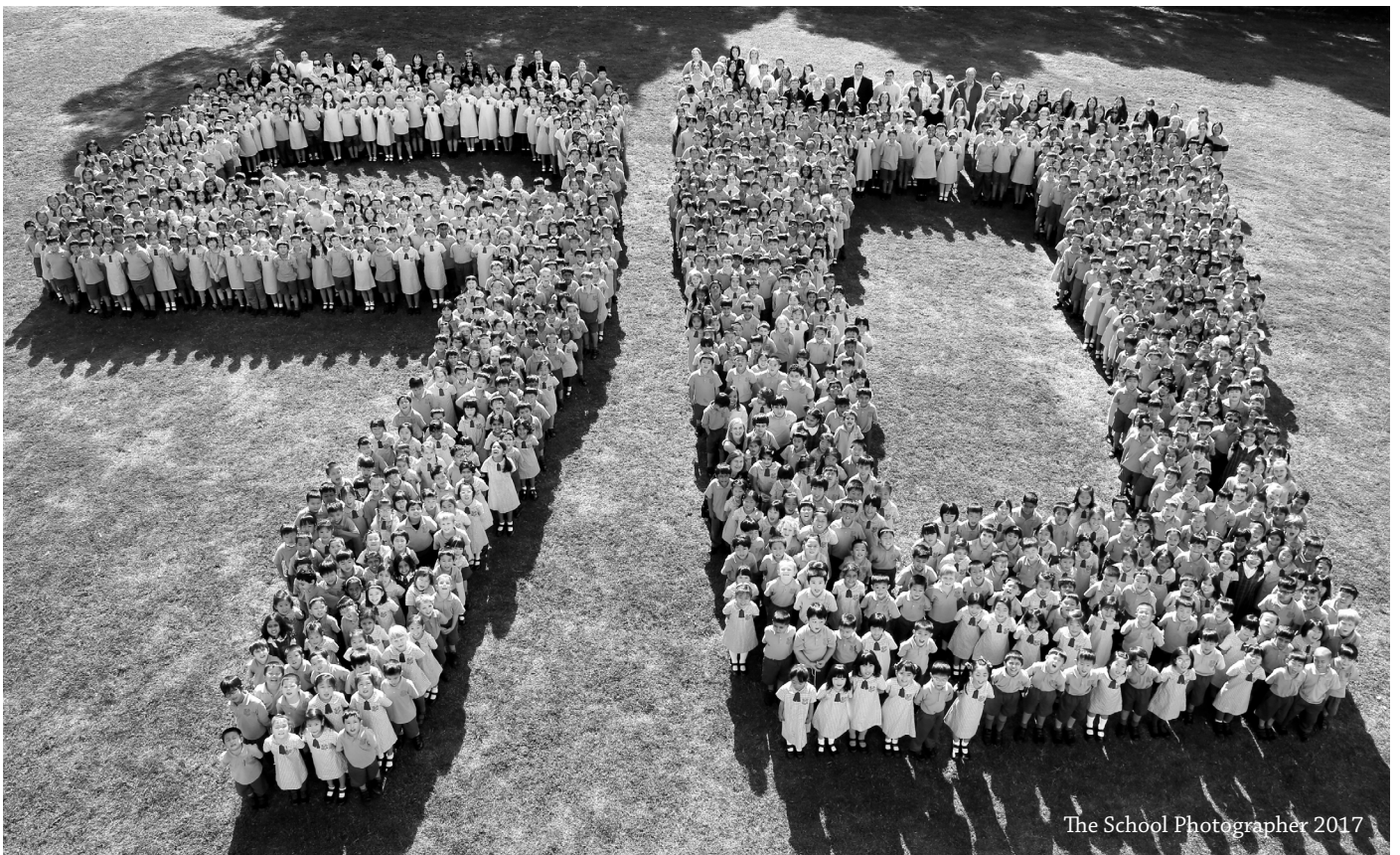


The Continuing History of Epping West Public School

1927 - 2017



Christine Kemenyvary

Teacher 1991 - 2017

This book has been written to mark the occasion of
Epping West Public School's 90th Anniversary

Foreword



After teaching for 26 wonderful years at Epping West and retiring in 2017, the task fell to me to complete the continuing story of Epping West Public School for the 90th Birthday Celebration. Thanks must go to Patricia Dewey, an ex pupil, for her book *The History of Epping West Public School, 1927 - 2002*, Maria Kirkpatrick-Jones, an ex parent, who in 2014 began gathering more recent facts, and Jacalin King, for her collation. Together, we tell the story of how Epping West has continued to grow from 2002 to 2017.

