

The Buxton Bulletin

Kindness

Fairness

Growth

Thursday 7th November 2019

Principal's Report

We finish the 5th week of Term 4 with 15 students at Buxton Primary School. Last week we welcomed Gypsy and Willow, and this week we welcome Ella and Alice. All 4 girls are excited to be at Buxton Primary School, and we are pleased to see our small school expanding! We look forward to enjoying the rest of the term with our new classmates, with only 6 weeks left in the year.

We began the year by developing our new school values: kindness, fairness and growth and we used these values to develop some protocols and understandings around how we communicate with one another and resolve conflict. It is pleasing to see the way children respectfully communicate, listen to one another with greater openness, and take responsibility for their actions. We regularly discuss that making mistakes is ok, and that mistakes are part of the process of learning, and we recognise that children make mistakes when trying to resolve conflict too. They need patient, thoughtful guidance to recognise the mistakes they make do impact on others, and they can be proactive by taking responsibility for their actions.

This week we also had Catherine Gunn visit us. Catherine is an Education Improvement Leader with Department of Education and Training. She is passionate about Mathematics and was curious to see how our students are building their understanding of algebra by identifying patterns that help us to solve problems. We also showed her some of the strategies we use with counting patterns and multiplication facts. It is always refreshing to see an expert in the field come in and work with children, and also identify that we are working on the things that matter!

Each morning we begin our day with a greeting, and handshake, fist bump or high five. We often begin with affirmations or we look at 'values' cards and use these to identify a value we see in someone else's actions. Yesterday we selected a value that we wanted to work on for the day, and then left this card on the table as a reminder. Again, it is refreshing to see the students select values that they think are important for them as learners and that these great discussions around learning (student agency in learning), are making a difference in how our students see themselves as learners.

Resilience/Growth Journals:

We have invested in journals for each student that provide an interesting, student friendly way to reflect on our own personal experiences and how they shape us. We sit down and work for 15 minutes, 3 days a week on a journal entry that is most applicable for us on that day. Some of the great topics and discussions that have taken place because of these have been:

- *What is a growth mindset, and how can we promote positive self-talk?
- *How can you begin a conversation with someone you have just met?
- *Things friends should do and things friends shouldn't do.
- *Handling tough friendship stuff like conflict, gossip and 'saying no' to friends.



We are experimenting with 2 types of journals: 'The Everyday Resilience Journal' which is written by an Australian author, and 'The Big Life Journal' which is an American Journal. Both journals explore similar themes that are relevant to children across the primary school years, and we are enjoying the rich conversations that take place around them. We encourage children to take the journals home to share their thinking, but please bring them back in!

Stop Motion Films:

We have been exploring story-telling through a new medium this term. Students have planned an idea around 'growth', developed a storyboard, and organised characters, the setting and props. We are using a tool on the tablets to make the films. There has been a big focus for our group on developing ideas in the planning stages, and then looking at how we 'organise' our texts so that there is a complete story. A challenge for the group has been the idea of cohesiveness- how do we link our story together to show that time has moved forward, and that our characters are evolving?

We will host a movie night to celebrate and showcase the fantastic stories our students are creating.

After-School Art:

We will continue with after-school art on Tuesday afternoons, from 3.45-4.45pm for the next 5 weeks. Congratulations to all the students who submitted their artworks as part of the Marysville Art Show.

We hope to see lots of our students attending the final 5 weeks, with a great group project planned.

New Musical Instruments:

After raising money at the Murrindindi Beanie Festival in Term 3, students decided as a group to purchase new musical instruments. We now have 4 new guitars, one fabulous new keyboard, and some new strings and guitar picks.

Toasted Sandwiches:

Lots of children are now bringing in sandwiches to toast in the new toasted sandwich machine. Dusty has shown great maturity and responsibility by keeping this space clean and safe. We have talked about how we manage the sandwich presses so we are keeping ourselves and others safe.

