

From Barb...

Public and Proud

Bridgewater Primary School is very proud to be a high performing public school. You may be surprised to know that public schools perform as well, and in some cases better than independent or Catholic schools when comparing children from similar socio-economic backgrounds. Public school primary principals strongly advocate for **schools where children are not segregated on religious, gender or socio-economic grounds; where children learn to get along with, value and work with everyone.**

The children in public schools like ours would benefit so much from a fairer share of the education dollar. We could offer smaller classes, better resources and more adults to help children with their learning and creative endeavours. Please think about the place of public education and why many of us are committed to keeping it strong. Who knows? If each of us takes the opportunity to talk up our public schools we may be able to change the conversation, change political views and improve policy.



Our public education system - worth protecting



Many of us take our public education system for granted. It has just always been there. But changes over the decades have eroded the status and funding of our public schools. Alan Reid, a Professor at the University of South Australia has studied our public school system and is alerting us to its value to Australian society. The public system serves ALL children and seeks to 'level the playing field' in order to give every child equal access to the benefits of a good life. It is important that everyone understands the vital role that the public school systems plays in creating a fair Australian community.

Alan says that the public education system is there as a **common good...** that is a service to benefit all Australians regardless of income or background. "The first step in defending and promoting public education is to return to the foundational understandings upon which public education has been built, to ensure that these inform policy and practice in Australian education, and that these foundational understandings are preserved and strengthened, rather than ignored or diminished."

Inclusivity

Inclusivity is something else that sets public schools apart. Our school takes all comers. Every child deserves a great education so we take every child that comes through our door. **We pride ourselves on our cultural and social diversity and research shows that learning in such an environment is a real advantage.**



It develops dispositions of **compassion, empathy** and **trust** in children who have gone through an education system that **welcomes and embraces diversity**. That's how the world is, so children who learn alongside children with diverse strengths, abilities and backgrounds are well prepared for the real world. School systems that are selective miss out on the opportunity to develop strength through diversity.

Collaboration- that's what makes public education special

Our public education system is precious and worth celebrating and protecting. The way schools work together is one of its strengths. All public schools and preschools are grouped into Local Partnerships. This structure helps us to collaborate closely together to improve student learning.

Together we moderate children's work in the different learning areas, share ideas about good ways of teaching and tips on how to make the play spaces better, and share programs and strategies to support all students.

Our local public schools help each other to provide the best education for our children.

Extracted from the Public Education Statement, launched at DECD Leaders Day in April, 2017

Weaving with wool and natural materials by Studio 8





Sean Choolburra
entertained one and all
with his music and stories.



Ivan 'Tiwu'
Copley
Welcomed
To Country
and
performed a
smoking
ceremony to
commemorate
Reconciliation
Week.

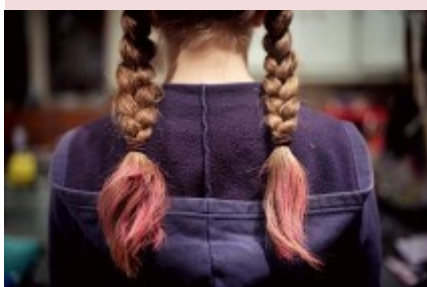


We've ordered more pinafores!
Please advise the front office if you'd
like to place an order.



50 Questions To Ask Your Kids
Instead Of Asking
"How Was Your Day"

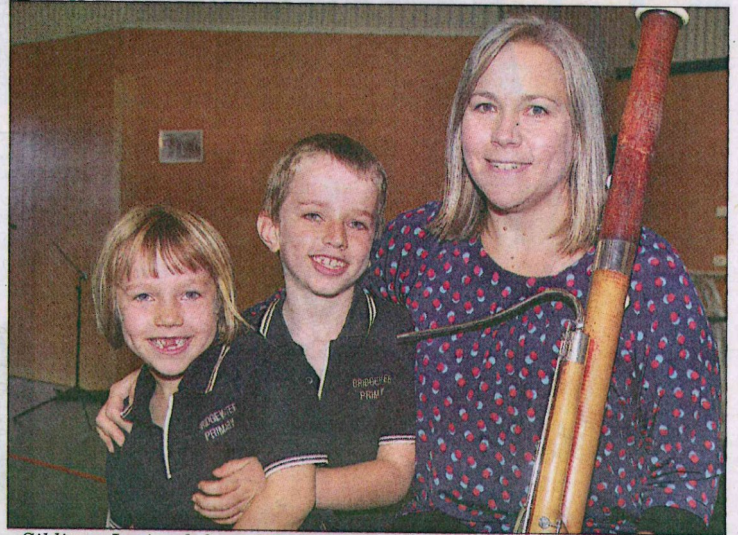
<http://herveviewfromhome.com/50-questions-to-ask-your-kids-instead-of-asking-how-was-your-day/>



