The following were some of the stations that formed the Hajj Simulation circuit. Police Customs - Passport control, Introduction to Arabia, Preparation Hajj Kit - what items are needed during Hajj, Kaaba cloth from Mecca, Kaaba maquette, Safa and Marwa, Arafat, Muzdalifah, Mina, Jamarat, Sacrifice, the serving of Zamzam water.

We thank Allah for the blessings He has given us and pray the current conditions ease for everyone around the world.

Mr. Muhammed Sezgin

Head of Religious Affairs/RE Domain Leader

In Term 3, Foundation children have been doing it all! We have conducted science experiments, dressed as our favourite book character and celebrated 100 days of school. We have also learnt about the months of the year and their corresponding seasons, how to write a re-tell, taking part in the “Reading Egg” challenge and learning how to THRASS out words.



Pictures of students working in groups with their narrative texts.

In Foundation we continue to read our favourite books and we have even tried to use “break out” rooms so we can chat with our friends. Even though our challenges are great we strive to do our best. Thank you to all our Foundation parents who are supporting us and their children with their online learning journey.

In Term 3, 1T learnt about narrative writing and the importance of the 3 W’s (Who, What and Where) to create a detailed story. We brainstormed our 3 W’s and used all the wonderful examples to help us write our stories.

In maths we learnt all about 3D shapes. We learnt about the edges and vertices by making our own 3D shapes to play with.

1T have been very positive despite the struggles of remote learning. We managed to have a great week for science week, and we still participated in a 'Milk Masterpiece' experiment over Teams. Book week also went ahead, and we had a great virtual parade to show off our costumes and played a character 'guess who' game.

At the start of term 3, students in 1M explored the purpose of orientation, complication, and resolution in a narrative text. Prior to the current lockdown, students worked in groups, rearranging plots of a story using connectives and openers.

During remote learning, students wrote a narrative text and shared their stories on Teams. As an extension to writing lessons, students wrote a description of their favourite characters for book week, and they dressed up as their favourite characters.

For Science week, we participated in synchronous and asynchronous science experiments, making slime, rainbow skittles and moon mud. Moon Mud is a non-Newtonian liquid which is a liquid that acts both like a solid and liquid. Students experienced that when Mood Mud is agitated, it acts like a solid, but when it is left alone it acts like a liquid.



Online learning was a challenge but students in 1M have gracefully adjusted to learning online with a positive attitude. Their engagement in the assignments and opportunities for participation during this time has been remarkable.

Mrs. Maria Smith
Years F – 1 Team Leader

Term 3 has been a whirlwind, but the Year Two's and Three's have absolutely smashed it as usual.

The students have been wonderfully adaptable and have showed so much resilience. We were lucky enough to be able to have the Hajj Simulation and learn about the significance of Hajj with everyone participating and learning through a memorable event. We also got to enjoy our dance lessons for the upcoming concert. It was great to see the students enthusiastically having a dance and bonding over an amazing performance.



Although we have returned to remote learning, the students have worked really hard to complete their learning and continue having a positive attitude. Science Week and Book Week brought a lot of joy to lockdown, and we saw some amazing and creative costumes, experiments, and literacy activities. Year Two have worked hard on their different writing genres and have done an incredible job with multiplication, division, capacity, 3D shapes and more in Maths! The Year Two's have also enjoyed diving into design in their Technologies class. We unfortunately had to say goodbye to Ms. Sannang and we will miss her so much, however we are really happy and excited to have Ms. Bianca stepping in and doing an amazing job! Year Three have focused on enhancing their writing skills by up levelling and adding more detail using interesting words. They explored fractions and have begun developing mastery in multiplication and division. Year Three have also started to learn how to use PowerPoint in Technologies and have investigated sustainability and the Human Body in Health.



Overall, the teachers are incredibly proud of the students and hope they enjoy their well-deserved break!

Ms. Penelope Batsakis
Year 2 – 3 Team Leader

Term Three certainly looked different from what we had expected of it. The Year Four and Five students worked remotely for most of the term and have displayed enthusiasm, strength and resilience during yet another lockdown.



