

Over the past 2 months we have seen amazing photos of places around the world looking very different without the usual hustle and bustle - Times Square in New York City, the canals in Venice etc.....but nothing can compare to the WDSS carpark having so many available car spaces! 😊

As those who are regular visitors to the school will tell you - it is a very rare sight!



## Warragul & District Specialist School Newsletter

Term 2 Issue 8, Tuesday 28th April 2020

Hi all,

I hope you are travelling safe and well during this time of significant change. Week 3 sees us settling into remote and flexible learning as staff and families continue to 'find their way' in managing it. As Matt stated last week, ***Please continue to work closely with your child's teacher and remember to make the most of everyday tasks that present "teachable moments"***.

Just like you, all our staff are 'finding their ways' to manage this time as they juggle teaching their own children, working from home and at times coming into school to supervise students of essential workers. One of the common things we hear is that staff are especially missing the social connections with their students, family and friends. I hope you all had a chance to look at the 'Hello from WDSS staff' sent via text on Friday afternoon. This is one way we can continue to stay connected. Please keep a look out for more videos from staff in the coming weeks.

The photos in the newsletter last week were fabulous and again it is great to see how individual families, students and staff are working and managing their space. It is definitely a time where we need to be mindful of all the individual needs within our home units. Please continue to send through the pics and share the celebrations and successes.

This is the link <http://www.wgldss.vic.edu.au/learning/zones-of-regulation/> to our Zones of Regulation resources on our school website. Talk to your classroom teacher about how you could use these within your home. Using our school values of Be Safe, Be Respectful and Be a Learner are also good to talk about with your student. Remember your classroom teacher is available to provide you with support of how you could do this.

I hope you all Stay Safe, Sane, have a great week and Keep Smiling.

*Chris*



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# HELPFUL TIPS

## Learning at Home

### - Tips from School Psychologist Jenni



Hi everyone - here are a few ideas to help with managing learning at home:

- Don't set your expectations too high
- It is **NOT** expected that students complete **ALL** the work that is being sent home
- The learning packages provided give you a selection to choose from
- Pick out the things that your child is interested in or keen to do and do these first
- It is OK for you to come up with your own ideas for learning activities
- Plan a variety of different activities throughout the day.
- Keep in mind how we structure the day at school with a first, middle and after lunch session
- At WDSS we have a very strong emphasis on life skills so, doing things like planning shopping lists for what you need at home, cooking, household chores like washing clothes or dishes, jobs outside like raking up leaves are all things that you can use to talk about skills students will need in the future.
- Doing things outside in the lovely Autumn weather is a great idea. Go for a walk and count the trees, note how the colours are changing, listen to the sounds, do a chalk drawing or write a message on the foot path outside your house
- Take breaks and do something physical – do some exercise, sing a song, dance or jump around for a while

The following link provides further ideas and information from the Department of Education to assist with learning from home:

<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/parents/learning/Pages/home-learning-supporting-child.aspx>

I miss seeing all our students at school and I look forward to when we get back to our usual routine.

Best wishes everyone,

*Jenni*

# Juniors

## Room 1

Big hello from the room one crew. We're all working very hard at home completing our learning tasks. We miss chatting to each other. Our families are learning new things so that we can access our Learning Online. What a great team!

Stuart the dog has also been coming in to help me when I am at school.

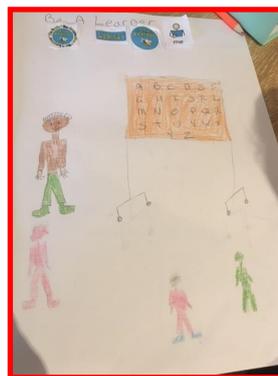
*-Helen*



**Sebastian** has been very busy with his Learning at Home! He completed a fantastic project on being a **SAFE, RESPECTFUL LEARNER**, did work for ANZAC Day and has been keeping fit and healthy riding his new bike around. Well done to Seb!



