

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER | SEMESTER 1 2025

InSIDE News

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SCHOOL OF ISOLATED & DISTANCE EDUCATION



ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF COUNTRY

SIDE is honoured to serve community on the ancestral lands of our first Australians. We pay respect to Elders past and present. We recognise the unique and incomparable contribution the Aboriginal people have made, and continue to make, to our culture, our workplace, and community.



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SCHOOL OF ISOLATED & DISTANCE EDUCATION

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A Message from the Principal

Hello Students, Parents, Caregivers, Staff and members of our school community.

Semester 1 has wrapped up, and here on Whadjuk Noongar Boodja, where I am writing this article from, Makuru, the coldest and wettest time of the year in the Noongar seasons, has certainly arrived. Given that our school now has 309 partner schools and 4,078 enrolments, that means we are privileged to be connected with so many communities. Whatever country you are connected with as you read this, I trust that you are well and enjoying the season you are immersed in.

Last term I had the pleasure of visiting Mullewa District High School, Quairading District High School, Katanning Senior High School and Tambellup Primary School, along with connecting with a number of schools across the state online. I even took a Year 3 French relief lesson at Scaddan Primary School, so a warm hello to the students and staff there!

I am very excited that some additional parents have joined our School Council and would like to add that it is not too late if you would also like to be a part of the most important parent/caregiver decision making group at a school. All meetings are online and require only two meetings per term, with each meeting lasting no more than an hour. Please email me if you are interested in joining.

Our second parent/caregiver teacher evening for the year is on July 29 from 3:00pm - 6:00pm and I have also allocated time slots if parents/caregivers would like to take the opportunity for a chat or to provide some feedback. Of course, I am always contactable during other times as well.

I would like to farewell Anne Becker, Zoe Schaffert and Tess Wheat.

Anne, one of our school psychologists, is retiring after a dedicated commitment to public education both as a teacher and also a school psychologist. On behalf of the community, I wish Anne well in her post work life.

Our Primary Deputy, Zoe Schaffert has won a level 4 promotional position at Mount Hawthorn Primary School. Congratulations Zoe, we wish you all the best and thank you for your commitment to our school. Tess Wheat, Student Coordinator for referrals, has won a promotion to a Deputy Principal role at Yanchep Primary School, for a year, with possible extension. Congratulations Tess.

I want to acknowledge our staff for their efforts during Term 2, for assisting to achieve our vision: *enhancing and expand learning opportunities for Western Australian students, regardless of their circumstances, through high quality, inclusive and culturally responsive education programs in a blended learning environment.*

Enjoy the highlights of the semester in this newsletter and remember, I am always keen to hear your feedback.

Regards

Paul Mathews
Principal

Career and VET

The Looma Eagles

The Looma Eagles class recently travelled to Perth to explore a variety of career-based activities that broadened their understanding of potential career paths.

They visited North Metropolitan TAFE, where they toured the Arts areas, including Photography, Jewellery, and Media, allowing them to explore industry areas they may not have thought about before their visit. They also spent a day at Skillhire in Forrestfield, where they learned about the fine skills required for a successful career in the painting industry. The hands-on experience included designing and decorating an enlarged shoe, which gave them an opportunity to show their creativity and practical skills.

Back in Looma, the students actively participate in workplace learning within their community, engaging in office work, community maintenance, and childcare. These experiences are equipping them with essential skills that will undoubtedly serve them well in the future, setting a solid foundation for their professional journeys.



CASSIUS AT SKILLHIRE, LOOMA



GORDON AT WORK IN LOOMA



JENAYE WORKING IN LOOMA



STUDENTS IN THE STUDIO AT TAFE



Tori Shines at Good Sammy's Placement

Year 12 student Tori has embraced her work placement at the local Good Sammy's store with enthusiasm and commitment. During a recent visit, she showcased a strong understanding of the organisation's mission and operations, delivering an informative site tour and demonstrating impressive knowledge of product categories and workplace safety. Her commitment, insight, and professionalism were evident throughout. Tori is keen to gain casual employment with Good Sammy's—a goal well within reach given her skills, work ethic, and positive attitude.

Visiting Sapphire and Ericka in Beverley

The Career and VET team recently visited Beverley SIDE students Sapphire and Ericka, who are both actively engaged in local workplace learning. In the photos, you can see them meeting with Lisa, their Workplace Learning Coordinator, as they discuss their placements, achievements, and goals.

Sapphire proudly showed the team her very organised and well-maintained workspace. Ericka also shared her experiences, speaking confidently about the new skills she is developing and how they relate to her future career.

It was inspiring to see both students making the most of their opportunities and taking real pride in their progress.



Nullagine Work Placement

Students from Nullagine, accompanied by Miss Ros, took a brave step out of their comfort zone to attend a workplace experience in Port Hedland. Hosted by the Water Corporation, the group was welcomed by the site manager, who provided a detailed tour and shared expert insights into the operations. The students learned about the physics behind filling and maintaining water tanks, as well as the strict safety procedures essential to the industry. They were fitted with personal protective equipment (PPE) before heading into the workshop, where they completed hands-on tasks such as cleaning, restocking, and organising supplies for the site. The experience offered the students a valuable glimpse into the work of a major utility provider and helped them develop practical skills and highly transferable skills.



Mini Industry Roadshow

Over 40 schools have welcomed the Mini Industry Roadshow throughout the first half of this year, from the Kimberley and Pilbara to the Southwest, the Wheatbelt, and all the way to the isolated community of Tjuntjuntjara near the South Australian border. The industry trainers have had the privilege of connecting with students across diverse cultural and geographic landscapes, including One Arm Point Remote Community School, Purnululu Remote Community School, Burringurrah Remote Community School, Cocos Island District High School, and Pia Wadjarri Remote Community School.

The Mini Industry Roadshow works with 12 industry professionals to provide authentic career experiences to students. Professionals such as Gianna Milano, a specialist in marine biology and sustainable tourism, has been leading engaging, hands-on sessions that open students' eyes to the wonders they can discover in and around the water. Gianna emphasises the vital role clean waterways play in sustaining life on Earth and delves into the ongoing problem of microplastics: how these tiny pollutants threaten ecosystems and our own well-being. Students actively contribute creative solutions for reducing, reusing, and recycling within their communities, promoting environmental awareness. They also learn about a variety of sustainable career paths that focus on conservation, environmental science, and green innovation, helping them connect what they have learned from Gianna with meaningful opportunities for the future.



STUDENTS AT CUE PRIMARY SCHOOL



STUDENTS AT WAGIN DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL



STUDENTS AT DOWERIN DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL

“These opportunities are incredibly rare for our students due to the remoteness of our community, and we cannot overstate how valuable and inspiring this experience was. The sessions were not only culturally responsive and age-appropriate, but also full of hands-on, engaging learning that captured the interest and imagination of every student—and staff member, too!”

SAMANTHA DALTON
PRINCIPAL BURRINGURRAH REMOTE
COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Whenever the team hears feedback like this from Burringurrah Remote Community School, it reaffirms the deep impact and importance of the Mini Industry Roadshow across Western Australia’s schools.



STUDENTS AT BURRINGURRAH REMOTE
COMMUNITY SCHOOL



STUDENTS AT QUAIRADING DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL



STUDENT AT MEEKATHARRA
DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL



STUDENTS AT TOODYAY DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL



STUDENTS LEARNING CARPENTRY AT MOUNT
MAGNET DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL

Curriculum Support



Big Changes with a more Intense Focus on Literacy and Numeracy Interventions

This Semester has been a very busy one as Curriculum Support underwent some big changes with a more intense focus on Literacy and Numeracy interventions. To enable this, Curriculum Support teachers participated in professional development in Sounds-Write Literacy and Back to Front Numeracy. Students underwent diagnostic testing and were placed into classes that best meet their needs. Teachers continue to strive to enhance the learning experiences for all students in Curriculum Support.



Sonnie Cooks Up Independence: Mastering Life Skills with ASDAN

Sonnie has been completing the ASDAN Living Independently course which prepares students for life after school and living on their own. Some of the topics covered include keeping track of money, making financial choices, a place of your own, cooking on a budget and career management. As part of his Cooking on a Budget course, Sonnie looked at ways to reduce the overall cost of a meal without affecting the quality of the dish. Sonnie then had to create the dish and evaluate the finished meal. Sonnie made a fantastic Spaghetti Carbonara replacing ingredients such as the pancetta with ham and parmesiano with regular parmesan cheese. The evaluation - "It was yummy and I will eat it everyday."

From the Sidelines to the Spotlight: Tom's ASDAN Work Experience

Tom attended the basketball game on a Saturday night to complete some work experience hours for Workright. Coordinator Amy-Jo, who volunteers and runs the Perry Lakes Hawks game nights and whose eldest child plays for the team, arranged for Tom to be part of the game night team for the evening.



The Perry Lakes Hawks NBL1 Team welcomed Tom warmly, and he participated in both the women's and men's games. As Tom hopes to be a sports commentator, he set up his computer to listen to the live commentary and observed the courtside announcer in action. A special desk was organised to accommodate his wheelchair.

Tom was included in the pre-game talk, post-game celebrations, and had the chance to meet Wildcats legend Andrew Vlahov. The DJ also taught Tom how to use the keyboard and sound effects during the game, while the coaches shared their game strategy with him.

The teams thoroughly enjoyed having Tom there, and with both the men's and women's teams winning, he was seen as a good luck charm. To top it off, the Hawks import player and head coach gave Tom a shout-out on their social media, which was a huge boost for him.

Tom's mum expressed her gratitude, and it was rewarding to see ASDAN making such a positive impact by giving Tom these valuable real-world life experiences.





Design & Technologies

Introducing the new Design & Technologies Workshop

Over the end of year break, SIDE's brand new Design and Technologies workshop was completed – and it looks fantastic!

The new space has been purpose-built to support up to seven concurrent lessons, providing students with a modern, flexible learning environment.

It is fully equipped with contemporary tools and technology, ensuring that SIDE can continue to deliver high-quality, engaging lessons across its expanding Design and Technologies programs.

This new facility reflects SIDE's ongoing commitment to providing students with the very best opportunities for hands-on learning, innovation, and skill development.

Music

2025 has seen SIDE introduce the Specialist Music program with a bang!

95 students across 6 different schools are enrolled in the program and are studying contemporary instruments such as guitar, drums, keyboard and bass guitar with music teacher Simon Bartlett. The program has provided our students with access to high-quality, music instruction that many would not otherwise have the opportunity to experience.

