



As always, Term 4 has been busy, busy. Our School Centenary was held on the long weekend in October then it was back to school and in week 3 the RSPCA visited Modanville School and our students were invited to participate in the activities and join the Modanville students in their classes.

A visit to Lismore show was enjoyed by all students and family members.

We had an exciting Wednesday morning when Dr Nathan came to teach the children about forensic science, they learnt how to take finger prints and could see why every print is so unique. Dr Nathan also brought along a visitor from Ireland. Blath talked to the class about growing up in Ireland, she sang the National Anthem and a traditional Irish song as well as playing some classical music on the keyboard. She talked about traditional food, the weather, the flag and other cultural things that are so different from ours. Blath is based in Sydney where she works with The Wiggles, she has been Dorothy the Dinosaur and sung in a number of shows with the Wiggles.

On Wednesday 2nd November we had a visit from some international students

from Southern Cross Uni. These students are here to study English and they share cultural information with the children. We were lucky to have not only Japanese but one Russian and one Thai student.

Our next excursion was to Corndale School for Life Education where the children learnt about healthy living. When not in the educational van they joined with Corndale and Tuntable Creek students in the classroom. Swimming has resumed every Wednesday at Woodlawn School.

Lewin and Felix are enjoying kinder orientation every Tuesday and have settled in very well.

Our school camp was held overnight at Black Rock in Bundjalung National Park. Everyone from K – 6 had a very enjoyable time (except a few comments about the ‘disgusting’ pit toilets which actually weren’t). The children put up their own tents, went fishing, played soccer and frisbee, toasted marshmallows and generally were very responsible and well behaved, well done kids!

Whian Whian School Christmas concert will be held on Wednesday 7th December starting at 6pm and everyone is very

welcome. A mega raffle will be drawn on the night and Santa is sure to visit.

The special end of year treat will be a visit to the movies to see Puss in Boots in the last week of school.

Dave Condon and Kim Read



At this time of the year we say goodbye to half of our pre-schoolers as they embark on the next stage of life; school. Their identities are strong and confident as we witness their groupings, such as, friendships developing after preschool hours; initiating and developing cohesive games of chasing and tag; or just 'hanging together' in a group, enjoying each others company.

The older children are focusing on developing their skills and persevere on tasks. Lewin watched as Carolyn demonstrated the wrapping technique required to create a God's Eye. Lewin, along with many other children, grasped the concept and produced great craft works they were proud of.

Jack had noticed how some small animals categorised in baskets, could align in more than one basket: For example, snakes could also find a home in Sea Life. This provided an opportunity for developing the categories and discussing the similarities and differences of groupings. Many children explored the groups, but Jack stayed the longest,

returning to the table to re-categorise over the week.

Finn also took a keen interest in mathematics as he measured items around the preschool. He was presented with a till roll and asked to estimate the length of the chair leg. Sitting away, he pulled out the roll, glancing across to the chair before tearing the desired length. Finn was very pleased as his length proved to be accurate, holding the top and running his hand down the length to the base. A week later Finn and his friends measured using different lengths of wool; would the short length be as long as the block? Not quite, let's try a book. The lengths of wool went into his pocket to experiment with at home.

These children demonstrate what is at the core of early years learning; gaining a wide range of skills, understandings and attitudes that form a foundation for life.

Before I wish you all a safe and happy Christmas I must acknowledge Playgroup. It's grown from strength

to strength this year thanks to Julie and Kylie. Playgroup will continue in 2012 on Fridays, starting on the 3rd of February. This is a free service open to all children. Come along and join in the fun. Mel and her children are regulars at Playgroup and enjoyed time with the pups on this particular Friday.

Until next time