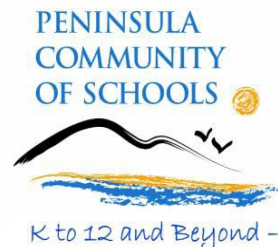


# Peninsula Community of Schools

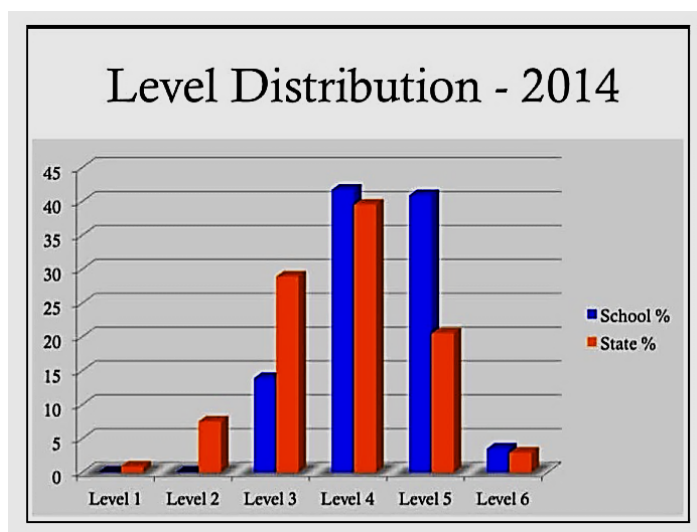


*Term 1, 2015*

## Barrenjoey High School

### Fantastic Essential Secondary Science Assessment (ESSA) Results for 2014

Last year, as we do every year our Year 8 students sat for the Essential Secondary Science Assessment. The ESSA is held in November and like the NAPLAN and HSC compares all students in a particular cohort to all others across the state of NSW. Barrenjoey students had an overall mean score of 90.8 compared to the NSW state mean of 85.5.



The graph displays the percentage of Barrenjoey students in the 6 possible Levels compared to the state. The graph indicates that in 2014, 86% of our 115 students achieved an overall result in the 'Top 3 Levels' compared with 63% of NSW.

Over the past four years Barrenjoey Science students have consistently out-performed the State results, however it is incredibly satisfying to see successive cohorts of students continually 'set the bar high' and compare favourably to each other and maintain the substantial gap between them and the state results.

47 students achieved Level 5 results. 4 students gained an incredibly difficult Level 6 result. Special congratulations go to William Ballico, Nicholas Pinheiro, Elijah Thomson and Griffin Trinder for attaining this outstanding level. Congratulations to all Year 8 (2014), Mr Seymour and all the Science teachers.

### Tutorial Programs

Since 2010 Barrenjoey High School has been offering this exciting and innovative program for students. The Tutorial program started with HSC students only and quickly grew to offer small group tutorials for up to 5 or 6 students, across 4-6 sessions per Tutorial Program at a very low cost to the families.

Throughout 2014 Barrenjoey organised a Tutorial Program for each Year Group as well as another 'refresher' program for Year 12 students prior to the commencement of their HSC. In all cases experienced and skilled tutors who have deep knowledge of course content and syllabus requirements were employed to deliver tutorials in the afternoons after the school day.

Once again the response was overwhelming with almost 170 students participating in 2014. Across Year 11 and Year 12 records were set with: 89 students being tutored across 22 courses involving 44 individual Tutorial Groups. Incredibly that's half of all senior students taking on the challenge of increasing their understanding of HSC content in preparation for examinations and assessment periods.

Tutorials run throughout the year at various times for each year group in blocks ranging between 4-6 weeks. Tutorial programs provide:

- Experienced and skilled tutors who have deep knowledge of course content and syllabus requirements;
- Specific focus on year level – revision of course content, exam preparation and techniques;
- Preparation and consolidation of quality responses;
- Activities matched to ability level to improve performance;
- Intensive discussion and relevant problem solving skills;
- Small group learning and team building skills for students that can be fostered and utilised between tutorials.

It was pleasing to see so many Barrenjoey students continue to 'take up the challenge' and get involved in the Tutorial Program. This is truly fantastic news and displays our continual desire to raise expectations. In 2015, students are once again being encouraged to get involved with the Tutorial Program.

### Visual Arts – Express Yourself

Barrenjoey extends its congratulations to Emma D and Mathew W whose HSC Body of Works were chosen for exhibition at the opening night of 'Express Yourself' in March at Manly Gallery.



