



Term: Three | Issue 3 | Date: 17 December, 2019

## WELCOME

Welcome to our Peninsula newsletter. Each term, your Peninsula schools will be providing an update on learning on the Peninsula at:

- Balmain Public School
- Birchgrove Public School
- Orange Grove Public School
- Nicholson Street Public School
- Rozelle Public School
- Sydney Secondary College Balmain Campus

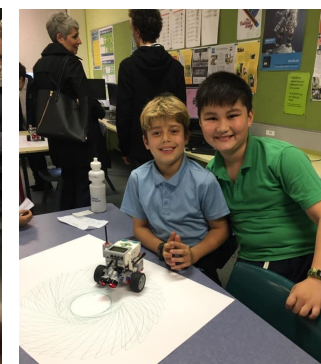
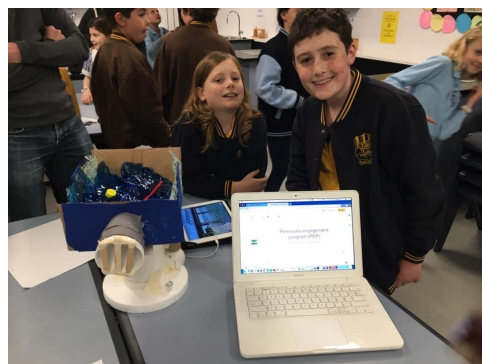
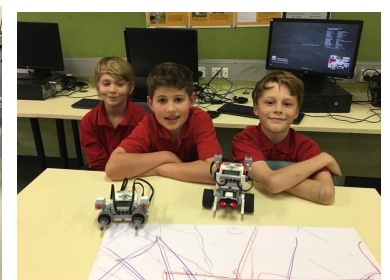
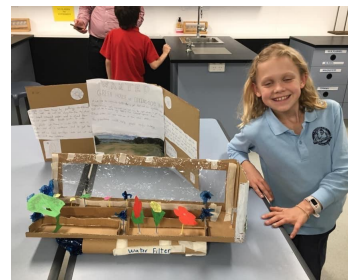
Look out for our logo for upcoming Peninsula events.



**PROUDLY PUBLIC**  
ON THE PENINSULA

## A CELEBRATION OF LEARNING IN 2019

In celebration of a fantastic year of learning across the peninsula, we have shared some photographs of students engaged in the Peninsula Engagement Program coordinated by Sydney Secondary College Balmain teachers and students. We hope everyone has a safe and happy holiday. We look forward to sharing our learning with you again in 2020.





## Year 6 Surf Day

The sun shone down on Australia's iconic green ferries as we began our long journey to Manly Beach. It wasn't just the glistening waves that captivated us (although they did)! It was the soft sand and sunny weather that made Manly the perfect destination for a fun day of surfing.

Manly greeted us like every great beach, with giant umbrellas covering every corner in sight, and cafes filled to the top with yummy delights. And of course the first thing we did was snap a photo of the sights that we thought best summed up Manly and its many wonders, including a very small, yet ferocious seagull that we named 'French Fries' because of its hunger towards them.

Dave, our surf coach for the day, handed us some bright red rashies to wear. We then had a brisk walk down to Shelly Beach, which was filled with a mixture of screams and complaints and the occasional, "Ahhh", because of the chipped shells and rocks that littered the beach.

We each took turns finding waves and gliding back to shore with looks of glee. A few of us stood up, (we certainly didn't!), but the more we rode the foamy white waves, the more we felt like we were in some sort of theme park! As we improved, we started to better understand why Manly was considered such a perfect place for all ages. We started to get ever so slightly more childish, and by the end of our amazing surf experience, we just wanted to dive into the cold swirling waves.

We had so much fun we didn't notice the grey clouds that were looming over us. As the life guards dragged us back to shore, we were interrupted by the thunder and lightning that took us by surprise. That sure wasn't on our agenda! It was soon over, but not before we were positively soaked, top to bottom.

As we wandered down the streets of Manly staring at the fallen bicycles and surprised by the broken branches, we found a small park close to the ferry. One of the teachers, Mr Lee, saw a nearby art museum that he 'had to go to'. We agreed to go with him, with one of us complaining about how it was too educational, (Shanti) with the other having a very deep yet hilariously geeky conversation about one of the artworks, (Remi). And that just about sums up our personalities. The ferry back was a quick one, and we almost collapsed when we finally got home at last!

