Education Week 2020

Education Week is an annual celebration of NSW public education and the achievements of local schools and students. This year, Education Week will run from Monday 3 August to Friday 7 August 2020 and the theme is ‘Learning Together’.

In this year of bushfires, floods and COVID-19, the key messages of Education Week are:

**Schools are the cornerstone of communities**
Parents and carers are our partners in learning. Schools and families benefit from strong, respectful relationships where responsibility for student learning is shared.

**Change and resilience**
Our teachers and students are lifelong learners, collaborating in a positive learning environment to achieve their best. Learning together makes us strong and creates resilient communities.

**Connect better and learn together**
Our school staff are dedicated professionals who know, value and care for all students.

At Bridge Road School we learn together within and beyond the school gates. We have a strong commitment to supporting our communities, our families, our home schools and most importantly our students. Staff at Bridge Road School are constantly ‘Learning Together’ to improve student outcomes and foster their wellbeing.

Bridge Road School has a range of programs that help students build resilience and ‘Learn Together’
Bridge Road Buddies

Bridge Road Buddies are aligned with strategies that are designed to help our students build resilience and become safe, respectful and responsible individuals. The Buddy Program is promoted during class, assemblies and debrief, where students are explicitly taught the strategies to manage challenging situations. Students are encouraged to wear the Buddy bracelets as a reminder to use the strategies throughout the day. Students have created some of their own buddies during the teaching and learning of the Bridge Road Buddies.

Fitness Program

Each morning for 30 minutes a day, students participate in a six-rotation fitness circuit. Fitness is a planned approach to wellbeing. By 9:30am students have had the opportunity to positively interact with all staff. We believe that students need a variety of identified staff members who can provide advice, support and assistance. Fitness allows staff and students to build strong relationships, as well as encouraging and supporting students to be active and build gross motor skills across a variety of skill sets. During fitness, students not only improve their own skills but have the opportunity to develop the strategies to work in a team, take turns, support and encourage their peers and accept winning and losing.

Integrated Creative Arts and Social Skills Program

Bridge Road School has developed a whole school wellbeing program which integrates the Creative Arts and Social Skills programs and is delivered by our RFF teacher. The program reinforces concepts of emotions and behaviour management strategies through mediums such as art. This approach encourages a positive calm state of mind. It promotes the use of positive strategies for students to use when they are in crisis. These strategies are reinforced by staff daily. Students are given opportunities to practice strategies and use art to express their emotions. This approach has enabled students to transfer the strategies learned at Bridge Road into their Home School environments.

Passion Projects

Passion Projects allow the students to direct their learning through exploration of their own interests and passions. The idea of facilitating learning through student direction greatly increases student participation and promotes interest in others. Passion Projects comprise of smaller groups of students, where each student has the option to choose the area they would like to explore. It is an effective way of re-engaging the dis-engaged learner through student voice.
S.T.E.M and S.T.E.A.M
Three times a term, the whole school comes together for a STEM/ STEAM Challenge. The STEM/ STEAM challenges are part of the teaching and learning programs within the school, but are also an opportunity for 42 students to work in one space. Students are encouraged to work with peers to solve problems. It is an opportunity for peer tutoring, direct instruction, problem solving and social skill development. Furthermore, it is an opportunity for students to build relationships with staff other than their classroom teachers. The whole school STEM/ STEAM challenge is an evidence-based teaching practice that has high expectations of student participation, understanding and problem solving. It is an opportunity for students to develop their knowledge, understanding and skills in a wide variety of areas.

Wellbeing Wednesday
Wellbeing Wednesday is a strategic and planned approach to develop whole school wellbeing, to ensure students can connect, succeed, thrive and learn. It is an opportunity for staff to assist students to build self-esteem and promote a positive self-concept. It is a whole school teaching and learning program, promoting healthy eating and mindfulness and occurs three times a term. It is an opportunity for students and staff to build relationships while engaging in PDHPE outcomes. Wellbeing Wednesday is a school wide, collective responsibility for promoting the well-being of all students at Bridge Road School.

Student Debrief
Each day at 2.10pm students come together to reflect on their individual and collective achievements. The goal at Bridge Road School is to, successfully reintegrate students into their local Home School full time. Student debrief is a daily opportunity for student self-reflection. Students can identify their daily individual and collective behavioural and social targets. Students articulate their strengths and gaps in social, emotional and academic achievement. Student debrief is an individual and internal process to monitor personal growth. During debrief, students will identify their behaviour path for that day. This is a daily opportunity for students to take ownership of their behaviour, discuss with staff how they can manage this behaviour more effectively and what strategies they could have used or should use when dealing with similar situations in future.

