Nepal Earthquake Dress-Up Day Fundraiser

Congratulations to JP SRC and JP Students for the Dress Up Day fundraiser for Nepal earthquake last Friday - $280.60 raised!

There will be more fundraising events held over the remainder of the term.

ACER Excellence in Professional Practice Conference 2015 - Sydney.

A few weeks ago Vicky Bitzios (our TfEL pilot leader) and I presented at the ACER conference in Sydney on professional practice. It was a wonderful opportunity to share the great work that we have been doing in the school looking at student voice and accelerating feedback. We were able to share our data collection stories and how many of our staff had used feedback from students and peers to improve and build on their practice. We shared stories from Janet’s class on growth mindset, Mark, Megan and Daphne’s work on Self Organised Learning Environments and Deb and Jane (last year’s Spanish teacher) on their work using the TfEL Compass as a feedback tool. It was a great opportunity and another way of celebrating all of the great work at Gilles Street.

Reports

Mainstream student reports are expected to go out next Friday the 12th June and are a progress report of where each child is achieving against the Australian Curriculum. We are reporting against all 8 areas of the Australian Curriculum. These reports will be followed by interviews, where parents, teachers and students can discuss and celebrate the achievements made so far and also set some goals for the future. Please make an interview booking via Sentral or by approaching your child’s teacher. We are also attempting to publish the student reports onto the Sentral parent portal.

Mainstream Sentral and Interviews

As you may be aware, our school has undertaken to implement a Learner Management System called Sentral.

Sentral provides us the opportunity to streamline communication between school and home through the Parent Portal. We envisage that this will grow as we become more familiar with the capabilities of the system.

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In 2015 the newsletter will only be available digitally via our webpage (scan the QR code) or via email by subscription. In the event you require a paper copy/ies please advise the classroom teacher of your eldest child ASAP. Thank you for supporting our efforts to reduce paper.
The Spectacular 26 Storey Treehouse

Reviewed by:
Trung
Jade
Michael
Diana
Tia
Sophia
Jamelia
Thuy

On Friday 22nd May, 9 classes went to the Playhouse Theatre to watch a play called the 26 Storey Treehouse. It was part of the 41st Come Out Children’s Arts Festival since 1974, where children celebrated the opening with 1300 students from around SA. Singing on the bridge was crowded but entertaining!

The 590 seat Playhouse was filled with enthusiastic children. They used a proscenium arch for Andy Griffith’s well known play. The four funny actors played different roles and they made the young audience laugh with their crazy humour. Although they used some good costumes, they could have changed into more detailed outfits.

The production used many props and an interesting set. We had wondered how the set would work and found that they used the same staging for all the play, even though in the book there are many scenes. They used different props like 3 wooden logs and a chair for the poopdeck of the pirate ship.

It would have been improved by changing the set to match the scenes.

The lighting was colourful, bright, dim but exciting to match the action. It seemed magical with the spotlight.

The sound ranged from medium to loud and powerful yet affected the audience’s feelings and emotions. The audience liked the modern music, singing and sound affects.

The play was completely different from the book and lots of good parts were not included. Children were anticipating the anti-gravity chamber and the cannon, but were disappointed.

Overall we rated it 3 out of 5.

Why do you think COME OUT CHILDREN’S ARTS FESTIVAL is beneficial for children?

- The Come Out Festival gives kids a message about the importance of the Arts
- Shows aim for audiences of all ages
- There are lots of events to go to
- Going to the Come Out Festival and watching the play was fun. It made kids laugh and it just makes kids go back and tell their parents how much fun they had
- There were so many different kinds of shows and activities such as The 26 Storey Treehouse, Cardboard Cubby and Silent Disco.
- Having family fun is good because families can enjoy it with so many free events
- I think going to the Come Out Festival is great because kids learn a lot about the Arts.
- The theatre encourages creativity and it is also interesting for kids or adults alike
- I think Come Out Festival is beneficial because everyone gets to see many artists and creative and imaginative ideas
- It’s good to go to the theatre because everyone is entertained, with lots of laughter and fun
- The hard work they did for children to see different performances

- Cardboard Cubby Town was made by many hands
- The shows were funny
- It helps children to notice peoples’ hard work
- It makes the children think about the ‘bygone’ days
- Some events are free
- Everyone is welcome
- It is entertaining
- Recycling things that have been thrown away to make art
- spending time having fun with families
- having a kids’ film festival – every kid will enjoy, especially comedy
- G rated
- New shows are brilliant
- So much effort in artists’ work
- Showing the world all their creative ideas and doing crazy things
- It teaches kids to recycle

By Trung, Jamelia, Michael, Sophia, Diana, Thuy, Jade, Tia, Alyssa
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Gilles Street Primary School

Photographs courtesy of Tim Mares

Come Out Choir: A Mighty Choir of Small Voices

Gilles Street’s Got Talent

Our Annual Talent Show is coming up on Wednesday 10th June at lunch time. We are looking forward to seeing what talents our students will choose to creatively express. It is great fun and something our students look forward to every year.

This year the gold coin donation for performers and audience members will be donated to the Nepal Earthquake appeal.
Parking, traffic and drop-off zones

Please be aware that the Adelaide City Council is undergoing a traffic study and investigation on Gilles Street over the next few weeks. There have been a number of issues raised at School Council in relation to traffic, traffic lights and drop off zones especially concerning the safety of children. The school council will work with the Adelaide City Council to make the areas around the school as safe as possible and we ask for your support in modelling correct and safe practices. Please always use the crossing, check for traffic even if the walk light is green and obey parking, bus zones and drop off zones. Thank you in advance.

A ‘Think Tank’ for Students...

Inspiring and empowering students to take charge of their education

On Friday 15th May, we represented our school at a Student Think Tank for the Local Partnerships Teaching for Effective Learning (TfEL) PILOT Schools.

We were involved in working with other students from across South Australia and UK Educator, Siobhan Leahy. Siobhan spoke about the importance of students’ having a voice for learning.

On the day we got to meet many other students from Year 3 to high school years and explore many ideas like:

- Supporting students in taking responsibility for their own learning
- Students giving feedback to their teachers about the learning in the classroom
- Students as lesson observers
- Student learning communities
- Student led parent/teacher meetings.

These are some of the things that “we learnt about ourselves”:

- That we really enjoy having prior knowledge about the SOLE learning because we work like this in our classrooms and we were able to share what we know
- It feels good to encourage others to do better
- I learnt more because I listened to others ideas
- The day and being part of it helped to build my confidence in public speaking
- I have learned lots of things today. I learned that I am smart when things are really hard.
- I can confidently share my thinking and be videoed.

Written by:
Students – Elysia, Jack and Niamh from Gilles Street Primary School
and
Vicky Bitzios, TfEL Pilot Leader