



United in Love

Issue 4, June 2023



FROM THE **PRINCIPAL**

Dear Families,

Term 2 at St Kevin's has been filled with family events and our focus has been on developing a thriving, welcoming school community.

The Bush Dance is always popular on the Term 2 calendar and this year was no exception. From the organisation of food stalls to the excitement of the raffle draw prizes, our P & F team worked diligently to ensure a fun, family night for all who attended. The children and parents boot-scooted their way into the evening as The Ducks performed all our favourite bush songs. Our parent band, Oaks Avenue, started the evening's entertainment and they were fabulous as always.

We welcomed many mothers, grandmothers, and aunties to our Mother's Day afternoon tea. It was a relaxed time, where our special ladies whiled away an hour with a delicious scone and a cup of tea. These days are the hallmarks of our school, and it is always one of my special occasions as a school leader.

Many thanks for all that has been achieved by everyone in our community, staff, parents, and students.

Wishing our wonderful staff and families, a safe winter holiday break in the coming weeks.

Lorraine Vincent

Collaborative Coaching

This semester, Kindergarten to Year 2 have effectively implemented a new English and Maths syllabus in their classroom teaching. Years 3–6 have familiarised themselves with the new 3–6 Maths and English syllabuses being implemented in 2024.

The aim of the new mathematics K–6 syllabus is to enable students to become confident users of mathematics, learning and applying the language of mathematics to communicate efficiently and effectively.

How can you support your child in mathematics at home?

Handfuls – Kindergarten, Year 1, Year 2



Basic Instructions:

1. Grab a handful of counters and place them in a pile on the table.
2. Estimate how many counters you have.
3. Now sort or group them in a way that you can find out how many counters you have without counting by ones.

Some adjustments or extras:

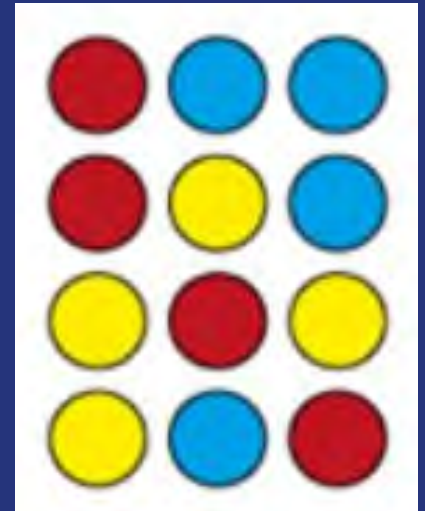
- Gallery walk – pose questions of your child's array.
- Draw and record what you have made (rows, groups or number sentences).
- Use 10 frames to assist.
- Put your total on a number line (the number line does not have to start at 0).
- Arrange your total in another way (finding factors or learning about remainders).
- Rounding up/down.

How can you support your child in mathematics at home?

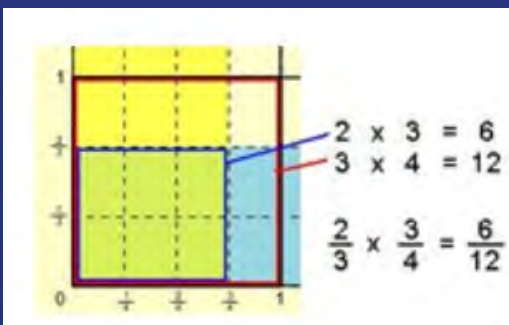
Handfuls and Arrays – Years 2 – 4

This an extension on the Handfuls activity and introduces Multiplication and Division to the task.

- Can you make an array from your total?
- Record what you made (rows, sentence).
- Record all the facts (example, 9×4 array = 36, therefore $4 \times 9 = 36$, $36 \div 9 = 4$, $36 \div 4 = 9$).
- Array busting (example, 9×4 can be solved as 5×4 and 4×4 or 2×9 and 2×9 – this assists children with solving difficult or larger totals)
- Move to visual/pictorial arrays only.
- Move to abstract 'busting' (eg $9 \times 4 = ?$ – but I know $6 \times 4 = 24$ and $3 \times 4 = 12$ and then I can put them together).