From 'The Courier'

Thanks Leah and Claire, for organising this amazing
experience for all the Heron studios!

A concert with class



Siblings Jessica, left, and Joshua Verryt were excited to watch their mum and talented bassoonist Leah Stephenson perform for their classmates.

By Rhody Gleeson

Forget the Festival Theatre or Opera House, Bridgewater Primary School recently transformed into the Hills' premier concert venue as students soaked up culture courtesy of the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra (ASO).

Teachers and students were treated to the sounds of 12 professional ASO instrumentalists playing original works under the guidance of conductor and composer Peter Duggan.

The performance was part of the Orchestra Fantastica program which brings classical and orchestral music to schools.

Mr Duggan said he relished the opportunity to give children an orchestral experience.

"Young kids and orchestra don't typically go together but in the school environment it is much easier to get the kids engaged and

play something suited to their tastes," he said.

"Kids just want to sing and get involved and it is a pleasure to see their genuine interest in instruments and music which is typically enjoyed by an adult audience."

Stimulating

"This concert departs from the traditional 'sit and listen' approach and instead stimulates students' enthusiasm for the world of orchestral instruments and sounds by encouraging them to actively participate."

It was a special performance for Bridgewater Primary School parent and ASO bassoonist Leah Stephenson who thanked her fellow musicians for making the day possible.

"We couldn't have done this without the help of my ASO colleagues who have so kindly volunteered their time purely for the love of sharing music," she said.

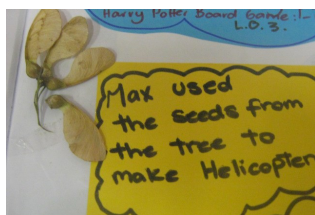


LEFT:
Maeve Bishop, left, learns a few new beats from ASO percussionist Steve Peterka.

Out of School Hours Care (OSHC)

We are so lucky to have an OSHC service that reflects and builds on the values of our school and community. Our service is provided by **Camp Australia** with the learning designed by **Jill Halliday** and her staff. She is an exceptional educator and the service is like being at home, with lots of fun, play and friendship. Jill and her team recently focused on sustainability with their theme '**The Elements - Earth, Water, Fire, Air**'.

The children grew corn, carrots and radishes from seeds, watering them daily. The children also planted succulents and noted how more robust they were, not needing as much water as the corn, carrots and radishes.



Children made artwork and displays from natural materials found in the garden.

They had group discussions about water usage on our planet.

Every day the children play outside (weather permitting) digging in the side of the hill, building natural cubbies from sticks and foliage, creating potions

from the lavender and flower bushes.

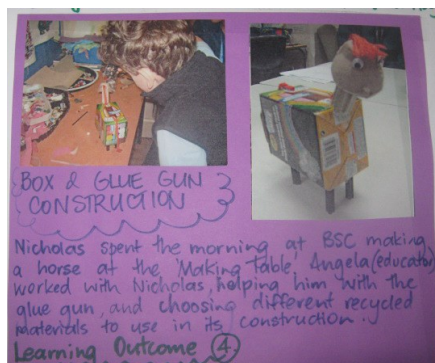
All food scraps from afternoon tea and food preparation are saved and used as compost in the school's Community Garden.

All waste paper is recycled, including paper towels, of which only 2 sheets each are allowed to wipe hands. Paper planes are only made from pre-loved paper, not clean paper.

