

Urana Public School



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29th July 2021—Week 3 Term 3

Dear Parents/Grandparents,

Welcome to Term 3 of 2021! I am back in action after a *lovely* break, mostly spent in lockdown in a “red zone” in Sydney, and then in self-isolation once back home! Needless to say, I tested negative for corona virus before returning to school. It is lovely to be back at school and looking at the happy faces of our students.

This term, various planned activities have either been switched to “zoom”, postponed or cancelled due to COVID-19 restrictions. The performance by Tony Bones of the picture book “Little Lighthouse” will be watched via zoom during book week in Week 7. The small schools’ athletics carnival was cancelled, however small schools’ principals shall be meeting on Friday 30th July via zoom to discuss nominations for the Zone Carnival.

At present we are “watching this space” in regard to the snow trip to Fall’s Creek in week 6 and the Canberra excursion in Term 4. As everyone would be aware, we are not able to enter Victoria at present, but also, the Department of Education has barred overnight excursions (anywhere) until further notice. Local field trips are allowed at this stage. The Stewart House trip has also been cancelled (by Stewart House).

However, COVID-19 has not stopped all the action and learning from happening with our school! The theme for science this term is “Marvelous Microorganisms” for Stage 3 students and “Watch it Grow” for Early Stage 1/Stage 1 students. The school has purchased a digital microscope, so students will be able to look very closely at tiny organisms on the big screen. The younger students are incubating fertile (hopefully) hen eggs and they will also be growing meal worms and studying the changes that happen during growth. During history lessons, students have commenced investigating a variety of celebrations and commemorations that are practiced around the world.

During English, Stage 3 students are jointly reading the book “18th Emergency” and have commenced writing their own texts on the themes of exciting emergencies (creative writing) and anti-bullying (persuasive writing). Later on in the term they will be writing informative reports about celebrations and also scientific reports about various experiments. The younger students are studying and enjoying a variety of picture books and creating their own creative, persuasive and informative texts around themes from these books.

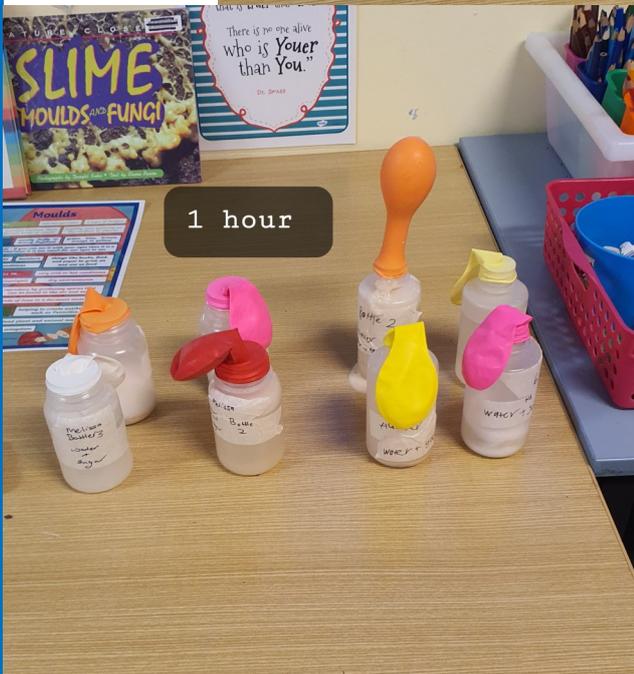
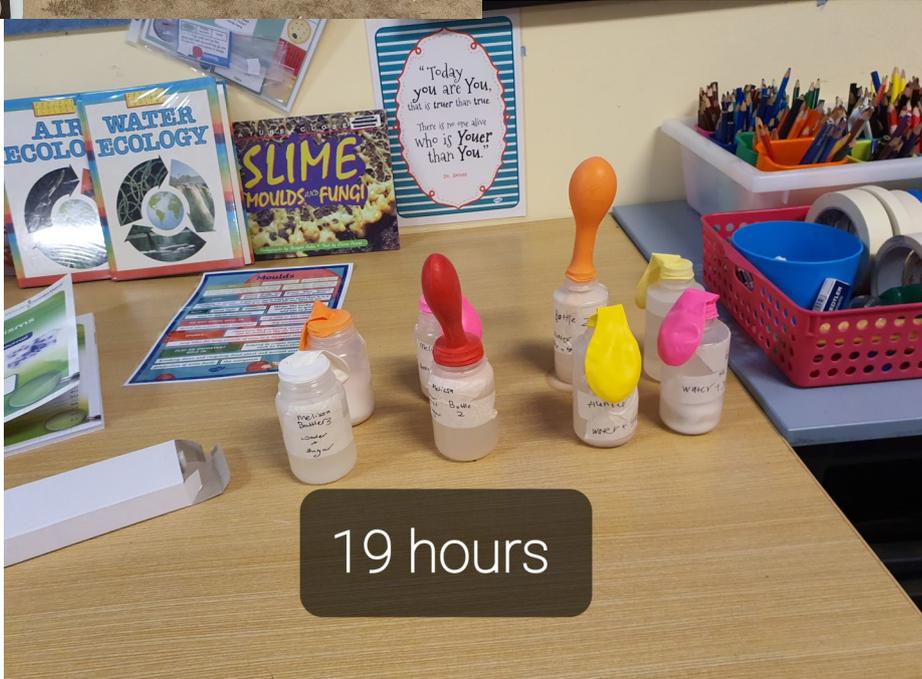
Please note that there will be a P & C meeting on Tuesday 3rd August. All are welcome to attend!

