



KEEPING IN TOUCH WITH FAMILIES

Term 3 Week 9
3rd September 2024



Upcoming Events

September

- 10th PBL Celebration Day
- 13th End of Term 3
- 30th Term 4 begins

Our school improvement priorities for 2024

- Educational Achievement
- Wellbeing and Engagement

PBL Lesson of the Week

WEEK 9

- I am Kind: Be helpful

WEEK 10

- I am Learner: Learn together

Attendance Data

Early Years: 83%
Middle Years: 79%
Junior Secondary: 82%
Seniors: 84%

A note from the Principal ...

Dear families and friends of Southport Special School,

This year it seems summer has come early. We continue to encourage all students to wear a hat and if you require a new school hat these can be purchased from the office for \$15. The hats are also reversible, showcasing the House Colour on the other side!

Our students continue to impress us all with their improvements in their learning. The results of implementing the explicit teaching of Systematic, Synthetic Phonics had been particularly pleasing. Both our teachers and teacher aides are all enjoying the structured teaching and witnessing how highly motivated the students are in their learning.

Last week we held our second Post-School Transition Expo. Aly Darmody our Senior Transition Officer has been making connections with a tremendous number of local providers who can support our students as they progress to live as active participants in our community.

There were 21 different providers in attendance who were able to provide families with important information which supports them to make informed decisions about the students transition out of school. Thank you to all of the families who joined us for this very informative evening.





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A note from the Principal ...

Last week, we celebrated Book Week with the traditional Primary Book Parade. The event featured a special presentation of Roald Dahl's Charlie and the Chocolate Factory by the combined Junior Secondary classes, as well as a magnificent Roald Dahl-themed gift display organised by the Senior Business Enterprises team. It was wonderful to see so many families and friends join us for the morning.

Our Book Week Book Fair has also been a tremendous success this year. We set a target of \$1,500 in sales, and we not only met this goal but surpassed it, with a total of \$2,141.09 in sales. This fantastic outcome is great news for our school library. Scholastic rewards schools with a 40% commission on sales, meaning we can select books for our library up to the value of \$856.00 from the Scholastic range. Thank you to everyone who purchased books from the fair. Happy reading!

It was wonderful to see so many people attend our Father's Day Brunch on Tuesday, August 27th. The Hospitality team, under the guidance of Leandra, served a sumptuous feast for all the fathers. It was a lovely opportunity for the significant men in our students' lives to chat and connect.

Looking ahead to Term 4, we are excited to welcome everyone back for Grandparent's Day.

Thank you for your continued support and active involvement in our school community.

If you have any feedback as to how we can improve as a school, please come and chat with me or send an email. Your feedback is vital for our ongoing improvement.

Warm regards,

Susan Christensen





FATHER'S DAY BRUNCH



FATHER'S DAY BRUNCH



NRL SUPER HEROES FOR A DAY



We have been lucky enough this term to have assistance from the National Rugby League (NRL) to support two school-based tag training programs take place here at school. Campbell Mellick, the Game Development Officer attended along with additional staff from the NRL to work with our students and staff.

The NRL also offered selected Southport Special School Senior students the opportunity to compete in a halftime game against Beenleigh Special School at the NRLW's Titans v Sharks game at Cbus Super Stadium on Saturday the 31st of August.

The students arrived at the stadium in their senior uniforms armed with water bottles and enormous smiles and played a fantastic game against Beenleigh. A huge thank you to Campbell and the awesome support crew at the NRL for providing such a fantastic opportunity which I know the students will remember for a very long time.





EARLY YEARS TEAM

Move & Groove

We are thrilled to share with you the latest Prep – Grade 2 Health and Physical Education (HPE) updates. We have been diving into the exciting world of fundamental movement skills, getting active, moving our bodies, and expressing ourselves through dance!

Through fun and engaging activities, students have been exploring their fundamental movement skills such as running, jumping, throwing, and catching. One of the highlights of our program has been the introduction of creative games such as obstacle courses, where students navigate through a series of challenges that require them to run, jump, crawl, and balance.