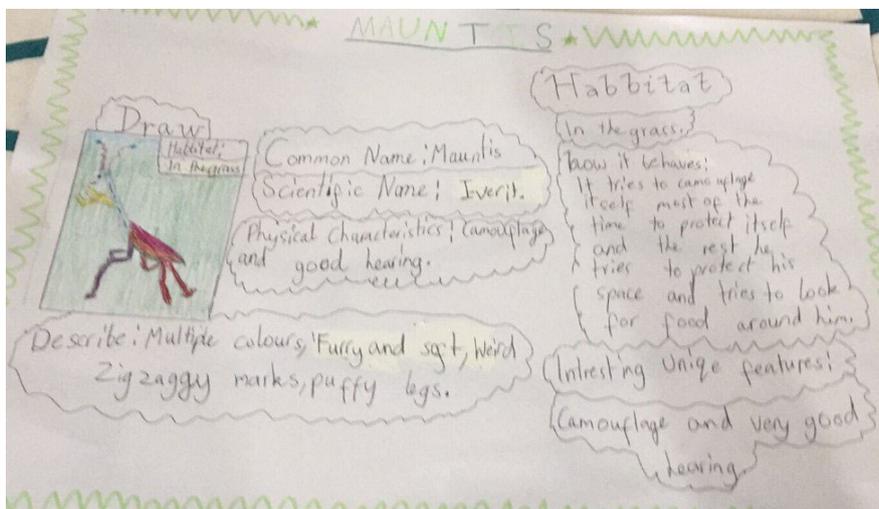
Science Week was one of the highlights during the remote learning period. Mrs. Baydar organised fun and engaging science activities and experiments for the whole Junior School that the Year Four and Five students participated in. The Year Four students explored chemical science and made exploding volcanoes. They also created their own species of insect. The Year Five students began their new science topic “Desert Survivors” and explored how different animals and plants survive in different regions and climates. 5M have welcomed Ms. Zala, a pre-service teacher, into the remote learning classroom. She taught a brilliant lesson about the link between science and Islam. The students researched a Muslim scientist of their choice and learnt how these scientists contributed their knowledge and expertise to the world.



Book Week was another focal point for the term. The students participated in the Reading Eggs Book Week competition, created character profiles, explored the Book Week theme “Old Worlds, New Worlds, Other Worlds” through creative writing and dressed up as their favourite book character.



The Year Four and Five students looked at “Healthy Habits” and analysed the Mt Hira Canteen Menu in relation to the Healthy Eating Pyramid. The students were able to make modifications and adjustments to the menu in order to keep healthy habits.



The Year Five students completed their Branching PowerPoints in Digital Technologies. They created a story on PowerPoint and incorporated scenarios that needed the reader to make choices. They learnt how to make hyperlinks as a way of making choices digitally.

Ms. Emma Scott
Years 4 – 5 Team Leader

Dear Students, Parents and Carers

Term 3 is coming to an end under very special circumstances. Our students are doing remote learning. Our focus in Term 3 was to keep motivating students to take interest in learning Arabic and Turkish languages remotely. To engage students in learning, we had to modify the teaching/learning planning as the students are learning online. The focus was more on interactive activities and simple tasks with on-going revision. In terms 1 and 2 newsletters, I shared with you four major resources we use with all students from Foundation to Year 10. We added two more online subscriptions:

1. [ArabicPod101.com](http://www.happychild.org.uk/freeway/arabic/index.htm))
2. <http://www.happychild.org.uk/freeway/arabic/index.htm>)
3. <http://www.happychild.org.uk/freeway/Turkish/index.htm>).

In addition to these resources, we still train our students to use the Arabic and Turkish keyboards to learn how to type and how to translate using google translator. To motivate the students, we added two units to the planned activities in Term 3. The first one was about "Eid Al-Adha" and the other one about the "Olympic Games in Tokyo" for all levels in Junior, Middle and Senior schools. Students had the opportunity to learn more vocabulary related to these units and shared some great moments during Hajj simulation and of Australian achievements during the two-weeks of the Olympic games in different sports and categories. As we are striving to teach our students a second language in Mt Hira, we request the parents to help at home as much as they can.

Message from Ms. Sebnem

30 AĞUSTOS ZAFER BAYRAMI

Year 6 to Year 9 Turkish and VCE Turkish students immersed themselves in a week of Turkish history and language as we celebrated August 30 Celebration of Victory and the National Day in Turkey (30 AĞUSTOS ZAFER BAYRAMI).

VCE TURKISH: The year is ending very quickly, and Term 3 is nearly finishing. The language students are the first soldiers to face VCAA exams. This year, 3 Turkish students are going to face the oral exams on the 11th of October. Students will sit the exam at an external venue. During the exam, the students are to bravely walk into a private room one at a time to demonstrate their language skills in front of two examiners for 15 min. This is a most intimidating and nerve-racking experience for them and only one chance is given. Though we have had lots of stress throughout this year, the students have been patient and have been working very hard with their teacher Ms. Sebnem for this moment and they are feeling mixed emotions between concern and excitement. We wish them all the very best and we all want them to remember "You are all great!"