### Mona Vale PS - Historic Tree Ignites Student Passion for the Past

A letter from a local community member, Mr Mills, about the little known 'Victory Tree', has sparked interest in WWI. The 'Victory Tree' located in Mona Vale's Shopping District, was planted in 1920 as a WWI memorial project. Of the 200 that were planted across NSW, sadly only a handful remain.



Keen to respond to the letter, and dismayed that the 'Victory Tree' was largely unknown and its significance undervalued, one Year Six class visited the site.

*"After visiting we had so many questions about the war and have since started researching and learning about the topic. We are now all very intrigued about WWI and the ANZAC story. What a great learning opportunity for our future generations, right in our own backyard."*

Students along with Mr Jones are now planning to collaborate with Mr Mills in designing a commemorative plaque to be placed at the 'Victory Tree' in the hope that an awareness of its significance in the local community will continue to grow.

*"We hope that in placing this plaque future generations will gain a greater appreciation of the impact our country had on the shaping of the world. It will also mean that once its importance is realised, others will endeavour to preserve the tree. We hope that others will respect this tree as much as we do."*

## Shave and Colour Day at Narrabeen North

On 11<sup>th</sup> March Narrabeen North Public School (NNPS) participated in our annual **Shave and Colour Day**. Our community came together to raise money, specifically to assist children who are battling cancer in Westmead Children's Hospital Oncology Ward.

This was the 12<sup>th</sup> consecutive year that the school has participated in this important event which celebrates the life of Jasmin Holliday, a past student of NNPS, who sadly passed away in 2007 from leukaemia. Our annual event is supported by Jasmin's parents Allan and Jill, who give generously of their time to continue this important fundraiser.



Through their efforts, students raised money or made donations to get their hair coloured or shaved. The hair colouring happened



throughout the day and then after lunch the whole school applauded those who were shaving their hair on the amphitheatre stage. The students enjoyed the day and managed to raise over \$6000. Shave and Colour Day really brought the school community together for a wonderful cause. Mr Bowden got his hair shaved and even our principal, Mr Shepherd decided to get his hair coloured too!

## Avalon Public School

Boardies and t-shirts but no thongs, was the dress code at Avalon Public School earlier this term. The casual surf attire was worn by students K-6 to raise money for charity.

Throughout each year, our Student Leaders and the Student Representative Council (SRC), conduct several fundraising events to support charitable causes. The first event we supported in 2015 was “Waves for Water Surf to School Day”, an initiative for schools in conjunction with the Australian Open of Surfing held in February at Manly Beach.



“Waves for Water” raises funds for developing countries throughout the world with a specific focus on providing clean drinking water to communities in need. It was hard for our students to believe that turning on a tap for clean drinking water is a luxury! People living in impoverished areas die every day from drinking dirty water. Our community is fortunate to have access to clean drinking water and it is something that we take for granted.

In Australia, a fundraising program, “Surf to School Day”, has been initiated linking local schools to fundraising for the specific purpose of raising funds to implement clean water programs in remote parts of Indonesia, targeting the isolated Mentawi Islands off the coast of Sumatra. The goal is to take portable water filters into countries that need them. One water filter can provide 100 people with clean water for up to 5 years. Given Avalon Public School’s close association with surfing and beach life, we believed that this was a very worthy cause to support. Our gold coin donation raised over \$900 for water filters.

## Pittwater High School Year 7 Camp

After a little rock n roll on the ferry over Pittwater, Year 7’s dived into the unknown soil of Broken Bay Sport and Recreation Centre for our two night camp. Even as the boat’s engine started at Newport Wharf, our excitement was unbearable! It was the start of a new adventure and the chance to create new friendships for life. Climbing up and beyond on the high ropes, pulling back the strings in archery, having fun in the sun building sandcastles, we enjoyed every moment – especially the disco on the last night where the teachers showed some cool dance moves which impressed us all.



“Building castles worthy of a King”



“Year 7”



"Masterchef on the wild side - Year 7 turned up the heat cooking damper"



"Hands up for fun at Year 7 Camp! "



"Making a splash on the first day of camp."



"Year 7 students aim high at their Year 7 Camp!"

## Documentary Making at Cromer Public School

Cromer Public School's Stage 2 students could be the next David Attenborough!