Christine Kemenyvary BA Dip Ed

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK



It is with great pride that I introduce this publication - *The Continuing History of Epping West Public School*. The initial publication of *The History of Epping West Public School* written by Patricia Dewey was produced to celebrate the 75th birthday of the school. It involved many people in the collection of information. Stories, photos and artefacts were contributed by many past students - all proud alumni of our school. It is fitting that as we celebrate our 90th year, we take stock and reflect on the progress of the school over the past 15 years.

I congratulate Mrs Christine Kemenyvary and Mrs Maria Kirkpatrick-Jones for their work in compiling this overview and pay tribute to Mrs Cathy Morrison, Librarian and Kerri Genovese, Archivist, for their investigation and custodianship of our school historical records. Even families and staff who have been here over this time will be amazed to review the growth we have made.

Our school continues to grow as it meets the new challenges posed by the Epping Town Plan and the demands of preparing our students for a future that while not yet known, will require them to not only be strong in basic skills but to develop skills of collaboration, creativity, innovation and flexibility. Diversity and inclusion are a strong focus of the school as we concentrate on developing the Whole Child, so a balance of academic, sporting and cultural strands are interwoven.

At Epping West we have a strong, experienced staff who engage with our diverse communities, working together to encourage and support the all-round growth of our children. When parents, students, staff and the local community work together, it is our students and Australia as a whole that will reap the benefit.

Therese Hinder

Principal M.A. A.Mus A.

HONOUR ROLL

2002	Katherine Witheridge Jonathon Chan	2009	Shobitha Balakumar
2003	Peter Chen	2010	Janette Ng
2004	Surbhi Misra	2011	Noah Sutton
2005	Sarah Brammall	2012	Rachel Andersen
2006	Carmen Cheng	2013	Lauren Wang
2007	Julianne Hsu	2014	Caitlin Yu
2008	Phoebe So	2015	Felicity Ye
		2016	Nancy Hsieh

CITIZEN AWARD

2014	Joshua Woo	2016	Jayden Yu
2015	Rosie Groenewegen		

PERFORMING ARTIST OF THE YEAR

2014	Alexa Tonkin	2016	Sruthi Sivakumar
2015	Sarah Wilson		Jayden Yu

SPORTS PERSON OF THE YEAR

2014	Chiara Lillis	2016	Gemma Walker
2015	Chiara Lillis		David Waters

SCHOOL CAPTAINS

2003	Abbey Jones Adam Morris	2011	Sophie Shaw Noah Sutton
2004	Kate Germolus Brett Page	2012	Sophie Shead Layton Hubble
2005	Hannah Jones Tim Witheridge	2013	Caitlin Sallway Adam Langer
2006	Laura Sayers Andrew Jenkins	2014	Zoe Fajemisin Joshua Woo
2007	Lucy Read Phillip Witheridge	2015	Charli Callan William Arnold
2008	Sofie Inwood Jackson Kang	2016	Nicola Corby Jayden Yu
2009	Megan Germolus Aaron Kang	2017	Jasmine Khiroya Chris Yoo
2010	Emma Jefferson Mitchell Hubble		

SCHOOL PRINCIPAL THERESE MARY HINDER 1995 - PRESENT



Therese Hinder has continued as Principal at Epping West since 1995 until today, a total of 22 years, and has played an important part in leading the adjustment to the changing area of Epping, which has impacted on the school environment.

In December 2015, Therese Hinder was presented with her 40 Years of Service Certificate, by Education Director, Tim McCallum.

This certificate was awarded in recognition of her valuable contribution to education and training in New South Wales. This period also marked her 20 year milestone as Principal of Epping West. The staff presented Therese with a special cake during morning tea. In her thank you speech, Mrs Hinder discussed the many changes she has seen in education during this time.

The role of a Principal has changed dramatically with the implementation of Local Schools, Local Decisions. Principals now manage policies, finance, budgets, school resources, legal matters, strategic planning, maintenance, welfare and security as well as leading the school staff and students in 21st Century Learning and the philosophy of Choice Theory.

As the demography of the area constantly increases, so has the number of students at the school, doubling in the last 20 years. Boundary changes and Council changes have also impacted the school.

