

### From The Principal

For our students life has returned to pre lockdown. They are enjoying the re-commencement of swimming, excursions, work experience and incursions. This week the senior students were entertained by Trent Hill, an Indigenous story teller, which was funded by school fundraising.



Staff are looking forward to the Bunji café being back on deck this Friday providing S3 and S5 students the opportunity to sharpen their barrister skills. You will see further evidence of the entrepreneurial work skills in this edition we were all *succa4herbs*.

On 11/8 we had our parent teacher interviews, participation was at a higher rate than usual with 65% of families taking up the opportunity. Besides some technical issues with Teams, it was a resounding success.

You would have received a link via email from the Department for Education regarding the **Parent Engagement Survey**. We would appreciate if you could take the time to complete the survey, as the data collected will help us to understand:

1. What we are doing well
2. What we can improve
3. What is important for our parents / caregivers

*The survey closes Sunday 29 August.*

For more information please go to :

<https://www.education.sa.gov.au/parents-and-families/parent-engagement/survey-parent-engagement-schools>

With the lockdown restrictions we needed to cancel the Berry St staff training in week 1, this has now been rescheduled for Thursday, 2nd September. We understand that mid-week may not be ideal for some of you for a Pupil Free day and I thank you in advance. Show day is scheduled for Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> September, as per survey results last term.

### COVID-19 update

During lockdown teachers contacted families daily and all students had access to learning. Some teachers sent video lessons via seesaw and it was great to hear that many families responded to sending back videos and photos of their child engaged in those activities.

External service providers are allowed back on site. Requirements that remain in place:

### Special Dates of Interest

Pupil Free Day	Thursday 2nd September
School Closure	Tuesday 7th September

- ♦ Masks are worn indoors except for student learning places.
- ♦ All staff, contractors and visitors, including parents, COVID-Safe check in whenever entering one of our buildings.
- ♦ Adults, including parents must continue to physical distance wherever possible, including at school pick up and drop off.
- ♦ Increased cleaning continues.
- ♦ It's important that students and staff stay home if they are unwell.

## Bay to Birdwood volunteers

One of our close partners and supporters, who regularly donate to the school, Rotary West Torrens, are seeking volunteers to help with the Bay to Birdwood event at Barratt Reserve, West Beach from 5.00am – 11.00am on Sunday 26 September. If you are able to volunteer please let Andy Delaney know through the front office.

With half our population in lockdown, we can be grateful we are not and follow the advice of SA Health to get vaccinated, respectfully I understand this is a contentious issue for some. Keep safe.

**Niki Takos**  
**Principal**

## Jayne Stinson Speech

Wednesday 23 June 2021

### Errington Special School

Mr Speaker, Errington Special School at Plympton is indeed a pretty special place.

I've had a long association with the school dating back to its first day, when it relocated and rebranded from Ashford Special School over on Anzac Highway. It now boasts up to 150 brilliant students.

I remember rocking up on Errington's opening day as a reporter – I think with Network Ten at that time – and covering the first exciting day at school for those students, teachers and families.

Since then it's been a joy to open the new soft-fall sensory playgrounds funded by the previous Labour government, and visit for many school assemblies, events, awards nights and fundraisers.

It's a special place because of its students and because of the parents and educators who really dedicate their lives to carving out brighter futures for the students who attend.

It is easy to meet the younger students when they're just starting out at the school, and wonder what sort of future they might have, whether they'll ever be independent and whether they'll ever enter the workforce in gainful employment. And I know each parent worries about that.

But it's a true triumph that so many of the students do reach those milestones during their time at Errington and I've been pleased to watch those young people grow and graduate as capable citizens who are reaching their full potential.

### Gino Ienco – Star Volunteer

This happens at Errington because of remarkable people like Gino Ienco. Gino is a volunteer who has had a connection with the Ashford/Errington school community for more than 12 years.

He doesn't have kids or grandkids at the school, he's not a teacher there, he derives no personal benefit from the school.

Gino's connection began when he was the Store Manager of our local Coles at Kurralta Park. At that time he dedicated his time to ensure every child receives an Easter egg, a Christmas gift and that staff are recognised for their work each year.

Workers at Coles personally select a gift and deliver it to the children and staff – witnessing for themselves the huge smiles on their faces.

For some children who've grown up in care or have had challenging lives – this small gesture brings incredible joy.

Gino has since set up fundraising opportunities that bring in a whopping \$10 000 a year. He set up the Errington gym with all its equipment funded solely through donations. And other funds have been spent on educational resources. Remarkable.

Gino can also be found cooking up a storm on the Bunnings BBQ, with the School Council Chair Peter Wilson telling me you have to "pry the cooking utensils from Gino's hands" at the end of the day – he is so determined to raise every dollar he can for the school!

Teachers at the school say Gino has transformed the mentality and ethos of the school, instilling a 'can do' attitude. It now boasts extra-curricular programs, and 'feel good factors' that weren't there prior to his work.

Teacher Andy Delaney wrote to me:

*"From the initial vision of Gino, the school has gone from strength to strength. Today staff believe anything is possible. They don't look to others for support but problem solve in-house autonomously take on fundraising tasks/grant writing and overcome obstacles, which before Gino's involvement would have been insurmountable."*

Over 50 companies are now engaged with the school, through Gino's efforts, and this is lifting the potential opportunities for its students. Many of the initiatives Gino started have now been taken up and continued by others.