At the conclusion of debrief, the aim is for all students to go home with the understanding that each day is a new day at Bridge Road School.

Each day this week we will posting photos to our Facebook page celebrating our students ‘Learning Together’

Hopefully very soon we will be able to reopen our school to visitors, so you can see firsthand how we ‘Learn Together’ at Bridge Road School.

Michelle Gomes
Principal
Focus of the Week

Respect

Star Award

MERIT AWARD

Bronze Award

FULL GREEN WEEK

Students who had a FULL GREEN WEEK visited Camperdown park with Renny

Important

- Monday 31st August to Friday 4th September - Review meetings
- Friday 25th September - Last day of term 3, whole school lunch and games
At Bridge Road School we work to cultivate children’s concern for others because it’s fundamentally the right thing to do, and also because when children can empathize with and take responsibility for others, they’re likely to have better relationships throughout their life, and strong relationships are a key ingredient of happiness.

Children take their cues from those people around them. If children are around respectful adults, they’re more likely to show respect and when we speak with respect to our students, they learn respect. During the week teachers and students will be focusing on respecting yourself, respecting others, respect for learning, respect for property, using good manners, listening to others and allowing everyone to learn.

**Some tips on teaching respect and curbing disrespect**

**Model Respect:** If we want child to show respect, we mush show respect too

**Expect Respect:** By ensuring our students understand respect and what is expected of them they have clear boundaries of what is acceptable and unacceptable behaviour for themselves and towards those around them.

**Teach Respect:** We teach the students the tools they need to be able to have respect for themselves and those around them.

**Praise Respect:** When we see or hear students using respectful language and making respectful choices, we acknowledge it and praise them for making positive respectful decisions.

**Discussing Respect:** Teachers are always making note of times when they have observed students using respectful or disrespectful language or behaviour. They discuss with students the choices they made and the outcome of their choices.

**Correct it:** Teachers at Bridge Road are strong, firm and direct when teaching respect, however at the same time they are respectful while correcting the behaviour.

**Acknowledge Respect:** It is incredibly important not to let things slide: Teachers and staff are sure to notice when respectful behaviour is being exhibited and make sure they call students on disrespectful behaviour!

**Understand Respect:** Children are growing and learning every day and sometimes word choice and behavioural decisions are made because they don not have the correct words or behaviour to relay “I’m tired”, “I’m frustrated”, or “I’m angry.”

**Reinforce Respect:** We try to remind students of their good decisions they have made so they remember how it felt, the praise they received, and the overall experience of being respectful.
Reminder: Any change of details contact the school, this is our way of keeping in touch with you. Please let us know if you would like to add someone to our email list so they can receive any important information regarding your child.

Contacting BRS

If you are wanting to discuss a matter with your child’s teacher, please email the school at:
bridgerd-s.school@det.nsw.edu.au

Emails will be forwarded on to the appropriate teacher, who will be in contact with you as soon as possible. In the event of an emergency, please contact the school office on:
9519 8389

Absent Days

If your child is sick it is important that you notify the school and the driver of your child’s taxi. The days your child is at their home school, if they are not attending it is important that you contact both Bridge Road and the home school as early as possible. Both teachers and support officers visit students each Thursday, some travel a long way to get to the home schools and arriving to find students are absent with no notice can be very frustrating.

Electronic Devices

All electronic devices bought to Bridge Road School must be handed into staff on arrival. Devices will be returned at the end of the school day. We have informed all students of this rule and ask that parents please remind their child each morning that this is a school rule and needs to be followed.

Voluntary Contributions

Thank you to our Bridge Road families for their ongoing support & contributions in helping us improve our school. We are seeking donation of $10 per child each term, should you require a receipt for any voluntary donations please contact the office on 9519 8389. All the voluntary contributions will help our school to provide some additional quality resources to support our students. Should you wish to donate please place donation of $10 in an envelope and send to school with your child. All donations are greatly appreciated.

Family Focus Friday

Twice a term, families are invited to Bridge Road School to participate in Family Focus Fridays. This event is an opportunity for families to come together to debrief, reflect and evaluate school and family practices. Family Focus Fridays are led by the school counsellor and are an opportunity for open, honest discussion about complex students and their unique needs. Many families are not local residents but will travel over 40km to access Family Focus Fridays at Bridge Road School. The program is highly valued by the families that attend which demonstrates its importance.

Find us on Facebook

Bridge Road School likes to use Facebook as a means to share with our families and community, all of the amazing things our students do. You can find photos of your child participating in Wellbeing Wednesday, engaged in a STEAM activity, or receiving a weekly award. So jump online and give Bridge Road School a follow and a like.

Another great source of information is our school website. Here, you will find newsletters, excursion photos, and helpful information about our school.