In English this term, Stage 2 students have been introduced to documentaries. Students have written scripts, created storyboards, and learnt about camera angles in the pre-production phase. Working in small groups in the production stage, students have used iPads, light reflectors and microphones to create their own documentaries on living plants and animals found in their local ecosystem by visiting Jamieson Park located in the Narrabeen Catchment Area. In the post production stage, students have produced their documentaries using the app iMovie. They have added voice recordings, titles, credits, scene information and music to produce their very professional looking documentaries.



## Cromer Public Swimming Success

Cromer has recently had great success in the pool, with many long-standing school records being smashed. Our school carnival was highly contested with multiple close finishes on the day.



Our Zone Swimming team represented CPS with pride and achieved many personal bests at the Zone Carnival. We had two of our senior students Tahlia D and Tiffany W who were awarded as respective District Age Champions for their efforts in the carnival on the day. An amazing feat!

Such success at the Zone Carnival led to eight students progressing to the Northern Sydney Regional Carnival at Homebush. Again, this was an outstanding achievement and shows the depth of talent and sportsmanship at Cromer.

Cromer's senior girls relay will now represent Sydney North at the State Swimming Carnival at the end of March and we wish them every success. What an amazing accomplishment for **Tahlia, Tiffany, Nikita** and **Ella**. Good luck girls!

## Narrabeen Sports HS

### Success is...NorthGATe Teacher Meet

Narrabeen had the pleasure of hosting another NorthGATe teacher meet. These teacher meets emphasise catering for improving teaching and learning practice for students. There were over 240 students from across Northern Sydney who attended this session. Well done to Mrs Vergos for her organisation and making such a large event possible. Big congratulations to the many Narrabeen teachers who participated and delivered sessions.

### Tolerance, diversity and saying YES to a happy and safe school – Harmony Day March 20<sup>th</sup>

Narrabeen celebrated both Harmony Day and National Anti-Bullying Day on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March. The Student Leadership Representative Council, under the guidance of Ms Farrugia, developed a program to engage students with our school motto of purpose and integrity and to look at what diversity and harmony really mean. A guest speaker, Belinda West, discussed how she has overcome many difficulties in life due to having a physical disability. The students embraced her story and were inspired by her courage to succeed. Narrabeen works hard to ensure that it is a happy and safe place. Success lies in establishing a whole school culture which has wellbeing at the core of school values.

### Senior Geography and Biology Field trip to FNQ

Year 11 and 12 Biology and Geography students have the opportunity to participate in an exciting six day fieldtrip to Far North Queensland from 24-29 June. The trip will involve excursions to snorkel the inner and outer sections of the Great Barrier Reef, use of the James Cook University canopy crane in the Rainforest and Ziplining at Cape Tribulation.



Each of the activities has been designed to complement Stage 6 learning outcomes and will enhance student understanding of the ecosystem case study investigated in class. Students have the opportunity to reduce the cost of the fieldtrip through fundraising. At the car boot sale in February many students contributed to a cake stall and they plan to fundraise throughout term 2.

### The Concert Band

Narrabeen is excited to announce the start of the Narrabeen Sports High School concert band. The band is growing in numbers from week to week but is still looking for students who are learning or want to learn a musical instrument.



### Surfing Success

Narrabeen Sports High Schools' surfing team recently completed in the Burton High School Teams Challenge, a tag event held over two days at Newcastle's Merewether and South Bar Beaches. Against 41 other teams, our senior crew of Ben Penny, Jamie Krumps, and Kai Warner blitzed the field in the final, amidst a big field of spectators, a swarm of very happy dolphins and an even happier team manager. Congratulations to the whole team – it was a huge team effort.

## Wheeler Heights

### Teddy Tuesday

Wheeler Heights Public School Kindergarten students have recently relished the joy of "Teddy Tuesday". This exciting day held during Week 7 of term encompassed a variety of activities across the curriculum to coincide with the 'Sound of the Day' – T! All of the Kindergarten students brought a special (cuddly!) friend with them to school on the day and worked on many exciting activities in literacy, numeracy and creative arts including:

- Counting/Sorting Teddies
- Teddy Bear songs
- Writing & phonics activities with Teddy Bears
- Making a Teddy Bear Puppet & picnic scene'



The day culminated with a Teddy Bear's Picnic which the children enjoyed with their Year 6 buddies. The Kinder and Year 6 students (all gum-treed infants' playground

clasping their cuddly companions) walked down to our idyllic to the tune of "Teddy Bear Picnic" over the PA system and enjoyed lunch in the dappled sunlight. It was lovely to meet the many teddy bears who came to school on the day and to witness the caring and friendly relationship that has developed between our youngest and oldest students since the start of the year. I know the Kindergarten students, teachers and Year 6 buddies had a very enjoyable day!

