

# INSIDE NEWS



**FEATURE  
IN FOCUS**

Meet Ojo  
a Guide Dog in Training!  
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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Our school recognises the Traditional Custodians of the lands on which our students, throughout Western Australia, live and learn.

We acknowledge the enduring connection that Aboriginal people have to the lands, waterways and communities.

We pay our respects to Elders, past, present and future, for the privilege of connecting with students on the many traditional lands of Western Australia.

## SCHOOL OF ISOLATED & DISTANCE EDUCATION

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# SIDE POINTS

**BRONZE**

**SILVER**

**GOLD**

**Brent C**  
**Rhys J**  
**Dustin Y**





## INSIDE SIDE: Principal's Welcome

Hello members of our school community and welcome to the first newsletter for the year.

As I write this section, standing on **Noongar Whadjuk Boodja** (country) here in **Boorloo** (Perth), the cooler mornings and shorter days indicate that **Bunuru** season is making way for **Djeran**. Meanwhile, across our State, some of our students are experiencing very different weather patterns, including flooding in parts of the **Eucla, Goldfields** and **South Interior**.

After taking on another role for the last six months of the 2023 school year, it is so rewarding to be back and leading some wonderful opportunities for our students across Western Australia and the globe. I want to acknowledge the wonderful job **Laura Moore** did as the Principal in my absence late last year to keep things moving and our change agenda focused.

I am really excited about opportunities being developed at our school, on top of the existing curriculum access and excellent teaching experiences we provide. There is innovative work being led by the **Regional Teaching Team**, working closely with remote schools and community

members in the **Kimberley** and **North Country** to provide even more relevant and enjoyable learning experiences for our students. There are some photos in this newsletter of some students and staff connecting in the **Kimberley** region.

You may have seen the Minister's announcement last year about the additional funding for our school, which indicates the confidence our government has in the educational opportunities provided by our staff. This is also reflected in our student enrolment numbers being within arms reach of **4000** across **269 schools**. We have also had 15 new teachers joining us for the start of the school year and it is always pleasing to see new ideas coming into our school.

As you will be aware, the Department of Education is negotiating with the State School Teachers Union (SSTUWA) to reach an industrial agreement. The SSTUWA has proposed a stop work industrial action for a half day on Tuesday April 23rd. The strike action will see disruption to some classes in the morning with teachers returning ready to resume the normal program at 12:30pm. A significant number of SIDE teachers will be involved in this action.

We will remain open and students who are on site at Leederville will be supervised, safe and participating in a modified program until all teachers return to work. Further communication will be sent via email and Connect. Students participating in the OLNAs testing on Tuesday are required to attend at Leederville.

The very short nine-week term has raced by and it won't be long now before our senior school students are commencing Semester One exams. Remember not to leave revision and assessment to the last minute, get organised and start your preparation now senior school students!

Parents/care givers if you did not get the chance to speak with teachers during the parent/care giver meetings held in the last week of Term, remember you are always able to contact teachers directly.

Remember, I want to hear your feedback to and please don't hesitate to email me on [paul.mathews@education.wa.edu.au](mailto:paul.mathews@education.wa.edu.au) to connect with me.

Warm regards

**Paul Mathews**  
Principal

## TERM 2 CALENDAR 2024

Monday 15 April	Term 2 begins - Students
20 - 31 May	Semester 1 Exams   Years 11-12
22 - 24 April	OLNA Round 1   Years 10-12
13 - 17 May	Externally Set Tasks (Year 12 General)
17 - 21 June	Semester 1 Reports - Years 11-12
17 - 18 June	AADES Conference - Student free days
24 - 28 June	Semester 1 Reports - Years 7-10
Friday 28 June	Term 2 ends



## IN FOCUS



# Meet Ojo

a Guide Dog  
in Training!



As the popularity and need for Guide Dogs and Autism Support Dogs is growing in our community, I felt compelled to volunteer to become a puppy raiser. I knew that as a part time teacher I was well placed to offer my support and time. Dogs like Ojo will work alongside Autistic children at school so an important part of his training is learning to be calm and patient while I work at SIDE both in the classroom and office.