**Layla** is working really well at home but is missing her Room 1 classmates and friends. She has grown so much since we last saw her!



As we saw last week **Jayden** has a great routine going at home, check out this example of his awesome work!



**Josh** has been a busy bee at home. He has been completing his worksheets and getting lots of fresh air helping mum in the garden. Well done Josh!



# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

We are BIG on celebrating birthdays at WDSS (especially when it involves party food!). The following students had birthdays last week, we hope you had a lovely celebration with your family!



**Bernadette**

Happy 16th!



**Troy**

Happy 16th!



**Sebastian**

Seb had a great 8th Birthday! He got a new bike and loves going for rides with mum!



**Lily**

Lily celebrated a very big birthday milestone - Happy 18th Lily, we can't wait to see what exciting things your future brings!



**Anna**

Happy 17th! Anna was the perfect princess in her new tiara!

There were also quite a few birthdays in the school holidays.....



**Ajay**

Ajay turned 17 at the beginning of the Holidays. He chose crazy hair colours for the family to dye their hair with. He also got some toy story Lego and LOVED putting it together.



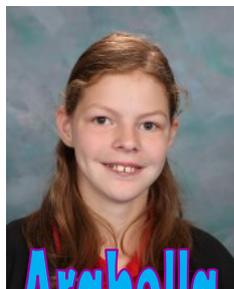
**Lillie**

Happy 16th!



**Kirsten**

Happy 15th!



**Arabella**

Happy 13th!



**Will**

Happy 15th!



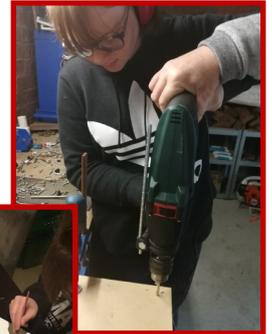
# Learning at Home

Learning from Home is **'different strokes for different folks'**. What works for some does not work for others - what is important is that it works for YOU ! Maths, Literacy and Science can be learnt by playing board games, doing puzzles, cooking, gardening or doing a 'scavenger hunt' while out walking.

Here is a look at what some of our students have been doing at home.....

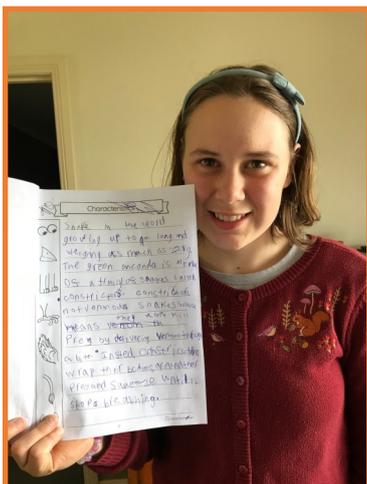


Senior student Bella has a great program for her Learning at Home including: walking her dog Ralph every morning, working on Independent living skills with cooking (yum, looks great Bella!) and making a flower press for her sister, Olivia. Great to see Bella using the skills she has learnt at Baw Baw Skills. Amazing work Bella, we love your positive attitude!

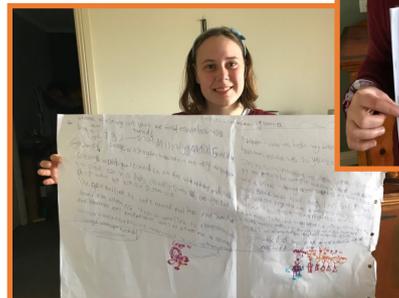


Learning at Home is a great opportunity to learn all sorts of new skills. Sophie from Room 7 learnt to ride a bike! She is doing really well learning from home - completing her work each day, having lots of outside time and play time. Great job Sophie, you're a champion!

Maybe Sophie will work in the Canteen in the future!



Georgia has been doing some amazing work at home! She has written several projects on things that Interest her - including the Presidents of the USA. Wonderful work Georgia - you have proven how great Learning at Home can be when you do your favourite things!