## Water Fun Day

Wheeler Heights K-2 students had our inaugural Water Fun Day early in the term. The day of water-based activities coincided with the 3-6 Swimming Carnival which was very successfully held at Manly Swim Centre. From lunch-time onward, on what was only the second day of 'big school' for our newly arrived Kindergarten students, all K-2 students rotated through a huge variety of fun-filled water-based activities around the school. Students enjoyed 'wet sponge relays, water bucket filling races, bubble blowing, wet sponge throwing, water art and other exciting games whilst watching out for random 'Super-Soaker' attacks from mischievous teachers! The day was a great success with the careful preparation from all staff resulting in a joyous and 'cool' afternoon on what proved to be a perfect hot summer day.



## Harmony on the Plateau

On Thursday the 19<sup>th</sup> of March, Wheeler Heights celebrated Harmony Day. The purpose of this day was to celebrate Australia's cultural diversity and remind students that bullying and violence at school are not okay at any time. Children were encouraged to wear national dress or colours to represent the flag from a country of their family's origin. The school was decorated with a great variety of flags from around the world and 'Best Dressed' awards were given on the day. Thank you to all Wheeler Heights' students and families for helping to make Australia a great place to live where everyone belongs!





## Senior's Day 2015 at Bilgola Plateau Public School



On Wednesday 18 March, Bilgola Plateau Public School enjoyed the company of over 400 grandparents and special visitors in celebrating Seniors' Day. Our visitors were treated to classroom visits, a tour of the school featuring a visit to see Billie and Gola our miniature goats, an amazing concert starring all students, and a fabulous morning tea. All participants had a wonderful time. The beaming faces of our students – priceless!

Feedback from some of our guests is a testament to the day's success.

*Dear Miss Gardiner and Staff,*

*Yesterday we were fortunate to be invited to be honorary Grandparents for a friend's son.*

*My husband and I as well as our 2 year old Granddaughter were very impressed with the very neat and colourful classroom and the very pleasant teacher. We were also impressed with the very clean and neat school grounds... BUT, then we were amazed with the incredible performance from the school orchestra. I had to keep reminding myself that this was a primary school that I was listening too, not a high school! The conductor was so sweet, friendly, funny and engaging, and yet so professional - everything you could possibly look for in a teacher.*

*The performances by the different years were also very well executed - and very entertaining! Well done to all the teachers who have obviously put in a lot of effort with their pupils beforehand.*

*The whole day ran like clockwork, and we came away thinking how very proud our friends must be, to have chosen such a wonderful school to send their son.*

*Congratulations, you have a wonderful team of teachers and you should all be very proud of what you have achieved.*

*And, I mustn't sign off without mentioning the incredible morning tea! What an unbelievable sight! All your Mums outdid themselves, and that's a sign of proud parents that are happy to support their local school.*

*Many thanks*

*Dear Miss Gardiner,*

*A quick email to say, congrats on a successful day!*

*My parents thought it was fantastic. It is so heart-warming that they get a chance to be involved in the school and made to feel special and important. Likewise for the opportunity for the kids to proudly show them their work, classroom and friends. I know that my child would have been positively beaming with pride.*

*Thank you*

*Dear Miss Gardiner and Staff,*

*Thanks to you and all those who were responsible for such a marvelous Grandparents Day at the School today.*

*Everything was so well done, from the welcome at the gate by smiling pupils distributing programs for the day's events, to the running of the day's events – particularly the concert which was so well performed by all those on stage and very well produced.*

*Thank you for looking after us with all the help that was provided for our morning tea.*

*It was a real treat to be in the grounds of a school where Billie & Gola (your goats) provided some real live interest of another world.*

*Apart from it being a treat to be with our grandchildren, the day was of special interest to me in witnessing activity at a modern day primary school.*

*Many thanks and best wishes*

## Newport Public School Technology

Newport is fortunate to have a wide range of technology available to support student learning. Our technology labs continue to provide students across the school with the opportunity to research, publish, be creative and enhance their learning.

