

Esslemont College

# Weekly Newsletter

"Let your vision be world embracing" - Bahá'í Writings



## Acknowledgement of Country

Esslemont College acknowledges and pays respect to the past, present and emerging Traditional Custodians and Elders of the Dharug Nation and the continuation of cultural, spiritual and educational practices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

## A message from the Principal

*Among the greatest of all great services is the education of children, and promotion of the various sciences, crafts and arts.* (Bahá'í Writings)

Jeannie Baker is an artist, author, and filmmaker. Jeannie creates miniature collage constructions that are artworks in themselves but are designed as illustrations for children's picture books. The collages are created from a combination of natural and artificial materials and often include textures from the actual materials portrayed in the book. Jeannie is inspired by the natural world and many of her books are focused on environmental conservation. <https://www.jeanniebaker.com/>

During week 9 Esslemont College will go to Penrith Regional Gallery to explore a new book written and illustrated by Jeannie Baker 'Desert Jungle', and consider the materials and processes used in creating this book.

In preparation for this excursion, we will be immersing ourselves in the wonderful books of Jeannie Baker, exploring the common themes of environmental awareness and the need to protect our fragile natural world. Several of her stories highlight the impact of human activities on the environment - something we have been talking about in geography this term.

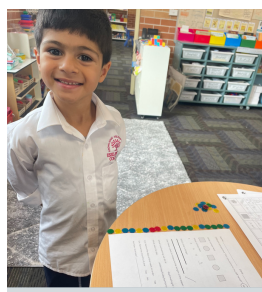
We are all very much looking forward to this special excursion.



Our Excursion to Mount Saint Francis Reserve



Exploring the properties of different materials in science



Busy with quick assessments of learning this week



Counting our virtues sticks to see which virtues we practised well this week

## What's on next week

### Virtue of the Week - Tact

Telling the truth kindly. Thinking before we speak, aware of how deeply our words affect others. Discerning what to say, when it is timely to say it, and what is better left unsaid.

*"Whatever is written should not transgress the bounds of tact and wisdom, and in the words used there should lie hid the property of milk, so that the children of the world may be nurtured therewith, and attain maturity."* - Bahá'u'lláh

### Local Park Excursion - Wednesday 14th June

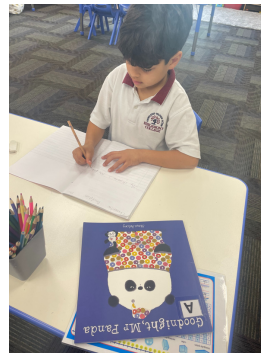
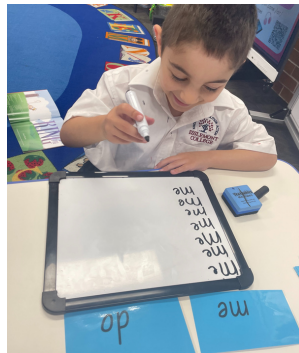
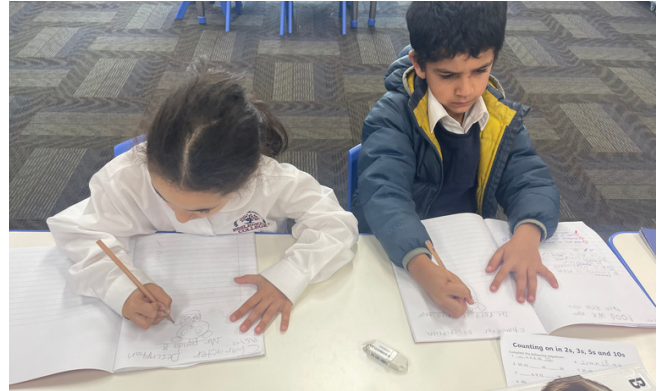
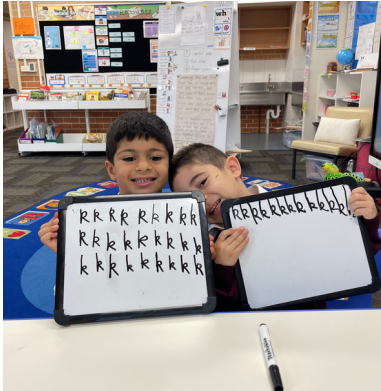
**Library** - Thursday - don't forget to bring your library bag

**Sport** - Thursday - please wear your sports uniform, bring your drink bottles and don't forget your hats.

**Homework** - Thursday - please bring your homework books.

**Cooking** - Friday - healthy sandwiches (please encourage children to think about what they would want in a healthy sandwich)

# Classroom News



Just some of the great things happening this week: Revisiting handwriting of tricky letters, grouping and sharing objects, writing excellent descriptions of our favourite characters from books, reading for enjoyment and learning our sight words

## A message from our Teacher

This week has been a wonderful week of learning and exploration for the students at Esslemont College. Learning about humility or "humbility" as it has been fondly referred to (and corrected on a few occasions), has been an eye-opening and educational experience for us all. The students have advanced in their understanding - realising that humility does not simply mean not being boastful, but can also involved apologising when we make mistakes and taking ownership of those mistakes, valuing the opinions of others, acknowledging that God has given us the capacity to learn what we know and our teachers and friends have supported us in unlocking this capacity.

I am extremely proud of their journey learning about humility this week and look forward to seeing it practiced regularly.

## What have we been learning?

Students have had a bigger focus on writing this week, with a guided writing program run during literacy groups (alternating with reading groups). This has allowed for a deeper dive into the structure



Building and writing words using our new sounds.

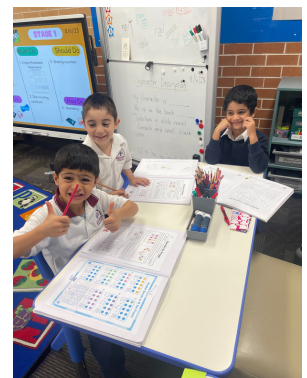


of descriptions with Stage 1 and the opportunity to "talk for writing" with Kindergarten. The oral language component involved in this program has allowed for an improvement in the grammar of both speaking and writing. It was heartwarming to hear that one of the students who had said they did not like writing at the beginning of the year told Miss Judy that he really liked writing this week.

Mathematics has been a challenge for many, with difficult concepts like sharing a collection of objects equally and identifying the difference between the "number of groups" and how many objects are "in each group". Stage 1 have been learning about the commutative property when it comes to multiplication and how to "turn around" multiplication facts using arrays. E.g.  $4 \times 6 = 24$  so  $6 \times 4 = 24$ . Once again, this learning process has been exciting to watch unfold and explore with each student, moving at their own pace and slowly unpacking the content.



Sharing playdough eyes between monsters



Working in small groups and with focused teacher instruction