Epping West, under the Principal's leadership, has had to accommodate for this change by expanding school resources and adding new facilities, including 20 demountable classrooms, Support Class kitchen and driveway, Building the Education Revolution (BER) Library, School Hall and Cola, Cre8 Studio, new play equipment, new play areas, outsourcing of the School Canteen to Yummy Bears Kiosk and increased office requirements.

Staffing numbers have dramatically increased with over 100 staff members to cater for a total of 46 classes, including 3 Support Classes. Therese Hinder has led the staff and the school community through the changes to the syllabus and implementation of new policy. Her leadership, knowledge, vision and experience, with the support of the staff and school community have made Epping West the successful school it is today.

Technology is rapidly developing and it is an ongoing challenge to provide resources and access to devices for our students. The school has a designated MacLab with 30 computers for whole class computer lessons.

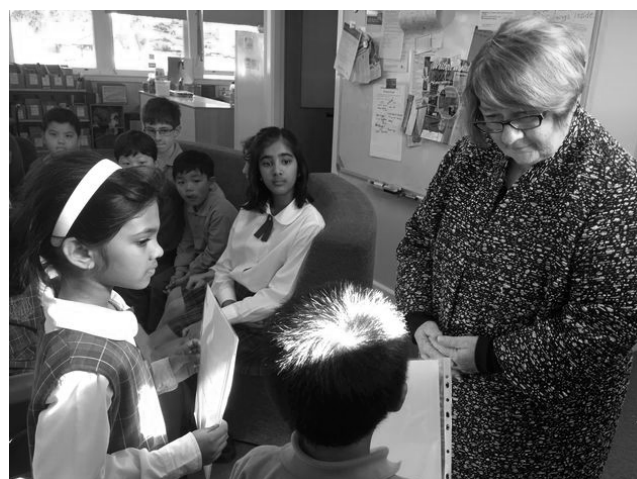


Every classroom has an Interactive White Board (IWB), allowing teachers to access and project online resources and activities, and providing an opportunity for students to be actively engaged in the learning process. The school's system is now completely wireless. There are 7 x class sets of laptops and 2 x class sets of iPads, with 2 x ICT Co-ordinators. Grades also have iPads available for small group work.

A very successful program, brought about by the changing dynamics of our school population, was initially sponsored by the School Council. The program was designed to support the families of students from non-English speaking backgrounds. The program has provided information about how school and society works in Australia as well as some conversation opportunities. Epping West is a friendly school and this program has assisted families to build their personal networks and understanding of how they can be part of the school and support their children.

In 2002 Therese Hinder wrote, “a successful school needs everyone to care and do their best and this is what we have at Epping West Public School - enthusiastic, experienced and committed teachers, parents who value education and support the school and the best children in the world.”

These words still tell the story of Epping West today under the leadership of our principal, Therese Hinder.



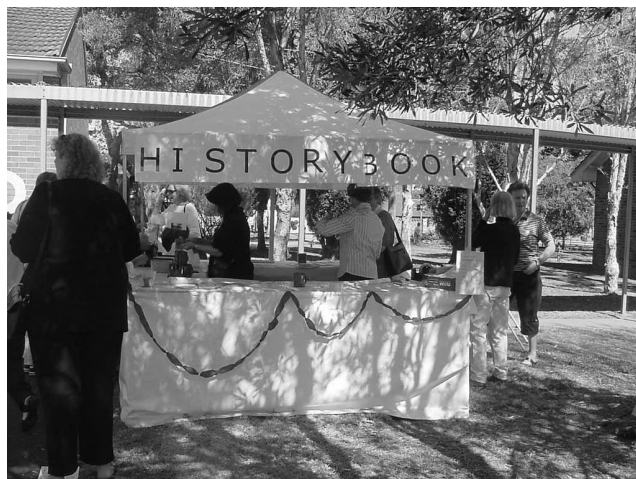
HAPPY 75TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION 2002

Happy Birthday Epping West. The year of 2002 commemorated that day in July, 1927 when Epping West Infants School opened its doors. The school was built as a result of five years of parental and community campaigning.

Held on Saturday 14th September 2002, the celebrations were a microcosm of what makes Epping West such a quality school. The school staff and children prepared a science display, classroom displays and an outstanding concert that highlighted the spirit of each decade and showed the school elective dance, music and band groups at their best. The History Committee prepared an outstanding historical display, which was enjoyed by young and old. The Fete Committee provided an outstanding day of fun and fund raising, with lots of stalls, lots of rides and lots of food.

