



Cartoon: Lexie Graham

## Make playgrounds a priority at school

### EDITORIAL

By **RILEY HOFFMAN, RILEY WELSH and SUFIYA WALK**

SCHOOLS are not always the first place students think of when they want to play games and have fun.

Over time, this can be changed by ensuring that every primary school has a safe and well-equipped playground for students to enjoy within school grounds.

There is a lot of research that promotes the importance of school playgrounds and students being given the opportunity to exercise and physically develop during school breaks.

The Kidsafe website says, "Playing outside is not just about letting off steam. It is a vital part of childhood that helps children develop physical strength, co-ordination and balance. It can also provide opportunities for children to learn and develop their social skills, imagination and creativity, thinking and problem solving skills, sense of self, sense of connection and self-care skills."

The Department of Education and Communities places high importance on increasing students' knowledge and interest in

keeping healthy. This is promoted within both Personal Health Choices and Active Lifestyles Strands of the PD/H/PE Primary School curriculum. Teachers provide students with the knowledge and skills to help them make important lifelong personal health and active lifestyle choices.

"Students need an ongoing opportunity to learn and practise correct fundamental movement skills within a safe environment such as at school. Students provided with this opportunity will develop their self-confidence, skills and ability and this will often have positive effects on other areas of their academic learning. School playgrounds provide students with an excellent chance to develop some of these skills," teacher Mr O'Connor said.

By ensuring that all primary schools have adequate, safe and entertaining school equipment and playgrounds, it will aid in students development. Students are generally given around one hour of playtime during their school day. This is sufficient time to develop all of the essential skills that are necessary for them to succeed at school and allows them to build lifelong friendships that may attribute to them becoming important, active community members in the future.

# Talent from Tarro is painting the art scene

By **MONTANA NINNESS, TEGAN BELL, GEORGIA REDMAN, JARROD MONK and COLBY ISON**

SIX students and their artworks have been selected by teachers to represent Tarro Public School at the Maitland Regional Art Gallery competition. Schools from all over the local community compete in this highly acclaimed competition.

These artworks from many other talented students will be on display to the public at the Maitland Regional Art Gallery.

One of the students selected at Tarro is Emily Bradford, who is a stage 3 student and her artwork is called *Falling*. This is not the first time that Emily has represented the school in this competition. "My creativity and passion for art comes from my teachers and family," Emily said. She had used water paints, pencils and oil pastels within her award-winning artwork.

Emily Moore, another art representative from stage 2 said that her self-portrait took around a week for her to complete. She is extremely pleased to be selected on behalf of Tarro Public School.

Creative Arts is an integral part of the primary school curriculum. Within this key learning area students are provided with the opportunity to learn about drama, dance, music and art. Skills and abilities learnt within these areas can be easily incorporated into all



Emily Moore and Emily Bradford enjoying some time for art.

Picture: Shekinah Welsh

other areas of school learning.

Tarro Public School offers students many opportunities to achieve and excel within the Creative Arts Curriculum. One of the many reasons for this is thanks to teacher Mrs Bourke. "I really enjoy that Creative

Arts allows students of all academic abilities the opportunity to succeed. This can provide all students with the confidence to try new things and therefore achieve great results within other areas of their school life".

## Pupils mean business with ideas inside box

By **LILLIAN CHAPMAN and CASSIDY TRIGG**

CONSIDERING that our primary school students are the future of the country, it is critical that they learn, develop and critique their skills and knowledge in a range of academic areas. An area of learning that students at Tarro Public School have focused on in the past term is named Business in a Box.

The projects involved creating a business and products in small groups that could be marketed

and sold to the community. The groups had to decide on a business name, logos and slogans. They also produced advertising material, conducted market research and developed their products ready for sale at school events.

Team work, creativity, a strong work ethic and understanding of how a business is set up and operates, are great skills that students can incorporate into other areas of their learning.



Two proud students showing off their Business in a Box products.

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