



Suneden News

September 2024



Dear Families,

We are now in spring but we are still having some chilly days. Our seasons are just not what they used to be. The mornings are getting lighter and day light saving is within a few weeks. Great for feeling like there are more hours in the day but not so great for children's bed times!

As Term 3 comes to a close we look to a busy Term 4 with lots of end of year celebrations to come.

Centrelink Parent Session

What a great turn-out! We were so pleased to make a connection to the community engagement representatives from Centrelink who agreed to come out to run a parent session. It was very interesting to learn about the different carer payments and allowances. We will email home to all families some information flyers and we certainly hope to run an information session each year.



Art Show

What a success. Such a lovely evening and so great to see so many families attending. We are very proud of all of our students for producing a 'self-portrait'. Our very talented staff also created self-portraits and the school gym looked wonderful. Thank you to Nikki for facilitating a semester of self-portrait art lessons and also to the teachers for creating class art projects.



Student Free Day – Monday 2nd September

On our recent student free day, staff had the opportunity to visit other special schools across Adelaide. Schools visited included St Patricks, Our Lady of La Vang, Adelaide East, Christie Downs, Errington and Aspect Treetops. It was great for staff to connect, explore new settings, and gain new ideas. The best part was staff returned and expressed how happy they were that they worked at Suneden!

Staff also completed *Responding to Risks of Harm Abuse and Neglect Training* (RRHAN-EC). This is vital training which helps staff to recognise signs of abuse and neglect and understand their responsibilities as mandatory notifiers.

Evacuation/Invacuation and Bus Loading

With some of the funds from our recent State Government Capital grant monies, we recently upgraded our alarm system. We have practised two evacuation drills this term. These are great opportunities to improve and ensure that we can safely and quickly exit the building if we ever have a real emergency. We are so proud of our students who all exited in 2 minutes!

We have also added a music button with a set sound which is activated in the afternoon as a cue for the students to know that the buses are ready to load. This has helped the students to feel calmer and remain engaged in afternoon lessons.



Sensory Day – A festival for the senses

We have been busy planning a fun sensory day full of experiences and fun for the students to be held tomorrow Tuesday 24th September. The Allied Health team and Nikki have prepared activities and games that will explore sight, sound and taste. A spare set of clothes packed in the school bag may be beneficial. Dress code for the day is wear something bright, fun or silly. We will share photos of the day in the next newsletter.

We wish everyone a restful and enjoyable two week break and look forward to seeing happy faces returnin on TUESDAY 15th October.

Best Wishes
Heidi & Helen

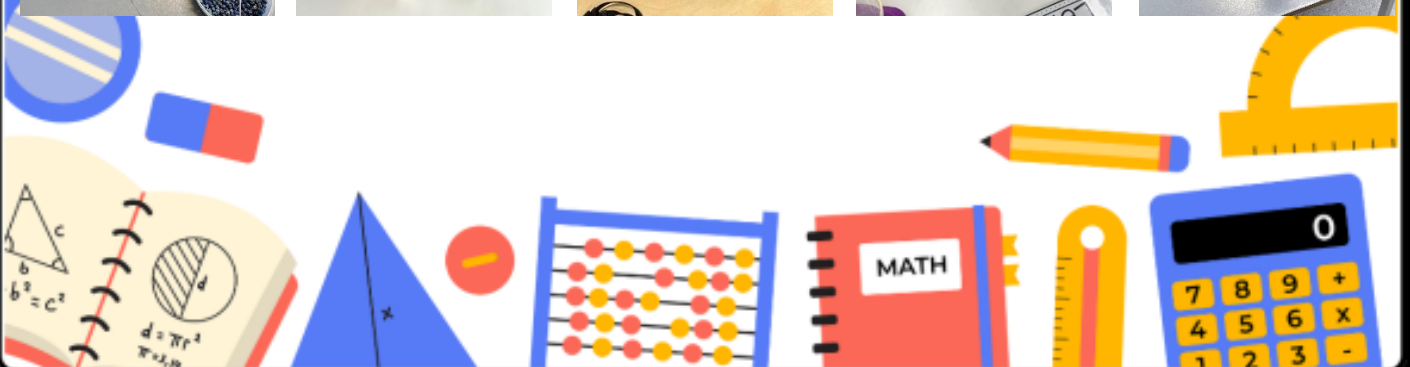
Important Dates

<p>Last Day of Term 3 <i>Thursday 26th September</i></p> 	<p>Tuesday 24th September <i>Sensory Day</i></p> 	<p>First Day of Term 4 <i>Tuesday 15th October</i></p> <p>WELCOME Back TO TERM 4</p> 
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JUNIOR RED MATHS