Ojo is now six months old and a very placid and curious puppy. He will be with me until November this year before going into full-time training and then matched with his person when he is 2 years old. I work closely with his trainer, Monique Stapleton, from Guide Dogs WA and I'm pleased to be part of Ojo's journey as he develops the important skills that will enable an individual to live an independent, happy and full life.

It's wonderful that so many WA schools are now recognising the benefits of support dogs and they are commonplace in many corridors and classrooms, although it's important to know that if you see Ojo at SIDE that you should avoid talking or patting him. He is not a support dog but a guide dog in training. It is an integral part of his training to learn to be quiet and know he is only to engage with his handler.

Amanda Malseed



# ENGLISH

The English Team enjoy working together to create innovative approaches to excite and challenge our students.



## Introducing our newest team member Angela Italiano!

Over many years, I taught in a range of country and city government senior high schools, but more recently at a senior campus as Head of Humanities. Like SIDE, it is unique and flexible, so it is a pleasure to have the opportunity to work in a similar learning environment.

### Favourite Movie:

Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri

### Favourite Food:

Cannoncini (Traditional Italian Cream Horns)

### Favourite Music:

Rock, Blues, Jazz



## Celebrating our SIDE students at the ABC HEYWIRE Summit 2024!

In February, 35 deserving HEYWIRE Winners made the trek to Canberra from all parts of rural, regional and remote Australia to share their stories and work together to advocate for changes needed to support their communities. We are very excited that three of these 35 winners were SIDE students! Lexie from Laverton in Wongi Country, Kenneth from Burringurrah in Wajarri Country, and Kimberly from Fitzroy Crossing in Bunuba Country proudly represented SIDE, the state of Western Australia and their communities at the HEYWIRE Summit.

When the devastating floods impacted the Fitzroy Valley in February 2023, the Prime Minister, Anthony Albanese, visited the area. In February 2024, when Kimberly approached 'Albo' for a quick chat at the Gala Dinner in Parliament House, she mentioned that her HEYWIRE story was about the floods. He indicated: **"I read about that and the floods – I was there!"** before kindly smiling for her 'selfie'. What a highlight!

Reflecting on her fantastic experience at HEYWIRE, Kimberly encourages all SIDE students in rural, regional and remote Western Australia is to attend the HEYWIRE Workshops at SIDE in Term 3 and enter the [HEYWIRE competition for 2025](#) by 1 September 2024.

In Term One, Year 9 students have been studying poetry and have written and recorded their own ballad about life in Australia today. Alexis' ballad is inspired by her community "The story is about my life and what you hear every day in Halls Creek."

### Aussie Slang

You hear the sound "G'day" mate from the people.

Looking over to the tradies on smoko, you reken,

They are getting feeble.

Go to the shop to get dinner, overhear,

A beginner gets confused while looking for the snags.

"Crikey look at the price tag!"

After being hugged in her warmth, the sun

Had way too much fun.

My legs are killing me.

I asked Mum "what's for tea?"

**Alexis (extract from ballad)**

## Student Camps

English teachers have enjoyed meeting regional students face-to-face when they visit SIDE for school camps.



Menzies students Jameelah, Faith, and Michael enjoying fried ice cream while viewing the Graffiti art in Leederville after their twelve-hour drive to Perth.



Year 10 and 11 Dalwalinu students Denika, Lily, and Karen, working with Jenny Crowe.

# LANGUAGES



## Muhammad Ardi Isragusra

Halo Semuanya! My name is Ardi. I come from Makassar in Indonesia. Since the beginning of this year, I've been teaching Indonesian as a Second Language here in Perth. I love learning new things alongside my students! I'm new to Perth and excited to be part of the SIDE community.



## Léa Mariage

Bonjour à tous! My name is Léa. I come from Lille in France. I am here as a French language assistant. I obtained my master's degree in French as foreign language last year and now I really want to discover new teaching methods: SIDE seems like a perfect place for that!