Shanti and Remi, Year 6



## The Year at Nicho

This year at Nicho has been awesome and filled with lots of fun learning. We have had a Halloween Fete, two camps, Schools Spectacular and Sydney Theatre Company (STC) drama/literacy lessons, just to name a few activities. At the end of the year we have our school performance at SSC Balmain.

**Halloween Fete:** Every year we have a Halloween Fete. The fete is amazing and enjoyable for everyone. The Nicho community is the reason we have the fete and we are grateful for that. The students get to help paint backdrops and the parents and teachers get to help run the stalls. The Halloween Fete is a great opportunity to raise money for the school to make Nicho even better.

**Stage 3 Camp:** Stage 3 Camp was an amazing experience where we learnt lots of new things. We went to Canberra and the Snowy Mountains. Some of us saw snow for the first time and that was very fun. We learnt about voting in polls, politics at Parliament House and we also learnt about the design of Canberra. It was an amazing place to explore.

**Stage 2 Camp:** Stage 2 went to camp in Berry. They participated in many different activities. They got to make damper and participated in canoeing and kayaking. They learnt about the geography of the land. Overall, everyone really enjoyed the camp and learnt a lot of new skills.

**STC Drama/ Literacy:** Throughout the year all K-6 students have participated in STC drama/literacy lessons. All students have been able to learn new drama skills and learn different literacy and drama games. We've all really enjoyed having the opportunity to take part in this incredible experience.

**Schools Spectacular:** Earlier this year our school's senior choir had the opportunity to audition for Schools Spectacular. We made it in! Schools Spectacular was a wonderful experience for the Nicho teachers and students. Students, teachers and family were able to watch. The choir loved Schools Spec and we hope to audition again next year.

**End Of Year Performance:** Nicho's end of year performance this year is "The Wizard of Oz". All students are able to participate in the performance. Every class performs a dance which is woven into a storyline with a plot and main characters. All students really enjoy performing in front of the Nicho parents, teachers, family and friends. Huge thanks to SSC Balmain for allowing us to use their performance space!

Overall, 2019 has been a great year for Nicho. We've all enjoyed it a lot and will be sad to see it end, but everyone is looking forward to 2020 and another wonderful year of Nicho laughter, learning and life!

Meera, Jesse and Sylvie, Year 5



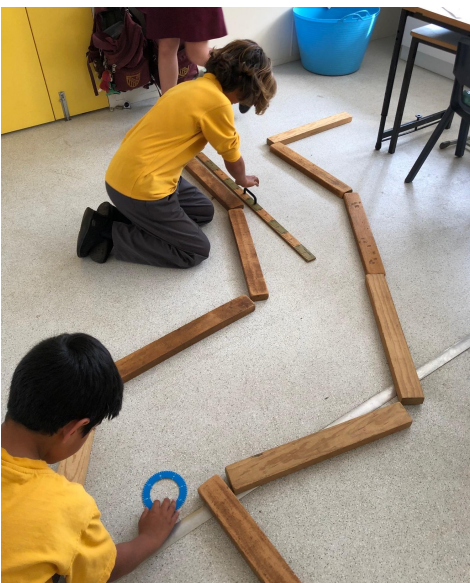
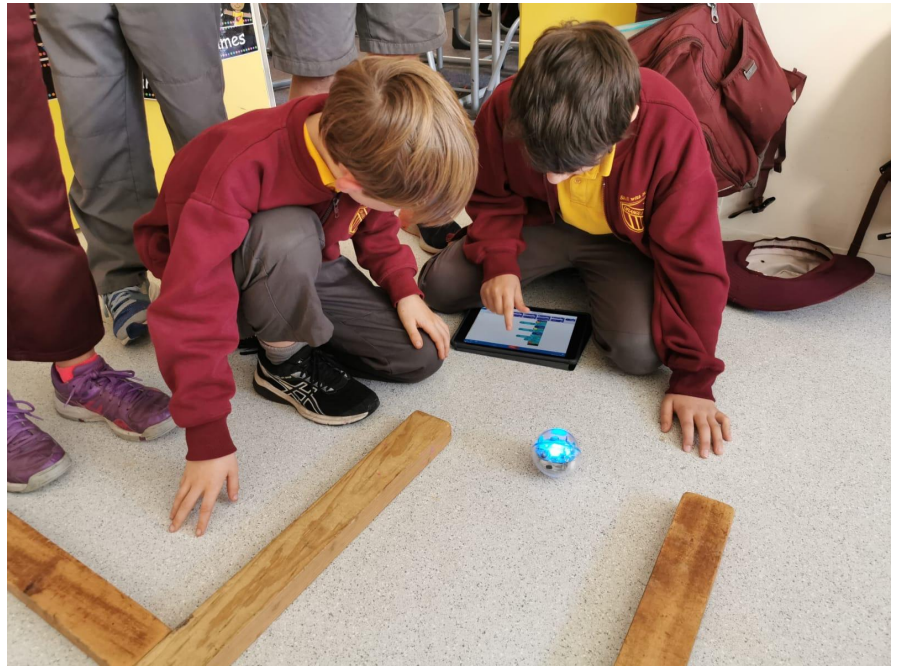
This year at Orange Grove Public School we have been having fun utilising Spheros to engage our students in the digital technologies strand of our Science program.

