

August Wrap-Up

2025 Public Education Awards

A huge congratulations to Mrs Ruth Rau who received a Minister's Award for Excellence in Teaching which was presented to her during Public Education Week at the Sydney Town Hall. Mrs Rau was one of only seven teachers recognised across NSW.

Have a read the citation that gained her this award:

Ruth Rau is a dedicated kindergarten teacher who exemplifies excellence in education through her commitment to the Australian Professional Standards for Teachers. Ruth consistently goes above and beyond for her students, demonstrating her knowledge of students and how they learn by tailoring her teaching to meet the individual needs, interests, and developmental stages of each child in her classroom. She builds strong, supportive relationships with her students, fostering a safe and nurturing learning environment that encourages curiosity and confidence. Ruth also exemplifies planning for and implementing effective teaching and learning by designing creative, play-based activities that engage young learners and promote foundational literacy and numeracy skills. Her classroom is inclusive and stimulating. This helps to create and maintain supportive and safe learning environments. Ruth collaborates closely with families and colleagues to ensure a consistent and holistic approach to each child's education. Whether she's arriving early or working on her day off to set up engaging activities, or even staying late to prepare personalised learning materials, Ruth's passion and dedication make a lasting impact. Her work reflects a deep understanding of effective pedagogy and a commitment to nurturing the potential of every student.

Ruth Rau exemplifies excellence in teaching through her strong commitment to collaboration, shared leadership, and continuous professional growth. As part of a team that shares the teaching load in a kindergarten classroom, Ruth plays a pivotal role in planning, delivering, and reflecting on high-quality learning experiences. She works closely with her colleagues to co-design engaging, differentiated lessons that respond to the wide range of developmental needs of all students, ensuring alignment across curriculum areas. Ruth takes initiative in leading targeted literacy and numeracy instruction while also supporting her team in delivering rich, play-based and artistic learning experiences. Her transparent communication and proactive approach foster a cohesive and supportive environment for students, staff and parents.

Ruth also contributes significantly to team capacity-building by sharing evidence-based strategies, mentoring early career teachers, and encouraging open professional dialogue. She engages professionally with colleagues, parents/carers and the community, regularly seeking and offering feedback to improve outcomes for all learners. Ruth's willingness to learn from others and her dedication to shared success make her an invaluable member of the school community. Her collaborative leadership ensures that students benefit from a united, consistent, and nurturing educational experience.

Adam Wynn
Principal



Public Education Week Book Character Parade and Open Classrooms

An excellent day was had by all who were able to come along to our Open Classrooms and our Book Character Parade. It was so fantastic to have so many parents, carers, families and friends join our students and their teachers in their classrooms. A big shout out and thank you to everyone for your spectacular efforts in dressing up and creating such outstanding costumes for our Parade. Our students looked awesome! A great way to ignite some passion and interest in reading.

Adam Wynn
Principal



Principal's Assembly

A big congratulations to our award recipients at our August Principal's Assembly. We are so proud of the effort and attitude of our students. Well done to everyone!



Second Step Program

This month, our schoolwide theme in our Second Step program is Skills for Learning: listening, focusing attention, using self-talk to stay on-task and being assertive when asking for help with a learning task. In our daily interactions and school assembly, we'll be reminding students of these skills, which help students be successful learners.