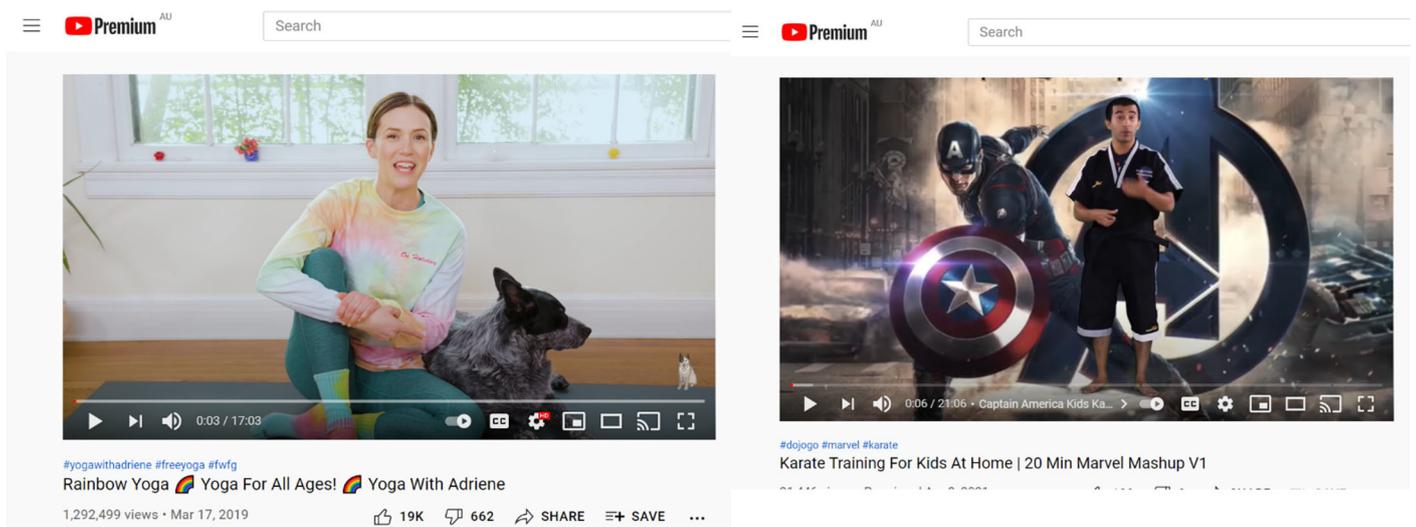
Please do not hesitate to communicate with the Turkish and Arabic teachers or myself, should you have a query or a request. We are very happy to help.

Kind Regards

Dr. Samir Dorhmi
LOTE Domain Leader

The Tokyo games got us all in the Olympics spirit with some excellent ‘armchair analysis’ happening during remote learning. Teachers and students alike were enthusiastically watching and discussing the in’s and out’s of many Olympic events. Very inspiring!

To keep us active during remote learning the primary students have been exploring different ways to keep fit and coordinated...yoga and martial arts! Following along with some YouTube superstars we are finding ways to meditate, relax, flex, punch, kick and follow instructions. Master Kelly teaches us to use our martial arts skills for self-defence only and our yoga instructor Adriane guides us to find inner peace and be in tune with our bodies.



The PE domain released a competition to find Mt Hira’s best trickshot! Primary students did their best, throw, lob, kick, slide and hit to try and become Mt Hira’s best trickshot champion. After sifting through dozens of talented and skilled entries the most impressive trickshot was performed by... **Kivanc Oz in 2M** who flipped a hat from the floor onto his head using just his foot! Congratulations to all primary students that submitted entries- the PE team were very impressed by the skill and creativity!



Mr. David Tudor
HPE Domain Leader

Being thrust back into remote learning really highlights the importance of technology for this generation of students. They are becoming experts at communicating in an online environment and these are skills that will see them well into the future.

Technologies at Mt Hira College covers both Design and Technology and Digital Technology. Grade One and Two have been completing a Design and Technology unit this term. Check out these amazing Rock House designs by Sara E and Ismail in 2M.



Students in Years 3 to 5 have been exploring the concept of branching. Branching is used in most websites that we visit as it provides the users with choice to click on different links. Students designed Choose Your Own Adventure stories in PowerPoint and had to demonstrate skills such as hyperlinking.



What should I watch first?

[Dora](#) or [Shrek](#)



I'M GETTING READY FOR SCHOOL!
SHOULD I CHANGE FIRST OR DO MY HAIR?