Spheros give our students a range of skills that allow them to express themselves creatively in ways that we haven't even thought of before. Our students K-6 are shown how to program the Spheros from their iPads from two of our experienced Assistant Principals, Kate Jones and Scott McBain. Programs include making the Spheros roll through an obstacle course and flash a series of lights. After they complete the program, students can verify their work by seeing if the Spheros respond correctly.

However, it is also important to integrate the Spheros into our regular lessons. Year 2 have embarked on a series of measurement lessons using the Spheros to calculate the different distances the Sphero can move on a range of surfaces. It was a fun and engaging series of lessons for our students.

Our school community is seeing a shift in student engagement using Spheros as a tool to better understand the different learning needs in our classes. It is a program that will continue to be refined in years to come.

Scott McBain – R/Assistant Principal



# SYDNEY SECONDARY COLLEGE BALMAIN - REFLECTIONS OF YEAR 7 & 10

This is part of a speech presented to Year 6 families and students at SSC Balmain Campus' Orientation Day assembly: Hi! My name is Mia and today I'd like to take a minute to discuss my first year attending SSCBC. This year, alongside thousands of others across Australia, I made the big transition into high school. This time last year, I was in the same position as you all. Even though I was extremely nervous, I was also excited about what was to come. Within weeks, I would begin one of the most exciting days of my life: The first day of high school. And thanks to Balmain, this was the start to an amazing year.

Our year 7 camp was by far one of the best experiences of my life. Each night in our cabin, my friends and I would talk for ages and eat lollies. These bonding moments are some of our most treasured memories, as we're still best friends today. Even at school, Balmain has a large variety of school clubs that are free for all to participate in. In addition to this, for anyone who may be struggling to manage work or stressing about exams, at Balmain, all teachers are here to help you in any shape or form.

Before I conclude, I'd like to give you some tips that have helped me throughout year 7. These are to have goals, to be as organised as possible and to have fun. "This is the beginning of anything you want. If you're going to try, go all the way. A person who never made a mistake never tried anything new." Thank you for reading.

Mia, Year 7



This is part of a speech presented at the Year 10 Graduation Ceremony by our student leaders: We made it. We've completed our time at Balmain! Spending the past 4 years with you guys has been amazing. We have all done things together as a year group and created memories together that we will all cherish. We all formed our first friend groups at Year 7 camp and bonded as a year group. We all grew closer as a year group and built on our knowledge together. This is not a goodbye to each other, rather a goodbye and thank you to all the teachers that helped us along our way in our first few years of high school. Teachers, speaking on behalf of year 10, I don't think any of us would be where we are today without you. You have all pushed us to our highest capacity, you have always stood behind us and opened us up to new ways of looking at the world today. You are the ones that helped shape our futures and for that, we all say thank you and we will miss you.