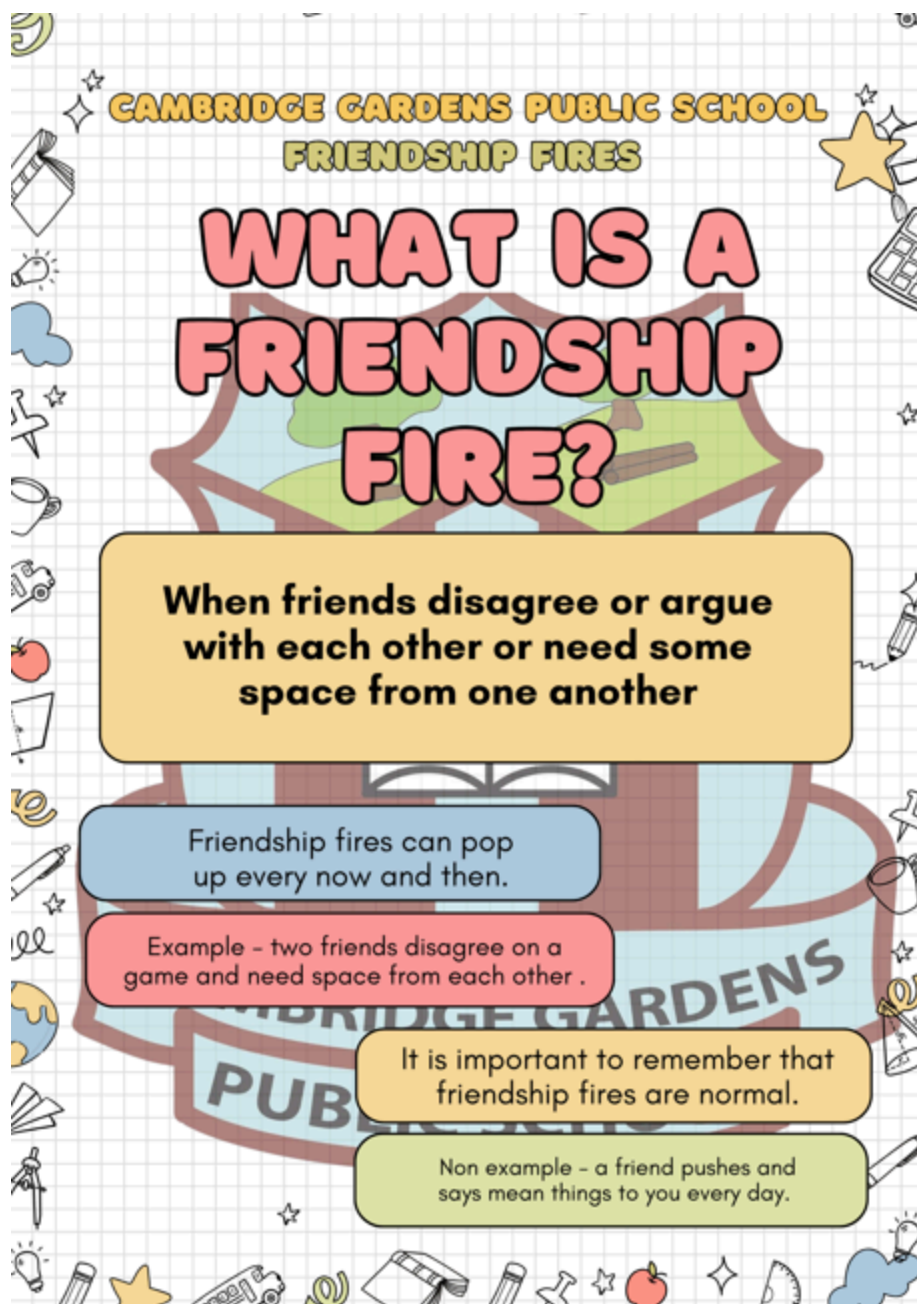
Second Step lessons teach skills for learning. You may be receiving Home Links describing why these skills are important and including fun activities to do with your child to practice them. We hope you enjoy them!

Please tell your child's teacher if you'd like more suggestions about supporting skills for learning at home.

Mrs Alanna Vella and Mrs Casey Hetherington

Universal Language at Cambridge Gardens Public School

This Term, we will be focusing on the phrase 'Friendship Fires'. This is a phrase that staff and students use to explain problems between friends that pop up from time to time. We like to use this phrase, as it helps to normalise that friendships do have ups and down, that taking space from each other is ok and allows for a healthy relationship to resume once the 'fire' settles.



If you hear your child talking about friendship issues, we would encourage you to also use this term!

Warm regards,

Mrs Hetherington

One Country, Many Hearts Collaborative Colouring

New collaborative display brightening up the library completed by sixteen students.