[Do my hair](#)

[change](#)



And just to finish, parents and guardians, please remember, the key to remote and flexible learning this time is to know everyone is doing the best they can and that includes you – be gentle with yourself and don't compare yourself with others.

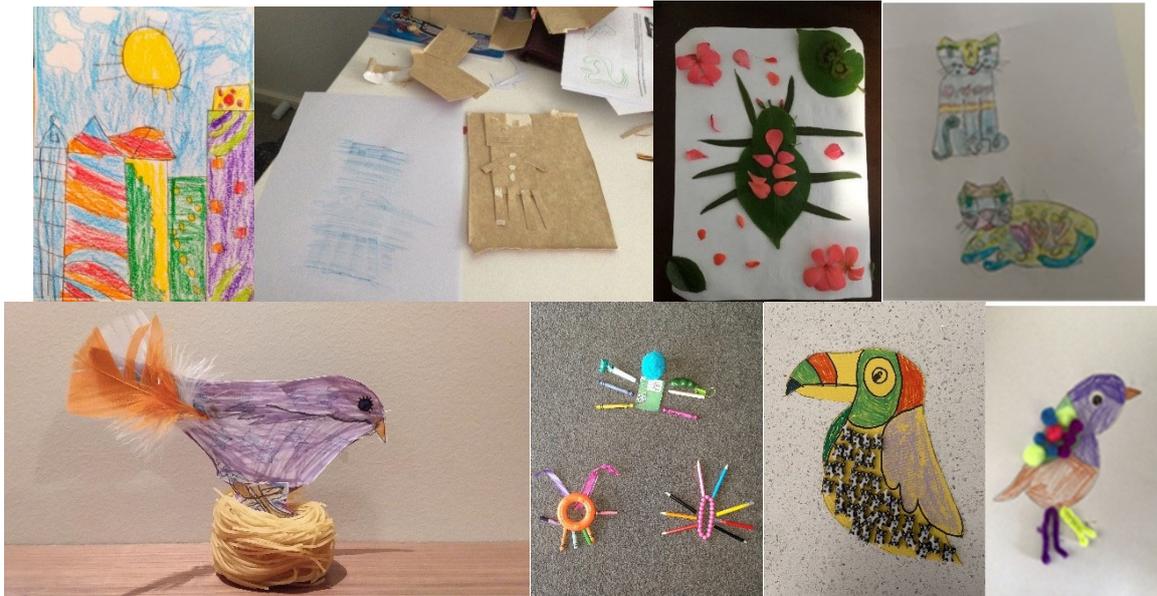
Katie Curtis

F – 5 Technologies Coordinator

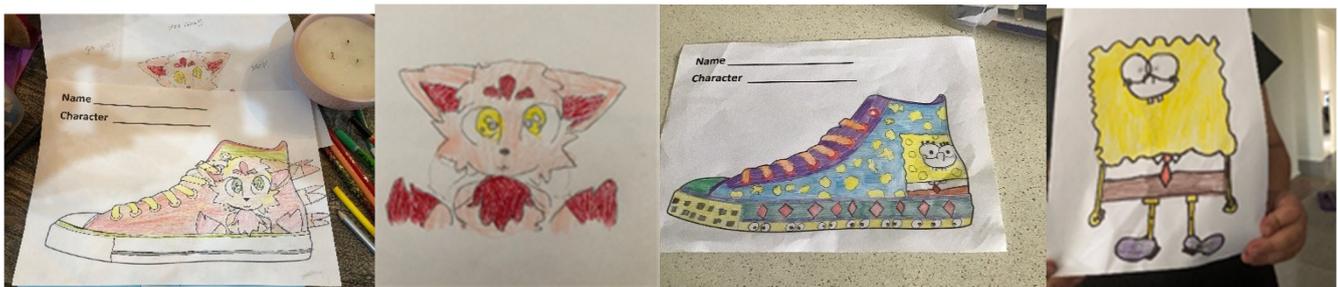
While Term 3 has not turned out how we would have expected, the Junior School students have shown so much enthusiasm towards Visual and Performing Art during this remote learning period!

Visual Arts

Foundation to Year 2 students have been busily learning about different artists, art elements and mediums. Below you can see pictures of their Paul Klee houses, robot collographs, leaf insects, incredible birds and amazing Laurel Burch cats. With the focus on 'try their best', the students have certainly achieved this goal.