Handfuls, Arrays and Fractions – Years 5–6



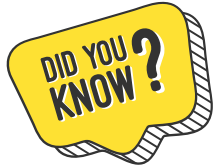
This an extension on the Handfuls activity and introduces Fractions to the task. It concerns posing questions to build fractions knowledge from a total as opposed to a whole.

- Can you show me $\frac{1}{4}$ of that array? How do you know? How could you check?
- What would $\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{4}$ be?
- What would a fifth, sixth be?
- Could you show me $\frac{1}{2} + \frac{2}{5}$?
- Record as number sentences where possible?
- Relate to percentage and decimals for older grades?

FROM THE **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CO-ORDINATOR**

St Kevin's Feast Day

The school community gathered to celebrate the Feast Day of St Kevin, our patron school saint, and to remember the wonderful things St Kevin accomplished.



*St Kevin lived the life of a hermit
in his cave for 7 years?*

The legends and stories highlight his personal qualities. Among these was his love of nature and deep respect for all created things. It seems he had an extraordinary closeness to nature and found his companions in the animals and birds around him.

The "Kevin celebrations" continued with a mini FUN-fair run by the Year 6 leaders. It was such a wonderful FUN-fair and everyone really enjoyed the ice-cream treats.



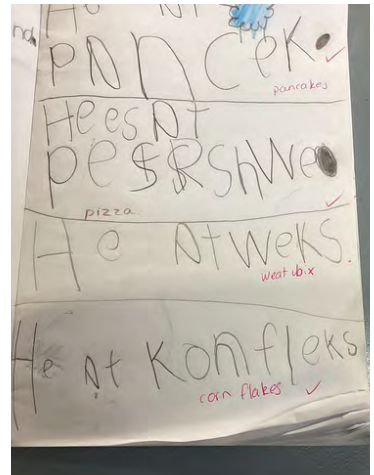
FROM THE **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CO-ORDINATOR**

St Kevin's Feast Day

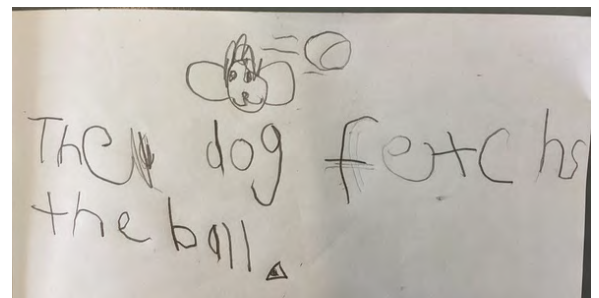
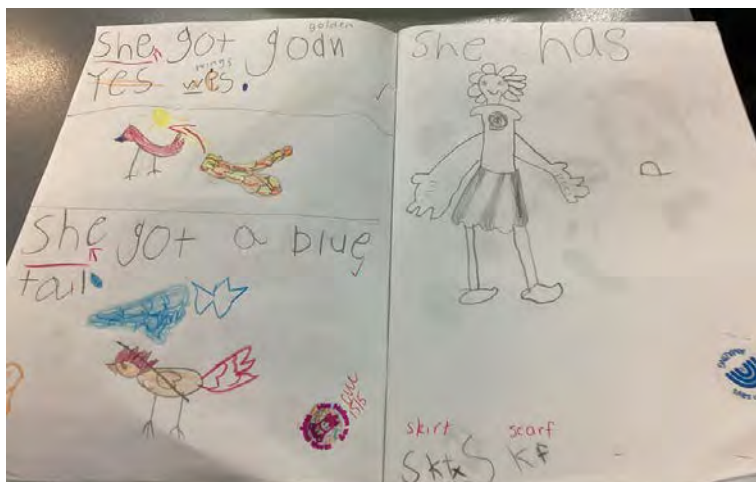


Kindergarten

This term Kindergarten has been learning to respond to literature and create written texts. The students explored a variety of texts – imaginative, informative and even wordless. As they read, readers make predictions and connections to what they already know. Looking at the text's structure, visuals and language features gives the reader information. Finally, sentences can be written. The Kindergarten students have explored so many great characters this term, including Spencer and the balloon dog, Phoebe the rainbow word and Floof the fluffy cat.