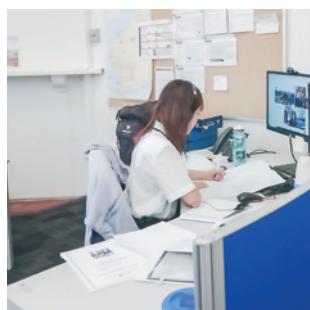
## Asuka Nakashima

こんにちは! I'm Asuka Nakashima. I'm from Kobe, Japan. I'm a university student in Japan and major in English language and British-American Literature. I like reading books, watching movies, and going for a nice relaxing walk. I look forward to sharing my language skills with the students and teachers at SIDE.

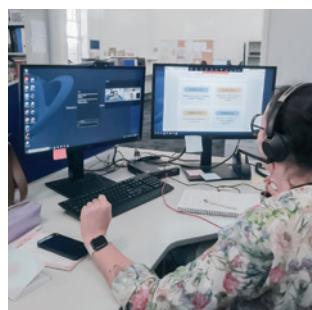


## Giorgia Guidi

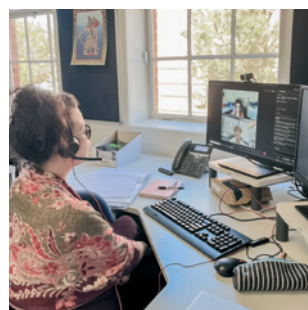
Ciao! Hello! I am Giorgia and I come from Ancona, a small town in the centre of Italy, by the Adriatic Sea. I completed a Master's degree in Teaching the Italian language to foreigners in Perugia and I have already taught Italian abroad before coming to Australia to start this new challenging and wonderful experience as a Language Assistant at SIDE. What I aim for the most is to let all students really enjoy learning the Italian language and make them be aware of its culture as well. Cheers!



Asuka Nakashima teaching Japanese.

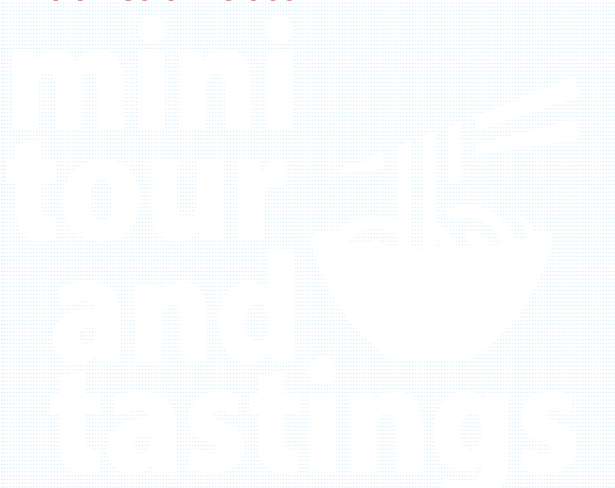


Lea Mariage assisting a student during their Webex lesson.



Giorgia and a senior school student in a native speaker lesson.

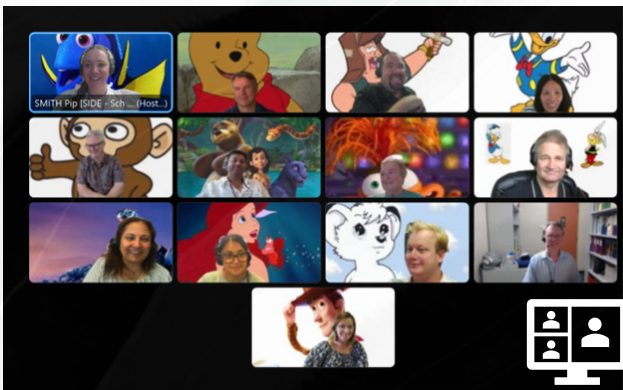
## Walpole Primary School Year 4-6 Indonesian class



Ibu Bianca Capello and Ibu Denise Scott's Indonesian students in years 4-6 from Walpole Primary School enjoyed some nasi kuning at SIDE Leederville. Pak Stuart Klose, the Principal, Ibu Sarah Walker, the Deputy along with parent helpers Pak Hugh and Ibu Nat also joined in our mini tour and tastings.