Please contact SIDE if your school is interested in being involved in this rich subject area.



Students learning music at Beaconsfield Primary School - Rottneest



Students learning music at Beaconsfield Primary School - Rottneest



MOUNT MAGNET STUDENTS



MOUNT MAGNET STUDENT



WYALKATCHEM STUDENT ON AN ACOUSTIC DRUM KIT



WYALKATCHEM STUDENT ON AN ELECTRIC DRUM KIT

Students have responded enthusiastically to the program, demonstrating increased motivation and excitement about coming to school.

This success has been strongly supported by our dedicated P&C, who have generously funded the purchase of both an electric and an acoustic drum kit. These additions have been a hit with students, who developing their drumming skills during lessons and breaks.

ANDREW ROBINS,
DEPUTY PRINCIPAL, WYALKATCHEM
DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL



TEACHER MELANIE WITH MULLEWA DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS



Bringing Community Food to Mullewa

Melanie Shariat is currently working with students at Mullewa District High School, rolling out the new subject, Community Food.

In this engaging program, Melanie works alongside students to explore nutrition and develop practical cooking skills. Together, they create healthy and delicious dishes, promoting positive food choices and building students' confidence in the kitchen.

The Community Food course not only supports students' understanding of wellbeing and nutrition, but also strengthens connections between the school and the wider community through shared learning experiences.

Welcoming Brad Minchin as ATAR Media Teacher

SIDE is delighted to welcome Brad Minchin as the new ATAR Media teacher.

Brad brings extensive experience to SIDE, having previously led the Arts Faculty at Guildford Grammar School. He is Chair of ATOM WA and Co-Chair of ATOM National, highlighting his leadership in media education.

At SIDE, he teaches ATAR Media Production and Analysis, helping students develop both practical and analytical skills.

He recently visited students at East Kimberley College in Kununurra, delivering a live lesson overlooking the stunning landscape featured in the film Australia and strengthening SIDE's connection with remote learners.

Brad's expertise and enthusiasm are a welcome addition to the team.



TEACHER BRAD IN DELIVERING A LESSON IN KUNUNURRA



Computer Science travels to Halls Creek

Earlier this term, SIDE Computer Science teacher Dave Walker travelled to Halls Creek to work directly with his students. The visit provided a fantastic opportunity for face-to-face learning and targeted support.

During the visit, Dave worked with students on EST preparation, focusing on exam techniques and practising past paper questions aligned with SCSA syllabus points. He also supported students in completing the spreadsheet component of their coursework, where they managed a budget for hardware and software upgrades and refined their use of key functions.

Visits like these highlight the value of SIDE's Technologies team and their commitment to supporting students across the state, ensuring that distance learners receive the same level of guidance and learning opportunity as their peers in metropolitan areas.



English

Dystopian Narratives in Year 12 General English

Students have been reading dystopian short stories and examining the role of science fiction in reflecting the concerns of society. They were tasked with creating a short story or exposition using the conventions of the dystopian narrative genre.

Here is Keely's exposition:

The End of Sadness

Chapter 1, 21st May 2065

Her best friend, Mary, the one person who had always been there for her in this artificial world, has passed away in the simulated reality. A wave of grief and loneliness washes over her, amplified by the knowledge that the friend she knew, the one who had been there to listen and comfort, was not real, but merely a product of the simulation's AI. Her tears are not just for her friend, though, but for the harsh and bitter realization that her entire world, the perfect reality that she had come to know and love, is not real. The weight of this knowledge crashes down on her like a physical blow, leaving her breathless and hollow. The tears that fall from her eyes are not just for the loss of her friend, but for the loss of her innocence, and the revelation of the cruel truth.



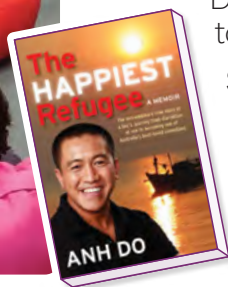
KEELY WITH CERTIFICATE OF ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE



Reading in the Library at Shark Bay School

Teacher Esperanza visited Shark Bay School to work with Year 11 General students who had been reading the memoir *The Happiest Refugee* by Anh Do, which stimulated discussions on issues to do with identity, refugees and resilience.

Students reflected on their own identity and wrote a personal anecdote on a pivotal moment, experience, relationship, or encounter that has shaped them to become the person they are today.



Say Hello to Lidia

Teacher Amanda Malseed has welcomed another Guide Dog in training, Lidia. Lidia is learning to be calm and patient while Amanda works at SIDE. If you see Lidia at SIDE, please don't talk to or pat her—she's in training and must only engage with her handler.



Amanda's Visit to Katanning

Teacher Amanda Malseed spent a day with the Year 12 ATAR students at Katanning Senior High School. The focus was creative writing but they also read together from the novel they are studying for English, *The White Girl* by Tony Birch. It was great to meet face-to-face and have the chance to work together in such a meaningful and effective way.



AMANDA WITH YEAR 12 ATAR KATANNING STUDENTS

Staff Updates

Matthew Kiely joins SIDE

Matthew is thrilled to join the SIDE English Learning Area this year after many years teaching in Melbourne, Perth, and overseas. With his classes in Years 9, 10, and 11 studying a range of texts and performing a variety of presentations, Matthew hopes that his experiences outside of teaching add an extra layer to the students' learning.

What does Matthew do outside of his teaching life? Having performed in rock bands, and many plays and musicals over the past few decades, he currently sings tenor with Naya Chorale – a 40-voice cappella choir who “perform repertoire that uplifts singers and audiences alike.” Keep an eye out for the next lot of concert flyers!

Matthew also plays a bit of guitar and piano, and is studying AMEB Music Theory.



Happy news from Hayley!

After having a little girl in 2023, Hayley is now excited to welcome a baby boy. She is grateful to be able to use standing desks for her work and lessons, as her ‘bump’ slowly starts to encroach on her desk space and knock over pens, papers and water bottles. She’ll be with us until September when she takes her well-earned maternity leave.

This year, Hayley’s classes have been working hard. Her AEENG students have just finished their first Senior School exams, and Hayley is particularly proud of her Referral students for their engagement and dedication. Earlier this year, she discovered some naturally-gifted creative writers in her Year 10 class and hopes they’ll continue to develop their talents beyond school. Thank you to Hayley for her hard work and all the best for the exciting times ahead!



Humanities & Social Sciences



TEACHER GAVIN WITH HALLS CREEK STUDENTS

HASS visits Halls Creek

In Week 3 of Term 2, Year 7 HASS Teacher Gavin Chadwick and Mathematics teacher Ravi Patel travelled to Halls Creek to visit their students. They flew into Kununurra on Sunday afternoon, then drove nearly four hours south to Halls Creek early Monday morning. The journey through the Kimberley was stunning, offering some of the most scenic views in the region.

As always, the Halls Creek School community warmly welcomed them. They spent the remainder of Monday connecting with students, with Gavin working closely with his three Year 7 HASS students. Together, they began their Economics and Business unit, starting PowerPoint presentations on an Australian entrepreneur of their choice. The team returned on Tuesday morning to continue their work, strengthening relationships and enjoying valuable face-to-face learning.



HASS visits Newman

HASS Staff have been busy visiting many students in both regional and metro schools this year. They have flown and driven hundreds of kilometres across the state. These visits give students the opportunity to connect with their teachers and to revise course material. With Geography, mapping skills are critical and therefore having their teacher sit with them, is invaluable. Geography teacher Tracy Sterling worked with her Year 12 student Matilda and Modern History teacher Ros Keron worked with her Year 12 students during their visit to Newman.



GEOGRAPHY TEACHER TRACY WITH YEAR 11 STUDENT MATILDA

Curtin UniReady: Students Dive into University Level Learning

Students enrolled in the Curtin UniReady program with SIDE have been engaging in a rigorous curriculum designed to prepare them for university study.

This semester, twenty Year 11 students focused on the Foundations of Academic Writing unit, gaining essential skills for higher education and beyond. UniReady offers an alternative to a full ATAR pathway and awards students with the minimum entry requirements for Curtin courses.

The course has introduced students to university-level writing expectations, emphasising academic integrity. Weekly modules and guided practice have helped them develop reading skills for peer-reviewed journal articles, navigate complex texts, and extract key insights. Students have learned to find and evaluate academic sources for credibility and relevance, culminating in well-supported written work.

This semester's topic, exploring virtual influencers and product endorsements, has sparked critical discussions about media, marketing, and digital identity. The program has also included visits to students in Port Hedland, Tom Price, Central Midlands, Dalwallinu, and Perth, building a sense of academic community.

Curtin UniReady aims to equip students with the tools and confidence to succeed in university and beyond. It has been inspiring to see these students grow over the semester and exciting to consider what they will achieve next.



TOM PRICE SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS KALE AND KIERAN PRACTISING BEFORE THEIR SEMESTER EXAM.

History Teacher's Association

The History Teachers' Association of Western Australian (HTAWA) presented their first Student Revision Seminar for the year on Saturday 10th May.



HISTORY TEACHER ROS KERON WITH YEAR 11 STUDENT KEELIE

Several SIDE students recently took part in a valuable revision session for their Semester 1 exams, hosted by the University of Western Australia. Over three hours, experienced teachers delivered focused content and exam skills across both Year 11 and Year 12 ATAR Modern History courses.

Two SIDE students attended the Year 12 session on China, while others joined the Year 11 session on American Capitalism. Among them was SIDE dance student Keelie, who had the opportunity to meet her Modern History teacher, Ros Keron in person. Ros, a committee member of HTAWA, also supported the streaming of the sessions.

Students found the morning extremely beneficial, and SIDE encourages all interested students to take part in similar opportunities in Semester 2.

Health & Physical Education

SIDE HPE Teachers Hit the Road: Connecting with Students Across WA

This semester, the Health and Physical Education (HPE) team at SIDE has been on the move, visiting students and staff in regional and remote schools across Western Australia. These visits provide invaluable opportunities to build relationships, deliver hands-on support, and see firsthand the diverse environments where our students live and learn.

From the striking red ranges and tropical heat of the East Kimberley to the wide-open coastal plains of Shark Bay and the rugged beauty of the Mid West, SIDE teachers have travelled thousands of kilometres. The landscapes are as varied as the communities themselves – from the dusty roads of Tom Price in the Pilbara, to the saltbush country around Narrogin, to the vibrant marine life along the coast near Carnarvon.

