

Gardening activities

Tree planting day

Last Friday, students from 6D and 2F participated in National Tree Planting Day activities. We planted Australian native shrubs and grasses donated by Frankston City Council.

Before planting, Miss. Bower taught 6D students about global warming issues and the importance of planting more trees. The students from 6D planted the shrubs around our bio diversity area (next to our soccer and running field). This area is very well used by our junior and middle school students for their imaginative play. When the 6D students chose the site for each shrub, we all discussed where to plant, making sure the new plants do not disrupt younger students' play. I was overwhelmed by each students' enthusiastic work! Although the majority of the students just used hand shovels, they managed to dig decent size holes to allow the new plants to develop their roots and grow well. Some students came up with ideas to use left-over logs to surround the new plants as protection.

2F students, Mrs. Cumberlidge, and Mrs. Rose helped to plant a variety of Australian native grass under the gum trees in the prep lining up area. The students helped each other to remove the tree bark mulch, dig holes using hand shovels, water them, and cover them up using mulch. It is so nice to see them not only enjoying planting but also looking after our new plants. The students also helped plant some colourful vegetable seedlings in one of the raised beds along the buildings.



Thank you Miss Bower, Mrs. Cumberlidge, Mrs. Rose, 6D and 2F students for sharing your time and energy to participate in Tree Planting Day activities at Overport Primary School. I would also like to thank Mr. Hearn for all the work he has done setting up the protection for the newly planted areas.

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Vegetable garden

Some selected middle and senior students have been attending our vegetable garden and participating in activities conducted by Mr. Mallinson. This year we ran five groups of students (around eight students per group with a mixture of senior and middle year levels) going to the vegetable garden on Wednesday afternoons to learn how to grow vegetables in our garden.

I have heard more students are interested in attending our Wednesday afternoon garden activities. However, unfortunately we have a limit for the students' numbers in each session. Luckily, this term we are able to offer gardening activities during lunch time on Tuesday and Wednesday. Our compost club leaders will assist compost making activities such as chopping the food scraps collected from classrooms (in order to make it easy for our earthworms to digest the food and quicken the composting process), showing where we should put the food scraps, and working with younger students to make use of weeds by putting them into the big compost heaps or making green manure for our special hungry fruit trees. All our compost club leaders are keen gardeners with good understanding and skills to lead gardening activities, so they are also able to suggest and assist other students under my supervision. Any students are welcome to join the activities in the vegetable garden when the door is opened.

Thank you Mr Mallinson for his continuous work with our students to run the Vegetable Garden Club, Mrs. Wheeler and Mrs. Dunkley for their often behind the scene but essential work to maintain the vegetable garden, Mr. Chinnathumby for his very kind donation and the planting of his banana plants in our vegetable garden, and Mr. Gilbert for his generous donation of superb special seedlings and bulbs. I know there are so many other students and community members who have supported our gardening activities. On behalf of Overport Primary School staff, I would like to add our appreciation to this wonderful Overport community.

Tomoko Yamashita (one of the keen for gardening teachers at Overport Primary School)