That's why Gino has been nominated by the school community for volunteering awards. And I look forward to catching up with Gino shortly to personally recognise his incredible contribution.

Thank you Gino.

### Richard Bekker and Pedal Prix

Gino is not alone in his dedication to the school.

Great outcomes also happen at Errington because of the efforts of parents like Richard Bekker. I was privileged to cheer on Errington's Wild Boar Racing team on the weekend as they competed in the school's Pedal Prix at Victoria Park – including Richard's kids Emily and William.

Despite the wet weather, the electric blue streak that was their human-powered car ripped past in each lap – keeping good time with the pack.

Now this is something that other mainstream students might not think twice about – their ability and right to enter such a competition.

For students at Errington this year was a first – after parents like Richard argued for their inclusion.

I caught up with my mate Harry Donnelly, who is always bursting with energy, to see him waving the chequered flag and I'm not sure there was another teenager happier at that moment.

Vehicles were modified so that a parent could accompany each student in the car and compete amongst the other students who were racing.

Those cars were lovingly constructed in the garage of Richard Bekker, who has a long-held passion for HPV racing.

The things that are learnt from such an endeavour – team work, technical skills, organisation, and good sportsmanship, are just as valid for students at Errington as any other school.

I urge the organisers of the Pedal Prix to ensure Errington and other special schools are included in the event in future years and that this is not just a one-off.

### Future for Errington

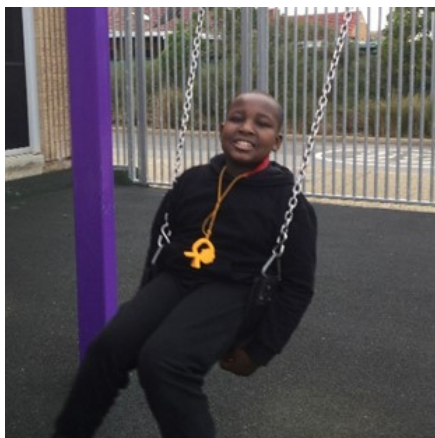
I look forward to continuing to advocate for the school and doing my bit to support those volunteers, parents and teachers who are giving so much – not just to a bricks and mortar school, but to a community of children who deserve, and are realising their bright futures.

## Junior School News

We had a different beginning to term 3, after being at home for the holidays, coming back to school, then home again and the back to school again. However, all of the children have managed the changes well and are now settled into the school routine. We are gradually also returning to our regular off site activities of swimming and kindergym, which are favourite activities for many of our students.



J2 has welcomed a new student, Michael into their class. Michael has moved from NZ. He likes swinging and music.



There has been some building happening in Plympton International College, just outside our Junior and Primary areas. Perfect for those who like trucks and cranes. A huge crane lifting classrooms into place caught the attention of some of the students and staff!!



## Primary School News

In the Primary subschool, students have been exploring variety of art forms using different materials to do their art projects. They really engage and enjoy doing different weather and season themes. They love feeling various kinds of paint textures using stamps, rollers, stencils, cotton wool, leaves, threads and many more.





## Middle School News

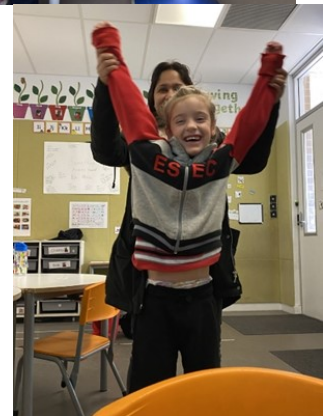
This term we are focusing on how animals live and survive through looking at the environmental factors they need in their habitats. We currently have 4 caterpillars with one of those cocooning, we hope soon to see a middle school butterfly. We will continue to explore physical habitats in hands on and colourful ways.



## The Arts

In music this term we will be using different items to move to music and explore different spaces.

So far we have used elastic ropes, ribbons, cups, clapping sticks, boom whackers and ukulele.





## Senior School News



Seniors in S1 and S2 this year have been working to set up a business selling different plants and herbs. This has been achieved through cross curriculum subjects in business innovation and science, as well other subjects such as Mathematics, Literacy, and computer technology skills. To start this venture the senior teachers engaged in a workshop with “Rapid Enterprise Development: RED” to learn about supporting students to create a successful business model. Students first explored how we care for plants and how they grow through our Science topic. Students then conducted surveys to explore what kind of plants staff would like to buy. After this we explored how to propagate plants from seeds and cuttings. Once we had a good supply we begun to develop a marketing plan. Students created posters, a logo, and name tags to identify our business. Students have also begun to collect and deliver orders this term. Students have enjoyed communicating with the wider school community to sell our plants. During this process students have also been able to develop great skills for the work place including; safety, team work, and money skills. Our business “Succa 4 Herbs” is now booming and we look forward to eventually opening up a stand in the front office to sell plants to parents. Please watch this space for more information of when this will be available. Also remember that “when life succ’s have a good thyme”!