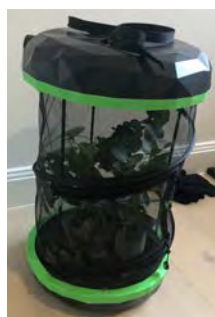
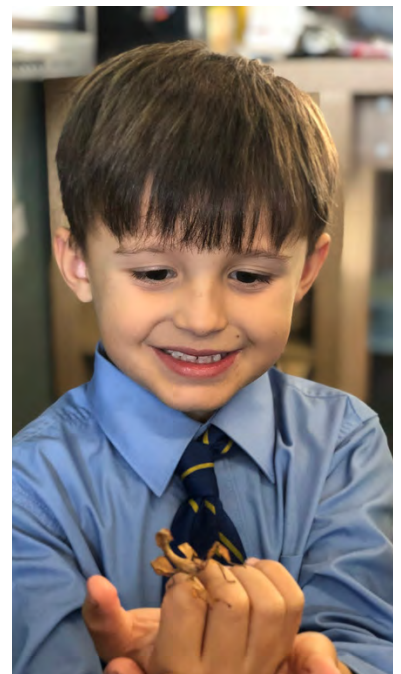
As the students write their simple sentences, they think about the message: Who or what is the subject of the sentence? What verb should be used? Should it be a pronoun instead of someone's name?



Another fun part of Term 2 has been exploring living things in **Science**.

Parents may have seen the special Kindergarten pets in their mesh enclosure. Each day Kindergarten make sure they have plenty of eucalyptus leaves to eat and five sprays of water.

The students have been learning what living things need to survive and they have loved having some extra friends in the class to care for.



Marvellous Mixtures is Year 1's Science topic this term and WOW....has it been fun!

Students have explored how materials can be changed, such as their shape and appearance by stretching, folding, squashing and twisting.

Learning about mixtures and solutions, the students made some of their own fabulous concoctions. One of the most exciting activities was making Oobleck, a mixture that can be hard and a runny liquid at the same time!

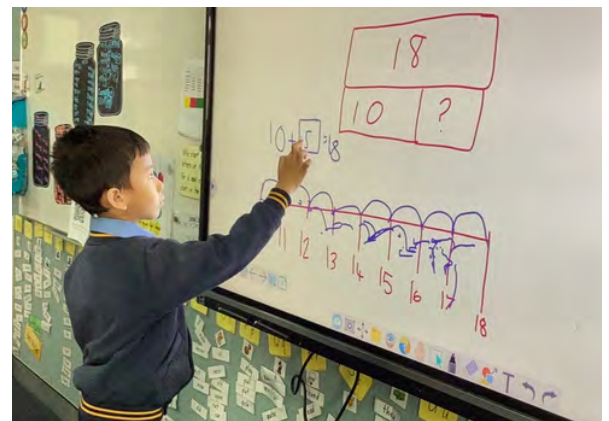
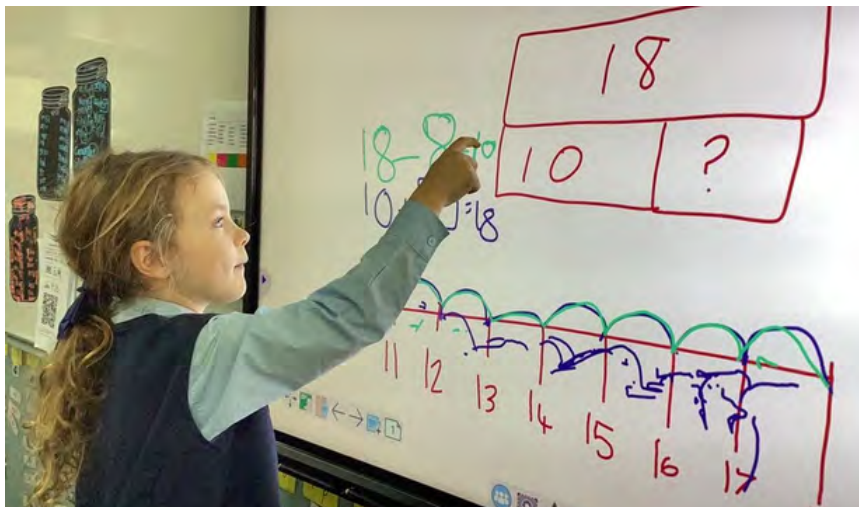
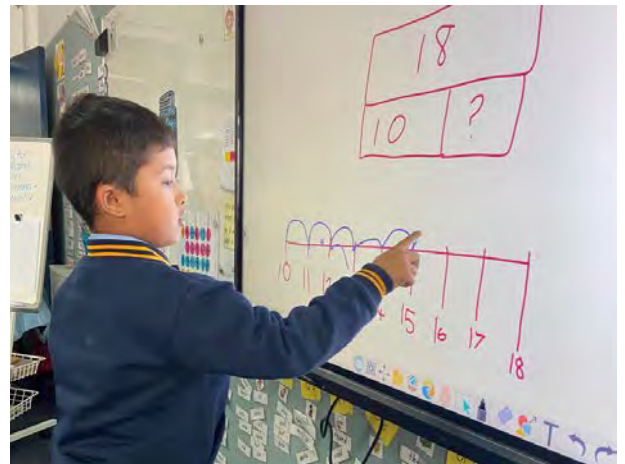


