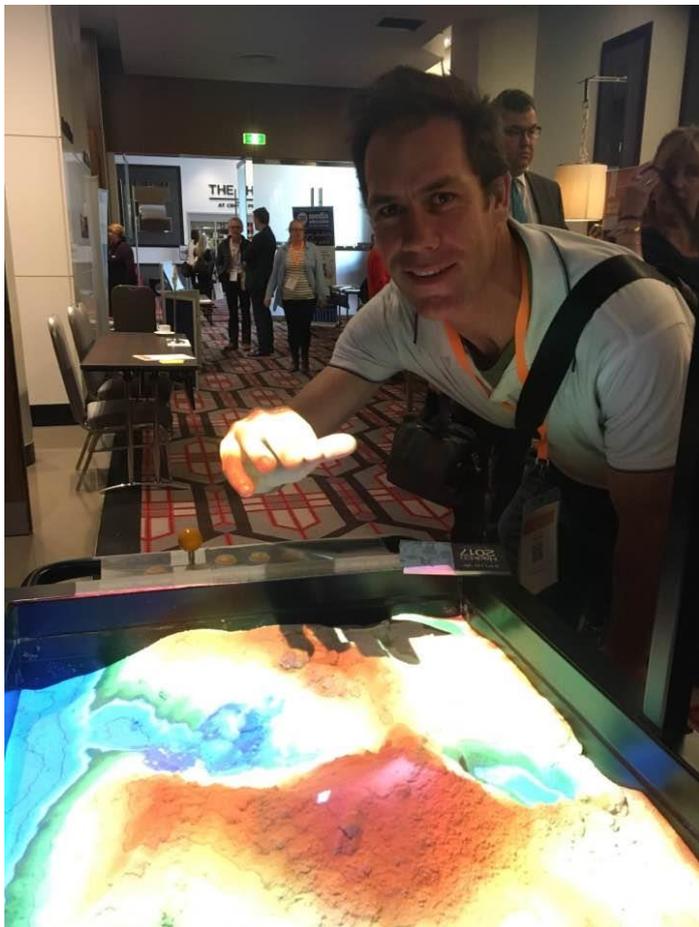


WELCOME to the world, and to the SAS community, little River Marshall! CONGRATULATIONS Sam and Tikita and big brother Arlo and big sister Ramona.

P&C Meeting

Take a look at the agenda – emailed out – and come and contribute your thinking and ideas TONIGHT 6:30pm.

The creation of a dedicated STEAM Room – DREAM Lab / MAKER Space / THINKlab – in what is currently The Space is the major project of the P & C. Come and congratulate Craig whose persistence, with assistance, has resulted in the SAS Augmented Reality 3D sandbox.



Also a major project for the school is supporting Piara back to and into the best possible condition: extending the possibilities of our kids connecting with, learning and playing in this natural bush space we are so lucky to have. A number of grants are being pursued to underwrite what we must outsource: it's YOUR commitment and energy that we are seeking to maintain and sustain this beautiful natural asset that we have.

ADVENTURE AHEAD

Parents are meeting together **this Wednesday, 2:30pm** for Q & A session before our Bunganans set out on their adventure on Monday 3rd September; taking with them the gift of a telescope for the Mount Margaret Remote Community School. The Bunganans have shared their thinking to present this with thoughtful and considered words... and 'engraved' on the telescope the quote from Stephen Hawking about being, and remaining, curious.

THE GREAT BOOK SWAP

To support the Indigenous Literacy Foundation being able to purchase new, culturally relevant books for children in remote Indigenous communities SASsy kids will participate in the event of the Great Book Swap. For a gold coin per book the kids can contribute a book to the swap and can choose a book from the swap. This will be arranged by Harmony Group leaders for Wednesday afternoon, 29th August. Please support your child/ren selecting from their loved, and in good condition, books to swap and help them articulate why they have chosen that book to share. See letter page 4.

<https://www.greatbookswap.org.au/great-book-swap-resources> If you click on the 'donate to an event' link you can find our event there and encourage family and friends to contribute if you wish.

CAMP COMMITTEE

meet again this afternoon and continue to shape the week that will be Camp ????? 2019. The excitement builds!

Remember the dates: **Mon 18 – Fri 22 March 2019**

FAIR COMMITTEE

Have you shared with the coordinating group what your contribution to this whole of school community event will be yet? It is shaping up to be the usual joyful extravaganza in which you can play and create and contribute. Remember the date: **Sunday 5th May 2019.**

WHOLE SCHOOL MEETINGS

I hope you were one of the lucky ones to be here last week when Naroomans performed, to Callum's guitar playing, the Teddybears' Picnic song.