Students have been exploring different styles of dance and music, letting their creativity shine on the dance floor. From learning basic dance steps to sequencing their own routines, our young dancers have been showcasing their talent and enthusiasm for movement.

The students have thoroughly enjoyed participating in a Mini Olympics focusing on Rhythmic Gymnastics, where they engaged in a variety of activities with hoops, balls, and ribbon dancing. The students enthusiastically explored their creativity and coordination through rhythmic movements with the hoops, displaying their control with the balls, and expressing themselves through ribbon dancing.

HPE incorporates literacy learning and students have been supported to share their strengths, likes and dislikes in movement and dance through various modes of communication. It is wonderful to see how activities like ribbon and butterfly dancing have emerged as favourites among the students.

We are so proud to see our students embracing these activities with enjoyment and look forward to seeing them develop their skills, creativity, and confidence throughout the semester.



MIDDLE YEARS TEAM

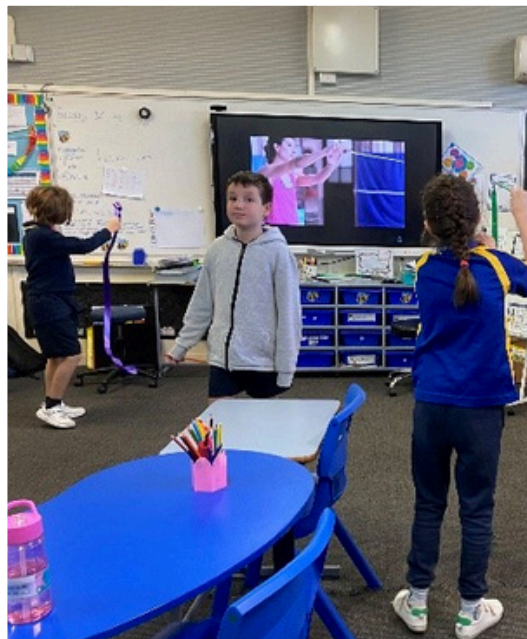
Creative Movements in The Arts and HPE

This semester in Dance and HPE, our students have been joyfully engaged in the creative process of dance while honing their fundamental movement skills. We've been focusing on locomotor and non-locomotor movements, exploring different dance styles, and always prioritizing safe practice.

Students have been developing their fundamental movement skills by creating and performing dance sequences using elements of dance. They've engaged in activities like Rhythmic Gymnastics, Track Events, Carnival games, Yoga, Boxercise, and various dances. The students have particularly enjoyed using rhythmic gymnastics apparatus like ribbons and balls, as well as other fun tools such as bean bags, maracas, and hoops. These tools have enabled them to express their emotions through movement, blending creativity with dance and allowing their personalities to shine through.

In addition to movement, students are actively expressing their preferences and choices in dance through various communication tools such as ALD boards, P2G, PODD, KWS, actions, and verbal communication. Our staff are committed to using these tools to ensure inclusive interactions, making sure every student's voice is heard.

It's been an energetic and creative term thus far, and we're excited to see how the students continue to grow and express themselves through movement!





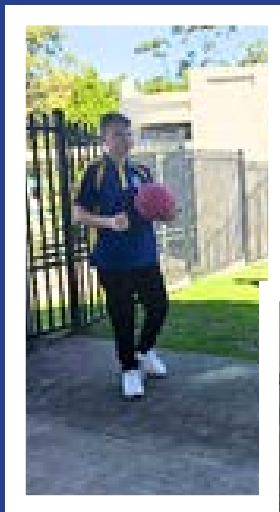
JUNIOR SECONDARY TEAM

Putting on Our Dancing Shoes

This Semester, in Health and Physical Education, students have been learning how to make their body move in more complex ways. This combines with the 'Dance Baby Dance,' exploring different environments, spaces, rhythms and sequences of movement. They are thinking about their bodies, actions, spaces, timing and energy.

Students have been learning about more specialised Locomotor (running, jumping, galloping) and non-locomotor (bending, twisting, stretching) movements. They have engaged in basketball, T-ball, bike riding, Oztag and soccer to increase their ability to manipulate their own bodies and physical equipment in a more skilful way.