Maths

Year 1

In Maths, Year 1 have been using different strategies to find the missing number in an addition problem.

The students had to use their problem solving skills and identify strategies such as using a number line.



Sport

During sport one day, the students spontaneously formed a dance line. It was lovely to see the positive friendships they have formed and how they are enjoying working together and co-operating with each other.



Excursion

Stage 1

This term, Stage 1 visited The Schoolhouse Museum in North Ryde. It was such a fantastic experience stepping back in time and seeing the classrooms of the 1800s. The children explored so many different activities in the school such as:

- using the inkpots and writing on slate;
- sitting at the desks;
- dancing around the Maypole;
- toasting bread on an open fire;
- wearing pinafores and collars the students used to wear back then (to protect their uniforms); and
- participating in drill exercises outside.



The students had so much fun learning about school in the "old days".



Year 2

Art

This term Year 2 have been learning about the Italian artist Amedeo Modigliani who lived from 12th July 1884 to 24th January 1920.

Modigliani was famous for his unusual portraits and sculptures, and the students have enjoyed exploring and reviewing his unique style of art. His portraits typically included long necks and sad faces. Using an iPad, Year 2 took a selfie and used their image to assist them in creating their own self portrait in a similar style to Modigliani. First the students sketched their face, with an elongated neck and outlined using a black pen and filled it in with oil pastels.

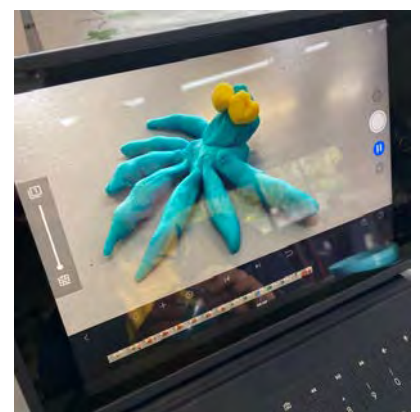
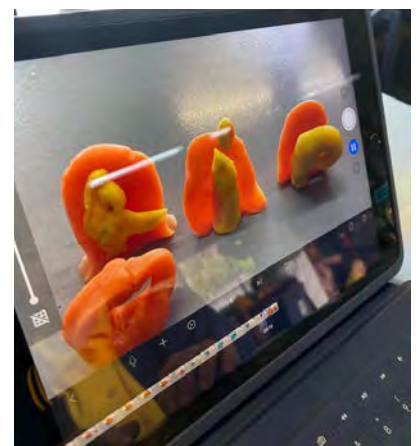


Here's some of the awesome designs by Year 2.



This term Year 3 have been exploring living things specifically looking at the way living things grow and change. This process is called a cycle and is very different for each living thing, with some having three cycles and others having four or more cycles.

The creatures that the students focused on this term included the octopus, the grasshopper, the butterfly, and the frog. To show the development of each stage the students used their digital skills and the app, Stop Motion. Year 3 had so much fun moulding the play dough, experimenting with size, placement, and angles. The final products speak for themselves – look at some of the creations!



