

A message from Jo Garwood, Director Primary Education



I am so privileged in my role to move between the Campuses and have the opportunity to reflect and celebrate the wonderful opportunities that our R-6 sites bring. This year, like no other in our time, we have been presented with

challenges that we could have never foreseen. Our students will share with their children, school memories of washing their hands 20 times a day, learning online, having Zoom lunches with classmates, learning at home and having the smallest classes ever. It has also been a time to reconnect with family, learning to cook, sew and enjoy the outdoors. It has been a credit to all our school community, the resilience and understanding that has been shown over this, the most incredible school year.

Thankfully, many of our school based activities could continue, be it very differently and this has led to great innovation across our sites. Assemblies have gone virtual and students have enjoyed sharing awards, songs, learning activities and celebrations online.

Our choir has continued under the guidance of our Music team, Ashleigh Tarling and Nat Baker. The R-6 showcase, recently videoed and shared with families and wider community, once again, sees our students shine. The junior band program expanded this year, with Ashleigh supporting weekly lessons in conjunction with the Department Instrumental Music instructor. The improvement made by students across all of our campuses has been amazing with many also joining the Little Big Band at the 7-12 campus.

Sports Day across all our sites were without parents this year and they were sorely missed. Our small campus combined Sports Day at Ashbourne and the Strath R-6 day ran smoothly with perfect weather and maximum student participation. Jono Koutsikas supported the program across all sites with Angus winning the shield at Ashbourne and Davidson going back to back.

Our Deep Learning continued to gain momentum, with all students embedding the global competencies (Character, Collaboration, Communication, Creativity, Critical Thinking and Citizenship) and participating in engaging learning units. Units have included endangered animals, adding value to vineyards through insect hotels, looking at origins ie Gothic culture, Coorong, recycling and impact on our planet and space.

Across our sites, Bush School continued at Ashbourne and campuses enjoyed excursions and camps towards the end of the year to Narnu Farm, Monarto Zoo, and tree planting in fire effected areas, Farm Barn, Bounce and small campus camps. As we go to press, boats are madly being constructed for the annual Milang Milk Carton Regatta, an event loved by all students participating.

Cathy Knight took up the challenge of Deputy Principal at Port Elliot in Term 3. Cathy had a long history at Eastern Fleurieu as a parent, teacher, numeracy key teacher and Head of Campus and she was an integral part of our leadership team with her deep understanding of student learning and needs. Rebekah Fahey seamlessly stepped into this role and will continue her tenure until the end of 2021.

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the tireless work of all our leadership and staff team across each Campus led by, Greg Doig (Langhorne Creek), Susannah Cook (Milang), Rebekah Fahey (Ashbourne) and Vikki McInnes, Les Cameron (Strathalbyn R-6) and Ben Smith, Heidi Yard and Eden Tonkin who work across all sites. Innovative and collaborative leaders and staff are the backbone of an engaging and challenging learning program.

Thank you again to the parents, carers and the wider community for their support and of all our Eastern Fleurieu R-6 Campuses. We look forward to next year, knowing that we as team of staff, students and parents, we can face any challenge presented and ensure positive outcomes for all of our students.

Jo Garwood
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