Students at East Kimberley College, Shark Bay School, Norseman District High School, Dalyellup College, Fremantle College, Applecross Senior High School, Carnarvon Community College, Narrogin Senior High School, and Tom Price Senior High School were excited to meet their SIDE teachers in person. These visits included practical lessons, health workshops, study support, and valuable time spent getting to know each school community.

By stepping into their students' local environments, SIDE's HPE team continues to bring learning to life—bridging distance with connection and making education meaningful, wherever students are in WA.



STUDENTS AT SHARK BAY SCHOOL



STUDENTS AT SHARK BAY SCHOOL

Year 7 Health Assessment: E-Safety Poster Task

In Term 2, Year 7 Health students took a deep dive into the world of online safety through an engaging assessment task designed to build their understanding and confidence in navigating digital spaces. The E-Safety Poster Assessment encouraged students to reflect on their own online behaviours, investigate key safety topics such as cyberbullying, trolling, and digital footprints, and explore how to respond to harmful situations. Students also learned about the physical, social, and mental impacts of negative online behaviour and the importance of being a responsible digital citizen.

After completing a personal inquiry and answering a range of safety questions, students applied their knowledge to design a colourful, creative poster aimed at helping incoming Year 6 students stay safe online. These posters will be displayed at SIDE to promote positive online practices for the whole school community.

Check out the poster completed by Qiana.



Year 12 Health Studies: Promoting Wellbeing Through the SIDE Survival Guide

In Term 2, Year 12 Health Studies students explored the topic of mental health and wellbeing, with a focus on the challenges faced by young people aged 15-18. They looked at common mental health conditions such as anxiety, depression, and stress, and considered how these issues can impact learning, relationships, and everyday life.

Students reflected on their own experiences as SIDE learners and identified key stressors such as isolation, motivation, and time management. They then investigated effective strategies for coping, including accessing support, stress management, and organisational skills.

As part of their learning, students created a 'SIDE Survival Guide' – a practical, creative resource designed to help current and future SIDE students manage challenges and maintain positive mental health. The guides include tips, advice, and useful strategies for thriving in an online learning environment, supporting the wellbeing of the wider school community.

Have a look at the guide created by Vee.



Languages



(L-R) AUSTIN Y6, BILLY Y5, BRIANY Y4



(L-R) LISA CLARK (TEACHER), CAITLIN Y3, AUSTIN Y6, BILLY Y5

A Night of Noodles: Beacon Primary School's Chinese Dinner

Beacon Primary School attended SIDE accommodation in Week 3 of Term 2 for a Science and Chinese language camp. On the second night of camp, Lisa Clark's students walked to My Dumpling House in Leederville for a delicious treat of Chinese food.

Students tried many different dishes, such as noodle soup, fried rice, dumplings, spring rolls, and squid tentacles. However, the favourite dish was chocolate xiao long bao.

Students had a great time practising their Chinese language skills and chopstick abilities at the restaurant.



STUDENTS: BILLIE, ARCHIE, PIPPA, FLETCHER

French Learning

Students at Scaddan Primary School are learning the French words for fruit and making their own fruit tarte!

While learning the new vocabulary words for fruit, students also practiced colours and numbers in French. There was lively discussion about which fruit is the best, and which fruit to select for each tarte. Students then described their tarte in French to the class. Yum!

Say Hello to New Members of the Language Department



Introducing Kyoko Walsh

SIDE has welcomed Kyoko Walsh as the one of the two Head of Languages, alongside Simone Menager. Kyoko brings a wealth of experience from her time leading language programs at Rossmoyne Senior High School and is passionate about making language learning fun, accessible, and meaningful.

你好 (Nihao!)

My name is Yan, or Molly, Chinese language assistant at SIDE and originally come from Shanghai, China. I hold a Bachelor's degree in Education and a Master's degree in Applied Linguistics. My teaching experience includes working as a university lecturer in Shanghai, China, a tutor at ECU, a Chinese teacher at the Confucius Institute at UWA, and a language assistant at various schools. I am excited to join SIDE this year to support students in their Chinese learning journey.



Bonjour tout le monde!

My name is Nahida. I'm from Toulouse in the south of France. I have a Master's degree in English studies (particularly visual arts and literature), and I graduated last September. I will be the French Language Assistant for the year 2025! I love teaching and experiencing new things as well (except when I tasted Vegemite...). I'm happy to be a part of the SIDE team, and I will try my best to share my culture and my knowledge on the French language.



Konnichiwa, watashiwa Suzuko Matsuura desu!

Hi, I'm Suzuko Matsuura. I come from Himeji City which is part of Hyogo Prefecture in Japan. Himeji Castle, which is a world heritage site, is in my hometown. Did you know that my prefecture- Hyogo, and WA are sister states? Therefore, I'm very excited to have this opportunity to visit the sister state.

I have already been learning how to teach Japanese as a second language. I have taught various year levels and students in a variety of ways (online also). I like having online classes and assisting students for an interview test.

I'm really looking forward to teaching about Japanese culture and language during my time with SIDE. It would be really nice to get to know everyone, so please don't hesitate to contact me.

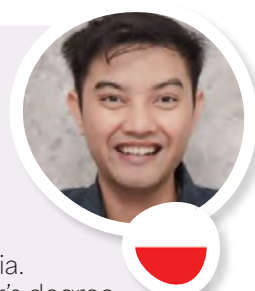


Ciao! Hello!

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 aware of its culture as well. Cheers!

Halo semuanya!

My name is Lutfi, and I come from West Java, Indonesia. With a master's degree in English teaching (TESOL) from Monash University, I previously worked in Indonesia as a Lecturer Assistant. I am thrilled and privileged to be a part of SIDE community as the Indonesian Language Assistant this year. This role has provided me with the opportunity to provide Indonesian language learning supports to students from diverse backgrounds and school. I love Taylor Swift's songs, and I believe that 'we never go out of style' in navigating our way to a successful future through Distance Education at SIDE.



Library Resource Centre

The Premier's Reading Challenge

The Premier's Reading Challenge (PRC) in Term 2 kicked off with a bang for SIDE students, with Year 12 student Keely winning a voucher in the very first PRC weekly prize draw!

To complete the PRC, students in Kindy to Year 10 needed to read 12 or more books, and for the first time, Year 11 and 12 students were able to participate, with their challenge being six or more books.

We had 42 SIDE students register for the challenge, and those who completed it will receive a certificate from the WA Premier.



TEACHER KATE READING 'TRUCK CAT'

National Simultaneous Storytime

On Wednesday the 21st of May, 24 SIDE Primary students joined more than 2.2 million children from around Australia in participating in the 25th annual National Simultaneous Storytime!

Students got to introduce their fluffy friends (both real pets and toys were welcome!) before they read 'The Truck Cat' by Deborah Frenkel, a heartwarming tale of finding your family. Students then discussed their favourite parts of the story, before finishing off with an invitation to participate in a craft project.

Afterwards, students were sent a certificate and some 'Truck Cat' themed goodies!



ILLUSTRATION BY DANNY SNELL

Author Online: Cute Quokkas and Murder Mysteries!

This semester SIDE welcomed two amazing creators to the Author Online program.

In Term 1, local primary school teacher and author Amber Eiffler met SIDE Primary students on Webex to tell them all about her self-published picture book about a quokka learning to ride a bike on Rottnest, called *Queenie Keeps Riding*.



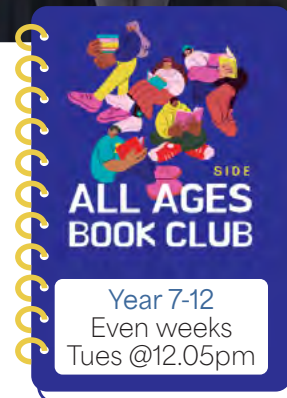
In Term 2, local journalist and author Kate Emery ran two sessions with our Year 7-12 students on 'How to Write a Murder'... (a murder mystery, that is!) Students were captivated by the history of crime writing and worked with Kate to create their own murder mystery premises and plot ideas.



Want to join a SIDE Book Club?

The SIDE Library run two book clubs for secondary students: the All Ages book club (open to Year 7-12 students) and the Young Adult (YA) book club (open to Year 9-12 students). Each club meets once a fortnight on Webex to connect with other SIDE students and discuss the books they've been reading.

Students can find out more about both book clubs (and RSVP for meetings!) by visiting the sResource Centre Online and clicking on each book club tile to read the FAQs.



Book Week Dress Up Day is Coming!

Get your thinking hats on and your craft supplies ready - Children's Book Week is coming! SIDE will have a whole school dress up day on Thursday 21st August (Term 3 Week 5), where all students Kindy-Year 12, plus their teachers and other SIDE staff, are invited to dress up as something or someone from a book, or something to do with this year's Children's Book Council of Australia theme: *Book an Adventure!*

More information will be coming out to students, parents and supervisors early Term 3.

Mathematics

A Visit to Exmouth

During Term 1 Week 8 students at Exmouth District High School connected with teachers Narelle Torrance and Edna Pivetta. This visit allowed the students to show their school community to their teachers, in particular the set-up of the SIDE Room.

A spacious, dedicated room for SIDE students with high quality video/ audio for managing remote learning has helped to create ongoing effective educational experiences for all students.

In-person conversations allowed for more dynamic and spontaneous problem-solving with the Year 11 Maths ATAR students Thea, Emily, Kuba and Hugo as they grappled with learning how to use the various functions on their ClassPad, and engaged in revision techniques to help them be successful in their studies.

The fresh air and natural surroundings at the school helped students to connect to the beautiful environment as they actively participated in their Maths studies on measurement, learning how to use a trundle wheel. Students Ty-Bo and Dominic enjoyed being outdoors, learning to estimate and measure distances, and keep accurate records.



TEACHERS EDNA PIVETTA AND NARELLE TORRANCE



TEACHER EDNA AND STUDENTS THEA, EMILY AND KUBA



TY-BO AND DOMINIC OUTSIDE WITH TEACHER NARELLE

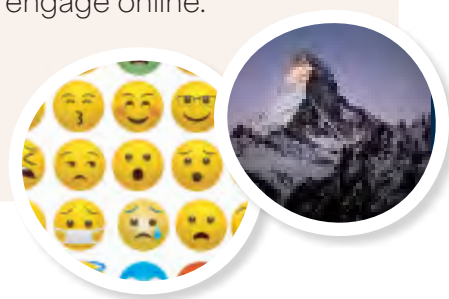
Year 7 Maths

Effective student feedback practices can improve student learning.