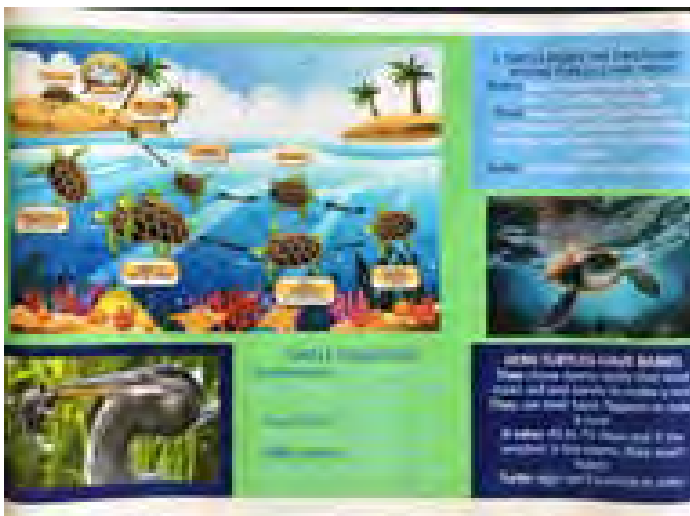
You're Invited!

The students would like to share their videos with you, so please come into the classroom to check out their masterpiece.

The students have learnt how to classify living things and they have been exploring the life cycle of many different animals. They have investigated the similarities and differences of various species and have identified patterns to be able to group living things according to their external features.



In Week 8, the students shared oral presentations with their peers, choosing a favourite animal, investigating its life cycle and then presenting an explanation of this to the class with posters and visuals to support their research.



Stage 2

Excursion

In Week 6, Stage 2 had the opportunity to spend a day at the Australian Museum, attending the Minibeast tour, where they learnt more about animals and their life cycles.

The students delighted in exploring the Museum and looking at the wildlife, interacting with computers, investigating a range of encased minibeasts and even exploring the dinosaur exhibition.

Term 2 has been a really fun term of learning!



Birds of Paradise

Year 5 have been learning how to draw and use colour to enhance their creations. Mr Byrne brought in winter flowers from his garden and put them in a vase. The students then had to decide how they wanted to capture the image using their individual, amazing creative skills. Using a close-up view, the students looked at a line, drew it then repeated this process until all the lines were drawn.

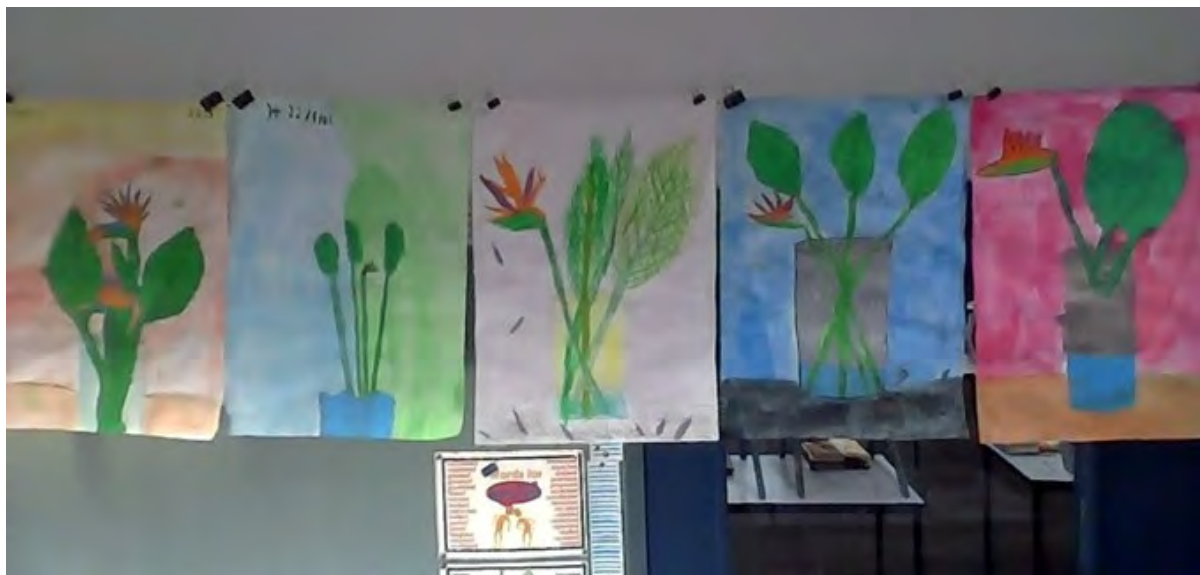
Tori said, "It was really fun creating it!"