Daily, children make artistic constructions from the recycled boxes, tubes, containers, packaging, old calendars etc. that

parents have donated and staff have saved, such as cardboard

tubes, delivery boxes and empty packets, scrap fabric and wool brought from home - reusing and recycling! Most of our pencil pots and storage containers are recycled pots/tins/ice cream containers etc.

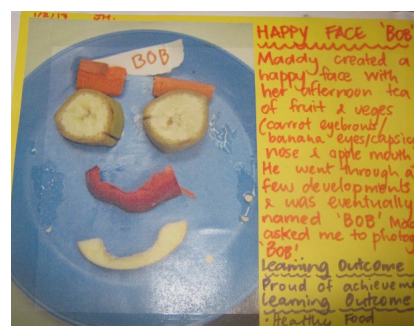
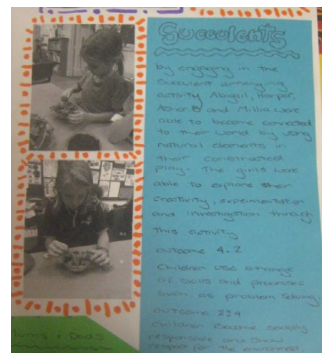


produce. The children tend the garden every week and learn all about growing seasonal produce, composting, insects, etc. They then harvest the produce and learn how to prepare food in the Community Kitchen, and then share their meals with together. These practices are an integral part of every week of every term at the BPS and each child's education at this school.

Sustainability is embedded deeply in Bridgewater PS life.

All children are welcome to join in the Before and After School fun.

To register your interest please contact **Camp Australia 1300 105 343** or visit **www.campaustalia.com**





We at the front office so love our visits from different studios to share their work!



We also love our new work space!



Never a dull day at BPS.
These two handsome roosters found their way into our playground. After being 'captured', they spent the afternoon