# Learning at Home



Anna is another Senior student who has been keeping her days full with lots of different activities. She was given a bike by a former student and loves the independence it gives her!



Saturday was ANZAC Day and also her birthday. Anna and dad Geoff were up early in their Scout uniforms for their driveway service.



Anna made a wreath, helped her mum make some ANZAC biscuits and loved the Disney Descendants birthday cake

her mum made. When Anna's mum is busy teaching classes online, her sister Bridget steps in as teacher! Awesome work Anna and family!



**Levi**

Levi, Alex, Michael and Jordan from Room 8 have been keeping on task during Learning at Home. Bev is very impressed with how they are coping with the big change to their routines!

One of the things they have been learning is the beginning sounds of objects and pictures.

There has been colouring in, cutting and pasting to help them out.

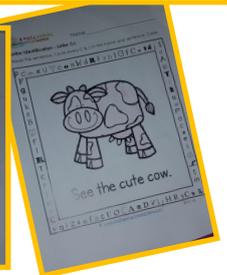
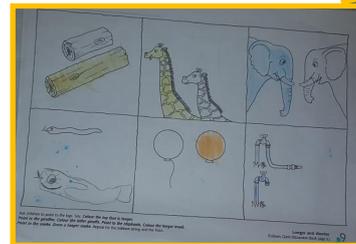


**Alex**

Well done to these awesome learners and their families!



**Michael**

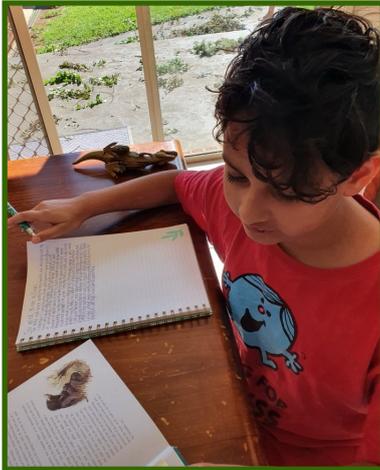


**Jordan**



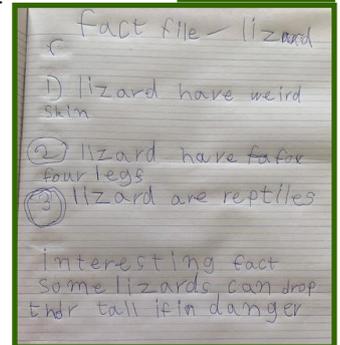


# Learning at Home



Marcus's work is always so neat!

Room 18 students Marcus and James have completed some outstanding work while at home! Working on projects, whilst improving their writing, reading and research skills! James has also been working on his Independent Living Skills by helping his mum as she recovers from surgery - he has been wonderful to have around! Great work Marcus and James!



James's first attempt at writing an informative text! Amazing!



Zac from Room 7 is settling into Learning at Home beautifully, his mum is filling his days with his favourite things including cooking and art. Who wouldn't love that! Teacher Kylie is very happy with how well Zac has adapted to his learning. Keep up the great work Zac!



Lillie is another Senior student who is making the most of Learning at Home by improving her skills in the kitchen!

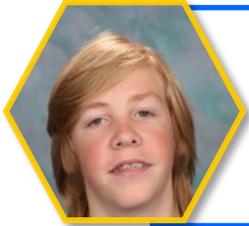
She made these delicious looking chicken pies - YUMMY!! Do you do deliveries Lillie?? Lillie also made the most of being at home by cooking in her PJ's! We are looking forward to Lillie making these pies at school for us!





# Student Awards

## We are Safe, Respectful Learners!



**LIAM**

Being a remarkable and resilient remote **LEARNER** - well done!



**ALEX**

Being a remarkable and resilient remote **LEARNER** - well done!



