



Lowanna Public School

Be safe, be respectful, be a learner

www.lowanna-p.schools.nsw.edu.au

Email: lowanna-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au

Phone: 02 6654 5243

54A Grafton Street, Lowanna NSW 2450

Fax: 02 6654 5370

Principal: Alison Hawken

Week 9 Term 3 – Monday 11/9/2017

Dates to remember

Wednesday 13th September:

LOLA Launch: 11.30-1.00pm

Wednesday 20th September:

K-2 Enrichment day at Ulong

Monday 11th-Friday 15th September:

NAPLAN online testing

Friday 22nd September:

Last day of Term 3. Mufti Day

School Photos:

Some parents have been enquiring as to the date of our school photos, as they had returned their envelope slip that had the date on it.

There is still plenty of time for planning haircuts, as our school photos are on Wednesday 11th October. This is the first week back in Term 4.

LOLA Launch

A big thank you to all families and community members who have returned their RSVP slip for our LOLA launch on



Sneak preview of our mosaic work.

Wednesday. Having numbers makes it easier for Julie to cater for lunch, which will be provided. If you haven't done so already,

please either return the RSVP slip, or alternatively, just give the school a call and let Mrs Wood know if you will be attending.

This will be a major showcase of all our hard work this year, and it would be great to see as many parents as possible to share our successes.

High School Orientation

Last week Bethany attended Coffs Harbour High School as part of her transition to High School. She had lots of firsts on the day: caught the bus to school, moved rooms for different classes, met new people at a new school. She was met by Mrs Smith when she arrived, and was involved in a range of activities. She was very excited to share her experiences with us on her return to school, and the photo below shows she obviously had a great time.



Playground Happenings

Our playground has been a hive of activity over the last week and it has been wonderful to see the children embracing our school rules of Be Safe, Be Respectful and Be

a Learner. We have had fun games of soccer and cricket during recess and lunch and



teachers have had a great time joining in.

Three babies have joined our school and on Friday every student was involved playing together in the cubby and surrounds



setting up shops, houses and even a campfire. The children showed creativity and imagination adding a clothesline (complete with wet washing!), curtains, indoor fireplace, a door and even a backyard fence.



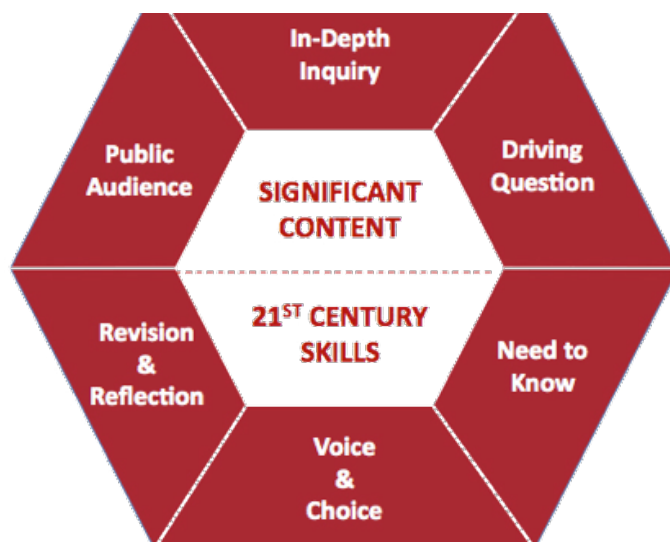
Project Based Learning Overview

With our showcase of our Project Based Learning on Wednesday, the following is just a brief introduction of what we have been doing at Lowanna.

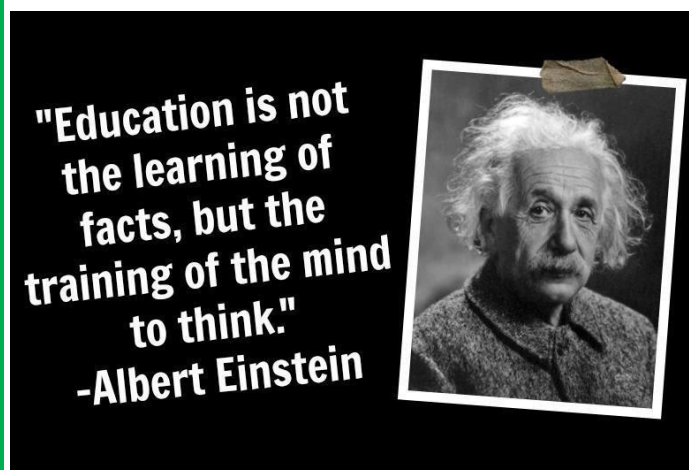
Project-based learning is a fantastic way for kids to get engaged in hands-on, active learning.

As a parent, you may be wondering what it means when your child's teachers say they teach with projects. How much do you know about project-based learning, or PBL? In a nutshell, students learn important content through PBL by investigating questions, generating original ideas, and working collaboratively to produce products that demonstrate what they have learned. This research-based method of teaching and learning is quickly gaining popularity in schools that are focused on preparing students for future challenges.

Perhaps you're wondering if PBL will be demanding enough to help students learn what they need to know. You may remember projects from your own school days that were fun but not very rigorous. Or you may wonder how your children will be graded on projects that involve team effort instead of individual tests.



On Wednesday we will help you understand why PBL is gaining momentum as a way to keep students interested and engaged in school while also helping them develop a deeper understanding of important content, along with essential 21st century skills like critical thinking, communication, and collaboration.



Staying Focused

Pre-adolescence and adolescence are periods of time in which students' capacities to stay focused on the job at hand and ignore distractions are often tested. We have been focusing on assisting our students to build resilient habits to ignore distractions both at school and at home.

Distractions can arise from many things in the classroom and in student's lives:



- not being in the 'learning zone' and their brains having other things competing for their attention.
- natural curiosity often displays itself in class and activities as being easily distracted by what's happening around them in the group; unfortunately this is more times than not treated as a discipline issue.
- a lack of prioritising to accomplish what they set out to do
- their image and how they believe they should act in class to win peer acceptance;
- having fixed mindsets and lacking grit to push themselves to accept and overcome challenges.



Students need to be explicitly taught how to reflect on when and why they are distracted so that they connect to the moment to be mindful of their main distractors. This will enable them to focus on the right things using their strengths.

Our Project Based Learning is a proactive approach to engage our students' curiosity by providing them with opportunities to relate what the class is learning to their interests and their worlds. This may mean that there are quite a number of different directions being pursued in class, but this is

where rich learning occurs and distractions are minimised.



Kind Regards,
Alison Hawken

Softball Carnival

On Friday, students from 3-6 travelled by private transport to Glenreagh Sport and Recreation ground for a fun day of T-Ball and Softball. Students were placed into mixed school groups, giving our students a chance to meet and make friends with children from other schools in the Orara Valley. It was great to see so many smiling faces and acts of sportsmanship throughout the day. A huge thank you once again to parents and carers who could transport children to and from the event. What a wonderful day out! Miss Corfe.