We have continued to upgrade and improve our technology resources across the school and have rolled out the final stage of our wireless access points, allowing all students K-6 to access wireless internet when using netbooks or iPads in classrooms.

Technology mentoring continues and provides an opportunity for students and teachers to develop new skills and for teachers to learn new ways to integrate technology seamlessly into their lessons to further enhance student learning.

Students are becoming efficient users of technology and have been made explicitly aware of cyber safety through specific lessons and a presentation by CyberSmart which focused on the importance of protecting their private information online, taking responsibility for themselves and their actions, and appropriately interacting with others online.



Our Stage 3 teachers have piloted the use of social media to keep parents connected to the classroom. Feedback from parents has been positive and it has increased awareness of what activities students are participating in during the day.

## Harmonious and in Harmony at Elanora Public School

Harmony Day was colourful and joyful at Elanora Heights Public School this term. We wore shades of orange, took time to talk about how to celebrate our differences, and respect others for theirs. Our year 3 students wrote poems and read them to the school as we sat together under the beautiful trees. The balloons we made with our buddies waved softly in the wind as we sang our Harmony Day song together.





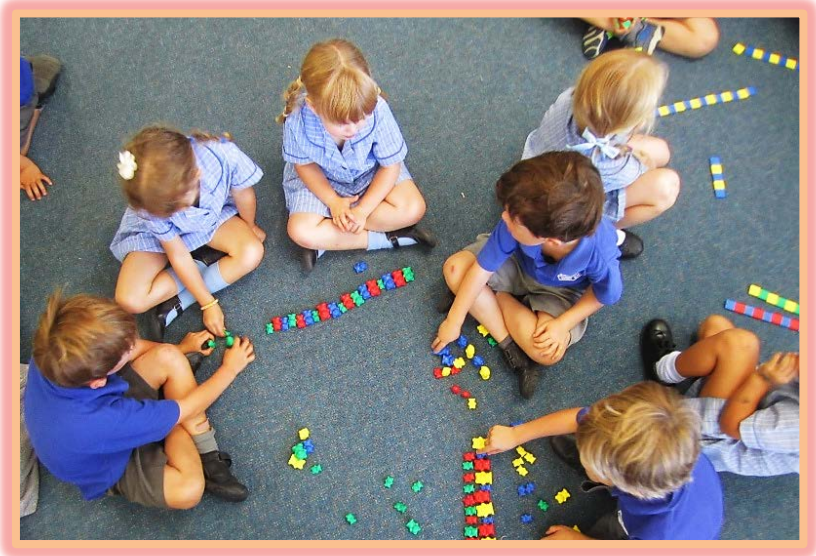
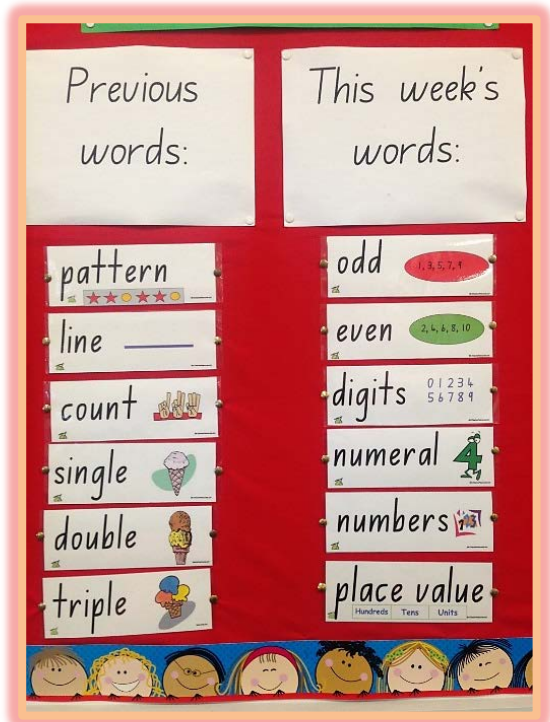
### Problematic Mathematics for Parents

The parents of Elanora PS were busy sorting, classifying, looking for patterns and solving problems together at our Term 1 Parent Information Night about maths.