Some practical tools that teachers have been using in the Webex lessons are a 'ladder of success', picture of a mountain and emojis. This is a process whereby students describe how they feel about the content that they have just learned. Students place their name arrow next to the rung on the ladder, position on the mountain or choose an emoji. This gives a quick visual cue as to how the class may be feeling as a whole about a topic.

For example, this term students have been learning about percentages and fractions. If students indicated that they were unsure of fraction word problems, they positioned their arrows lower down the mountain or ladder or selected a more negative emoji. This allowed for greater consideration of students' understanding of the topic and, as a result, further explanation and revision could be incorporated in the next lessons.

These tools involve all students in the learning process, foster active participation and promote open reflection. They also serve to give students a 'voice' in which they can feel heard and take responsibility for directing and commenting on their own learning. It is designed to be a fun, non-threatening way for the students to engage online.



A Visit to Norseman

On 26-27th March, SIDE teachers Andrew Grieve and Denise Abordi-James visited their Year 11 and 12 students Brendan, Ethan and Kristen at Norseman District High School. Norseman is a town located in the Goldfields-Esperance region of Western Australia. Andrew and Denise were there to build relationships and support students in their SIDE studies.

Kristen took part in a measuring task, where she estimated the height of a tree on the school oval. Several estimation techniques were used including comparing the tree's height to a known height and using a clinometer, an instrument used to measure angles of elevation.

SIDE Supervisor Nic Jeewa was very welcoming and gave Andrew and Denise a tour of the school, which included the SIDE room, vegetable garden and indigenous artworks.

Thanks go to the SIDE student services team for helping to organise the visit and the staff and students at Norseman District High School. It was a pleasure for Andrew and Denise to meet the staff and students in person.



SIDE SUPERVISOR NIC JEEWA



NORSEMAN STUDENT KRISTEN

Online Teaching Learning



Yirra Yaakin's Kaarla Kaatijin Live Stream Reaches 800 Students Worldwide

In a proud partnership between SIDE and Yirra Yaakin Theatre Company, the powerful production Kaarla Kaatijin was recently live-streamed via Webex to students across the state, country and globe, providing opportunity to engage in vibrant, live Aboriginal storytelling.

The performance reached approximately 800 students, including around 260 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students. Students from 25 partner schools across WA tuned in, alongside 30 SIDE primary students, many of whom joined from overseas locations including Indonesia, Pakistan, South Korea, Thailand, and China.

Kaarla Kaatijin, which means to 'learn about fire' in Noongar, is a vibrant celebration of cultural storytelling.

Through rich and engaging narratives, the performance shares how fire came to the land, how the Magpie, Crow and Seagull got their colours, how the Crow found its call, how the Goanna got its patterns, and how the ocean was created. Each story offers a meaningful insight into Noongar knowledge, culture and connection to Country.

SIDE's partnership with Yirra Yaakin continues to highlight the power of connection, culture, and creative education, no matter the distance.





Atomi comes to SIDE

SIDE is pleased to provide a range of learning resources to our students. The most recent addition is the online platform, Atomi. Students in Years 7-10 can access [Atomi's entire catalogue of subjects](#) for the duration of 2025.

Atomi is designed to help your child understand their content and improve their learning through video lessons, interactive quizzes and intelligent features. Teachers will be using Atomi both within Moodle and through targeted tasks for individual students. If you would like more information about Atomi, you can [view their website](#).

Cyber Safety at SIDE - Supporting Safe and Smart Online Learning

As part of SIDE's cyber safety program, the team are proud to incorporate resources from the eSafety Commissioner – Australia's leading authority on online safety. These resources provide practical advice on protecting personal information, managing online interactions, and navigating social media safely. Students can access a range of age-appropriate and interactive tools via the Student Services Moodle page and from the eSafety Commissioner website.

In addition, SIDE regularly hosts online eSafety events to engage students in conversations about digital wellbeing and safe online behaviour. We encourage parents and carers to explore these resources with their children to help promote positive digital habits and safe online behaviour.



A Student's Guide to Using AI

AI (artificial intelligence) can be a great helper at school. It can give you ideas, explain tricky things, and even help you learn in new ways. But just like any tool, you need to use it the right way support your learning. You're still the one in charge!

Here's how to use AI responsibly:

Stay safe

Don't give personal info to AI chats or websites. Keep things private.

Be kind

Don't use AI to spread anything rude, hurtful, or false. Think before you share.

Double-check

AI doesn't always get things right. If you're not sure, ask a teacher or look it up from a trusted source.

Be honest

Don't use AI to do all the work. It's okay to get help, but your ideas and answers should be your own.

How Can Parents/Caregivers support their Children?

Parents and Caregivers play an important role in helping their child(ren) navigate the use of AI in their learning:

- **Talk About Honesty**
- **Encourage Critical Thinking**
- **Model and Promote Kindness:**
- **Protect Privacy**
- **Support Balanced Use**

Stay Informed:

Check out the SIDE AI policy and Assessment Policy online. Students need to follow the requirements of these policies.

If you're unsure, reach out to your child's teachers - SIDE is here to help.

By working together, SIDE can ensure that students not only excel academically but also become responsible and ethical digital citizens.

Primary School

Kindy-Year 2

Author Online

This semester, the Early Childhood students attended an Author Online session with Amber Eiffler. Amber is a Western Australian teacher and author of the book, *Queenie Keeps Riding: A Rottnest Island Adventure*. Students listened to how Amber came up with her ideas and were lucky enough to have Amber read the book to them from the studio. As a reflection on the Author Online experience, they learnt some interesting facts about quokkas. They were blown away to find out that quokkas can climb trees, they can go for long periods without eating or drinking, and they swallow their food whole then regurgitate it and eat it again!



Harmony Week

In their first term, the students celebrated Harmony Week. They completed a literacy-based unit of work surrounding the book *Accidentally Kelly Street* by Briony Stewart. They explored the different vocabulary used throughout the text and reflected on how feeling included in a community is an important part of living in harmony. The week concluded with a guided drawing of a sunflower, with each drawing turning out as diverse and unique as each of the students.



Year 3-6

Chemical Science

This term all students in Years 3-6 have been studying Chemical Science.

At the end of their Chemical Science Units of work, students enjoyed a Science Demonstration by Mr James Marshall from the high school Science Department in a live Webex session. The Year 3s wrote a recount in English after the demonstration which included looking at physical and chemical changes. They observed a tea bag and bottle rocket, ice melting and that air is matter!

Students in year 4 investigated the properties of materials and tested the strength of materials. They then used what they learned about different materials and their properties to design and build a simple toy out of recycled materials for their Design Technology unity of work.



SCIENCE TEACHER JAMES MARSHALL DEMONSTRATING PHYSICAL CHANGES USING A COKE CAN



YEAR 4 STUDENT CHARLOTTE



YEAR 4 STUDENT LUKA

Year 4 - Chemical Science Riddles

Year 4 students have also been puzzling their peers in a fun forum challenge!

As part of their science learning, they created and posted materials-themed riddles in Moodle. Students then enjoyed replying to each other's posts, testing their knowledge by guessing the materials described.

I am strong and good at protection and my material is perfection. I can keep you warm and covered, if you dye me, I can be coloured. I can be made into clothes and shoes, but I began as something that moos! What am I?
CONOR H, YEAR 4

I am a poor conductor of heat. I know you use me in writing. You can see me everywhere you go. I am not transparent. I am originally rough and hard. My products are very smooth. What am I?
SAMIRA A, YEAR 4

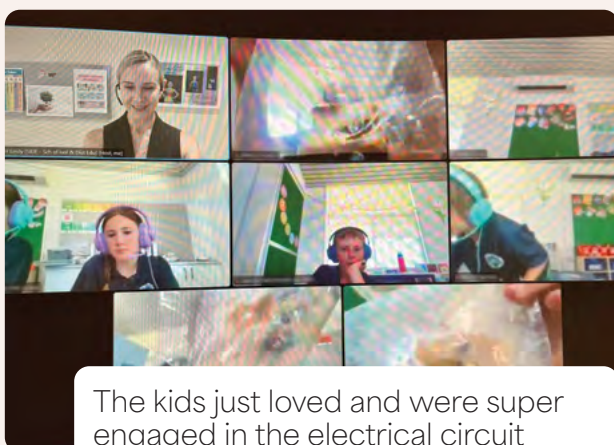
Year 5 & 6

It has been a busy start to Semester 1, and new and continuing students have been welcomed. Many students have been completing their set work in a timely manner and joining the daily, online lessons. Learning how to use the annotation tools can be quite challenging, but the students have risen to all challenges, which has allowed them to engage, participate and have fun in the online learning environment.

The Year 5/6 students have also been doing Chemical Science this term and have looked at how things can change through conducting their own scientific experiments. They also enjoyed observing a Chemical Science lesson presented by the Secondary Science teacher, Jim. Do things physically change or chemically change? Chemical reactions are always fun to experiment with and observe!

Here is an experiment showing what happens to a balloon reacting to different temperatures of water and causing it to behave in certain ways. Looking at the photos, which do you think is the cold water, which is the hot water?

Students have also conducted experiments in solubility of common materials such as flour and salt. They also experimented with changes of state caused by heating and cooling a substance. Chocolate was a sure-fire winner!



The kids just loved and were super engaged in the electrical circuit lesson. The teacher captivated them beautifully, and our kids with more challenging behaviours didn't skip a beat with their engagement.

TAMBELLUP PRIMARY SCHOOL

MAGS

The MAGS Maths and Science team began with two teachers and twelve schools in late 2024, and has now increased to 4 teachers and 18 schools, with 120 students. SIDE are committed to supporting small regional schools with multi-age group settings and understand the importance of providing quality learning opportunities for all students.

The MAGS team has been visiting partner schools to strengthen connections with students and teachers. They have also initiated STEM days with several schools, giving opportunity for collaboration.



STUDENTS BETH AND WENDY WITH THE ECHIDNAS THEY MADE DURING SIDE'S SCHOOL VISIT.

EALD Outreach Team at SIDE Primary

The EALD Outreach program began as a small trial in Term 4, 2024, with just 3 students at Australind Primary School. By early 2025, the Australind students were joined by another 3 from Useless Loop. In Term 2 of 2025, the program has grown to include 29 students across 10 regional schools.

