“You must understand the whole of life, not just one little part of it. That is why you must read, that is why you must look at the skies, that is why you must sing and dance, and write poems and suffer and understand, for all that is life.”

Jiddu Krishnamurti

Term 1

With the first term nearly complete, it is an opportune time to reflect on our accomplishments and look forward to the term ahead.

We now resemble less a mixture of two year levels and more a whole class of cooperating and supporting children. The daily and weekly rhythms have been well established, with learning routines becoming increasingly more focused and targeted.

Australian history dominated our classroom program through the term. We heard traditional oral stories of the local Boon Wurrung People (passed down through thousands of years), which were complimented by our recent experience at Mount Eliza Beach with local expert on Aboriginal culture, Jamie Simpson.

Investigation of the arrival of Willem Janszoon, the first European to sail to Australian shores, highlighted the excitement and dangers of exploration of the seas. While Captain Cook’s discovery, mapping and claiming of the east coast for England revealed the motives of world powers at the time.

Perseverance and determination shown by early settlers in the face of difficult conditions was a focus for our study of early Australian colonies, particularly focussing on the exploits of Pemulwuy, William Buckley and John Batman.

Many curriculum areas have been integrated with our history studies. Reading consisted of working with narratives, recounts and information texts, concentrating on strategies for accuracy, fluency and comprehension. This was mirrored in our writing, working on the structure of these different text types. Our mathematics was a combination of mental strategies, as well as concepts that fit naturally with our topics. For example, Captain Cook’s navigation around the world led neatly into measuring angles when constructing simple sextants.