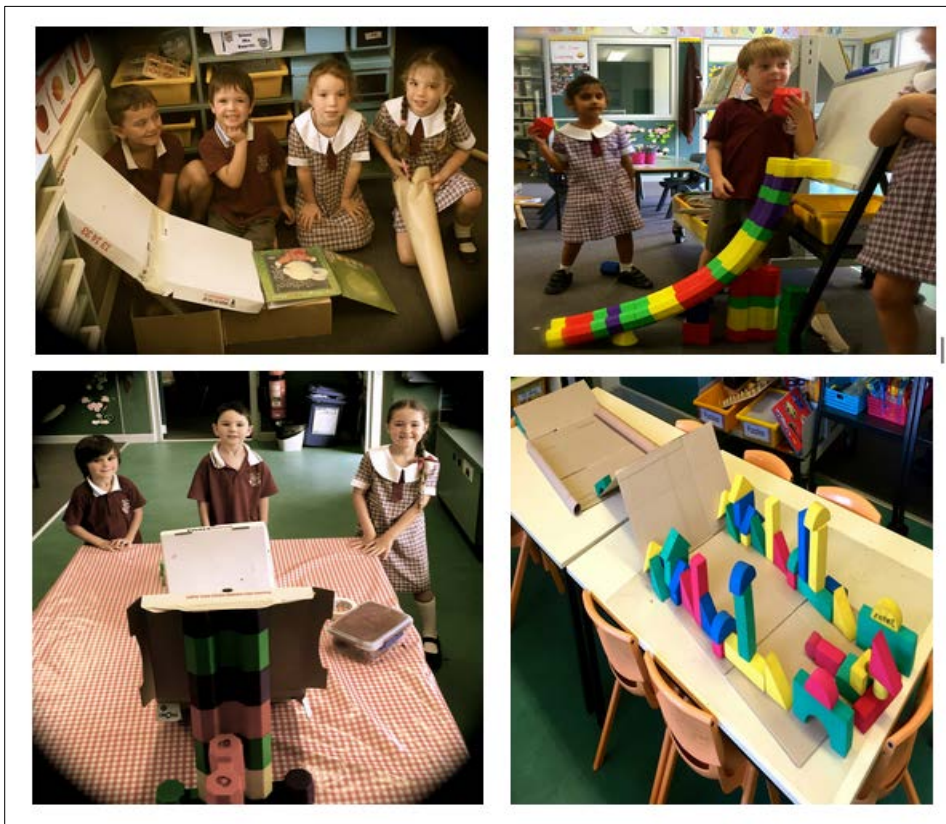
They didn't all find it easy... I mean how would you get a family of 4 across a river in the most efficient way possible if your boat could only take 1 adult or 2 children at any one time? We are pleased to say that everyone got across safely and had a lot of fun on the way! All our parents definitely demonstrated proficiency in communicating, problem solving and reasoning.

The aim of our information nights is to communicate the expectations of the new maths syllabus and the teaching of maths in general. The importance of learning content through working mathematical processes and of using the language of mathematics was discussed. This approach can be quite challenging for parents, especially if you were taught quite differently in your own schooling. It has been great to share this journey with our community.



## Narrabeen Lakes Are 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learners

Narrabeen Lakes' students and teachers are embracing 21<sup>st</sup> century learning through inquiry based learning experiences for students in K-6. Students are being guided to construct knowledge as they become involved in specifically designed experiences from the 21<sup>st</sup> century fluency framework, allowing students the opportunity to develop the essential skills needed to succeed, both today and in the future.



Trial lessons have taken place this term across the school and it is anticipated that all classes will participate from Term 2. This term Early Stage One enjoyed 'Building Things', Stage One did a unit called 'Punctuation and Patterns' using iMovie and pic collage, Stage Two trialled a unit titled 'Six Of One, Half A Dozen Of The Other' where they devised a card game with a fraction focus and Stage Three is working on 'Around The World in 80 Days'. Students must devise an itinerary that covers 6 continents but the same mode of transport cannot be used on consecutive legs – luckily they have a budget of \$75,000!

Kindergarten students were given a mission to design skateboard wheels for a local skateboard company. Students were exposed to the idea of shapes through some 'hands on' activity centres that they rotated through. After spending some time discussing the properties of different shapes, students were asked to create a structure to test the various shaped objects' ability to move along the structures. Using the ramp, students sorted shapes into various groupings and created a sorting rule. Students then presented their ideas about what shape would be best for the skateboarding company and conferenced about their process.

Throughout the process the kindergarten students were on task, communicated their findings and interrelated well, demonstrating engagement in all aspects of the challenge.

**The Peninsula Community of Schools would like to wish all staff and students a wonderful Easter holidays.**