At the end of term, they will call on all of these learnt skills at our Southport Special School Olympics PBL event. Finally their development will lead to them performing at our end of year concert.



Writing Moderation

Our students continue to focus their learning on letters, sounds and building their writing skills.

As part of this learning and development it is important that teachers have the opportunity to discuss individual students and their triumphs. This week our teachers came together to discuss student writing samples in a moderation session.

These conversations given staff the opportunity to view different students from within their sectors and have constructive conversations about student achievements. It is also a chance for teachers to see how others present their student's work and have discussions about ways to support particular students in their writing development.



POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR FOR LEARNING

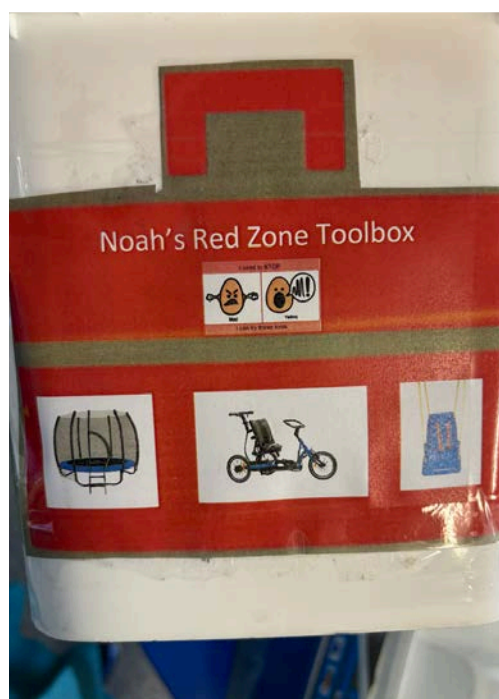
We are Learners, we try our best!
We are Safe, we follow instructions

At our school, we work hard to be Safe, Kind, and Learners. We encourage our students to always try their best, understanding that learning is a journey where effort and perseverance are key. By embracing challenges and staying resilient, our students grow both academically and personally.

One of the key ways students can be successful learners is by following instructions at school. This includes listening carefully to teachers, staying on task, and asking for help when needed. By following instructions, students can ensure they understand what is expected of them, stay safe, and make the most of their learning opportunities. It also helps maintain a calm and organized classroom environment where everyone can focus and do their best.

We are excited to highlight the importance of exploring sensory tools and practicing calming techniques. These strategies are beneficial for regulating our emotions which in turn supports the overall learning experiences. Calming techniques including deep breathing, yoga and mindfulness have been incorporated in many classrooms, supporting students to maintain their focus and stay engaged in their learning.

Students have also been supported to explore a variety of sensory tools and strategies including rocking chairs, playdough, fidget spinners, going for a walk and using a trampoline. Students have been encouraged to explore a variety of strategies to find what works best for them in their personalised regulation 'toolbox'.





ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

CELEBRATION SPORTS Day

Tuesday 10TH September 2024

Each term we celebrate positive achievement of students for being safe, kind, learners through our Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL) Celebration Day.

This terms event is "Sports Day."

Students can come to school in their favourite sports outfit up and enjoy all kinds of movement and sports activities. There is also access to a sensory "chill out" space.



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

MyTime

COFFEE CATCH UP



MyTime provides support for parents, carers and grandparents who look after a child with a disability, chronic medical condition or other additional needs including developmental delay.

Unwind and share experiences with others who understand.

9:30- 11:30am Thursday 5th September - Southport Special School

For more information or to RSVP please contact our school Chaplain:
Kate Opie - kopie@playmatters.org.au



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

WE APPRECIATE YOU!!



2ND SEPTEMBER - 6TH SEPTEMBER 2024

Southport Special School would like to take this opportunity to thank all our Teacher Aides for the work you do with our students and families on a daily basis to support the path to life-long learning.

We see your diligence, commitment, and impact as students grow, develop skills, and gain knowledge.

From the entire school community - THANK YOU!