# MATHEMATICS



**Introducing our Mathematics Department at SIDE! We are dedicated to igniting a passion for numbers, shapes, and patterns in every student through our diverse courses and committed educators.**

## Pip Smith



**(Head of Learning Area)**  
Pip supports Year 8 students and teaches Year 12 Applications, focusing on real-world problem-solving and foundational concepts.

## Tori Brolsma

Tori guides Year 11 Methods students through calculus and statistical analysis, laying a robust foundation for further Mathematics studies.

## Meera Shah

Meera provides learning support across various year levels and teaches Year 8 to Year 10 courses, ensuring every student receives tailored assistance.

## Andrew Grieve

Andrew's teaching spans Year 11 and 12 Foundation courses, laying a solid mathematical groundwork for students.

## Angus Hogan

Angus teaches Year 9 and 12 Methods, and Year 12 Specialist classes, offering a comprehensive understanding of both applied and theoretical Mathematics.

## Chandra Moravineni

Chandra teaches Year 10 Mathematics, Year 11 Specialist courses, and Year 12 Applications, inspiring students to explore mathematical concepts beyond the textbook.

## Jim O'Neill

Jim teaches Year 7, 9, and 11 Applications, cultivating critical thinking skills and demonstrating practical applications of mathematics.

## Greg Piggot

Greg specializes in Year 11 Methods and Year 12 Essential Mathematics, equipping students with essential skills for complex problem-solving.

## Ravinder Patel

Ravinder teaches Year 10 Mathematics, Year 11 Essential and Year 12 Methods courses, focusing on building students' confidence and competence.

## Miika Rautavirta

Miika teaches Year 7 students and Year 11 Foundation and Year 12 Essential courses, nurturing mathematical curiosity from the start.

## Steve Shenton

Steve teaches Year 10 Mathematics, Year 11 Specialist classes, and Year 12 Applications, challenging students to think critically and creatively.

## Rob Sturgess

Rob caters to Year 8, 10, and 12 Specialist classes, fostering a deep understanding of mathematical principles and encouraging exploration.

## Narelle Torrance

Narelle teaches Year 11 Foundations and Year 11 Essential courses, providing students with a solid understanding and practical skills.

## Giang Nguyen

Giang teaches Year 9 Mathematics, Year 11 Applications, and Year 12 Essential, instilling relevance and purpose in mathematical learning.

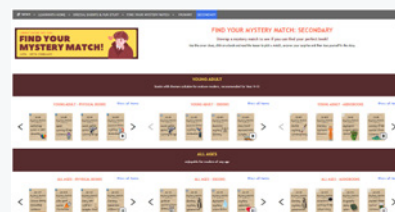
## Brendan Forbes

Brendan specializes in teaching Year 8 students, laying the groundwork for their mathematical journey with enthusiasm and expertise.

“Our Mathematics Department creates an enriching and supportive learning environment for all students, whether mastering basics or delving into advanced concepts. We believe in every student's potential to excel in mathematics and look forward to witnessing their growth and achievements!”

# LIBRARY RESOURCE CENTRE

## Find Your Mystery Match for Library Lovers Day!



For Library Lovers Day (14th February) 2024, we invited students to 'unwrap a book to Find Your Mystery Match!' We put together a selection of our favourite books, wrapped them up in brown paper (we even managed to 'wrap' our ebooks

and online audiobooks in our catalogue), added some clues, a picture and a little teaser, so students could browse through and see what ignited a spark for them. We had over 40 loans of physical books (posted out all over WA)

and more than 80 clicks/loans on digital items (ebooks and audiobooks) – which has been a wonderful start to library engagement for 2024!