SIDE is thrilled to be supporting EALD new arrival students and look forward to expanding the program further to assist more schools and families in regional Western Australia.

In Term 1, the team visited the Australind Primary School students. Each week the students have learnt and discussed topics such as coming to Australia, where they live now, the countries they come from, and the various cultures and celebrations they are part of. They are also learning how to introduce ourselves and engage in simple conversations with others.

This term, SIDE is excited to welcome students from East Kimberley College into our online lessons. The team recently spent a fantastic day at the school, connecting with both staff and students.



Remote Regional Teaching Team

A Visit to Looma Remote Community School

In Week 4 of Term 2, Tony and Raluca from the SIDE RRTT team visited Looma Remote Community School in the Kimberley to connect with Year 7-9 students and support their on-country learning.

They joined the Barramundi class—which includes students studying English and Mathematics through SIDE—on an excursion to New Bridge, near Camballin. This site, part of the Martuwarra (Fitzroy River), is used in Looma's Science program to explore Two-way Science through the Ngaparrtji Ngaparrtji approach, a partnership between Looma and SIDE RRTT.

The RRTT team is using this framework to co-design culturally responsive programs that support academic engagement across all subjects. During the excursion, students began working on persuasive speaking tasks focused on protecting Martuwarra. In Science, they dissected Jarrampa (caught during the visit), and in Mathematics estimated Jarrampa sizes with Raluca. The experience even made its way into Walmajarri Language lessons.

As a new member of SIDE, Tony valued the opportunity to connect directly with students and staff—despite losing a basketball game to a younger student. Special thanks to Jack, Clint, Luca, Claudia, Nathan, and the Looma team for their warm welcome.

We enjoyed playing Kahoot together during our lessons. It is (much) better when we have the teachers in the lesson instead of on Webex."

LAKIAM, YEAR 9



CORIN, EDWIN AND THOMAS (BOBU)

Having Mr. Tony and Miss Raluca here in Looma Remote Community School was a great time...it was nice having them visit. The time they were here was a bit awkward for me, seeing them in person and not over a screen, but I eventually got comfortable around them. They were lucky in time because we were going to go to New Bridge to catch some Jarrampa (Freshwater prawn). Miss Raluca had a go with the net (didn't go very well, lmao), but at the end of the day, she did her best.

Overall, I enjoyed having them here and showing them our Country, our language and our History. Mr. Tony and Miss Rauca was the kindest people I have ever met.

MADISON, YEAR 9



“Look Out for Baby” Maths Meets Culture in Mullewa

From 19-21 May, SIDE’s Ron Evans and Dianna Tomazos visited Mullewa District High School to run a creative maths activity with students from Years 7-11. The task: build a cardboard baby from rectangular prisms to explore surface area, volume, and body temperature regulation.

Using scaled-down body measurements, students calculated surface area (skin) and volume (body mass) to compare babies and adults. Their findings showed that babies have a much higher surface area-to-volume ratio, meaning they lose heat and dehydrate more quickly—making it crucial to keep them safe in extreme temperatures.

Teacher Tania Dudgeon added a cultural dimension, creating her own cardboard baby and sharing stories about the importance of caring for Aboriginal babies. The lesson combined maths, science, and culture, with students reflecting thoughtfully on their results.

One student noted, “When someone has more surface area compared to volume, they lose heat faster.” Another said, “My baby has a skin area three times greater than an adult.”

A hands-on, meaningful way to bring real-world learning into the classroom.



Visiting Marble Bar

Visiting Marble Bar in Term 2, teachers David and Karen had the opportunity to meet with the students and spend time in the secondary classroom. During a science activity led by David, students hunted around the main school area for vessels (recyclable bottles), rocks, stones, finer gravel, and sand to make a water purifying filter.

Discussions about using charcoal to increase the purity prompted student Joashlynn to recall a small area out the back of the school that was identified the previous day during their environmental and ecological observations. It wasn’t long before Karen had led a small expedition back to the old fire spot where chunks of charcoal was collected then crushed to be added to Kellie-Marie and Kayli-Arah’s water filters.

It was a collaborative effort, and the water was visibly cleaner - although a review of the taste from one rogue brave soul stated it was “definitely much less than five stars!”



SIDE's Registered Training Organisation (RTO)



STUDENTS MIGGY AND DENIKA AT SIDE DORMS

Year 12 VET Students Dive into Real-World Facility Management!

Year 12 VET Sport and Recreation students recently swapped their usual classroom setting for a highly practical and productive afternoon, tackling Module 4: “Maintain Equipment and Facilities” at the SIDE dorms!

Under Michelle’s guidance, the diligent students went hands-on, meticulously inspecting the dormitories. They weren’t just tidying up; they were systematically assessing cleanliness, identifying items needing replenishment, and even determining the precise cleaning products required for various tasks. Working collaboratively and methodically through their checklists, they added valuable insights and information to their records.

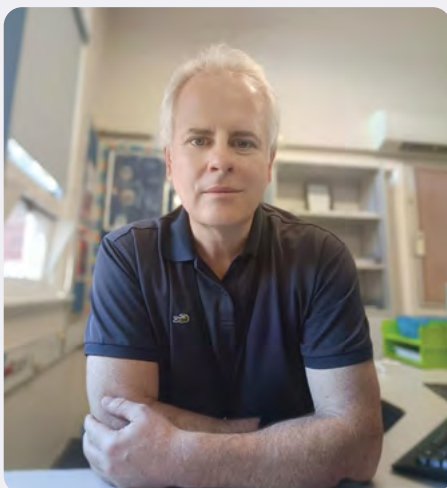
It was a truly insightful and productive exercise, providing our students with invaluable real-world experience. Their dedication and progress were outstanding, demonstrating a fantastic grasp of practical facility management skills. Their trainer and assessor Michelle was incredibly proud of their commitment and the excellent work they put in!

Now Accredited: The Aboriginal Languages Teacher Trainer program

SIDE RTO are proud to announce that in partnership with the Quality Teaching team, they have accredited the renowned Aboriginal Languages Teacher Trainer program and are applying to add this course to scope as 52897WA Certificate III in Teaching Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Languages. By securing accreditation, the course will now provide educators with recognised qualifications, ensuring that Aboriginal Languages can continue to be taught and revitalised in schools and communities.

SIDE Supervisor Training

The RTO has recently lodged a business case and is in the process of developing SIDE Supervisor training. SIDE Supervisor's play a key role in supporting students throughout their educational journey, ensuring they receive consistent guidance and assistance. The course will consist of 3 units from the Nationally recognised CHC30221 Certificate III in School Based Education and Support. The course will equip supervisors with the necessary skills to support student health & safety, positive behaviour and e-learning. It is envisioned this role will offer schools increased flexibility and help students stay engaged by fostering a stable learning environment.



Welcome Back Wayne!

This month SIDE welcomes back Wayne Wilson to the RTO as a full time trainer. Wayne has spent the last 12 months on a secondment to TAFE, where he has been training apprentices in the highly competitive plumbing trade. Wayne's experience in construction, business and technology will be invaluable as the RTO seeks to expand its qualification offerings in the next twelve months.

Science



STUDENTS KEIRA AND SAFIRA WITH TEACHER HESTIA GIBBENS



STUDENT SAFIRA REVISING WITH
TEACHER HESTIA GIBBENS

Chemistry Titrations

Year 12 Chemistry students Safira and Keira visited the Science lab at Leederville to practice some hands-on skills with their teacher Hestia Gibbens.

Safira and Keira used the specialised laboratory equipment to carry out titrations, a procedure that allows chemists to determine the concentrations of unknown acids and bases. This laboratory skill is an essential component of the year 12 ATAR Chemistry course.

While Safira was visiting the SIDE campus, she and Hestia also took the time to sit down together for some individually targeted revision sessions.

Guest Speaker Visit

Physiotherapist Claire Hobson from Southcare Physiotherapy visited SIDE's Year 12 General Human Biology students via Webex in Term 1.

She shared highlights of her career as a physiotherapist, including travelling and working alongside top WA athletes – Claire even worked alongside Sam Kerr during her time at Perth Glory!

Students gained valuable insights into career pathways involving Human Biology, including requirements for pursuing further education and qualifications in this field of study. What an inspiration for our Year 12s to follow as they move into the world of work!