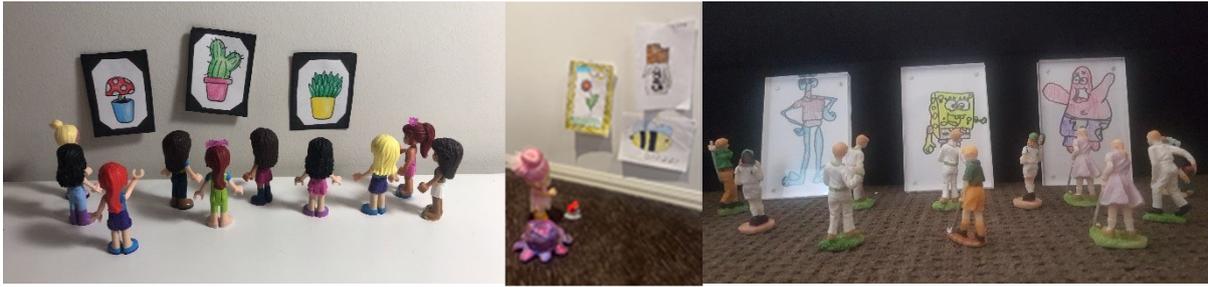


One of the activities the Year 3 students completed this term was to become fashion designers and create a shoe based on their favourite cartoon character.



Grade 4 and 5 have explored a variety of artists, including Sonia and Robert Delaunay. We have spent time discussing art and why sometimes it just doesn't make any sense. Here are some Delaunay circles from Grade 4 and miniature galleries from Grade 5.





Junior Music

The Grade 2's and 3's have been investigating how to make their own music through using patterns to create a Rhythm. Using Musiclab, students have made songs to showcase their knowledge of rhythms, while making short melody lines using long and short sounds. During Science Week, we looked at how sound is made through vibrations, and then students discovered how they can use objects around the house as instruments.



The Grade 4's have been working hard to come up with ideas and build their skills to produce a puppet show. While looking at Jim Henson, the creator of The Muppets, students discovered how many different ways puppets can be made, and out of a variety of materials. They have been using their voices and animation skills to bring inanimate objects to life, and even used them to act out scenes from stories. Next term will be very 'hands on', as they create their puppets and rehearse their stories to present to each other!



The Grade 5 classes have been applying their expressive skills of Voice, Movement, Gesture, Body Language and Facial Expressions to create random characters through improvisation. They have progressed from accepting and adding to offers from prompts within the class, to creating their own characters such as Superheros, and scenes, like pretending to document an endangered species!



Peter Davidson – Performing Arts
Katie Curtis – Visual Arts

Dear Parents/Carers and Students

I hope you are coping well with the lockdown and keeping healthy and safe. These are extra-ordinary times around the world, in Australia and specifically in our state Victoria. At the College we are managing the lockdown restrictions a on daily basis following the Health Department recommendations. We are also making sure the wellbeing of students is a priority. Our teachers are aware that there is a need to balance teaching/ learning and wellbeing of the students. Our two counsellors are also working hard to attend to the students' needs. Below is their contribution to this article.

Ms. Victoria our Junior School Counsellor

My role as a Junior School Counsellor in term 3 is to ensure effective and efficient delivery of counselling sessions using Art Therapy. Throughout the lockdown period of remote learning, I offered individual and group therapy sessions face-to-face to the students on campus and online through Microsoft Teams. With the challenges and increased uncertainty associated with COVID 19, the sessions I conducted have primarily focused on building relationships and connections; nervous system regulation; and increasing body awareness.

Ms Rose our Secondary Counsellor

Term 3 has been challenging to the families, their students and teaching staff. This allowed us to be reflective about our circumstances. Students have felt the impact of the lockdown and are trying to navigate its impact based on their circumstances, which proved to be hard at times. Our response had to be creative to cater to the needs of our students. We implemented strategies such as getting students to do some of the following:

- On the spot exercises to increase motivation and stimulate the brain.
- For some Art Therapy with material left around at home, this brings out their creativity and awareness.
- Animal assisted Therapy for students with Anxiety.

By changing routine and placing a little fun in their lives, students can view their circumstances from a different perspective. We have also encouraged our staff to take on board some of these strategies. As for the parents, we recommend that they be gentle and kind to themselves and take the time for self-care.

We pray to Allah (SWT) to look after us and our community in these challenging times. Please stay safe and healthy during the lockdown. Allah (SWT) mentions in the Qur'an "With difficulty comes ease".

Should you need any support please remember that both our Counsellors, myself and the Leadership Team members are available to you all for any support you need.

Dr. Samir Dorhmi
Head of Wellbeing