The reports from each class are a summary of their experience, learning and thinking from the previous week. Please support them to have a response audience with your presence when you are able to be here.

HARMONY GROUPS are exploring ways to learn more about the school that is Jhamtse Gatsal: each has considered a creative way to present to the rest of community as a way of sharing their information and understanding.

Following is an exchange of communication between Feonagh, our School Chaplain, and Bruce Whyatt who brought Lobsang to Australia:

Dear Bruce hello

I hope Lobsang's visit to other parts of Australia has gone well. We continue to draw on our experience of his visit, the wisdom and compassion he shared with us. It was an inspiring afternoon.

After the gathering with the whole school, we spoke briefly, along with a parent, about how SAS students may make contact and develop a connection with the students at Jhamtse Gatsal. We'd like to explore that further and would be glad to hear what you think is feasible. We look forward to hearing from you when possible. Denise sends warm greetings.

Kindly, Feonagh

Dear Feonagh

Thank you for your email. We had an amazing experience travelling around the capital cities and meeting with very diverse groups of people. I think I am the most fortunate person to have been able to witness the way in which Lobsang was able to relate to little children at your school to high fliers in a \$10 billion company in Sydney. Then to also see the way people responded to Lobsang was wonderful. I am sure that there is a very deep Lobsang shaped impression in the hearts of many Australians. I still have a very precious image in my mind of the children at your school responding in such a heart-felt way to Lobsang.

There are a number of things that come to mind about ways in which Spearwood could develop a connection with the children at Jhamtse Gatsal. Sending items in the post is so fraught with problems with parcels being opened and items stolen. Even letters or items such as paintings sent in letters are risking not arriving. The most secure way is electronically, but Jhamtse Gatsal has a very small data allowance and so emails with large attachments become problematic.

I think that stories from your children would be of great interest to the children at Jhamtse Gatsal. You would appreciate that their environment is vastly different to yours at Fremantle. Just the fact that you are next to an ocean whereas hardly any of the children at Jhamtse Gatsal would have ever seen the sea. So stories from the children about their experiences would be beyond the imagination of the children at Jhamtse Gatsal. Paintings might be shared as long as not bigger than 1MB.

On the other hand, your children and those at Jhamtse Gatsal have at least one thing in common; their use of meditation to calm their minds and prepare themselves for the day's work. So reflexions about what meditation means to them and what effect it has on their lives would be interesting. Care for the environment is very lively at Jhamtse Gatsal. Your children might tell stories about the manner in which you have reclaimed that beautiful bushland next to the school. I expect to take a weather station to the school at the end of the year, so reports and comparisons on the weather might be interesting. If you look at the website, <https://www.accuweather.com/en/in/lumla-village/3348427/asthma-weather/3348427>, it will give you a fairly accurate idea of what is happening weather wise at Jhamtse Gatsal. Lumla is the nearest town about 15 minutes away by car and at a higher altitude, so it is a bit warmer and often not clouded in as much at Jhamtse Gatsal. I have attached a photo of the construction work for the new houses for the students. That is some of the students cracking stones in their time off to make aggregate for concrete under the watchful eye of Lobsang. Behind the new building, you will see on top of the hill a few buildings which are in Lumla, giving you an idea of how far away it is. The tallest structure in Lumla is a statue of Tara, the feminine form of the Buddha, and goddess of healing and long life. The other photo is of Tara close up.

I have copied into the email, Lobsang and Vasudha Wanchoo, the Managing Director of Jhamtse Gatsal, who will probably involve some of the teaching staff in discussing how to best develop the relationship with Spearwood.

I will be travelling to Jhamtse Gatsal in mid October and I could take some items that you might otherwise post. Do keep in touch about your progress and what develops.

Best wishes, Bruce Whyatt

Dear Bruce hello

Thank you so much for your message. Your thoughtful details about the similarities and differences between the two schools and how they may be points of exchange between the students sparked a number of ideas that have been brewing since we received your email.

Lorraine (Early childhood teacher, also) works each week with the class 6 student leaders of the Harmony Groups. From the initial ideas that were discussed about ways to develop the relationship between the student groups, ideas have been brewing and are yet to take clear form.

We are keeping in mind your offer to take some items in person when you travel mid- October – thank you. At this stage it may be in the form of letters.

We look forward to being in touch.

Kindly, Feonagh

Dear Feonagh

Thank you for your email. Just in way of an update. I have delayed my trip to Jhamtse Gatsal, now planning to leave Adelaide on Thursday 1 November. That will give you a little more time to get items to me for transport to Jhamtse Gatsal.