Word Inquiry:

Over the past two weeks we have begun another word inquiry. When reading, Chloe came across the word 'know' and was confused by the silent 'k'. She wanted to know why the 'k' is silent, and if there are other words with silent letters in them. This inquiry has led us to record words we find with silent letters. So far, we have found 'w', 'c', 'k', 'b' and 'h'. We are compiling lists of words that will help us to identify a pattern. We discovered that the silent 'k' is always at the beginning of a word, and is followed by the letter 'n'. A further investigation by looking at the origin of the words using www.etymonline.com will reveal more about why the silent 'k' exists.

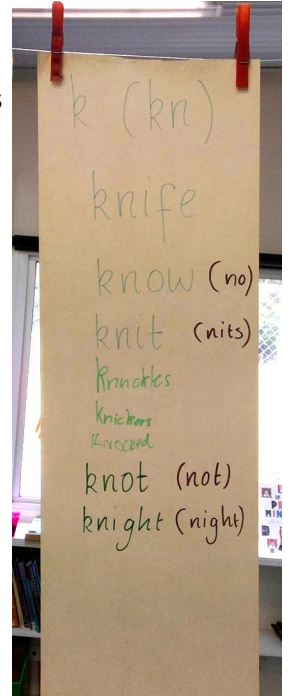
*This inquiry has led to more questions: 'Is the 'h' silent in words like 'white, when, where?'

*Is the 'a' silent in words like 'head, dead, read?'

And by looking closely at words, some potential new inquiries:

*Why does 'ph' make a 'f' in words like elephant?'

*In the words 'enough' and 'through' the final four letters make different sounds- one is a quad-graph: 'oo' in through, and in rough the 'ou' makes an 'u' sound, and the 'gh' makes a 'f' sound. What other words have 'ough' quadgraphs?'

**International Men's Day:**

We will be celebrating International Men's Day with a morning bbq breakfast of egg and bacon rolls, and inviting the significant men in children's lives to join us for a morning of storytelling. Student will be sending out invites early next week.

Bush Dance:

We invite the entire community to join us for Buxton Bush Dance on Saturday the 16th November, from 7.30pm. We have been learning bush dances with David and Diane, and we are looking forward to hearing the Marysville Ceilidh band play. We hope to see lots of people join us!

Andrew Bagnall



Students of the Week



Congratulations to Mercedes who is this week's Student of the Week.

Mercedes has taken on extra responsibilities and worked successfully with others.

Important Dates:

Saturday 16th November
Bush Dance 7.30pm

Tuesday 19th November
International Men's Day Event

Friday 22nd November
Jam Hot Music Concert 3-4pm

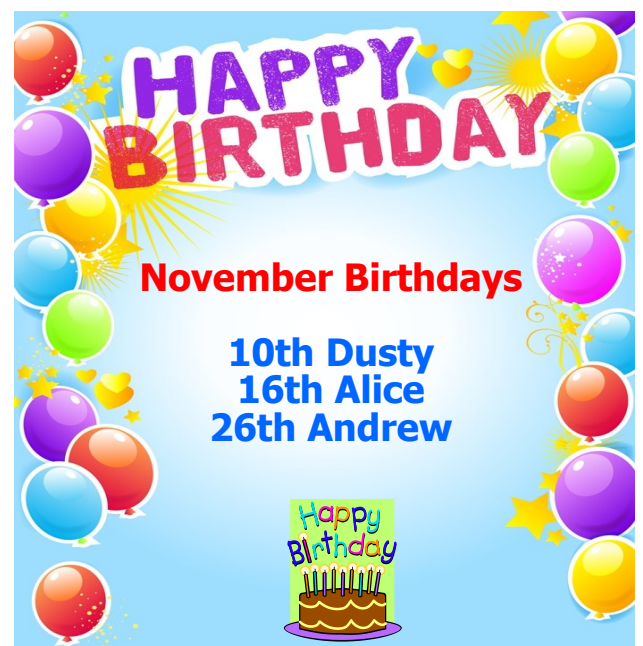
Friday 29th November
Marysville Literacy Festival

Tuesday 10th December
Statewide Transition Day

Wednesday 18th December
Christmas Picnic/Celebration

Thursday 19th December
Final day for students

Friday 20th December
Student free day



THE MYSTERY EGG

At Buxton Primary School one of our school chooks (Dotty) has been sitting on a mystery egg for the past thirty five days (at least)!

