

# HOSPITAL SCHOOL CONNECTIONS

A NEWSLETTER FOR HOSPITAL SCHOOLS PUBLISHED EACH TERM



## THIS TERM'S NEWS:

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**John Hunter HS - 2**

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**Bankstown HS - 4**

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RNSH SCHOOL  
CONNECT LEARN EMPOWER



THE HOSPITAL  
**SCHOOL**  
AT WESTMEAD



Sydney Childrens  
Hospital School



St George Hospital School  
*every child every day*



A reminder is sent to school email accounts in Week 8 of each term to send contributions to the NSW Hospital Schools' newsletter. Please forward articles to: [liverplhos-s.school@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:liverplhos-s.school@det.nsw.edu.au)

## JOHN HUNTER HOSPITAL SCHOOL HAPPENINGS

After a fantastic start to the term with the NSW Hospital Schools' Association Conference, as has been the trend, Term 3 has been very busy with lots of learning happening in both the classroom and on the wards..



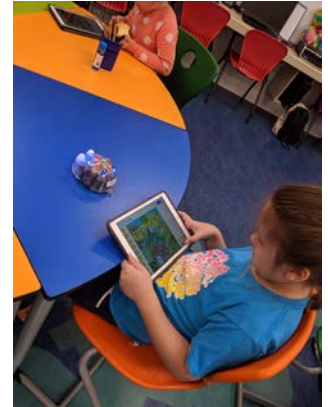
The theme for the term was "Disney/Pixar" and much fun was had by both students and staff exploring some of the fabulously entertaining children's movies and short films. I think the highlight was discovering how many helium balloons it took to lift a model of the "Up" house as well as some other common classroom items. Other films studied were: Inside Out, Toy Story, Coco, Wall-E, Finding Nemo and Dory, The Incredibles, Monster's Inc and A Bug's Life. This theme generated some amazing discussions and responses from the students. Who doesn't love a good Disney/Pixar movie with a moral for all of us?

Book Week was celebrated, with enthusiasm, by both students and staff. Books studied were: "Grandma Z," "Bouncing Back - An Eastern Barred Bandicoot Story" and "Waves." Of course there was the mandatory Book Week Parade, to round out the week.



After attending a "Switched on for Life/ Mindfulness" workshop, in the last school holiday, the staff have implemented the Brain Gym "Positive, Active, Clear and Energetic" (PACE) program as part of the daily morning routine for students. This program is a 4 step readiness routine to be Positive, Active, Clear and Energetic at the start of class, after lunch, before study or sport. PACE can be done anytime that you feel you are lacking focus and unable to pay attention. (See diagram)

## JOHN HUNTER HOSPITAL SCHOOL HAPPENINGS



Science week was another great week filled with wonder, excitement and learning. I can confidently report that nothing was blown up during any of the experiments conducted in the classroom. Phew!!!! The students had to design and build a tower out of marshmallows and toothpicks. Both height and strength needed to be considered when designing and building the towers. The students also had to make a rainstorm in a jar. Predicting what would happen and then testing their predictions, considering the ingredients they were given, was a major teaching focus.

What do you think happens when you submerge an egg in vinegar? That's what the students had to hypothesise before they conducted this experiment. What they discovered was the acetic acid in vinegar reacts with the calcium carbonate in the eggshells. This reaction causes the shells to dissolve. Wow! The kids thought that was pretty COOL!

The school was fortunate enough to have the Stem.T4L robotics kit during Term 3. This kit contains Blue-Bots, Dash Robots and the LEGO Education WeDo 2.0 set. Designed with collaboration in mind, each set combines LEGO bricks with classroom friendly software to introduce students to science, engineering and computational principles.

WeDo 2.0 helps make abstract engineering and science concepts concrete and improves collaboration, problem solving and computational thinking. Dash is an exciting hands-on learning tool which encourages students to continue building critical thinking, creativity, communication and collaboration skills. Blue-Bot helps students code, debug and stimulate algorithms. These devices were particularly popular with the ward students as evidenced by the huge smile on Ashlee's face during one of her STEM sessions. We are looking forward to playing with the Film Kit in Term 4.