The 75th Birthday Celebration was a day when past and present students and staff joined together to share their memories and pride for Epping West Public School.

Valiant Warzecha from 3/4H caught the sentiment perfectly as he wrote in the 2002 Yearbook, "Epping West is a grand old girl, she's still as grand as 75 years ago. She's wise and old and very smart, she's full of heart."



THE PEDESTRIAN FOOTBRIDGE OVER CARLINGFORD ROAD 2005

The construction of the overhead pedestrian footbridge was a great example of how the various groups within the school community, School Council, School Executive, Parents & Citizen Association (P&C) and parents, worked together to improve the welfare and facilities of the school for the school population.

Following the death of Kristy Wedesweiler in March 1988 while crossing Carlingford Road on her way home from school, the P&C lobbied intensively for changes to improve the safety of our students. Each year for over a decade, Kristy's family marked this tragic anniversary with flowers at the traffic lights to remind children and their families of the danger.

In the mid 90's, the P&C established a Safety Committee which played an important role in the installation of steel barriers near the traffic lights.

When the Roads and Traffic Authority first proposed an overhead bridge with advertising, Peter Lee, the current Deputy Principal and Therese Hinder, the Principal, worked with the School Council and a group of dedicated parents to lobby both Hornsby and Parramatta Councils for approval. Community attendance at a number of Council meetings, petitions and meetings with Council staff finally applied the pressure needed for Council approval. An initial proposal from Thiess was withdrawn due to problems with advertising revenue and signage. The overhead pedestrian bridge, complete with a lift, was given total funding in the 2004 State Budget.

Once the bridge was completed in 2005, the traffic lights were removed. In March, the Principal, Therese Hinder and two Kindergarten children had the honour of cutting the ribbon to open the much awaited pedestrian bridge over Carlingford Road. The entire school waited excitedly to cross the bridge in class groups. It was a mammoth undertaking. Teachers walked with their class and assisted their students to climb the steps and walk across the overhead bridge.

Ever since the date of the opening, all the children, parents and staff of Epping West Public School have used the overhead pedestrian footbridge to safely cross Carlingford Road.



BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS AT EPPING WEST (BREW) 2006

This year saw a major growth in the central focus area of BREW - Building Relationships at Epping West. The strategy aimed to increase the involvement of parents in their child's life at school. Monday morning information sessions for parents, The Families in Transition Program, increased use of interpreters, and the increased use of translations in important areas assisted parents' confidence and understanding of what happens at school.

The most notable success area of this strategy was the School Fete held in early September. It was wonderful to feel the community involvement on the day and to see so many parents doing their part to make the day a success. A record profit was achieved through the long-term organisation and dedication of the co-ordinator and stall co-ordinators. Participation of so many people in sending items in, preparing items for sale and working on the stalls created this success.

It was a fantastic day. The children performed in their class groups and in the bands. Families brought food to eat or drank icy spiders. There were squeals of delight on the rides and squeals of fear in the Classroom of Horrors. There were parents selling cakes, crafts, pickles, lollies, lucky dips, clothes, books, preloved goods in the White Elephant Stall, gift baskets, food, plants, painted faces, chocolate wheels and much more.



COMMONWEALTH GRANTS 2007 - 2008

In 2007, Epping West was successful in applying for two grants from the Commonwealth Government: a Community Water Grant for \$25,541 and an Investing In Our Schools Grant for \$150,000.

The Water Grant upgraded the K - 2 toilets with automatic taps, bubblers and dual flush cisterns and installed four water tanks to support our gardens.

The Investing In Our Schools Grant was used in 2008 to increase the learning spaces in Ward Street Block by adding a verandah. Classes were out of their rooms for all of Term 1 as construction began. A wide cement verandah with railings and sliding glass doors was added. The addition of a roof paid for by the P&C and the Auxiliary, built in the July school holidays, completed the program. The rooms were insulated and given “whirly birds”, also paid for by the P&C. The result of this facelift increased light and air in the classrooms, reduced heat on hot Summer days, and provided an undercover walkway for wet weather and an extended learning area for students.



A NEW SCHOOL HALL / GOODBYE TO THE MINI O 2009

2009 will always be remembered as the “Year of the Hall”, and a great milestone in the school’s history. After many countless years of fundraising and lobbying for a school hall, Epping West was finally granted one in 2007 under the Building Better Schools Program.