## 2024 CBCA Book of the Year Awards

This term has seen the announcements of both the Notables lists and the Shortlists in this year's Book of the Year Awards, run by the Children's Book Council of Australia (the same organisation that runs Children's Book Week® each year!) We get excited about these awards each year because there are always so many great titles to read and explore. We have many of the Notable and Shortlisted books, ebooks and audiobooks available for students to borrow. Head here to browse our digital display:

[2024 CBCA Book Of The Year Awards](#)



## SIDE Secondary Book Clubs – Beginning Term 2



Next term we restart our two SIDE book clubs for secondary students: All Ages (Years 7-12) and Young Adult (Year 9-12). Interested students were invited to attend a taster session in Week 8 this term, where they talked about their reading, found out about the difference between the two

book clubs, got to know each other a little and played a game of Kahoot! Full information about joining a SIDE book club is available in the Resource Centre Online, or you can e-mail [library@side.wa.edu.au](mailto:library@side.wa.edu.au) with any questions.

## Knight family visit

these are all the books they returned!



Follow us on Instagram!  
[@side\\_libraryrc](#)





# ONLINE TEACHING AND LEARNING



## What do the OTL and ICT teams do?

The Online Teaching and Learning (OTL) and the Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) teams work together to support SIDE staff, students and supervisors, to deliver and access their teaching and learning programs. Our OTL team includes teachers from different learning areas across the school and technical specialists. The teachers are confident users of Moodle, Webex and much more. The team also includes the SIDE Studio where audio and video are recorded for use in online lessons and special events. Our ICT team are highly skilled information technology specialists who implement and support software applications and systems at SIDE. They make sure that all systems to support student learning are secure and able to be accessed by students and staff.



## Launchpad

## Getting help with SIDE systems

Students needing support with SIDE systems (eg Moodle/Webex) can find a range of information on the SIDE website. This year we saw the launch of our new Moodle Launchpad. This provides information and activities for students to learn about using SIDE systems. Already we have had over 170,000 hits and more than 2500 activities completed in Launchpad!



# STUDENT SERVICES

## Who's Who @ SIDE Student Services

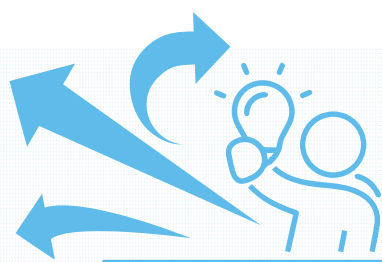
[students@side.wa.edu.au](mailto:students@side.wa.edu.au)



## SIDE Psychologists



# CAREERS AND VET



**In 2024 our delivery of Career and VET courses continue to grow, as are the employers across regional WA. These employers generously offer work placements and experiences for our students**

## The team has welcomed several new staff.

Georgia Bullock, Sharon Cutten, Ali Grabowski, and Gavin Chadwick have been working with SIDE across both HaSS and Careers.

Georgia is managing ADWPL in the goldfields region as well as delivering our Career and Enterprise course. Sharon is delivering 2 qualifications in Financial Services, Workplace skills and Workplace Learning. Ali manages the endorsed programs and teaches Work Studies to our Year 10's as well as introducing the Certificate II in Active Volunteering.

Gavin is sharing his extensive knowledge of careers and pathways to year 9 students as well as working in the Early Career discovery space.

Anne Serafini and Liz Wells have joined Careers and VET and bring valuable knowledge of student pathways and

regional information after working for many years in the student services space. Both are excellent Career and Enterprise teachers, while Anne is also delivering Year 10 Work Studies, and Liz is teaching Workplace Learning and has secured placements in wheatbelt towns for her students who will be in Week 1, Term 2. Lisa Lewis has taken the lion's share of Workplace Learning with a side serve of Work Studies.

Crystle Challenger remains as SIDE's Career Practitioner. She is managing the very successful Mini Industry Roadshow and has several online Career Expos in the pipeline. This work relies heavily on our administration support team of Ros Iredell, Denise Young and Janet Fields who are values for their professionalism and efficiency.