Artists: Louis Bernacki-Brown, Jayden Jenkins, Declan Caruana, Charlotte-Rose Piscopo, Moana Sarader, Jyden Dunn, Jax Elyard, Charlie Pickett, Florence Garland, Harmony Aspinall-Parkes, Breianna Boyd Carroll, Kyra Sutton, Jakobi King, Lilly McLean, Madden Scott, Jack Banger and Mrs Latter



Parent Feedback on Student Reports

At the end of Term 2, we sent home to all parents a Google Document with some questions around our new report format. We had a fantastic response from families so we just want to say thank you for your feedback. We value what you have to say as a community and make decisions based on your responses. 100% of parents who provided feedback found the reports easier to read. We understand that some parents would like more information on the other Key Learning Areas (Science, PDHPE, HSIE and Creative Arts) but the Department of Education has provided new guidelines for us to follow, and that is that teachers are required to comment on English, mathematics and a general comment. We will endeavour to do our best to ensure that teachers are transparent about the learning of these other areas of education, and if your child excels in a certain area of learning outside of English and mathematics this will be evident in the general comment section of the report. Following this feedback, we will be continuing with this new format of reporting in the Semester 2 reports at the end of the year.

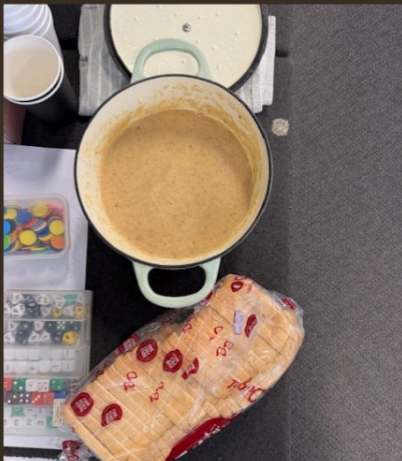
If you have any questions about reports, please contact the school or your classroom teacher.

Warm regards,

Mr Hunter




Garden to Plate



Creamy Roasted Cauliflower Soup

Author: Cassia and Kate Prep Time: 15 minutes Cook Time: 55 minutes
 Total Time: 1 hour 10 minutes Yield: 4 bowls
 ★★★★★ 4.9 from 148 reviews

This cauliflower soup recipe is the best! Roasted cauliflower makes it taste amazing, and a little butter (instead of cream) makes it luxuriously creamy. Recipe yields 4 bowls of soup.



Ingredients

- 1 large head cauliflower (about 2 pounds), cut into bite-size florets
- 3 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil, divided
- Flour sea salt
- 1 small onion, chopped
- 2 cloves garlic, minced or grated
- 4 cups (32 ounces) vegetable broth
- 2 tablespoons unsalted butter
- 1 tablespoon fresh lemon juice, or more if needed
- Scant 1/4 teaspoon ground nutmeg
- For garnish: 2 tablespoons finely chopped fresh flat-leaf parsley, chives and/or green onions

Instructions

- Preheat the oven to 425 degrees Fahrenheit. If desired, line a large, rimmed baking sheet with parchment paper for easy cleanup.
- On the baking sheet, toss the cauliflower with a tablespoon of the olive oil and toss lightly and evenly coated in oil. Arrange the cauliflower in a single layer and sprinkle lightly with salt. Bake until the cauliflower is tender and caramelized on the edges, 25 to 35 minutes, tossing halfway.

Recipe from www.classythrives.com/recipe/creamy-cauliflower-soup-recipe/



Class Thrive

Zone Athletics Carnival

A massive congratulations to all the students who were successful in qualifying for the Zone Athletics Carnival. We attended in less than favourable conditions and our students participated to the best of their ability. I was very proud of the way the children behaved, the spirit they brought and how supportive they were of each other. Our relay teams did very well not to drop the batten in such wet and slippery conditions. It will be a carnival they will never forget – that's for sure!

Special mention to Carter Murphy who placed 6th in the 100m, Lucas Garrard who placed 6th in the Discus, Faith Nelson who placed 3rd in the Shot Put and Elijah De Vos who won the 100m. Elijah was successful in making it to the Regional Athletics Carnival and we wish him all the best for his performance there.