The project of building a hall had been on the school agenda for decades. Over the years, many students, staff, parents and community members were involved in raising money and creating awareness and understanding in the Department of Education and in the Ministry of Education about the need for a school hall. Petitions, letters, local newspaper articles, meetings with important people in the community and the department were all key strategies.

Eventually, all the hard work paid off and building the hall began in September 2008. During the school holidays the Mini O, the small rehearsal and performance space was removed.

Students, teachers, staff and parents watched the building unfold brick by brick. All the money raised over the years was used to customise the building to fit the needs of the school. This included a large stage instead of a platform, additional side doors and air vents over the stage as well as a ramp and stairs, enabling more flexible entry and exit onto the stage. Customised sound and lighting systems were designed and installed to provide facilities far in advance of the standard for primary school halls. A Physical Education storeroom that opened onto the oval was another bonus feature.

The hall was handed over in May 2009 and all staff and students were given the opportunity to walk through and investigate every part of the new building - the stage, storerooms, change rooms, toilets, stairs and ramp. Fitting out the building continued gradually as the hall was dressed with drapes, lights, music stands, shelving, extra chairs and a grand piano.

The hall was officially opened on the 24th August 2009 by the Hon. Maxine McKew, the member for Bennelong and the Hon. John Robertson, representing the State Minister for Education. Students of Epping West, under the guidance of their teachers, presented an outstanding program that showcased the talents of the school. The assembly was led by the School Captains and included performances from the Senior Choir and the Stage Band. A morning tea followed, allowing visitors and school members to enjoy the extended entertainment by the Concert Band. All the children celebrated with a piece of special cake, making it a truly memorable day.



Celebrations continued with the “Hall Hullabaloo” on Saturday 5th September. It was a day for past and present students, staff and families to come together and share in the joy of the final completion of a dedicated long-term community campaign. The festivities included rides, raffles, performances by the school instrumental groups and an evening disco.

The hall was named The Aurora Centre after the spectacular natural wonder and power of the Southern Aurora - representing the amazing natural wonder and potential of our students. It is the centre of the school, both physically and emotionally. It is also a testament to what can be achieved when the entire school community work together for a common goal.

The Aurora Centre is used as a rehearsal and performance space for Performing Arts and Music groups. It is also used for school assemblies, school celebrations, end of year concerts, visiting performances, parent information sessions, group education sessions, disco nights and by local community groups.



A NEW SCHOOL LIBRARY 2010

In 2010, a new library with three new classrooms was built with funding from the Federal Government under the Building the Education Revolution (BER) program for primary schools.

The Library was officially opened on Saturday 10th September 2010 by the Hon. Greg Smith, member for Epping. The school's Stage Band performed during the official proceedings. This was followed by an afternoon of fun with the "Library Hullabaloo". The School Oval was filled with rides while the playground offered a multicultural variety of food stands run by the parents. The evening saw the School Hall filled to capacity with a very enjoyable night of family bingo. Many of the staff and students (past and present) and their families attended.

The new library provides a large modern space for students. There is ample room to display resources and offer wide access to books which were previously crammed together. Computers are available in a separate section for research. Another highlight of the new space is the dedicated library office for the processing of books and materials while providing a view of students working in the library.

Under the same BER funding program, the school was able to refurbish the old library block into two classrooms and create a large new Mac Lab with 30 Macintosh computers, where students have a weekly lesson with a specialist ICT teacher.



LEARNING IN THE 21ST CENTURY 2011

The Epping West Communication Team was created to embrace new technologies and a new learning environment where children are deeply engaged in their learning - knowing what they are learning and why. The team moved the school into a new era of “Creative Successful Learners” with five key focus areas: Professional Innovative Teaching Team; Excellence in Academic Achievement; A Sense of Belonging; Shine on Every Stage; and Everyday Champions.

The school provides ongoing training and opportunities to continually develop the Professional Innovative Teaching Team.