## RTO



SIDE RTO is working in partnership with **Kelmscott Senior High School** to support the **Rural Skills program**. The program is run at **Hillside Farm** and is open to Year 10 students who have an interest in employment in the agricultural sector. Students participating have come from ten different Western Australian public schools located south of the river. Students attend Hillside Farm one day per week and are rostered with different students from different schools, developing their interpersonal and employability skills. The program starts with an online interactive theory session delivered by a SIDE trainer, followed by a day's work on the farm, where students are taught

a range of hands-on skills from Agricultural Technical Officers including; feeding livestock, working with cattle for the Royal Show, crutching sheep and ram selection. Horticulture activities undertaken to date have included poultry husbandry tasks, egg collection and harvesting various vegetables.

Students have also been getting ready for the planting of winter crops and will participate in Merino shearing in Week 8.

SIDE RTO developed a bespoke course to match the Hillside Farm operations and students who complete the course will graduate with a **Certificate I in Agriculture**.



# PRIMARY K-6

## Early Childhood



Rida volcano



Georgia dinosaur



Ethan making



Ethan cookies

Being the parent and home tutor is challenging but it is also very rewarding. We have plenty of tips and tricks to help you and we are only an e-mail or phone call away.

Check out more tips on the **SIDE website**.  
(K-6 Primary > Parent Information > Tips & Tricks).

## Students at work

"Rida" in Pre-Primary is learning all about volcanoes and showing her experiment with erupting volcanoes "Georgia" in Pre-Primary is learning all about dinosaurs. This is her landscape painting and her dinosaur Trixie made from recycled materials. "Ethan" in Year 1 is learning all about clowns and the circus. Here is Ethan following a recipe to make delicious clown cookies.

## Middle Primary



Students have discovered how their laptop/computer screens suddenly become interactive whiteboards and are now adept users of the Webex tools. The Year 3's and 4's students attended a Cyber Safety incursion titled Friendship gaming agreement. Our students learnt about being aware of the potential dangers and the steps needed to protect themselves.



Webex classes have been run as a Year 4 and 5 group, with the focus on literacy and numeracy. The students share their experiences, where they are and the school work they have been doing outside of the Webex lessons. We provide a safe space for our students to ask questions if they are unsure and actively participate in activities to further their learning.



The Year 4 students have been working on the English module Story Pot in their workbooks. I am proud of the efforts the students have put into their own narratives, to include learned techniques. Most students have followed the writing process from a plan, to an edited draft, right through to the published copy.

**The Mysterious Bottle**

**Broom! Broom!** All the cars rushed into the sandy carpark with colorful surfboards strapped tightly to the metal frames on top.

It was the joy to the weekend when Bob went surfing. Bob was a fit and outgoing man with a big beard. He had spiced surfing when he was eight. Bob paddled out with the other surfers. He enjoyed the first hour but after that the waves got bigger and bigger. He wasn't experienced enough to ride so many giant gungahm waves.

Bob was fed up and caught a little wave in shore. When he got there, he saw a message in a bottle and read it in amazement. Bob could only just read the messy handwriting. He gasped as he read the message. "I need help! Underneath the writing was a faded map. Bob had been here since he was little and knew the area well. He thought he had to rescue this person in danger.

He ran along the beach and lined up with the surfboard (which was in the ocean) with his right as it was hard to go this way because of the current in that spot.

It was becoming dark when Bob's foot touched the smooth sand of the island. He could see a light coming from deep in the forest. From his surfing skills, he knew the light was from a poorly made fire.

As Bob stumbled towards the faint light, he could see something lying next to the fire, but it wasn't human sized. He reached the fire and saw a flat-covered dog who was brown all over in a shaggy and cute. Bob looked at the pen in the dog's paw and thought to himself, "Is the dog writing the message?"