Mrs Nelson





Stage 2 – Our Healthy Kids Program

During Term 3, Stage 2 students participated in the Live, Longer, Stronger – Our Healthy Kids Program, delivered by Aboriginal Health Educators. The program focused on health, wellbeing, and cultural learning, and was linked to 8 key areas of the PDHPE curriculum. Sessions were held on Mondays and were delivered by an Aboriginal Health Educator with support from our teachers.

Each session ran for up to 90 minutes and included a weekly health and wellbeing topic, a physical activity component, and—depending on the session and weather—cultural activities such as traditional dance, weaving, art, didgeridoo, and clapsticks.

The Healthy Kids Program provided students with valuable knowledge and skills to make positive lifestyle choices, while also celebrating and learning about Aboriginal culture. It was a wonderful opportunity for our students to deepen their understanding of both health education and cultural experiences.

Mr Attard
Assistant Principal

Visit from Executive Director, Mrs Cathy Brennan

On Tuesday, 26th August, Cambridge Gardens Public School had the privilege of welcoming our Executive Director, Mrs Cathy Brennan, to our school. As many of you may know, Jakobi in Year 5 has proudly delivered his Multicultural Speech on several occasions, most recently at the Cambridge Park Network Day, where he represented our school.

Mrs Brennan was deeply inspired by Jakobi's powerful words and the authenticity with which he shared his story. Wanting to acknowledge his efforts and the positive impact of his message, she made a special visit to personally congratulate Jakobi. During her visit, Mrs Brennan presented Jakobi with a selection of books relating to dreamtime and Aboriginal stories. The books will be generously donated to our school library, ensuring that Jakobi's achievement continues to inspire not only him but also his peers and future students at Cambridge Gardens Public School.

This moment was a wonderful celebration of student voice, cultural pride, and the importance of sharing our stories within the wider school community.

Mr Attard
Assistant Principal



Kindergarten Calmsley Hill Farm Excursion

Our students had such an exciting time at Calmsley Hill City Farm this week. Here are some of the reflections the students made on their favourite things from the day.

My favourite things at the farm were milking Maggie the cow, the pigs and the fun tractor ride.

Elena - Class Breathe

I had fun at the farm. I liked the tractor ride, Molly the dog show and all the animals. The whipping show was fun!

Dean - Class Breathe

My favourite animal at the farm was the donkeys. I loved the tractor ride!

Eniko - Class Relaxation

I really liked the camels! The tractor ride was a lot of fun. My favourite show was with Molly the dog.

Jacob - Class Relaxation

I really liked petting the goat. The pigs were very cute. My favourite show was Molly the dog. I loved the baby bunny!

Georgia - Sunshine

My favourite thing at the farm was the tractor ride. I loved the dog show about Molly and the whip show. My favourite animals were the donkey and the pigs!

Elijah - Sunshine

Warm regards,

Kindergarten Team



NSW Health School Mobile Dental Program

Recently, our school partnered with NSW Health to deliver the School Mobile Dental Program, which provides free, on-site dental checks and treatment for students. This program is designed to make dental care more accessible for families by bringing qualified dental professionals directly into schools. Students receive preventative care, oral health education, and, where needed, referrals for follow-up treatment at local dental clinics.

We are pleased to share the results from our recent visit:

107 students returned signed consent forms

104 students were seen by the dental team

22 students required further dental treatment and will be contacted by NSW Health dental clinics

This program plays an important role in supporting the health and wellbeing of our students by making sure they have access to quality dental care. We thank our families for their support and NSW Health for providing this valuable service to our school community.

Mr Attard
Dental Program Coordinator

Whole-school Evacuation Drill

On Wednesday 27th August at 10:50am we carried out our mandatory evacuation drill as part of the NSW Department of Education's Health & Safety requirements. These drills help us practise what to do in case of an emergency so that both staff and students know the safest way to exit and where to go.

Regular practise means everyone is more confident, calm, and prepared if a real situation ever happens.

Mr Attard
Assistant Principal

Tasty Green Rice

1 Tbsp olive oil
1 medium onion
4 cloves of garlic
1 bunch chopped fresh spinach
1 cup brown rice
4 cups water
1 cube vegetable stock
1 pinch cayenne pepper (not used)

Method:

Peel and chop the onion and garlic finely.

Place in a saucepan with a small quantity of water and slowly cook until transparent.