"It was really hard drawing it!" admitted Sophia.

"It was a really good experience!" exclaimed Xoan.

Maggie recalled, "It was much easier colouring in than drawing it!"

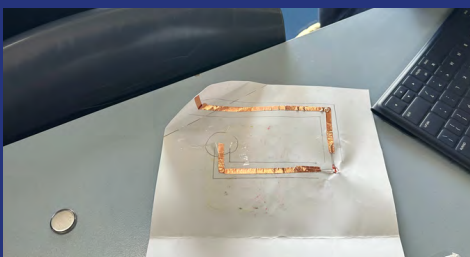
Here are some of their breathtaking artworks!!



In Science, Year 6 have been learning about the difference between contact and non-contact forces and how energy is transformed from one form to another.

Year 6 have been provided with an opportunity to investigate how electrical energy can control movement in products and systems. This unit of learning develops students' abilities to design, test and evaluate a product or system that demonstrates energy transformation, further developing an understanding of the interrelationship between force and energy.

Your task: to create a game, card or model with an electrical circuit	
Team:	You may work alone, in pairs or a group of 3
Prior Knowledge	Use what you have learnt about simple circuits and switch circuits to create a game, light up card or model with a working circuit.
Materials	You may borrow any of the circuit pieces in the silver box and the green bag. Re-use the wires as much as you can. Mrs Hughes is looking at getting some copper tape that will be useful for cards etc. You may need to bring cardboard We will have coloured paper, cellophane, masking tape etc.
Criteria	You need to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Draw a plan• Organise materials - think sustainability! Re-use, recycle• Build a working circuit model (this may be this week or next)• Explain how your circuit works• You may decorate it if you wish
Timeline	Your model will need to be ready to present by the end of our Science lesson on Wednesday 28th June (week 10).



Library

On 24th May, the students celebrated "National Simultaneous Story Time". Every year a picture book, written and illustrated by an Australian author and illustrator, is read simultaneously in libraries, schools, pre-schools, childcare centres, family homes, bookshops and many other places around the country. Now in its 23rd successful year, it is a colourful, vibrant, fun event that aims to promote the value of reading and literacy, using an Australian children's book that explores age-appropriate themes, and addresses key learning areas of the National Curriculum for Foundation to Year 6.

The students absolutely loved listening to this year's story called "The Speedy Sloth", written by Rebecca Young and illustrated by Heath McKenzie. The main message in the story highlights the importance of how everyone should be proud of their achievements and not to compare themselves to others:

"Yes, Spike was slow, but for a sloth she was fast."



Students generated some thoughtful discussion following the story, focusing on how they can be proud of themselves.

Stage 1 responded to the text by creating a piece of poetry about Spike, the main character.



Bush Dance



Sport

Cross Country

Congratulations to all our students who competed at the recent Polding Cross Country event.

Special shout-out to Maggie who was successful in going through to the next stage.



Rugby Union

Congratulations to Ashton and Hattie who will represent Catholic Schools Broken Bay at the NSW Catholic Primary Schools Polding Rugby Union trials in Forbes.

Hockey

Congratulations to Kara who competed in the Polding Trials for Hockey in Tamworth.



Year 5-6 Gala Day Eagle Tag



Year 3-4 Gala Day



Year 5-6 Gala Day Rugby League



Dates for your Diary

Term 2 Week 10 26 th – 30 th June		
Playgroup	Wednesday	9.15am-10.30am, Library
Last day of Term 2	Thursday	
Staff Development Day	Friday	No students
Winter School Holidays 1 st – 16 th July		
Term 3 Week 1 17 th – 21 st July		
Term 3 commences	Monday	Winter uniform
Mission Winter Appeal	Friday	
Term 3 Week 2 24 th – 28 th July		
Playgroup	Wednesday	9.15am-10.30am, Library
Assembly	Friday	2.30pm, Hall

**Thank you for reading this issue of
United in Love.
Your feedback is always welcome!**



Are you following St Kevin's on Facebook and Instagram?
It is a great way to see what's happening at school and what else is coming up!



@stkevinsdeewhy



@stkevinsdeewhy