Bob thought for a moment but then he approached the cold and afraid animal and wrapped him in his towel. Bob made sure he was dry and clean, so that he could see his original colour, which was black and white, then took the dog to his surfboard. Bob pushed away from the island on the surfboard with the floppy dog. He got back and around in the water but he like an earthquake. Bob reached the beach, where he got in his car and drove to the vet.

On the ride there, Bob named the dog Cooper. Cooper got fat on the rich and delicious, rich food but unfortunately had to stay the night. In the morning, Bob came to take Cooper home, along with his brand-new, cozy bed and squeaky toys.

By Tina



The Year 3 students have been working on a great Science set called Creature Features. There have been some wonderful drawings and video recordings to demonstrate their findings. They have also been busy practising NAPLAN in their set work and also in their online lessons. The Year 3's attend Webex lessons with the Year 2's. Lessons are especially designed to be inclusive and interactive to encourage social contact as well as have academic input.



Andy



Camilla



Sarah

# PRIMARY K-6

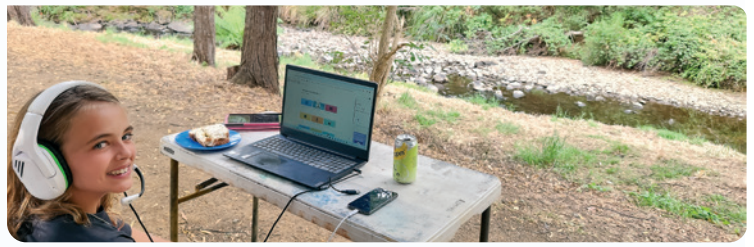
## Upper Primary

The Year 5 and 6 Webex sessions have been very successful. A big thank you goes to our experienced students for helping their new classmates learn to use the online tools.

Some students shared their classroom setup in the WEBEX activity, "Show Me Your Classroom!" Our home-based, overseas and travelling students have very unique classrooms.



Annabelle Rock Nature Reserve - Right  
Aram India - Bottom Left  
Charlotte Australia - Bottom Right



## Student work Year 5



**Skills and Qualities**  
To work at a cat shelter it is important to have some of these skills and qualities:

- Care about animals
- Be patient, gentle and quiet when needed
- Good with numbers and data for office administration work
- Be friendly, good with people, helpful and welcoming to visitors
- Know how to keep cats safe and healthy



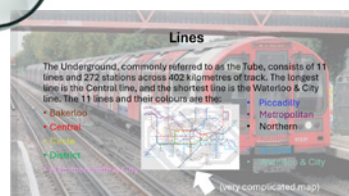
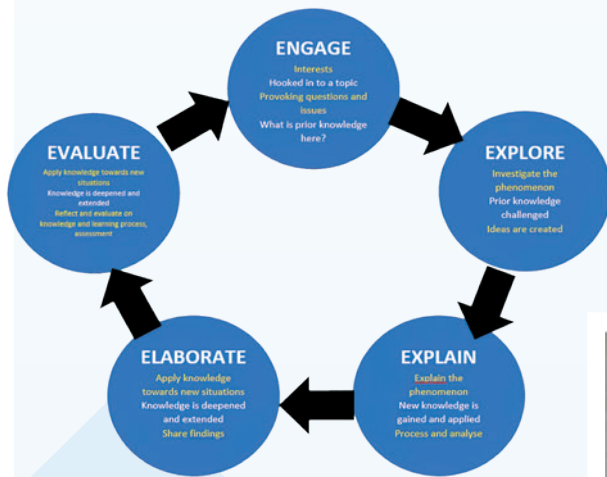
This term, Year 5 students have been working through their NAPLAN Practice workbooks, researched rare and unusual jobs, conducted their own career investigation, and published a written report and resume. Students have also been studying adaptations in Biological Science and have been creating diagrams of their own plants and creatures showing adaptations to their unusual environments.

## Year 6

Year 6 students are working on some Inquiry projects and have created an OU blog in Moodle for students to upload their work. Students will choose also looked at the importance of Triangulation to ensure

the information we collect is authentic. And also, to reference and use copyright correctly.

A great start to the year.



Ted Powerpoint - Right