This year we have planned and implemented new initiatives to improve and expand our Sustainability program as well as continuing our existing initiatives from previous years.

The Waste Wise Grant has been acquitted and signed off, with 6 classes making excellent use of all the gardening supplies and garden beds that we purchased with this grant. Next year we will be able to apply for another grant from the Waste Wise team at the next level of approximately $7000 and if we are successful, new projects can we planned.

We have purchased new garden beds and placed them in the Senior brick space between the Art room and the Music room as well as moving some of the barrels to get more sun. A fence was financed by the school to secure the area and the Senior classes submitted designs before we set up. We have 3 oval beds and a moveable trolley with pots and seedlings as well as 6 barrels. The Aqua-ponics setup was also moved to this area as we had a lot of minor damage and lots of foot traffic in the Junior area. This will be up and running for next Term and Room 7 will care for the fish.

We have joined the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Foundation and 2 staff have attended Introductory Training with Advanced Training at the end of October. This Program is a comprehensive integration of gardening and cooking into the Curriculum and is mainly aimed at the year 3 and 4 level, but as the children move up through the school, new skills can be introduced and other skills refined and expanded. So far, the ¾ class has had the main lessons with the 4/5, 1/2 and this term the 5/6 classes being given whole class cooking sessions and then eating our cooking afterwards. Next year we anticipate 2 classes will be doing the whole program and a modified program introduced in the Junior classes. The whole Staff will have a Taster lesson at the beginning of next year and given support and help to use the program.
We have been given 5 fruit trees by Flemings Nursery as part of the sponsorship deal and we are also receiving a large mixer. Many Parents have donated Kitchen supplies such as knives, forks, spoons, plates, dishes, pots, glasses, serving plates, serving spoons, food processor and a dehydrator so that we can run the classes with a whole class, saving us buying. The school has provided extra set up money for sharp knives, and sets of measuring cups, spoons, chopping boards, bowls jugs, pans, large pots etc, as well as the fruit and vegetables and the dry ingredients.

The Recycling in the school is running very well with a continual supply of boxes, jars, egg cartons etc being handed in from the parents as well as all the cardboard and boxes that the school gets being used or stored for later use, mainly by the Junior rooms. We are still collecting Cool Drink cans, batteries, stamps and ring pulls, with Data kept for comparison to other years.

We have participated in National Tree Day, Environment Week, Crunch and Sip and Water Week.

We have applied for a shade cloth grant from the Cancer Council as well as a grant from AMP to start the clearing and construction of an outdoor learning area and bush tucker garden in the large open space beyond the Basketball courts. There are no guarantees that we will be successful, but you still need to apply. We are also in the process of gathering information for a grant through Water Corp for next year to extend the piping from the Senior cisterns to the Junior cisterns and then all the toilets will be flushed by our nearly full rainwater tank, as well as installing a smaller tank in the Junior Garden to supply water for the garden beds. Hopefully we will be successful.

We thank the school, P and C and the School board for their continued support and commitment in lessoning our carbon footprint and helping us to teach your children to be environmentally conscious and actively sustainable.

Mrs Sharon Dawson

Coordinator.

3/09/2014