On Halloween, 31st October 2019, the mystery egg hatched!. Some of our students guessed it was a platypus, due to the webbed feet and bill. But it turned out to be a Muscovy duckling!

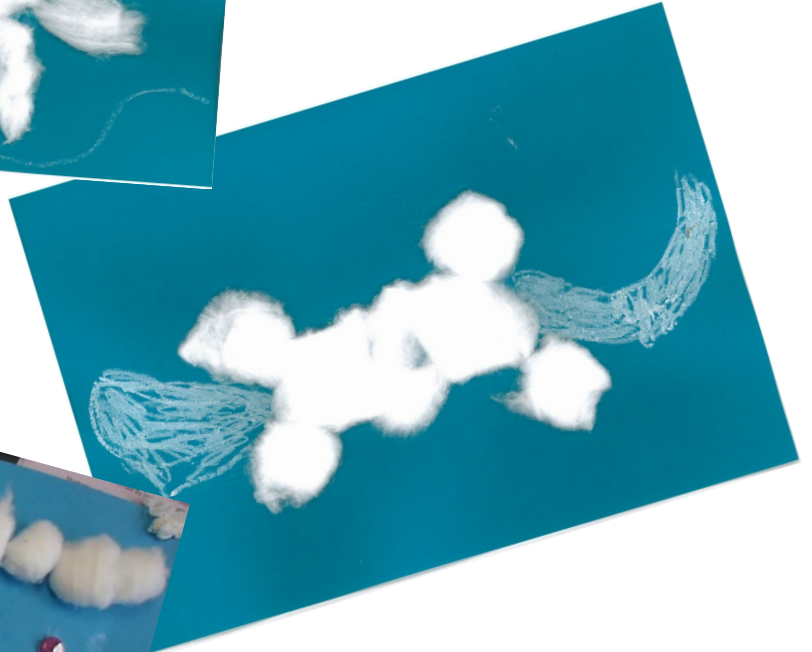
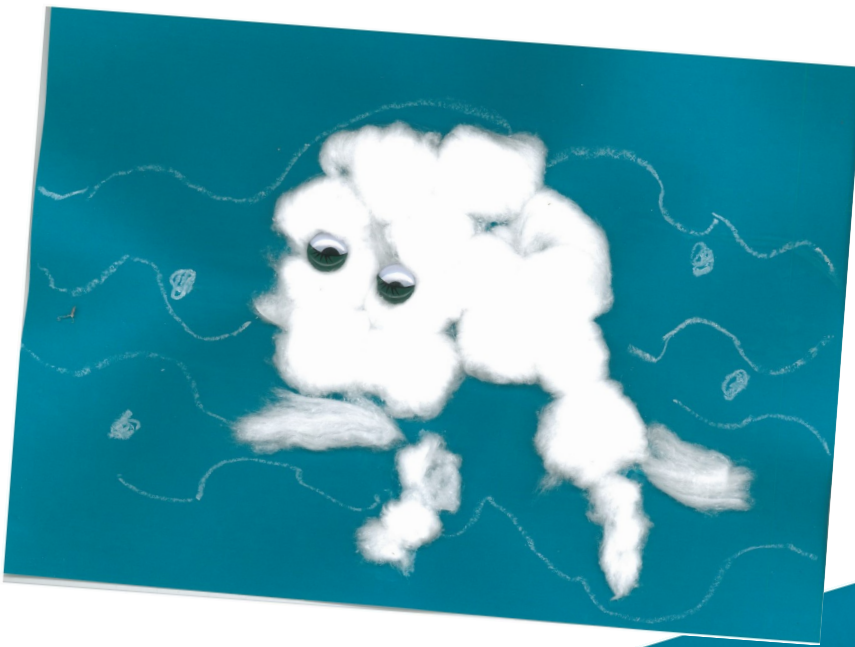
We are excited!

Our most fabulous Mrs.H saved its life. Dotty (its mum) threw it out because she knew it wasn't her baby, it was not the same species. Mrs. H went to check on the duckling and found it in a haystack. The duckling has moved into our classroom. It has a wonderful little box with a swimming pool and some food.

Connor, Mercedes and Lilah



Dream Clouds



*Artwork completed
with Gabby from the
MARC van.*