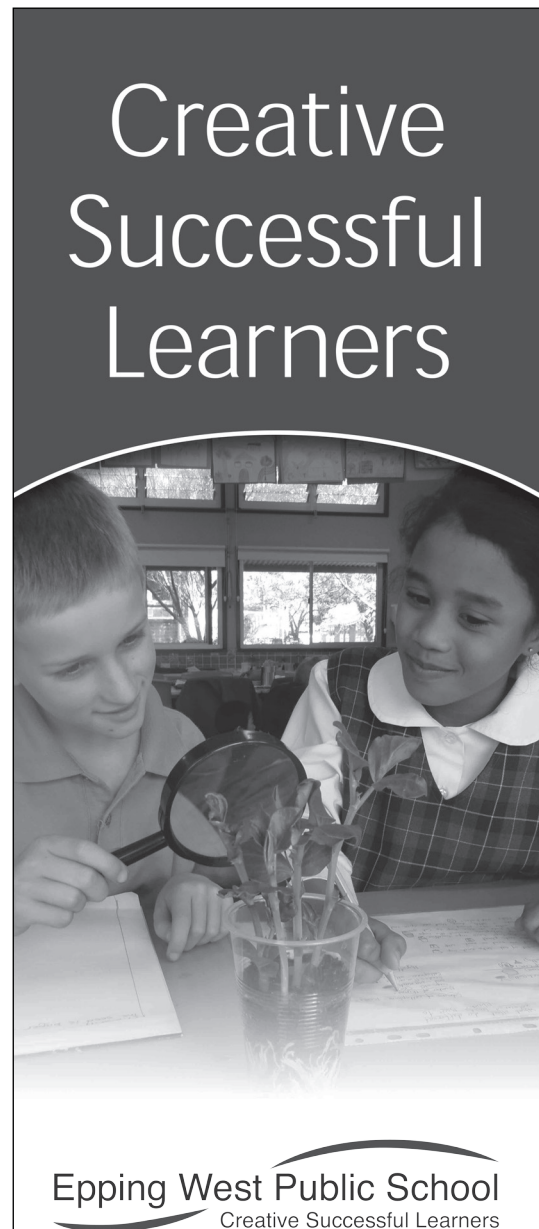
The tradition of academic excellence and providing a stimulating environment for all students is one that continues today.

A Sense of Belonging is evident in the events celebrating the achievements and milestones of the school that bring together parents, students, staff and teachers, past and present.

All students are given the opportunity to Shine on Every Stage as the school aims to support every child’s unique talent across a multitude of areas from chess, to music, to academic pursuits.

The school aims to provide opportunities for the students to be Everyday Champions through the many competitive and non-competitive activities available.

A new school logo was designed using the colours of blue and white. This design gradually replaced the old masthead on all school documents. The original crest still remains a part of the uniforms and merit awards.



A NEW SCHOOL SONG

2013

The original school song, written by Sue Tooker, the music teacher, captured the school's values, surroundings and Sense of Belonging. While these characteristics are still relevant to the school, it was felt by many staff and students the song needed to be reinvigorated for the 21st Century.

In 2013, the project of developing a new school song began. As part of the Musica Viva "Composer in the Classroom Program", Dan Walker was enlisted to assist with the school project. Mr Walker, an accomplished composer, conductor and performer, has worked with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra, ABC Classics, the Sydney Children's Choir and Pinchgut Opera.

To achieve a new school song that related to the new century, it was vital that students were involved in the creative process. The core composition group comprised 41 students from years 4 - 6, with many others contributing words and concepts.

The process began in May with Mr Walker and the core composition group of 41 students brainstorming and refining ideas contributed by students. The original school song also proved an invaluable source of inspiration and formed the basis for the new lyrics.

Mr Walker composed parts for the School Band and piano accompaniment and returned to the school in November to teach the song to the Workshop Groups.

In December, Mr Walker presented the new school song to the school. It was performed by the Senior Choir and the Workshop Group. The assembled students were so excited they requested an immediate encore.

In 2014, all students learnt the song which is now performed at the weekly whole school and grade assemblies and special events.



CRE8TIVE STUDIO

2014

With over 23 performing arts groups at Epping West Public School, including school bands, ensembles, choirs, dance groups and drama ensembles, all children are given the opportunity to Shine on Every Stage. It was clear that the school did not have the spaces required to facilitate the growing programs.

Discussions were held with an architect, Mr Peter Calf in 2012 about how a space could be created to meet the needs of our performing arts groups, as well as providing a space to encourage students to work creatively and collaboratively together in a number of curriculum areas.

The initial concept drawings were done and tenders called towards the end of 2012. In the 2013 July school holidays, work on the new building began. Students and staff watched as a bright and colourful building emerged in the space between the infants and primary playgrounds. Work was completed in Term 4, 2013.

The Learning Centre was designed to equip students with the skills of enquiry, shared learning, exploration and creativity through a space that encourages “learning anywhere at anytime”. The centre has no permanent furniture. It encourages fluid groupings where the children learn with mobile devices using wireless internet, create films in a dedicated room with a green screen, and rehearse drama, dance, band and choir.