Mash up the stock and add to the pot. Add the olive oil and spinach, allowing it to cook further.

Stir in brown rice, and add the 4 cups of water.

Turn the heat up until it begins to boil, then reduce and simmer until all water is absorbed.

Make sure you stir occasionally.



Garden to Plate



Class Thrive



Class Tranquillity



Premier's Debating Challenge

This month saw our Year 5 and Year 6 debating teams have their final two debates. The Year 6 team travelled to Ropes Crossing Public School where they unfortunately lost, and the Year 5 team travelled to Werrington Public School where they also unfortunately lost. The final debate for the year was a momentous clash as the Year 6 debaters came up against the Year 5 debaters, with the Year 6 team looking for their first win for the year and the Year 5 team looking to give themselves a shot at making it to the knockout round if they won.

It was an incredibly close debate with the adjudicator awarding the debate to the Year 6 team, giving them a winning end to their time as debaters at Cambridge Gardens Public School.

I would like to say a big congratulations and thank you to both teams who have worked hard, taken on board all of the training and feedback and given up many of their own play times to improve their debating skills.

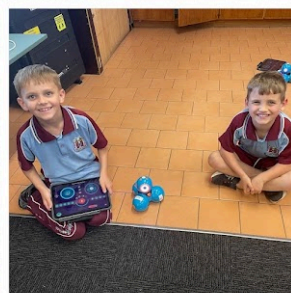
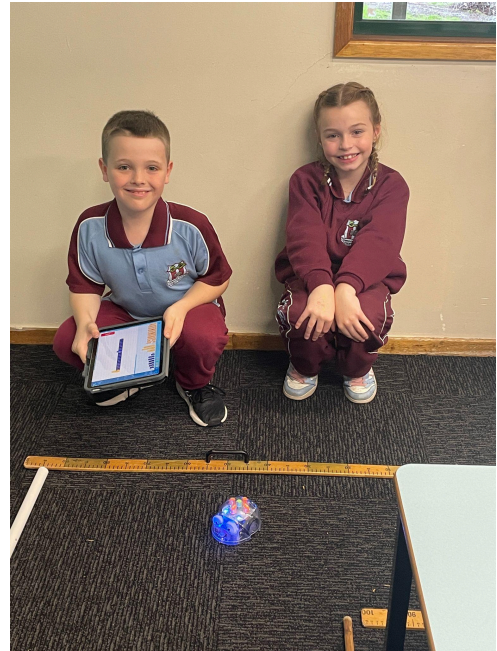
Class Workout Robot Adventures!

Class Workout have been busy going on coding adventures with our Blue-Bots and Dash Robots! Students have been learning the basics of block coding, which is like giving the robots step-by-step instructions by snapping digital "blocks" together, almost like building with LEGO. Each block tells the robot what to do, whether it's moving forward, turning, lighting up, or making a sound.

We've been testing our coding skills by navigating through tricky obstacle courses, which has meant plenty of planning, using strategies, problem solving, and lots of teamwork. The best part? Every challenge has brought plenty of fun, creativity and amazing success!

Class Workout are definitely becoming confident young coders.

Mrs Wright







Warimi from Class Workout!

This year, our class has been proudly taking on the challenge of becoming bilingual learners by learning the Dharug language. The students' enthusiasm has been incredible, they can now greet others with *hello, good morning, good evening*, and even introduce themselves with confidence.

Our Dharug learning has come alive through music and song, clapsticks, and exciting games like *Airport Lines*. These activities have made learning fun, hands-on and memorable. Even more special, some of our students have had the opportunity to support the Kindergarten classes by sharing their Dharug knowledge showing true leadership and community spirit.

We are deeply grateful to Ms Winters for guiding us on this journey and sharing her knowledge with us. Watching Class Workout embrace Dharug language with such respect, pride and joy has been truly inspiring. We look forward to continuing our learning and celebrating the richness of language and culture together.

Mrs Wright



Pyjama Day for Stewart House

A huge thank you to everyone for supporting our Pyjama Day! Together, we raised over \$350 for Stewart House, an incredible effort that will make a real difference.

**Thank you from
The Student Council
& Mrs Wright**

