



Creaney

EDUCATION SUPPORT CENTRE

Ph: 9409 6344

<http://creaneyesc.wa.edu.au>

Newsletter 3

18 March, 2016

Important Dates

Monday 21st March – 7pm School Council meeting
Tuesday 22nd March – Bunnings workshop incursion
Friday 25th March - Good Friday holiday
Monday 28th March - Easter Monday holiday
Tuesday 29th March - Easter Tuesday holiday
Friday 8th April - Last day of Term 1
Wednesday 27th April- Students commence Term 2
Monday 9th May – Two weeks of swimming lessons commence (PP-6)
Monday 6th June – WA Day Holiday
Friday 1st July – End of Term 2

School Council

The first School Council meeting of 2016 will be held this Monday night (21st March) at 7pm. All parents are welcome – we would love to see you there! As well as finding out about events at school, we will be tabling the draft Annual Report, considering the 2016 Budget and discussing whether to apply for Independent Public School status.

Boys Club

Mr Mac has been running a Boys Club each Wednesday afternoon with a mixed group of students from around the Centre. It has been very pleasing to see the social interaction and pure enjoyment that the students are getting from the activities. The focus is on developing social skills and confidence but Mr Mac has also been very impressed by the language, cooperation and problem-solving skills being practised.

Currently their activities have been centred on setting up and operating a Thomas train set. Mr Mac has described himself as the Fat Controller but I think he has a long way (or is it weigh?) to go before he can really be that!



Harry, Michael and Isaia had set up a very intricate transport system the day I visited.

Carparks

Construction works at the Kingsley Football club have caused some congestion in parent parking around the Creaney grounds. There have been concerns raised regarding the behaviour of some parents in the carpark that we share with Creaney Primary (the one that runs parallel to Kingsley Drive). I have asked Trevor Mitchell to follow up on this in the Primary School newsletter going out next week. He will be reminding his parents that cars must be properly parked in a bay before unloading students and not idling in access ways. Parents will also be reminded to drive slowly and be aware of our students' needs. If you see any further issues, please let me know.

Starkick

Starkick is an All Abilities AFL Auskick program for boys and girls aged between 5 and 12 years of age. They cater for students whose disabilities prevent them from joining an existing football environment. The program is run through the Joondalup Kinross Junior Football Club and costs \$155 for 14 weeks of footy and family fun as well as uniforms or equipment (depending on age). It takes place at Windermere Oval, Joondalup on Saturdays from 10:00 to 11:00 am. Health Care Card holders are eligible to have all fees covered by KidSport. To register, or find out more go to www.jetsjfc.com.au or email starkick@jetsjfc.com.au

Music time in Room 2

Music activities in all of our classes usually incorporate singing, dancing and playing simple percussion instruments. The enjoyment was obvious when I visited Room 2 one afternoon during Music time.



Tyson tackles the triangle.



Cooper is concentrating on the conductor's instructions.



Ronin sings along with his tapping sticks.

Sunflower Sunday

Therapy Focus have organised a day of FREE entertainment for all abilities. It is on Sunday 10th April from 11:00 am till 2:00 pm at Point Walter Recreational Camp, Bicton. There will be a huge range of activities suitable for all abilities and ages, including a climbing wall and trampoline, bouncy castle, silent disco, reptile and cuddly animal farms, maze etc. The first 200 people registered will receive a free sausage sizzle. For more information and to register go to www.therapyfocus.org.au/sunflowersunday.



Seb uses a communication strip to request his favourite piece of fruit as a full sentence.

Fruity Time in Room 1

After recess each day the students in Room 1 join together to share their fruit. This is a wonderful opportunity to practise their social and communication skills, as well as promoting healthy eating.



Lara chooses apple today.



Key Word Sign:

Many of our students use Key Word Sign and it is something that we model consistently throughout the Centre. The latest newsletter from Therapy Focus (infocus, Autumn 2016 Page 8) has a very useful article on this communication tool. It tells us that 'Key Word Sign, formerly referred to as Makaton, is a simplified form of manual sign and a highly effective form of communication. It builds on natural gesture which forms so much of what we communicate day to day. In Australia, we borrow from the signs of Auslan, the language of the Australian deaf community. Key Word Sign may benefit communicators who have difficulties with attention, comprehension and/or developing speech. It is important that people with communication difficulties have access to a range of tools. It is not a case of which tool is best, but rather what is the most effective method for every unique situation.'

The main principles of Key Word Sign are that sign and speech always go together; that we speak in regular complete sentences but sign only the key words in the sentence. For example, when we say "Do you want to play?", the words *want* and *play* are signed.

To read the complete article go to <http://therapyfocus.org.au/the-benefits-of-key-word-sign/>

Student Update Form

Thank you to those parents who have returned these forms. If you have lost the form, please contact Brooke or Deb in the front office for a replacement one to check.



ESC Playground

The children have really enjoyed the reorganisation of the ESC playground and the opportunity to play with a different range of equipment.

Although the shop is still a big favourite, the new arrangements have led to some different imaginative play scenarios. This week we have had a group of students busily cooking for the café they had set up in one part of the sandpit. On the other side of the sandpit there was a very busy construction site.

Jake delivers a load of leaves to the 'workers' in the sandpit.



Daily Fitness

Each class participates in daily fitness activities each day. These activities vary over the week and include climbing, jogging, skill circuits, bike riding, Jiggle Jam aerobic routines etc. Here, Kristen and Jasmine from C1 navigate the ropes on the senior playground.

Don't forget the School Council meeting on Monday night. We would welcome new members.
Kind Regards,

Catrina Maroolyn

Catrina.Maroolyn@education.wa.edu.au