Anita Houldsworth

Principal



SCIENCE



Micro-organisms

We have been doing experiments to understand the properties of yeast. Our first experiment was finding out what yeast needs to grow. Yeast is a living organism. It is sleeping when you buy it at the supermarket. You can buy it wet and dry. We found out you must keep it dry or cool so that it does not wake up before you want to use it. If it does wake up and it does not have the right conditions, it dies.

The first experiment showed us that yeast produces gas (carbon dioxide) when it is mixed with certain ingredients.

The ingredients for the gas are sugar, yeast and water. We had to predict what we thought would happen with the balloons. We were right saying that the yeast makes gas and the gas blows up the balloons. We found that the balloon will have gas in it even if the water is cold, but it only blows up a little bit.

Yesterday we were adding water at different temperatures, to find out what temperature the water should be to wake up the yeast and make it produce gas. We will look at the balloons today. We had to add cold water and warm water and hot water. We also had to add sugar.

Melissa Smith and Hunter Bell

Picture taken from
the new microscope



The death of a giraffe

“I can smell it! It’s not far away!” They creep on their paws like small kittens. Their ears twitching, listening. Their noses are open like a sieve breathing in the delicious smell.

The African jungle had a deluge of rain and all the waterholes and lakes were drowning in mud and slush.

The giraffe was taking a drink out of the flood waterhole, as it bent down, she could sense the lions coming. The giraffe was kicking like CRAZY, then it was free. It ran through the water. The lions came to a halt. They ran around the waterhole, running after the giraffe.

The giraffe was still running. The lions scanned for the giraffe. They spotted her and chased after her. A ranger saw the giraffe struggling, so he fired his gun. The lions ran away. The lions waited patiently and finally the giraffe walked out of nowhere. The lions jumped on her back and on her back legs, knocking it over. The giraffe was still fighting for her life.

The lions ate most of the giraffe. They saved some of the giraffe for the vultures and the rest of other meat eating animals.

By Melissa



The Death of a Group of Wildebeest

Head scanning for trouble. Feet pounding! If I don't act quick I'll be a lion snack. The attacker smells like rotten meat!

The wildebeest and the lions are out in the wet jungle. The lions are very hungry and they're planning to attack the herd of wildebeest.

The lions are starting to close in on the wildebeest like a trap door! So the tough wildebeest cannot get away! The wildebeest heard the lions and the wildebeest did a runner!

The lions start searching for the wildebeests. The lions sniff the wildebeest out. The lions don't waste time and surround the wildebeest. Suddenly the young wildebeest pretends it is dead.

The lions lost interest in the young wildebeest, but some lions see the wildebeest get up. The lion starts chasing the wildebeest! The lion starts to hook in and there was the sound of snapping and crunching bones!! After the horrific chase some wildebeest turned into a lion snack! Other wildebeest got away.

By Hunter



Weeds to Watch

We had a guest teacher from Petaurus Education Group and a Weed join us for a lesson about Weeds TO Watch in our local area.

We learned about SEVEN priority weeds in our area - these are weeds that are very invasive and cause lots of problems to farmers and waterways and threaten biodiversity .

We learn that being a Weed Warrior is in our hands. These are the things we can do to help be a Weed Warrior.

1. **Know your weeds** – learn what they look like by using the Weedwise app or website, ID book.
2. **Don't move cars, boats, stock or machinery through infestations** – look for the red markers on the road.
3. **Inspect and Clean all equipment** - especially when moving from one site to another.
4. **Report suspicious plants** – plants that are taking over.
5. **Do your part at Work** – clean equipment.
6. **Do your part at Play** – look out for suspicious plants when bushwalking or camping.
7. **Do your part at Home** – don't throw garden clippings in the bush and look out for suspicious plants.

It's in your hands

Find out more about what we can do to win the war against weeds by clicking on the image.