Balmain has provided us all with incredible opportunities that definitely helped us with finding ourselves. This has included our extensive clubs and groups, on the sporting field at gala days or extra excursions around our community. These opportunities have allowed each of us to build on our interests, and learn new skills along the way. I know Balmain has provided me with so many sporting and leadership activities that have made me the person I am today, so thank you Balmain. We have all achieved many goals together, like putting on a spectacular school play and losing to the teachers... again... in the student vs teacher match. I'm sure that as a year group and as friends we will achieve many more goals in the years to come. I'm sure we all are proud that we all went to this amazing school.

I wish everyone good luck towards their future paths after Balmain. On behalf of year 10, we greatly appreciate all the opportunities that this school has given us and all the teachers that stood behind us. So thank you teachers, I wish the best for all my peers, and goodbye!

Lucia and I Made, Two of the 2019 Student Leaders



## Circus Beserkus A Fantastic Success at Rozelle

Each Year Rozelle Public School holds an event called Circus Beserkus which is a fundraiser organised by the students from Years 1 to 6. The students design, organise and run their own imaginative and innovative stalls sometimes making personalised items which are enormously popular. This year we had a strong focus on sustainability with stalls designed to use as little water, single use items and packaging as possible. Our school senators also decide who the funds will be donated to and this year the students selected to support the bushfire affected schools and their communities. It was again a huge success, students had lots of fun, participated with enthusiasm and raised a massive \$4498 for the bushfire affected schools while at the same time generating very little waste. We are so proud of the fantastic effort and care for others that is demonstrated by our students and our school community.



## Rozelle's Buddy Program

The aim of our Buddies Program is to create a caring school environment where strong cross-aged peer relationships and friendships can be built and maintained. The lessons are designed to encourage core values such as friendliness, responsibility, respect, caring for others, valuing and supporting difference and inclusivity in a safe, supportive social setting. The older children have an opportunity to learn skills in leadership and empathy through activities in the classroom and in the playground and care for younger students who are just starting school to feel safe and supported in the transition.

Our Kindergarten buddies most memorable moments are when we played with them, worked together on Anzac Day to make poppies and helped them out with their really hard work like spelling and writing their names and their favourite things at the beginning of the year. Kindies say they feel safe around us on the playground and really enjoy playing handball and tips with us. They appreciated how much we have helped them over the past year.

Justin and Patrick, 2019 Kindergarten students.



Upon reflection, in Kindy we remember counting and playing with money in our classroom shop. That year we remember having a wonderful teacher who was always really nice, especially when Charlie had a broken jaw she cared and looked after him so much. Buddies were a big part of our Kindy year because they were really nice to us and we are still friends with them today. When we think about the last year of primary school it has been a really busy, fun and productive year for us. Big highlights of this year are definitely the Canberra camp because it was action packed. We did things everyone enjoyed such as going to Questacon, climbing Telstra Tower and visiting Parliament House. This year's school Stage Three Production was called X Factory. Every student in year five and six participates, whether it is dancing, acting, singing or playing in the band. We had a lot of fun putting the play together. It was a lot of work but in the end it was amazing.

We have had great teachers for the past seven years and we have enjoyed learning new things, growing bigger, more confident, improving our skills and getting to know them. We are very sad about leaving Rozelle but we are really excited about starting high school and we feel ready for the challenge.

Charlie and Mason 2019 Year 6 students

## BIRCHGROVE PUBLIC SCHOOL - LOOKING BACK ON 2019

As a preschool to year 6 school, we are fortunate to be a part of our students' transitions as they embark on kindergarten, then into primary and beyond. Our students have been encouraged to reflect on their learning and achievements for the year and have documented what they are proud of on a certificate as a keepsake. Our year 6 students are looking forward to high school with mixed emotions. Camps featured as a favourite memory for many, Samson loved the Aussie Bush Camp, Carol enjoyed Canberra and Violetta had fun at Cockatoo Island. Summer enjoyed the zoo snooze and is looking forward to making new friends in high school.

Our Kindergarten students recall their nerves at the start of the year, "I was nervous about making new friends" – Zoe and Elodie "was scared of the big boys but now I know they're fine!" Francisco was worried about who to play with. They all agree that it has been a fun and busy year. Frankie has loved "doing all the writing" and Jasper and Ben say they have done lots of fun things with all of their friends.

