

Cartoon: Kirralee Pearce

## Education is more than just three Rs

### EDITORIAL

By **LARISSA MILOS, MONTANA JONES, ALYSHA BEACH and DAKOTA JONES**

AT Black Hill Public School we believe that there is much more to a well-rounded education than reading, writing and arithmetic.

We believe all schools should have the extra things that our school has enjoyed for almost a decade: a vegetable garden, chicken coop and kitchen. It can be fun to grow plants, take care of animals and cook good food, plus you get to eat it and learn a lot in the process.

We seriously believe that school is a place for children to learn the practical skills of life. Learn about how to look after a garden; grow plants like carrots and strawberries – they are delicious. Students are allocated the job of tending the garden, they water it and plant new plants. It also teaches how to care for the environment.

Schools should have chickens as they are a great asset. Chickens teach us how to take care of animals and how we get our food. It is also enjoyable playing with them. Students learn responsibility

because the “chicken wranglers” who look after them have to make sure at the end of lunch they go inside their chicken coop and have food and water.

We passionately believe that schools should do cooking as it teaches the skills needed to be a chef and to feed yourself. Every Tuesday senior students have the opportunity to cook. Students use eggs from the chicken coop and fruits and vegetables from the garden. Every week parents come in and volunteer to help and supervise so it is perfectly safe.

To use knives students must earn a knife licence, safety is always important. All the scraps go to the chickens. Students set tables and enjoy a meal and conversation together. After cooking it is the student's responsibility to wash and clean up.

Cooking is a great practical way to learn about mathematics as measurement and fractions are a natural part of cooking. Reading is also a key cooking skill because you must follow a recipe.

At Black Hill Public School we believe that all students should have the opportunity to have a garden, a chicken coop and a kitchen because it helps us learn how to take care of things, to cook and use the skills we learn at school in a practical way.

# A surprising sandpit

By **ALYSHA BEACH, KIRRALEE PEARCE and LUCAS ALLAN**

AT Black Hill Public School the sandpit is amazing.

This has been an important part of school life for many years and generations of students have enjoyed the fun of games, discovery and learning in the sandpit.

New equipment was built in 2004 so it is 11 years old but it is still loved by all students. Kindergarten to year 6 all play together so it is good for whole school bonding.

In recent years students have developed a club called the “Tonka Club” where they use pipes, Tonka trucks, sand, plus shovels and buckets provided by the school so that groups can work together to do great things. In the summer terms one and four, water is also allowed to make rivers, tunnels and dams. Students have built some amazing things over time like a crane, skyscrapers and rivers. They featured in the school newsletter many times.

The sandpit is also good for health and fitness, with climbing equipment, a slippery dip and platforms.

From kindergarten everyone can have fun playing and the students of all ages learn valuable skills and build upper body strength using the bars.

The sandpit is not only a fun place to play but it can be educational too. The 4/5/6 class have learnt about landforms this term and they have made volcanoes and streams in the sandpit and learned about the effects of erosion. This was a big success and fun.



Construction in the sandpit with Noah Wooding, Alysha Beach, Lucas Allan and Kirralee Pearce. Picture: Darci Collins

Sometimes there are fossils and rare rocks like rose quartz put in the sandpit and students have to plan and work at an archaeological or geological dig to find them.

This can involve marking out a grid pattern and using tools to find things and then they are put back

in a special display cabinet in our library where they are kept.

The *Bulletin* has discovered that some past students have gone on to study both archaeology and geology.

Maybe it all started in the school sandpit.

## Isaac Heeney is realising a sports dream

By **EMILY DOBBINS, IMOGEN ROBERTSON, DARCI COLLINS, ISABELLA JENNINGS and KYLE THOMAS**

ONE of the previous journalists of the *Bulletin*, who wrote about his ambitions in sport, back in 2006, has become quite famous recently. Isaac Heeney is an ex-student of Black Hill Public School and is becoming a rising national sporting hero playing his first season in the AFL team Sydney Swans. He is number 5, because his birthday is May 5 and May is the fifth month. Isaac is

a cousin to four current students at Black Hill Public.

As a student at the school, Isaac and his brother Beau were very good athletes, being in state and national teams.

Isaac was an all-round sportsman playing in the school cricket and Oztag team as well as winning a number of athletics medals at sport carnivals.

Black Hill Public is very



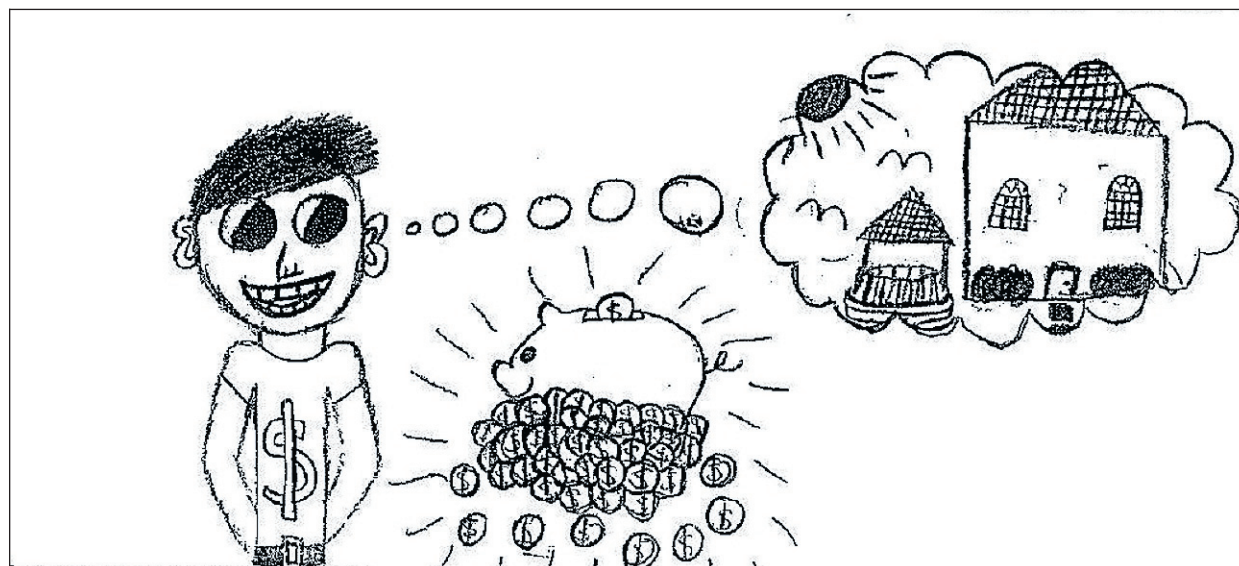
Isaac as a school student, and now as an AFL star.

proud of Isaac and his success and it was great he visited last year to catch up with friends. He is an inspiration to other students at school now.

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