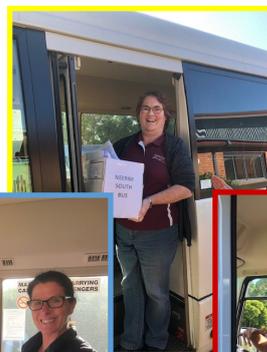
**JORDAN**

Being a remarkable and resilient remote **LEARNER** - well done!

## You've Got Mail

Learning Pack 2 was delivered to Bus Travellers by their school buses yesterday. The buses will continue to make deliveries on Mondays and Thursdays. Teachers will advise parents/carers when items are coming home - please ensure you meet the buses to collect them.

If your student does not travel by bus you will need to contact the school to make arrangements to pick up items.





# WORKING FROM HOME

Whilst our students have started Term 2 with their learning happening remotely, our staff have also been working hard at home to get everything ready and to help your learning run smoothly. Many staff also have children learning from home so it has been quite a busy time!



**Champika**

Champika has been balancing working from home and coming into the school to supervise students whose parents are essential workers. She misses her class greatly and is very impressed with how they are managing at home!



**Andrea**

You're going to need a bigger keyboard with those gloves Andrea!



On her fortnightly day off, Cheryl looks after her grand-daughter. These days are now filled with Learning at Home activities!

During the restrictions Cheryl has been keeping busy doing lots of baking, gardening, walking and going for bike rides.

On ANZAC day Cheryl's family also took part in the dawn driveway service.

My working at home chair is not as comfortable as my work chair so today I moved around the house a bit. Wherever I went I had two little followers - eager to get my attention and still a little confused as to why I was at home!

As I mentioned last week, my son Ben made pasta as part of his Food Technology Program - he had never made it before and it was delicious, he did a great job. I am so proud of how many WDSS students are also learning new things - please send in your photos and stories so we can share them.

- Angie





# OT

Therapy

## Occupational

More fun and easy tips  
from Anne and  
Yvonne.....



### Top TIPS from OT

#### Tip 1: Making a Creative Corner

Most children love being creative.  
Harness this by having a special place set up as a Creative Corner.

You will be surprised how many materials and tools you have around the home already:

**Cereal boxes, Fabric scraps, Paper, Stickers, Ribbon, Sticky tape, String, Crayons, Pencils, Masking tape, Chalk, Paint, Seeds, Dried pasta, Rice, Toilet rolls, Kitchen Rolls, Scissors, Hole punch, Stapler, Egg cartons, Plastic bottles, Bubble wrap, Plastic meat & fruit trays, Mesh fruit bags, Lace, etc**

#### How to do this:

1. Allocate a space at home that you can set up for free play
2. Find some materials and tools that you are comfortable with your child/children having
3. Put **some** of these things in your free play area
4. (Keep messy materials for when you have the time to supervise and/or assist, you want this to be a happy place and time!)
5. Add and take away materials and tools every few days to maintain interest
6. Get the child/children to help pack and clean up at the end of the day
7. Sit back, relax and let the magic happen



#### Tip 2: Have some fun Scavenger Hunting



Scavenger Hunts can take many forms.