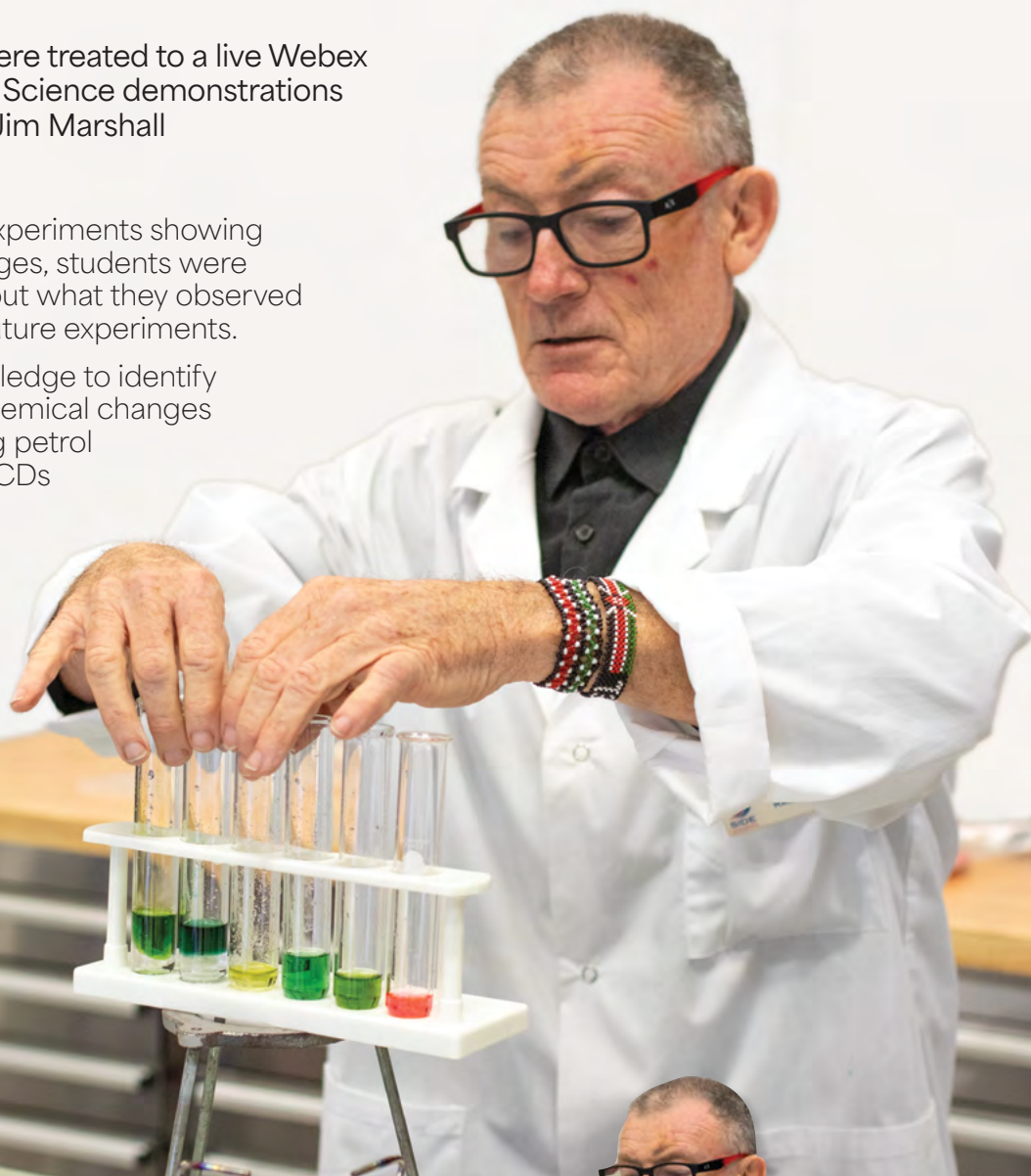


Primary Science Demonstration

Primary school students were treated to a live Webex this term of some amazing Science demonstrations by SIDE Science teachers Jim Marshall and Yolande Cugley.

After a series of hands-on experiments showing physical and chemical changes, students were excited to ask questions about what they observed and share suggestions for future experiments.

Students applied their knowledge to identify examples of physical and chemical changes such as burning wood, using petrol to power cars, and melting CDs (Jim wasn't too keen about melting his CDs though!)



Student Services

Meet the 2025 Team

The start of each school year brings energy, purpose, and teamwork. In Term 1, SIDE Student Services staff worked diligently behind the scenes and out in the field to ensure all students—whether based in the metro area, a remote community, in a bustling country town, or overseas—begin the year confidently and well-supported.

Joining the team this year is Ayden Mackenzie, SIDE's new Student Support Coordinator. Ayden plays a central role in helping referral students transition successfully into SIDE by guiding them through the enrolment process, explaining school expectations, and ensuring they feel supported from the very beginning.

The team also farewelled SIDE psychologist Ashley Ng, who departed in Term 2 to begin an exciting new chapter at Derby District High School. While she will be greatly missed, we're thrilled for Ashley as she continues her professional journey in the Kimberley. We're also saying goodbye to Tess Wheat and Anne Becker, and wish them all the best in their next endeavours.

Regional Coordinators



Jane Bourke
Student Services Manager
Kimberley



Carmel Rankin
Pilbara
Overseas 2 Sports Arts



Craig Campbell
Midwest
Indian Ocean Territories



Sharon Cutten
Home-based (Wheatbelt/Midwest)
Dance 1 (Years 7-9) & Travellers



Dylan Reid
Wheatbelt
Dance 2 (Years 10-12)



Ayden Mackenzie
Student Support



Serena Davie
Goldfields
Metro



Karen Loreck
South West
Overseas 1

Psychologists



Jane Hardy-Atkins
Referral 1
Secondary



Bec Shellabear
Referrals
Engagement

Regional Coordinators on the Road

Our school continues to demonstrate that while students may be learning remotely, they are never alone. Regional Coordinators connect with students, schools, and families—reinforcing SIDE’s commitment to personalised, inclusive education no matter where students live.

PILBARA

Carmel Rankin coordinated multiple teacher visits to Pilbara schools, including Pannawonica, Onslow, Newman, Nullagine, and Tom Price.

These visits allowed teachers to engage directly with students, providing academic support, boosting confidence, and enhancing communication with school staff.

KIMBERLEY

Jane Bourke visited Looma Remote Community School and Fitzroy Valley District High School in Term 1 and East Kimberley College, Wyndham and Halls Creek high schools in Term 2.

“Meeting students on Country gives us a deeper understanding of their learning context,” Jane said. “It also sends a clear message—they’re not on this journey alone.”

GOLDFIELDS

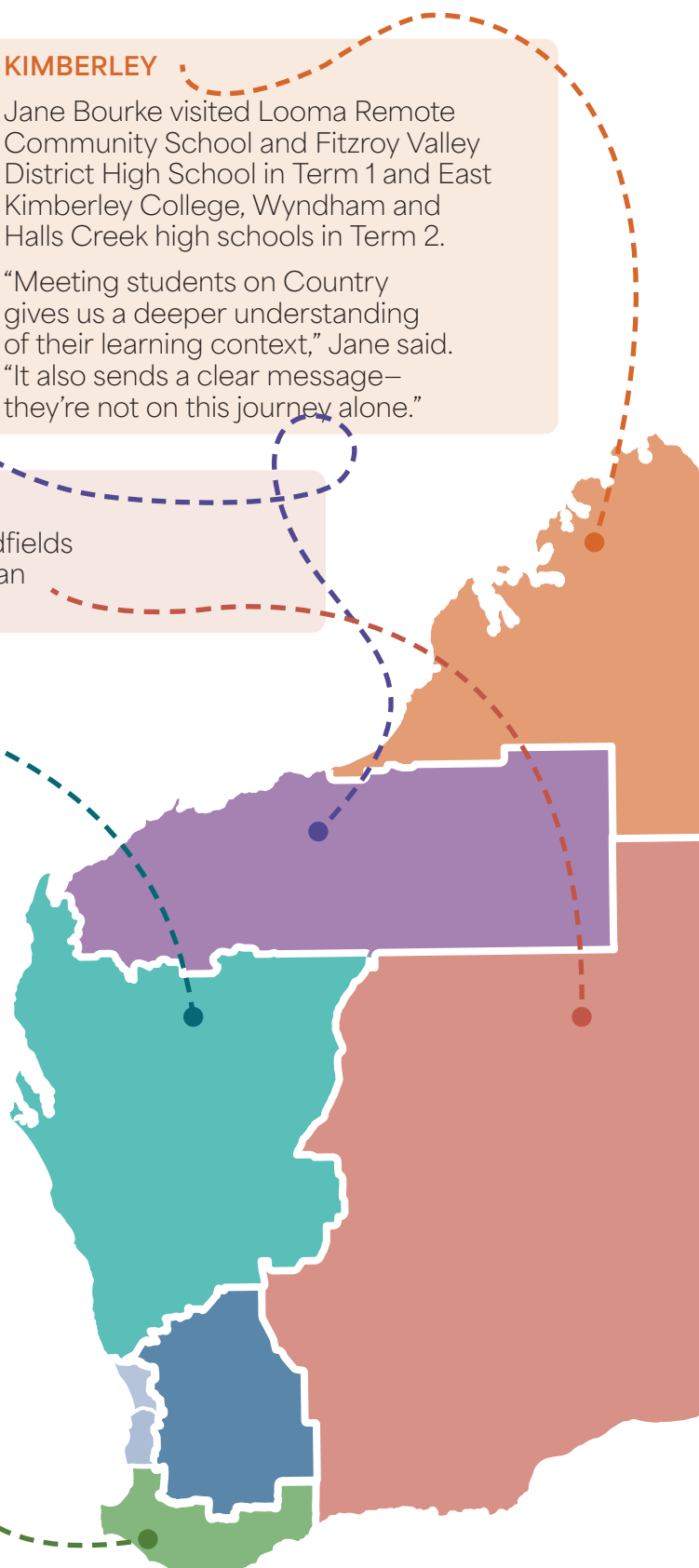
Serena Davie visited students across several Goldfields towns, including Laverton, Leonora, and Norseman in Term 1, and Leinster and Menzies in Term 2.

MIDWEST

Craig Campbell, along with three teachers, visited Shark Bay in Term 1, creating valuable opportunities for face-to-face teaching and support. SIDE delivers all of the secondary courses and subjects at Shark Bay, working closely with teaching supervisors onsite. Visiting staff were treated to homemade damper, a school-wide scavenger hunt, breakfast programs and all the beauty of Gutharraguda (Shark Bay). Craig was particularly impressed by the dedication and innovation of the supervising teachers at Shark Bay, Shaun Morrison and Rebecca Moroney, who used behaviour management tools with fun and interactive digital content.

SOUTHWEST

In the South West, Karen travelled to visit students at several schools in Bunbury in Term 1 and at Northcliffe in Term 2, as well as coordinated SIDE teacher visits.





WONGAN HILLS STUDENTS KRIZIEL AND AROHA WITH SIDE ART TEACHER, RICHARD WU

School Camps at SIDE

Wongan Hills and Dalwallinu District High Schools continue their strong commitment to SIDE, each running a camp once per term at the Leederville campus. These camps are an excellent opportunity for students to receive targeted support from their teachers while fostering strong relationships in a face-to-face environment.