**HAVE A GREAT HOLIDAY EVERYONE!**

# BANKSTOWN HOSPITAL SCHOOL



## ROBOTICS



This term Bankstown Hospital School had the loan of the PC Robotics Kit from the stem.T4L Project. The stem.T4L Project provides a variety of trial kits, including robotics, 3D Printing, Film making, Virtual Reality and Coding. The project also includes a Learning Library with a collection of online resources, professional learning and support guides, designed to encourage a variety of skills.

Our kit contained several components – Lego Mindstorms EV3, Makey Makey, Micro:bit and Ozobots. The Ozobots quickly became our favourites because of their ease of use and appeal to a wide range of ages and abilities. Essentially, the Ozobot is a small robot that uses 2 different forms of very basic programming:

- Block based visual coding, with available javascript, and
- Recognition of patterns and colour combinations which can be made on both digital surfaces such as an ipad, and physical surfaces, such as using textas on paper.

One of our major projects, had the students designing their own city, complete with Lego buildings. Firstly, the students designed and constructed several buildings, including a bus shelter, a small house and a school. The roadways were then designed, enabling the students to navigate their Ozobots through a series of colour patterns and line combinations, to ensure that they visited each building in the correct Order.

As the robots can read colour, they also had impressive light displays when using them in the dark. Whilst we only used a small portion of the kit, it was an educational and exciting coding activity for the students.



The T4L project is a wonderful initiative to introduce a variety of resources to your school. If you are interested in participating, visit <https://schoolsnsw.sharepoint.com/sites/StemShareLibrary> to see available kits. From there, you can book a kit for yourself and just try it out.

**Beware:** *Our kit came in 3 large boxes which were difficult to store in our tiny school, however, the activities were addictive and well worth the effort.*