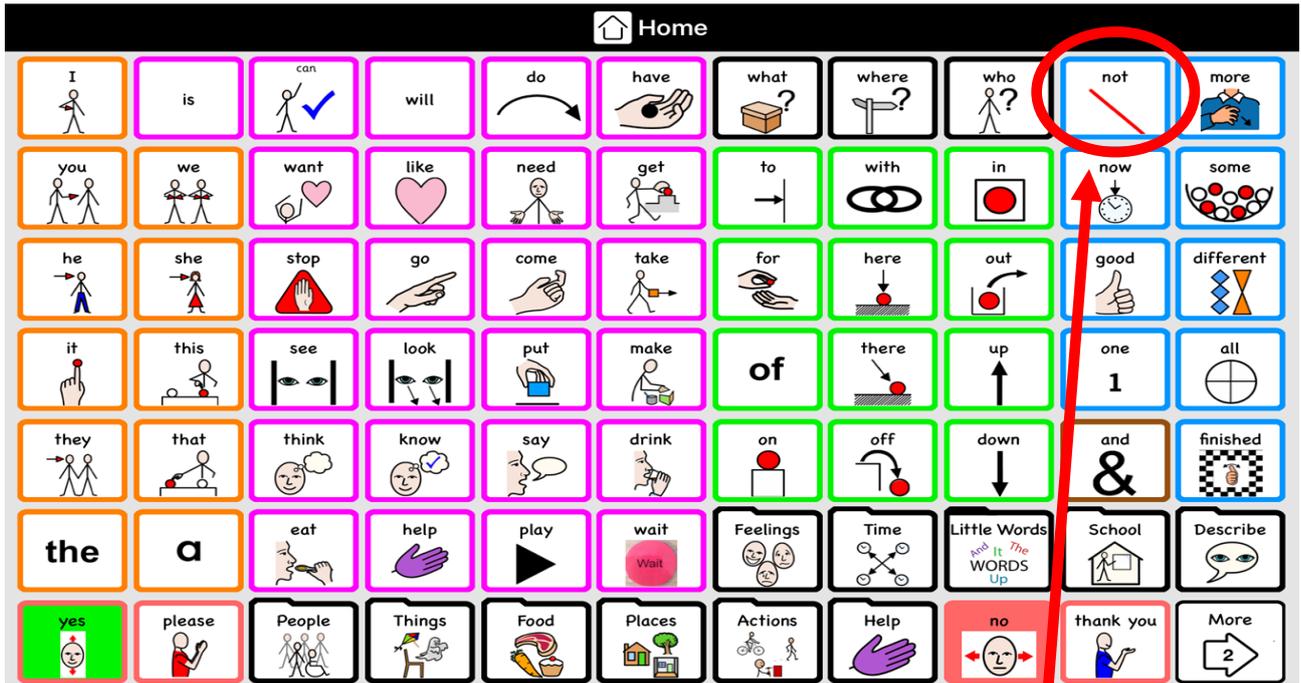
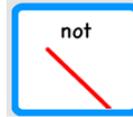
They can be along themes, help develop concepts, be inside or outside and teach new skills  
For this week, use a Scavenger Hunt to find more things for your Creative Corner.

#### How?

Get your child/children helping you to look for more exciting things to create with:

**Autumn leaves, Twigs, Gumnuts, Flowers, Cardboard boxes, Curling tie, Foil, Coloured cardboard scraps, Used envelopes, Gift wrap off cuts, Lolly wrappers, Feathers, Bark, Bottle lids, Elastic, Garden tie, Rubber bands, Ink Stamps, Dried grasses, etc**

## WORD OF THE WEEK:



Location of 'not' on homepage of Proloquo2Go.

On the next pages:

- Find a cut and paste activity on where you can go and where you

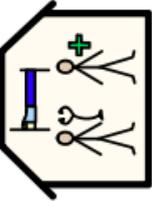
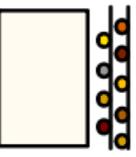
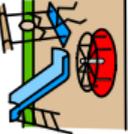
- can not go to keep safe.

- Ideas on using different words when playing with cars

e.g. I want the blue car, not the red car.

|  |  |   |   |
|--|--|---|---|
| <br>Places that are open  | <br>that are open | <br>and we can go.   | <br>we can go.   |
| <br>Places that are closed | <br>that are closed | <br>and we can not go. | <br>we can not go. |

|  |  |
|--|--|
|  |  |
|--|--|

|   |  |   |   |   |
|---|--|---|---|---|
| <br>doctors    | <br>video calls to family | <br>hospital | <br>movies | <br>family |
| <br>playground | <br>go for a walk         | <br>pool     | <br>school | <br>shops  |

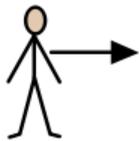


We're not just a Gym... We're a Club!



**FREE**

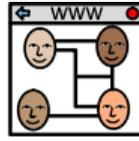
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