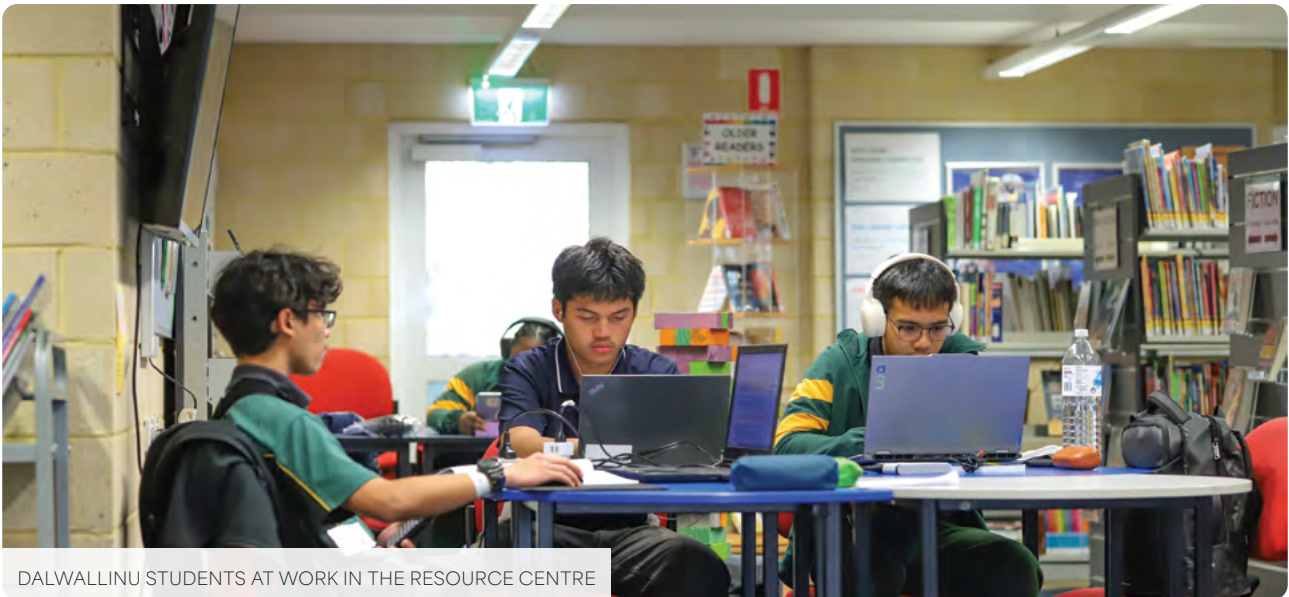
Staff from both schools work closely with Regional Coordinator, Dylan Reid and SIDE teachers to maximise learning outcomes. The most recent camp included a day trip to the zoo and a range of after-hours activities, making it a well-rounded and enriching experience for all.



SAM DICKINS (DALWALLINU SUPERVISOR), SIDE REGIONAL COORDINATOR, DYLAN REID AND LESA SIMPSON (WONGAN HILLS SUPERVISOR)



DALWALLINU STUDENTS WITH SIDE TEACHER, ROBYN SADY



DALWALLINU STUDENTS AT WORK IN THE RESOURCE CENTRE



STUDENTS WITH TECH GRAPHICS TEACHER PHILIP GARNETT



DALWALLINU STUDENT RODRIGO WITH DESIGN & TECHNOLOGIES TEACHER JOHN SICILIANO



DALWALLINU STUDENTS AT PERTH ZOO



(L-R) EALD TEACHER DONELLA GRIECO WITH STUDENTS KIESHA RIAN, JOEY, VICENZO (ENZO) AND ALAIN (MIGGY)

Snapshots of our Students

SIDE students come from all walks of life and learn from just about anywhere! Many students travel Australia with their families, live and learn overseas, or are involved in elite pathways like professional dance, sport, or performance.

Overseas

Relocating to other parts of the world means adjusting to new routines—setting up home study spaces, exploring local culture, and spending leisure time differently. SIDE secondary students are doing just that while temporarily living overseas.

Iqra and Moosa, both in Year 7, are currently based in Korea with their families. Along with their siblings, they've set up study stations and are making the most of the opportunity to experience a new culture.

Also in Korea is Benjamin, Year 9, who is extending his learning by attending a Japanese language class as an extracurricular activity. Here he is pictured writing stories in Japanese as part of the course.



IQRA, YEAR 7



MOOSA, YEAR 7



BENJAMIN, YEAR 9



BEA, YEAR 12, IN ACTION

Meanwhile, in the Philippines, David and Bea are making the most of their international experience too, recently participating in a local Fencing Tournament.

I really enjoy fencing because it combines physical and mental prowess into one sport, and I like how competitive it is. I chose it because as a child, I really liked sword fighting.

DAVID, YEAR 10

It's a unique and underrated sport that offers a different kind of excitement—one you truly feel once you're on the piste. Unlike other sports, it demands a hefty amount of grit, strategy, and patience. Fencing pushes me out of my comfort zone in such an interesting and unpredictable way, and I guess that's one of the reasons why I like it.

BEA, YEAR 12

Dancers

Following a 2024 review, SIDE's on-site dance program now offers stronger face-to-face support, helping upper school students balance WACE and their passion for dance. Partnerships with seven metro dance schools also provide specialised training and competition opportunities.

SIDE Ballet students in Years 8-10 have been busy with the Royal Academy of Dance Festival in Fremantle recently. SIDE currently supports enrolments of students from the following dance schools:

- Dynamic Performing Arts
- Perth Classical Contemporary Coaching
- The Graduate College of Dance
- Youth Ballet WA
- The 8 House
- Kim Baker Ballet Academy
- Perth School of Ballet



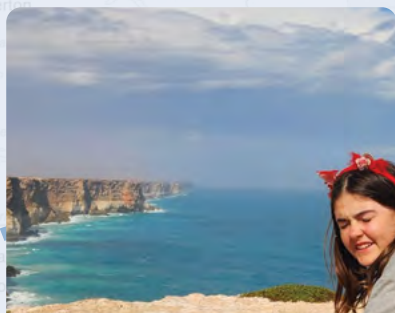
CHLOE, CHARLI AND KIAHNI AT YOUTH BALLET, WA

Travellers

Year 10 student Alice and her family have crossed the WA border and taken in the spectacular views of the cliffs of the Great Australian Bight.

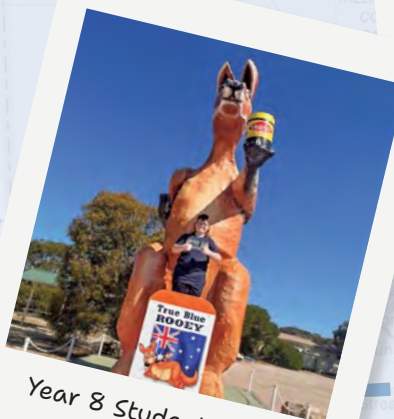


ALICE AT THE SA / WA BORDER



ALICE ON THE NULLARBOR

Year 8 student Jaxon is immersed in an extraordinary outback experience 90km from Cloncurry in Far North Queensland, while his family works with a company contracting to cattle stations across the state. Alongside his SIDE schooling, Jaxon has been helping with camp cooking and learning hands-on about cattle yards, gaining real-world skills every day. The family has travelled through multiple states and is soon heading to Bloodwood Station—1.3 million hectares of rugged country—where they'll join in a cattle muster and continue their Aussie adventure.

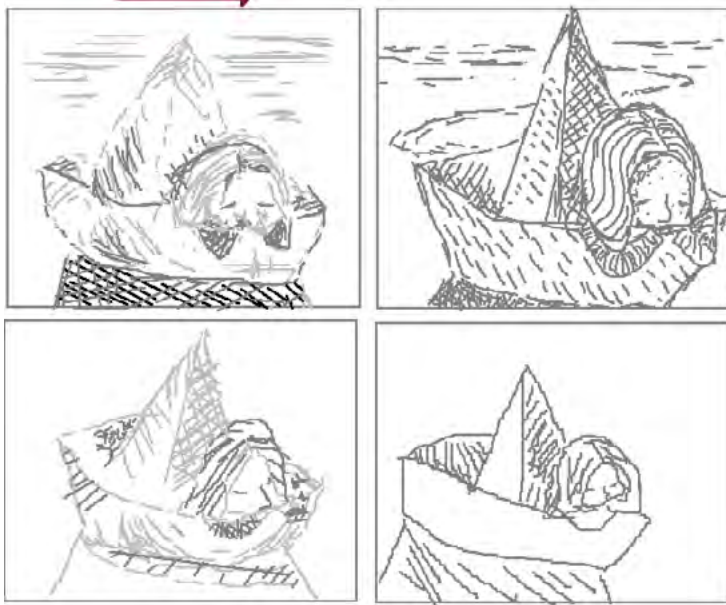
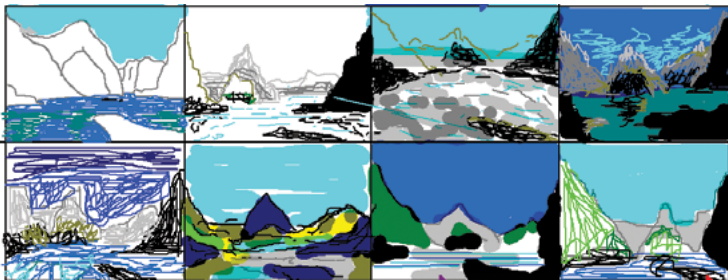