Letters and/or paintings sound really easy to manage, so I am very happy to help with this connection with the children at the school.

Best wishes, Bruce

SPORTING SCHOOLS GRANT

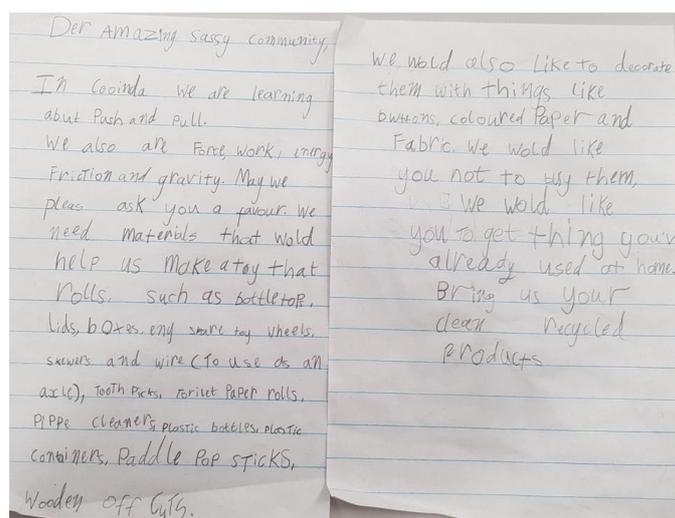
Kristine successfully pursued a grant from the Sporting Schools Association and as a result has negotiated with players from Perth Glory to run a number of soccer clinics with our kids. An extra session has been added using yoga funds 'freed up' through Susie's absence.

DANCE

Jess returns and dance lessons resume next Friday, 31 August. The last dance lesson and performance are scheduled for Friday, week 1 term 4.

That Friday will overlap with first CIRCUS lesson with Joe Bolton. That'll be a delightful high energy day.

COOINDA – helping you recycle!



BOARD MEETING

Wednesday 5th September at 7:00pm.

NAPLAN Online SCHOOL READINESS

Testing for our 'readiness' will be carried out next week. The kids of years 3 and 5 who sat the NAPLAN testing this year will participate.

Our technician from TFX has prepared the laptops and as a staff we have looked at what online assessment will look like and require from each of us.

You may like to take a look at the public demonstration site

<https://www.nap.edu.au/online-assessment/public-demonstration-site>

where you are....

"in advance of taking NAPLAN online, students, teachers and parents are invited to use the demonstration site to familiarise themselves with the type of questions, and related functionalities available in the NAPLAN Online assessment."

PHOENIX PARK LITTLE ATHLETICS

See the noticeboard for contact and details re Registration Day, Saturday 1 September 10am – 1pm

"use what talent you possess; the woods would be very silent if no birds sang there except those that sang best"



PATRON: The Hon Quentin Bryce AD CVO
ilf.org.au

Dear Parent

Your child's school is participating in the 2018 Great Book Swap, showing great commitment to social justice and to addressing the literacy gap in remote Australia.

The 2017 NAPLAN report indicated that although there has been some improvement of literacy rates in Indigenous students in urban areas of Australia, the figures for remote locations are appalling. Only 35% of Indigenous students in very remote areas are achieving at or above minimum standard in Reading in Year 5, compared to 95% of non-indigenous students in major cities.

The ILF is committed more than ever to changing this through our three programs. Book Supply gifts new, culturally relevant books to communities that have few to none, Book Buzz supports early literacy so children can start school feeling confident, and our Community Literacy Projects see stories written by community published and gifted back to the community (many in first languages).

This year we hope to raise \$300,000 in the Great Book Swap as hundreds of schools around Australia participate, to help us buy 30,000 books for remote communities. After all, how can you learn to read if you have no books?

The Great Book Swap is a fantastic way to celebrate reading locally, and raise much-needed funds. The idea is to swap a favourite book in exchange for another, for a gold coin donation.

We have provided your child's school with a host of fantastic resources to support their Great Book Swap, which they can share with you. Otherwise, please contact us for any further information.

If your child would like to participate in the event, we ask that they bring a favourite book and a gold coin to school. If you would like to support the event further, you can make an online donation to the school's fundraising page in the lead up to the event.

Thank you for your support and we look forward to celebrating the national Great Book Swap with you, your child and their school community.

Yours sincerely,

Karen Williams

Executive Director

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PO Box 663 Broadway NSW 2007 ABN 45 146 631 843