

Primary entry #38: St James Primary Kotara South



THE BLACKBUTT BULLETIN



Volunteers sorting out money raised by students.

Picture: Sophie Dunning

Volunteering: you give and you will gain

By SUSANNA CARUANA,
SOPHIE DUNNING, OLIVIA
DALEY, BAXTER MCGINTY-
HOLDEN and FINN MORGAN

MANY children choose to follow the example of volunteers, who through their actions work to help others.

Children in Australia are volunteering to help others in many ways such as after serving, refereeing sports games, fundraising, Minnie Vinnies and Clean Up Australia Day. These all help our community in one way or another.

To some people these things may seem only small but, as Mother Teresa suggested, "We can do no great things, only small things with great love".

William James, the first educator to offer a psychology course in the United States, told his students that they should "act as if what you do makes a difference." When children volunteer they give up their time to help others in their community, this is what volunteering is: time willingly given for no financial gain.

Parents and families set an example for those children who volunteer. Parents are the main supporters of children who volunteer, because they provide transport, give up time and offer their encouragement.

Children who volunteer can assist the community, and by doing that they have improved their own well-being and created happiness for themselves and others.

By ALLY ZENINI,
CHIARA LIMBERT,
DIMITRI TSETSIΛAS,
MAEVE DONOHUE,
OLIVER TURNER and
SAM CUTFIELD

ENVIRONMENTAL education is a way for children to get outside, to experience nature first hand, witness growth and change and to learn about the world we live in.

Children can learn how to interact with nature and maintain the environment we have through planting, watering, composting and sharing environmental knowledge.

Examples of this type of environmental education can be found at St James Kotara South Primary School. Students and parents volunteer their time to come together and learn new skills about caring for the environment in the 'Green Team'.

Mark Twohill, principal of St James said "collaboration and working together is important because it means you get better outcomes."

Research has proven that outcomes are much higher in every form of your life when you are co-operating with others.

Children that participate in Green Team get to take home some of the fruit and vegetables they have helped to grow and share the knowledge they have gained with



Children enjoying what they do to make a difference in the environment. Picture: Chiara Limbert

family and friends.

When you are outside in the environment you can learn about the plants, insects as well as animals and how they all have a role to play in the interdependence of our

ecosystem. Students can also learn about working together with others to get the job done.

Caring for the environment also has personal health benefits. The fresh air containing oxygen, comes

from the plants and the trees Green Team is caring for, and can be found in community's everywhere. The sun delivers us vitamin D which is a vital nutrient to help our bodies grow and to stay healthy.



Children playing a relaxing tune while a child in the foreground is working. Picture: Max Hepworth

Striking right note for education

By RYAN HILL, MAX HEPWORTH, OSCAR
DAGWELL, SOPHIA UNICOMB and SONNY EGGINS

MANY schools offer students the option of playing a musical instrument, during school time, as an addition to daily class based learning.

It was the ancient Greek philosopher Plato who stated "in the patterns of music and all the arts, are the keys to learning." If music is a key to learning, if it does help

children's education, what is being done to unlock the door to learning?

Teena Wallace, a music teacher with 28 years' experience, said when you're playing music you use a greater "percentage of your brain" indicating that music can be seen as "another form of learning".

Learning an instrument could help children to work more imaginatively, to solve problems and to look for patterns in a more independent manner.

Arguing that music helps students in "important learning areas such as maths and English", Music Australia identifies improvements in the academic outcomes for these areas associated with playing an instrument.



3.79%
p.a.
2 year fixed rate*

4.89%
p.a.
Comparison rate*

More-in-your-pocket home loans

When you choose a Newcastle Permanent award-winning home loan over a big 4 bank, you could end up with thousands more in your pocket.

Switch to Money magazine's Home Lender of the Year, today.

13 19 87 newcastlepermanent.com.au/switch



Here's some more information for you: Newcastle Permanent Building Society Limited ACN 087 651 992, Australian Financial Services Licence/Australian Credit Licence 238273. *Rate current as at 10/08/15. Rates are subject to change without notice. Applications for finance are subject to Newcastle Permanent's normal credit approval process. Terms and conditions, fees and charges apply. #Comparison rate calculated on a loan amount of \$150,000 for a term of 25 years based on monthly repayments. WARNING: This comparison rate applies only to the example or examples given. Different amounts and terms will result in different comparison rates. Costs such as redraw fees or early repayment fees, and cost savings such as fee waivers, are not included in the comparison rate but may influence the cost of the loan. © NPB3060 T24