Year 8 Student Jaxon



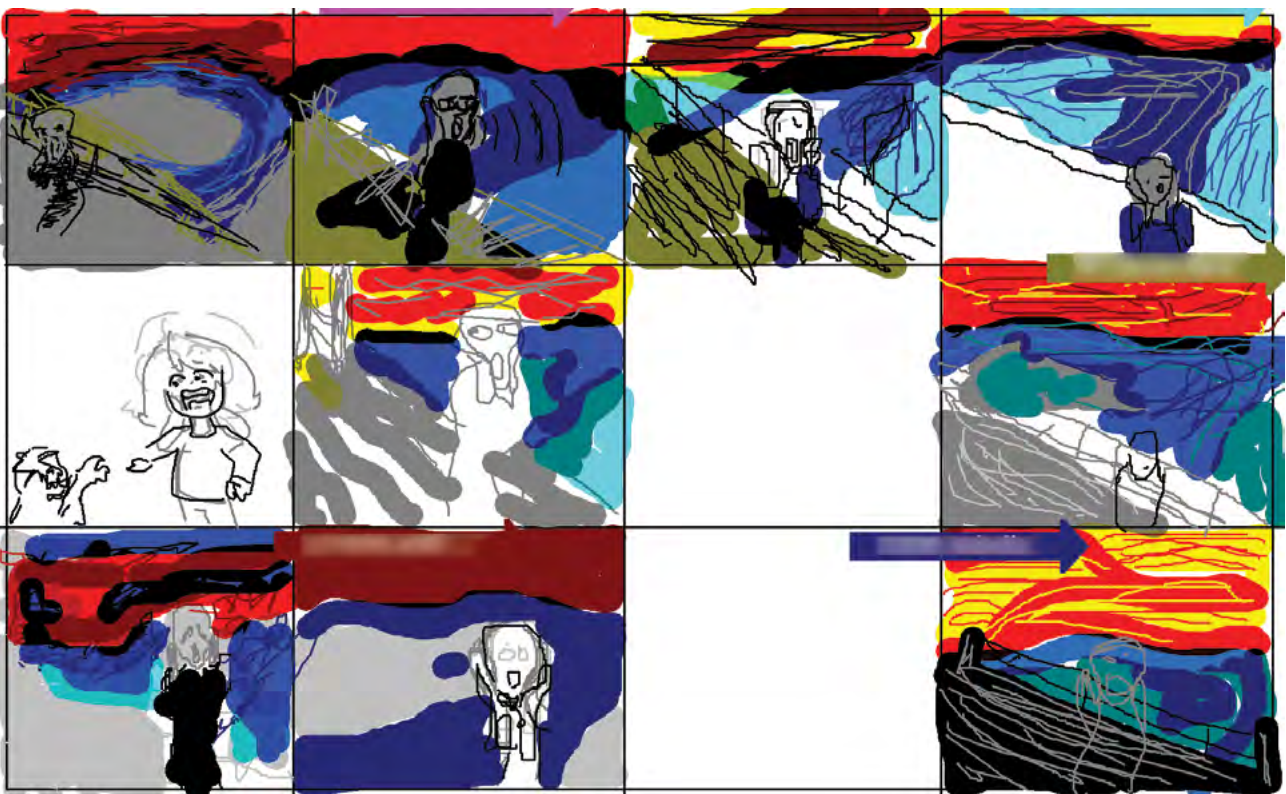
Year 8 Student Jaxon

The Arts



Why Digital Art Skills Matter for Today's Students

In today's digital world, creative skills like digital drawing and design are more important than ever. As schools embrace technology in the classroom, students who can use digital tools to express ideas visually are gaining a real advantage. These skills help teens think creatively, solve problems, and communicate more effectively—whether they're working on a school project or exploring future careers in areas like design, animation, or technology. Digital art also gives students a fun and meaningful way to build confidence and explore their interests. Supporting your students' creativity now can open doors to exciting opportunities in the future.

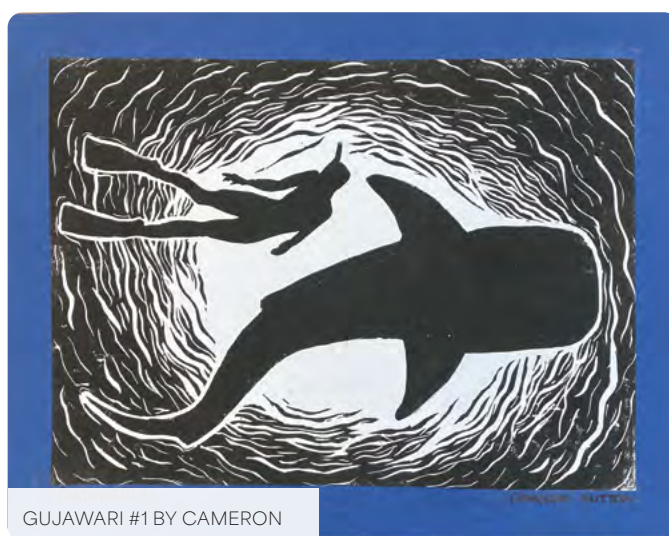




The Power of Lino Printing

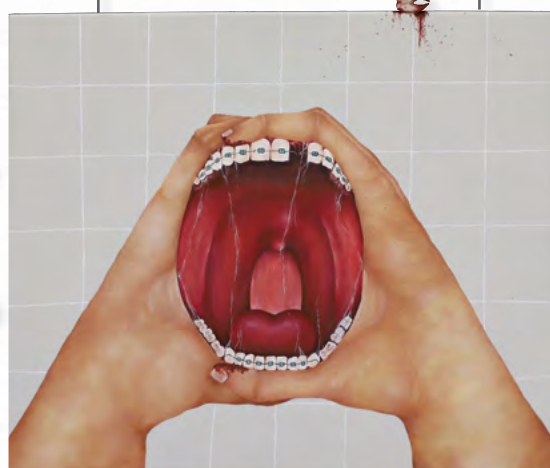
Lino printing is a fantastic way for students to explore creativity through a hands-on, engaging process. By carving and printing their own designs, students learn patience, planning, and attention to detail. The bold, eye-catching results help build confidence and allow each student's unique style to shine.

Here are some of the fantastic results from the Year 12 Art students from last year.



2024 Principal Art Award

In 2024, Principal Paul Mathews was so impressed by the wide range of work, he chose three recipients instead of just one. Well done Rhiannon, Selene and Lilly.

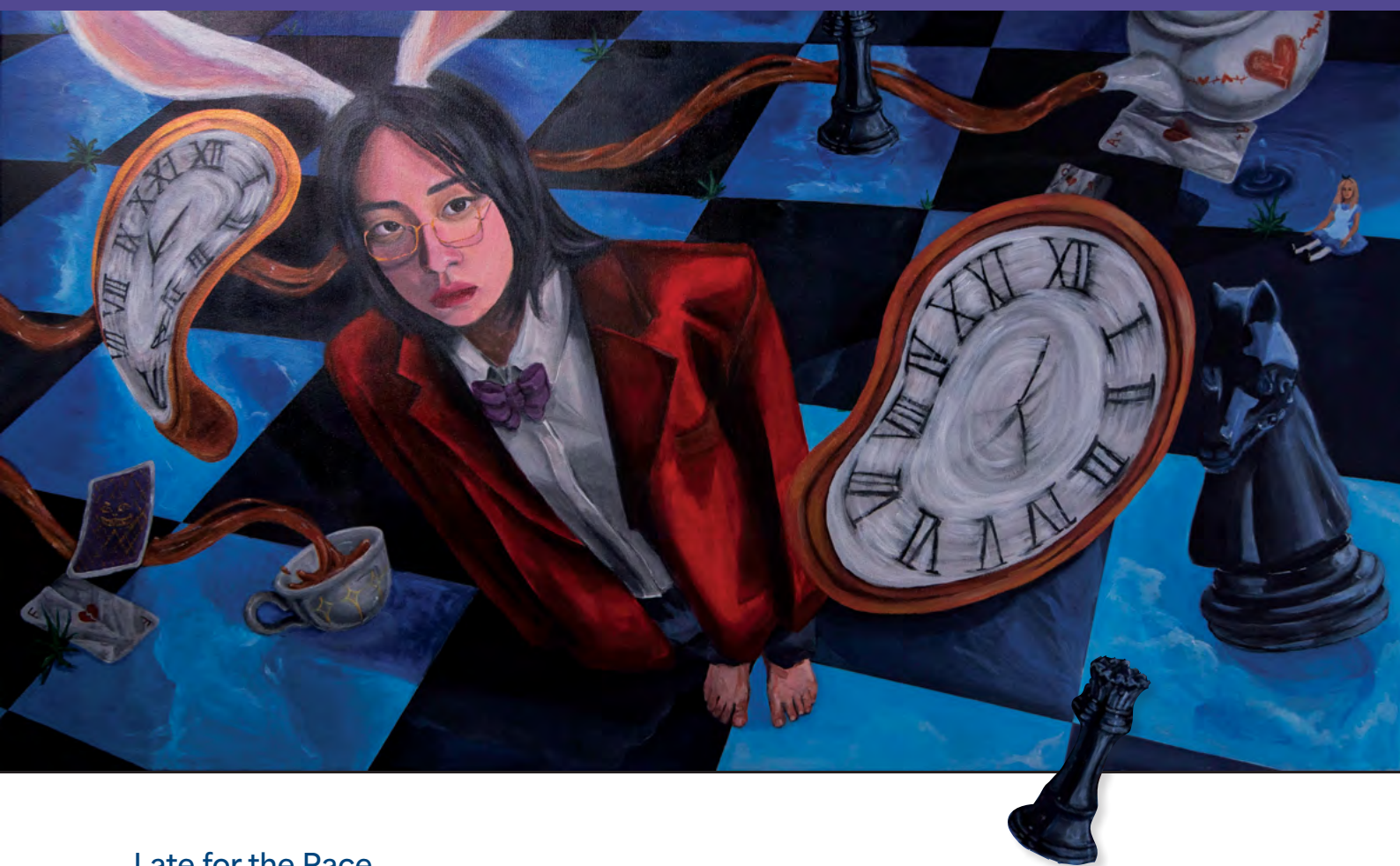


Just Say Aaah

Lilly Stocks | *Oil and Acrylic on canvas with air dry clay*

My artwork explores the tension between control and vulnerability through three panels that reflect my personal experiences with anxiety and insecurity. I've used the image of my own teeth to represent my fear of growing up and losing control, as they've always been a source of struggle for me. The two main canvases show my mouth being held open by faceless hands, symbolising the pressure and judgment I feel from society and even from myself. The dental tools add to the discomfort, showing how invasive these expectations can feel.

The displaced front tooth represents a loss of identity, and the overall composition questions how much of ourselves we lose when we try to meet unrealistic standards. Through this work, I wanted to express how overwhelming it can be to grow up under constant scrutiny, and how that affects the way I see myself.



Late for the Race

Selene Su | *Acrylic on canvas*

Pursuing success is often tied to societal expectations, leaving many questioning its true meaning. As I face Year 12 and looming Uni applications, I reflect on the relentless “race” toward success. ‘Late for the Race’ explores the anxiety of feeling behind in a competition driven by grades and achievements. Inspired by Alice in Wonderland, I portray myself as the White Rabbit—symbolising haste and pressure.

The ill-fitting suit and bare feet reflect youth’s unpreparedness, while motifs like tea, report cards, and chess pieces highlight chaos and societal control. Warped clocks and a high-angle view emphasise vulnerability and time pressure. I urge a redefinition of success—one that values self-discovery over premature responsibility.



Sunset at Mettam's

Rhianon Parker
*Triptych Acrylic paint
on wood panels*

Sunset at Mettam's is a mixed-media acrylic on wood panels exploring the impact of human settlement on a beloved beach. The three panels depict the pristine pre-colonial era, the arrival of Europeans, and the subsequent urban development and environmental degradation.

By combining various painting styles, including Impressionism, I aim to highlight the beauty of nature and the urgent need for its preservation. The inclusion of real-world objects like seashells, glass, and plastic further emphasizes the changing landscape of Mettam's Pool.



Vision

To enhance and expand learning opportunities for Western Australian students, regardless of their circumstances, through high quality, inclusive and culturally responsive educational programs in a blended learning environment.