The building exterior is vibrant, incorporating panels of blue, yellow, orange and red. On the western side of the building are wide bi-fold doors that open fully onto a wooden stage area.



CRE8TIVE STUDIO OFFICIAL OPENING 2014

The opening of our wonderful, colourful Cre8tive Studio was held during Education Week in July 2014. This event showcased the possibilities for our creative children and the many creative activities that are encouraged by this new facility.

Khao Do, Young Australian of the Year (2005) spoke of his life as a young refugee arriving in Australia with his family, engaging and inspiring our whole school community.

At the official opening ceremony, Khoa Do, Mrs Hinder, our School Captains, Zoe Fajemisin and Joshua Woo and two Kindergarten students, Gemma Harry and Tony Choi, cut the ribbon with a huge pair of scissors and declared the new building officially open. The ceremony concluded with the Senior Choir singing the new school song. Parents and visitors were then invited to the Cola area outside the hall, where the Senior Band, conducted by Mr Mike Everett, played. Meanwhile, teachers, students and parents prepared for the Open Day Stalls program.

Each grade/class designed and implemented an activity for all to enjoy. Children took turns to man their stations as others enjoyed the varied entertainment. Everyone felt a Sense of Belonging and a welcome part of the Epping West community.

Kindy students organised Aboriginal scratch art and chalk outlines on the playground. There were photo-booths, face-offs, storybird programs, dance whispers, origami, rock painting, disco games, kites, painting bricks, sculpture and so much more.

The playground and classrooms were a hive of activity and Khao Do visited every station to greet and mix with the children.

Parents organised international food stalls, a BBQ and the canteen was open for morning tea. The event was well attended and enjoyed by all. Everyone agreed that it needed to be repeated with more time for parents and children to join in the activities.



EPPING WEST PUBLIC SCHOOL TODAY

Epping West Public School continues to stand majestically on the crest of Carlingford Road and deliver excellence in education. As the school's student population has grown over the years, so have the buildings. The school officially opened on Saturday 2nd July, 1927 with 43 pupils enrolled in 4 classrooms. Today, over 1100 students are enrolled in 46 classrooms, including 3 Support Classes for students with a disability.

The original brick building is still the same but is complemented by many, more modern buildings including a new School Hall, new Library, a very colourful Cre8 Studio and over 20 transportable classrooms that are now located near and on the oval.

Since the school comprises over 40 language groups and 86% of the student population come from a background where English is not the first language, respect for diversity and difference is part of everyday life.

Personal responsibility for choices is developed by explicit instruction in how to positively interact with others in the playground and classroom. Each grade has a Wellbeing teacher who works with children to teach them how to manage differences. A Community Liaison Officer and EAL/D teachers work to build an inclusive classroom climate and organise whole day events like Harmony Day, celebrating the cultural diversity within the school.

The School Plan 2015 - 2017 has three directions,

1. Whole Child:
Enabling creativity, mindfulness and self-management.
2. Quality Pedagogy:
Creating high possibility classrooms.
3. Connected Learning Community:
Valuing every child's intellectual, physical, social, emotional and aesthetic development.

The School Vision Statement aims to develop our students with the qualities of being playful, collaborative, passionate and caring, reflective, curious, resilient and persistent.

Student lessons still encompass Six Key Learning Areas. These are - English, Maths, Science and Technology, History, Geography, Creative and Practical Arts and Professional Development/ Health/Physical Education (PD/H/PE). Reports are issued twice a year and are now graded A - E.



The Basic Skills Test (NAPLAN) in Numeracy and Literacy is held each year for Years 3 and 5. Results are used together with class and grade based assessments to monitor, plan and implement effective Numeracy and Literacy strategies. Our school continues to maintain a significant percentage of students scoring in the top three bands for Literacy and Numeracy. There are plans for NAPLAN to be completed online in 2019.

Students are still encouraged to participate in the external examinations coordinated by the University of New South Wales and excellent results continue to be achieved in Mathematics, English and Science.

Epping West continues to excel in performing arts and to provide opportunities for children to Shine on Every Stage. School Bands, Choirs, Dance Groups, Drama Groups and Ensembles all enable active participation and teach students the skills to achieve success in the Arts. A specialist Music Teacher works with class groups on a weekly basis.



Year 6 2017

