

UPCOMING DATES

EDITION 172

Monday 21st – 25th August Book Week Theme: Read, Grow, Inspire Tuesday 22nd August Book Character Parade Tuesday 29th August Wattle Kanyana Excursion Thursday 31st August Children's House (Father's Day) Morning Tea Friday 1st September Wattle (Father's Day) Morning Tea



From the Principal

Dear Treetops Community,

For most of you, I have had the opportunity to share what 'Montessori Inspired' means when we toured the school prior to you starting. It is a culture Treetops has had for a long time, but we have only relatively recently defined what it means for our community.

Treetops is unlike almost all other Montessori schools in that we use conventional curricula for our students from Pre-Primary through to Year 12. Whilst our Kindergarten programmes are classically Montessori, the rest of our school is best described as conventional schooling delivered in a highly personalised (Montessori Inspired) format. The graphic below illustrates our approach.



Practically, this means that Treetops graduates have the benefit of a widely recognised academic pathway, which has been delivered to them in such a way that the work is always at once stimulating and readily achievable. It is rare for any of our students from the ages of three through to eighteen to be either bored or overwhelmed by their workloads. This is a stark contrast to other mainstream schools in WA and is one of our key points of difference.

I will be highlighting other areas of what it means to be 'Montessori Inspired' in later editions of Clippings, along with staff reflections on their Treetops experience.

Stuart Harris

PrimarySchool

Marri

This term in Science, the Marri students have been investigating the three states of matter: solids, liquids, and gases. They have learnt all about how the molecules interact in each state, their levels of energy, and that we must add or remove heat in order to facilitate a change of state.

To help support their learning in this, the students planned and conducted an experiment that ran over two days to determine whether milk, water, oil, honey, or vinegar would freeze first when heat was removed from them. We also linked our learning in English and Science by writing a procedural text for Fluffy Slime. We learned that when we mixed our ingredients for slime together a chemical reaction happens that creates slime, a non-Newtonian fluid.





In Geography this term, students have been exploring the states, capital cities, and regions of Australia. During this work they have been creating their own map of Australia using their growing knowledge of scale, map keys, and compass roses. They have then applied their new learning to create a map from their imagination over the past two weeks which we are now having fun aging by applying a tea stain, ripping the edges, and crinkling the pages.

Caitlin Morey





Subjects

Art

In Art and Design & Technology, Jarrah and Mallee students are exploring different methods to combine drawing and photography. They started by learning camera techniques and 'Point of View', then testing different reproduction technologies and drawing methods. Students are now planning and researching for their final projects.













Wandoo students are studying Political Art and Design this semester. They brainstormed different political and social topics in groups and created design ideas. They are now researching and selecting their individual topic of interest to produce both a final Art and Design & Technology outcome. One will be a 'gallery' artwork in any chosen media, the other a design concept that could be reproduced such as posters, comics, political memes or a mural.

Peter Zylstra







Psychology

In the first few weeks of Term 3, our budding Year 11 and 12 Psychology students spent time discovering how our brains worked through play-based activities. The students discovered that the frontal, parietal, temporal, and occipital lobes each control different parts of our personality, our senses, and our comprehension. They made paper brain hats to demonstrate the layout of the four lobes of the brain and the left and right hemispheres. They then used different coloured play-doh to build the key structures of the brain such as the cerebrum, the cerebral cortex, the thalmus, the hippocampus, and the cerebellum.







The students then eagerly took their play-doh brains to show the Karri class and explained to them how the various areas of the brain function. They demonstrated how these structures of the brain control all of our thinking, movements, memory formations, sensory and emotional processing, and hormones, as well as our unconscious activities.



It was wonderful to see the Karri students ask questions about the play-doh brain structures and have the Psychology students use the knowledge stored in their hippocampus to answer. Ironically, learning about how the brain works also involves using those same areas of the brain!

Marie Sherwood









Science

Happy Science Week!

The Year 7 & 8 students are currently studying mixtures and separation techniques. They have completed several lab experiments including one on making an emulsion. Here are the Mallee students making successful emulsions from mustard and detergent. We all agreed that the mustard one would be more delicious.

Some students also engaged in a Socratic seminar on 'Types of Mixtures'. This seminar provided students with a platform to engage in thoughtful discussions and delve into the realm of science.







In Humanities and Social Sciences, students are studying Ancient Greece and so I thought it would be a perfect time to highlight this famous teaching method. At the heart of a Socratic Seminar lies the belief that meaningful learning emerges from dialogue. Guided by their teachers, students gathered in a circle to discuss various types of mixtures. The environment fostered respectful exchanges, allowing students to question, ponder, and share their perspectives.





Students delved into types of mixtures, separation techniques, and real-world applications of these techniques. The activity practised valuable skills beyond scientific knowledge. Students refined their critical thinking as they evaluated mixtures' characteristics and relevance. Effective communication skills were also highlighted.

Initially, students were a bit apprehensive about this type of activity but afterward reflected that they learned more when speaking to their classmates. As a class, we decided we would try this again using it as a review activity.



Kim Steimer

Community News



Inspire in 5 - Perth!

Year 7-9 students are invited to this **FREE** careers event!

Women in STEM Mentors will present their career and education journey in *just 5 minutes!*

Mount Lawley SHS | Monday 11th September | 6.00 - 7.45 pm

Learn more and register: innovatorsteaparty.org/inspire-in-5-perth-years-7-9/

This event is proudly supported by:











inspiring stories of reading success.





ATTENTION ALL 4 TO 13-YEAR-OLD BOYS AND GIRLS

<u>Come and Join</u>



Season Runs October to March.

For more information or to register online visit

www.swandistrictsteeball.com.au

Or contact our Registrar Ph. 0475 555 906 E: swansregistrar@gmail.com HOME GROUNDS: RON JOSE OVAL, MIDVALE



Gilbert's Fresh Support Our Schools Program

Gilbert's Support Our Schools (SOS) Program donates 1% of the money spent by you to your nominated school every time you shop at Gilbert's Fresh Market (stores in Midland, Willetton and Hilton). Treetops is part of this program - it is free and available to all customers, and you can sign up in-store.



Join our Support Our Schools Program (SOS)

Gilbert's Fresh Market will donate 1% of the money spent by you to your nominated school every time you shop with us.

Sign up at the checkout and simply present your SOS card for scanning each time you shop to earn funds for your school.

Available to all customers. Get your community involved and help our local schools.

No restrictions on what schools use the funds for -

- new resources & equipment
- improving school grounds and amenities
- subsidising excursions & camps for all to attend etc



Open 7 days www.gilbertsfresh.com.au

- 1. Principal's permission is required for the school to participate