Ned, Toby and Xander think that the best part about Kindy has been having Miss Sarina as their teacher. James and Daniel have enjoyed sport with Mr Trent. Charlotte loves all the teachers and Cooper's highlight has been learning new things every day. Kindy can't believe they only have twelve days left before they are in year one! Where did that year go?

As the end of year celebrations approach, preschool is a hive of activity and emotions. Plenty of tissues are on hand for the tears that will flow (mainly for the parents!) when our youngest students prepare to start big school next year. Callan says many of his preschool friends will be joining him in Kindy at Birchgrove but he doesn't know what they will be doing in class next year, "I already have lots of books that I read at home". Hayley feels nervous but will see her friends from gymnastics when she starts big school. Saxon is most excited about "learning numbers and letters and stuff".

2019 has been an eventful year of learning and fun. We wish our departing students all the best at their new schools and are looking forward to returning refreshed for the new year.



Me at big school by Stanley,  
Preschool Wombats



Me at big school by Lara  
Preschool Wombats



# BALMAIN PUBLIC SCHOOL

This year, Balmain Public School's project-based learning has been centred around the International Year of Indigenous Languages. We've studied Aboriginal culture across K-6 and learnt about a truer Australian history. The year commenced with a smoking ceremony and ended with a beautiful Aboriginal mural across a 30 metre wall. Our wall is "located a hop, skip and jump away from the Sydney Harbour and draws on that as the inspiration...the flow and cycle of water is much like our journey through life...filled with many moments in time - where people from places, some distant, some near, people from many different backgrounds, each with unique histories - come together to sit, listen and learn, through the sharing of our unique story...our learning is a story of growth, where opportunities are created and we are nurtured to become the best possible versions of ourselves..." @rathman74

Scott Rathman has told our story - who we are, where we come from and where we're going. This mural has re-ignited learning in our space, as we look to appreciating and interpreting the story behind this beautiful artwork. Students at Balmain Public School have taken the time to appreciate the mural, as though walking through an art gallery, brainstormed ideas, symbols and meanings that they have interpreted from the mural. They've thought about different morals and used their ideas to create written stories.

## Our Mural

You may never stop learning like an ever going river. We all face many challenges along the way, finding friends, catching up on homework and lots of problem solving. There will be highs and lows in this river. Passing fish, people and sea beds. Everyone who gets through can be true to who they are. This river is ours and we must treasure it. The way the river flows and its shine from the sun, how it sparkles on the sunset. Tribes and families come to gather round the river for its great source of life. The wildlife come in spring and summer but leave in winter. New overwhelming problems come like fires, droughts and other threats. Every year we take them head on. This river never stops!

## Winona M

### Our Mural

School is like this mural. There are waves that show the many ups and downs you will face. There are various colours expressing all the emotions you will go through during your school life. You will be out of your comfort zone, just like a fish out of water. When we meet in the middle, we come together and make special bonds. Along the way, friends are key. Those friends are the ones who will take you out of the light waters and push you towards the dark waters. Light waters represent your comfort zone. The colours of this river represents the different emotions that we can have. The time has come to encounter the circles, where an end becomes a new beginning. Just like your transition from primary school to high school. You are off to darker waters, but will find the lighter ones again.

## Alexia K

### Our Mural

There once was a land separated by a meeting place. One side was the land of the turtles and the other side was the land of the fish. They each had their theories about the other species. The turtles thought they were smart and though they knew a lot about the fish on the other side of the meeting place. They thought the fish were unkind and showy, judging by their appearance. One day, a small turtle asked his father 'Why do we judge the fish by their appearance?' His father replied 'it's because we're the smartest species of all'. So the small turtle went to the meeting place and the fish's land. He then asked an adult fish 'why do you judge the turtles on their appearance?' which was a theory of the turtles'. The fish turned out to be kind and welcoming, most unlike their theories about all the fish on the other side of the meeting place. He then asked the old fish what they do on their side. He informed the turtle about their way of life, which was not to judge anyone at all. The turtle reported this to his father. His father told their leader and they never judged anyone by their looks again. Moral: Don't judge a book by its cover.

## Freya P