Some creative weaving from Studio 6

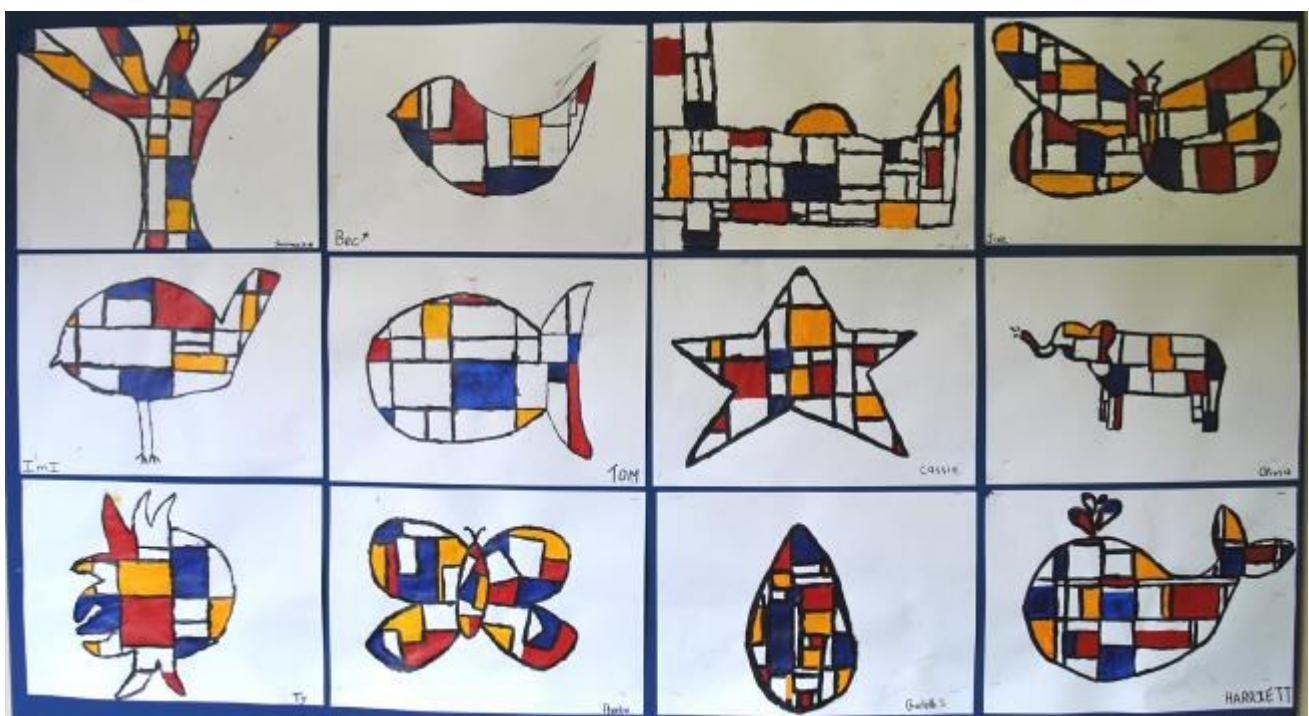




ARTWORK BY STUDIO 4



ARTWORK BY STUDIO 9





Constructing the fantastic new
Nature Play Space



Bridgewater Primary School's new **Nature Play** space has officially been opened by the **DECD Chief Executive Rick Persse** at a ribbon cutting ceremony. Joining him with scissors were students **Jaymee** (yr 7), **Nathan** (Reception) and artist in residence **Heather VK**.



It was a special moment for Heather VK who has led the fundraising efforts since the year of our Receptions' birth. Each year Heather has handmade items for a Mother's Day stall and slowly the funds have grown. This years Mother's Day stall raised **\$921.10**. The Nature Play space is testament to her dedication to Bridgewater Primary School and a reward for all of the students to enjoy for many years to come.

The new play space includes a hand pump and creek, sand pit, boulders and shrubs and the very popular mud kitchen. The Chief Executive also enjoyed a visit to a kitchen of another sort whilst at the school when he joined year 5 and 6 students for a meal prepared with produce from the Kitchen Garden.







STUDIO 9 - By Jonah

AUSTRALIAN SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA PERFORMANCE

The bus was late and we were cold when we arrived in the city! Luckily we had a quick dash up Flinders Street to warm us up.

We walked into the magnificent Adelaide Town Hall just on time for the performance to begin.

The ASO are elite musicians, so seeing them is like the equivalent of watching the Socceroo's; the best of the best.

Looking at all those musicians, I marveled at the thousands and thousands of hours they have put in practicing to get to be not only marvelous musicians as individuals, but to work together with such perfection. It is inspiring.

Beethoven's 5th, in the words of one of our students "Gave me a tingly feeling down my spine".

I heard people talking about how they "Could feel the music, like vibrations all through me." and how "Warm" the sound was. It is so rare to hear unamplified music which does this to the listener.

Our kids and their generation are a headphone generation so this was a different sensory experience.



PARLIAMENT HOUSE VISIT

We were so fortunate to have sitting Labor member and Government Whip Tom Kenyon (James' Dad) guide us around Parliament.

His knowledge of the building, it's history, anecdotes and how it functions is second to none. It is obvious the passion he has for the place and it was wonderful to have such a terrific guide.

We sat in both houses, enjoyed looking for family names on the petition for Women's Suffrage and marveled at the stairs which hold themselves up.



ARLIE ABBSTOCK - At BPS we are MAD as STEM!

It's true! We are MAD! We make sure our children are involved in **Music, Arts, Drama (MAD)** as part of **STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths)**. The construction of backdrops, props and costumes require practical application of important skills.

The play was fantastic! Everyone loved it!!!

Studio 2 performed *Arlie Abbstock and the Incredible Cape* a magical medieval musical by Glyn Lehman and Phil Cummings. This is what the children learned from their experience.



"That anyone can achieve anything and you are who you are...."

Everyone does things differently and we are all different to each other."

Maddy



"I learned that I DO have a good memory."

I felt overwhelmed, as free as a bird, as big as Jupiter, as wild as the ocean, as talented as 1000 brains and as famous as Elvis."

Milla



I learnt that singing with other people is so much easier than singing on your own!

Also, you can never sing too loud."