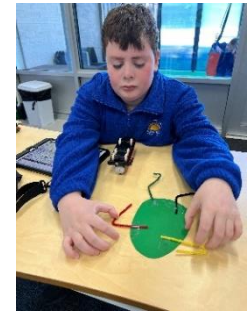


This term we have been learning about measurement. We enjoyed measuring length using blocks and counters. Students used balancing scales to compare items that are heavy and light. We also compared and sorted items that were either full or empty.





This term, Middle Orange class engaged in sensory food play lessons with Jo (OT). As part of the learning experience, the students learnt about the names, colours, textures, and tastes of various fruits and vegetables. Sensory play activities included cutting, smashing, and squeezing the fruits and vegetables. Teachers and SSOs used this time to model communication with personal devices and encouraged students to interact and engage in the lesson.



Following on from the lesson, students created artwork based on the fruits or vegetables. Students engaged in discussions about the colours, shapes, and textures of the fruits and vegetables, and recreating them using various materials and methods.



Students also engaged in a cooking activity where they used the fruits to prepare a fruit smoothie. During this activity, they applied math skills such as measuring, as well as practising life skills such as cutting fruit, washing dishes, wiping tables, and vacuuming floors.





Term 3 Outings

SENIOR
PINK

This term students have enjoyed opportunities to get out and about in the community. This has included shopping trips to Coles in Parkholme, eating lunch at Blackwood Café 72 and going to Glenthorne Nature Playground. All of these outings provide valuable experiences in accessing the local community in a safe way.



At shopping students use a list and locate items on the shelf. They unload grocery items onto the conveyor and use the self serve checkout to scan and pay for items before packing them carefully into bags.



At the café students choose what they would like to eat and drink. Some students order and pay for their meals and all students wait patiently for their food at the table before eating together.



In term 3 students have continued to enjoy exploring and using the equipment at Glenthorne Nature Playground. Some favourites are the flying fox, accessible merry-go-round and the swings.

Speech Pathology

Yes/No group

In Senior Pink this term, we have been exploring different ways to say yes and no. There are a range of different ways we can say yes and no such as nodding and shaking our heads, verbally saying “yes” or “no”, using our talkers, communication buttons and eye gaze. All of these forms of communication are valid and recognise the importance of multi modal communication.

Being able to independently communicate yes and no is an important life skill and promotes independence, safety, making choices and inclusion in conversations. We targeted this goal through engaging and fun activities, where staff explicitly modelled different ways to either say “yes” I want another turn and “yes” I like it, or “no” I do not want a turn. Students were then encouraged to communicate their preference.



yes



no



head nod



headshake



Exploring Sensory-Energy Tools with OT

We've been extra focused on exploring **Sensory-Energy Tools** in our learning this term.

Right from our students in their first year at school, through to our students who are in their final years, we all benefit from access to Sensory-Energy tools and supports.

We can use tools to help **alert** us, to speed-up, wake-up or to enjoy some of the big immersive play and learning.



- Rolling - Moving - Balancing - Swinging -

We can use tools to help us to stay **steady**, to stay focused, engaged or to keep our mind on our class activities.



- Singing - Touching - Tasting - Stretching -

We can also use tools to help **calm** us, to slow-down, relax, reset or to get ready for trying new things.



- Relaxing - Massage Choices - Listening to Music -

The most important thing for most of our students is to keep practising using these tools so we have this learning ready for when they need it.



Welcome to our Art room.

The fantabulous art show, which should have won an Archibald prize!

It was held on August 30th and was the highlight of the year. Many staff, students, carers, and families came together to celebrate the students' creativity. Here are a few photos.



SibWORKS

by



for siblings of children and adults with disability/illness

Our SibWorks peer support program is being facilitated in Adelaide in the upcoming school holidays.



To find out more information or to register scan the QR code.