# BANKSTOWN HOSPITAL SCHOOL

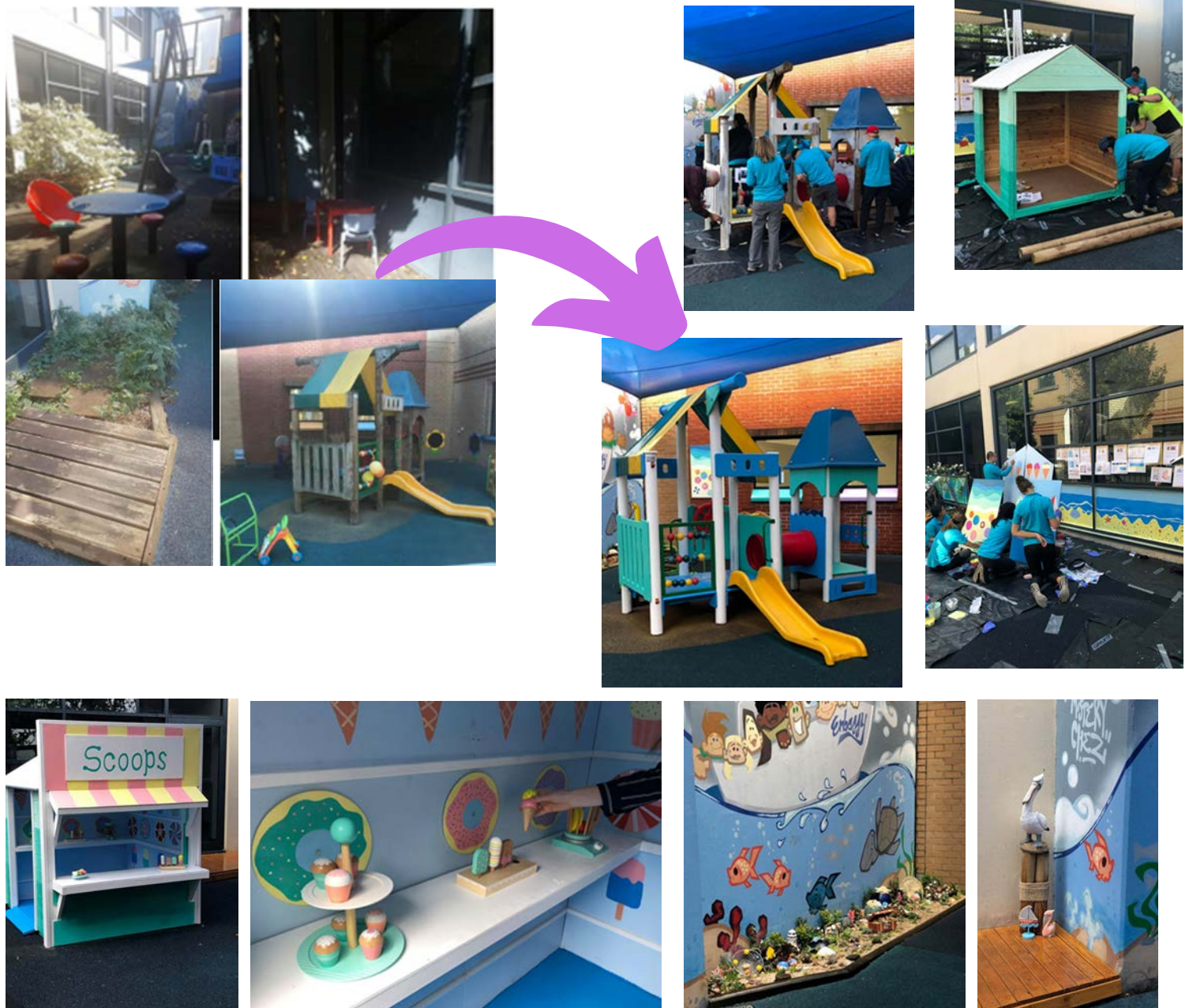
## OUTDOOR AREA



This term the paediatric ward was lucky enough to be the recipient of The Lendlease Foundation's Community Day. This is an annual event where Lendlease employees volunteer their time and skills to make a difference.

Our project was the renovation of the paediatric playground, which consisted of painting the play gym, constructing a new cubby house, refurbishing the decking, paved area and wall panels, and creating a garden area. The team of about 50, enhanced and extended our already existing sea theme, resulting in a bright, vibrant and inviting area for our patients and carers of all ages to enjoy.

Unfortunately, it has been non-stop rain since the work was completed, so it hasn't had its first testing yet, but the kids can't wait to get out there!



*Thank you Lend Lease!*



Liverpool  
Hospital  
School  
Learning is wellbeing

## Click to watch and listen:



We started off term 3 at the NSW Hospital Schools Association (NSWHS) Conference. It was a fantastic two-day conference engaging in relevant and current professional learning. One highlight was the opportunity to network with our colleagues at the conference dinner. Another was making music together! We learned a capoeira chant which used both sides of our brains when layering a beat on the drum to a chant with a contrasting rhythm.

*Can you spot yourself at the NSWHS Conference held in Manly this year???*



Liverpool Hospital School was proud to partner with Bankstown Hospital School to put together two big days of professional learning and networking to enhance hospital schools' practice. The networking was sensational! We always love to see each other....because only hospital schools know hospital schools! And it is so good when all of the learning is completely relevant to our settings.



### H.E.L.P. CONFERENCE

This year Liverpool Hospital School attended the HELP Conference in Brisbane as a team. The HELP Conference is another example of professional learning that is completely relevant to our settings. We were so proud to see some of our NSW Hospital Schools presenting at the conference such as RNS Hospital School on “Igniting a sense of hope in students at Royal North Shore Hospital School”; Westmead presenting – “Partnerships in education: Early Learning experiences for children affected by serious illness; and Sutherland presenting – “Getting Ready: Collaboration between health and education to develop a sustainable evidence-based program for children starting school. Plus the keynote speakers are always amazing stories of triumph over serious illness! Inspirational!!



Liverpool Hospital School has used our Road Safety Education funding to send our Monday classroom teacher to the department’s professional training on this very important subject area as well as purchase some classroom resources to support the learning. Students learn about ways they can keep themselves safe around roads and also whilst travelling in the car!! Here the students are working on the online program available through the department’s training.