Trev



Special mention to the soloist singers Sass and Nigella and to Andrew and Malikai who shared the lead role. Their courage and confidence in singing, acting and dancing astonished the audience.

We were excited to welcome the composer Glyn Lehman to the evening performance. He was so pleased to be present for the World Premiere performance and to see his work brought to life by the talented students and creative teachers who work with them.



*"Be who you are and do what
you believe in.*

*Do good rather than bad and
don't let bullies take over.*

Let your self shine through"

Sass

*"Be yourself, because it is OK to
be different. What you do is
your decision and no-one,
nowhere can change that.*

Don't let kids bully you.

*Your personal talents may help
you save the day."*

Nigella

*"That if you're different from the
people around you, you mustn't
stop doing what you're good at.
Don't give up your dreams....*

*I felt excited and nervous at the
same time.*

*When the performance started I
only just got my butterflies flying the
right way."*

Izzy B

*"Be what you want to be. Don't
let people push you around.*

*If you want to be someone, be
that person in your heart.*

*If people say you're weird, don't
doubt yourself."*

Malikai



STUDIO 8

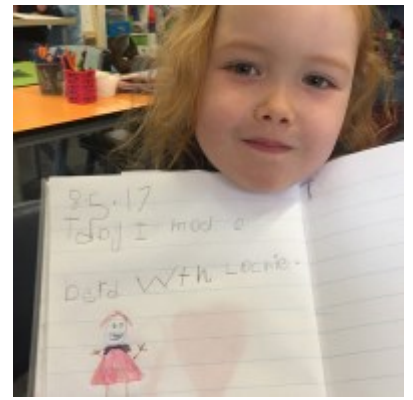
We can't wait to get to our gardening sessions with Kerrie!
We learn so much and have great fun - thanks Kerrie



In STEM play we made a Pom Pom challenge.
We had to get the Pom Pom through a series of tunnels!

STEM
Map making





So proud of our writing - we love to share it!

Learning the days of the week

Aboriginal dot painting



STUDIO 8

MATHS

MATHS

MATHS

MATHS

MATHS

MATHS



Working on shape



Poppy is sorting the animals into different sets



The **Studio 7 Reception** class of **2016** did an amazing job of making a difference that goes on and on!
 Congratulations. For little people, you are doing big things!



Tortoise Tales

No 25, 2017

Newsletter of the Friends of the Western Swamp Tortoise

The 'small and tough' kids with big ideas!

You don't have to be a big person to have an impact! Teacher Penelope Harris and her class of five-year-olds at Bridgewater Primary School in South Australia have raised money to help the Western Swamp Tortoise. The school is located in the Adelaide Hills about 30 minutes from Monarto Zoo (where there is an insurance colony of tortoises.)

One of Penny's students, Angus, came crying into school for an entire week every morning because he heard about how few Western Swamp Tortoises there are in the world and he was very worried. He told her:

"We HAVE to help it! It is small like us and tough like us but it needs us or there will be NONE left!"

He went home and brainstormed with his mum and then the 22 other pupils in his class about how they could help. All the children in class came up with a plan and were desperate to help. Their plan was to make biscuits in the shape of the Western Swamp Tortoise and sell them in the community to raise money for a new incubator at Monarto Zoo. Any other money raised over this target of \$450 would help Monarto Zoo to safely freight the new babies back to WA for their natural release.

All of this was driven and brainstormed by the students, with support from the community, families, Phil Ainsley from Monarto Zoo and Penny.

The children created the biscuits, bagged, tagged and sold them and raised a massive \$900 over eight weeks, easily eclipsing their target. The photo below shows all of the students, with the Monarto Zoo representatives accepting the cheque.

Penny just wanted to let everyone know that there are 23 five-year-olds in SA who are trying everything they can to help save this amazing species and are quickly learning that they can achieve great things with great effort and great love, and that even though they are only little people, they are making an enormous effort to help The Western Swamp Tortoise.



Children's quotes on the Western Swamp Tortoise (19.10.16):

"We are small and tough like them." *Winter*

"We hope they have a happy life with lots of babies." *Savannah*

"Just help them lots!" *Austin*

Happy Holidays!