

English Support at Drummond Memorial Public School





Children from many nations

Armidale is a university town and, at Drummond Memorial Public School, we have children from many countries around the world whose parents have come to study at UNE or to work in Armidale. We also have students who have arrived in Australia as refugees. Drummond MPS is a school that has a true multicultural flavour.

TRANSITION CLASS



Starting with young children (4Year olds) Drummond MPS prepares students for kindergarten, which is the first official year at school in Australia. Drummond MPS runs a Transition to school program one day per week for part of the year. School readiness is the focus with lots of stories, songs and games for language development, art and crafts for fine motor skills, whole body movement and lots of social opportunities to ensure a smooth transition to school. All nationalities are welcome.

Individual English Support Program



Upon arrival at Drummond MPS, students are assessed and an individual English program is implemented. Students are tutored in small groups and support is given in class as time progresses. Mrs Fay Paris, a qualified ESL teacher, has fulfilled this role at Drummond MPS for the past five years.



Hands on Activities

Learning English needs to be fun, so right from kindergarten English Support (called English as a Second Language or ESL in Australia) aims to have plenty of hands on experiences to engage young students. Here three young students are taste testing fresh fruit and vegetables as part of a unit on foods and making play-dough ready for modelling.

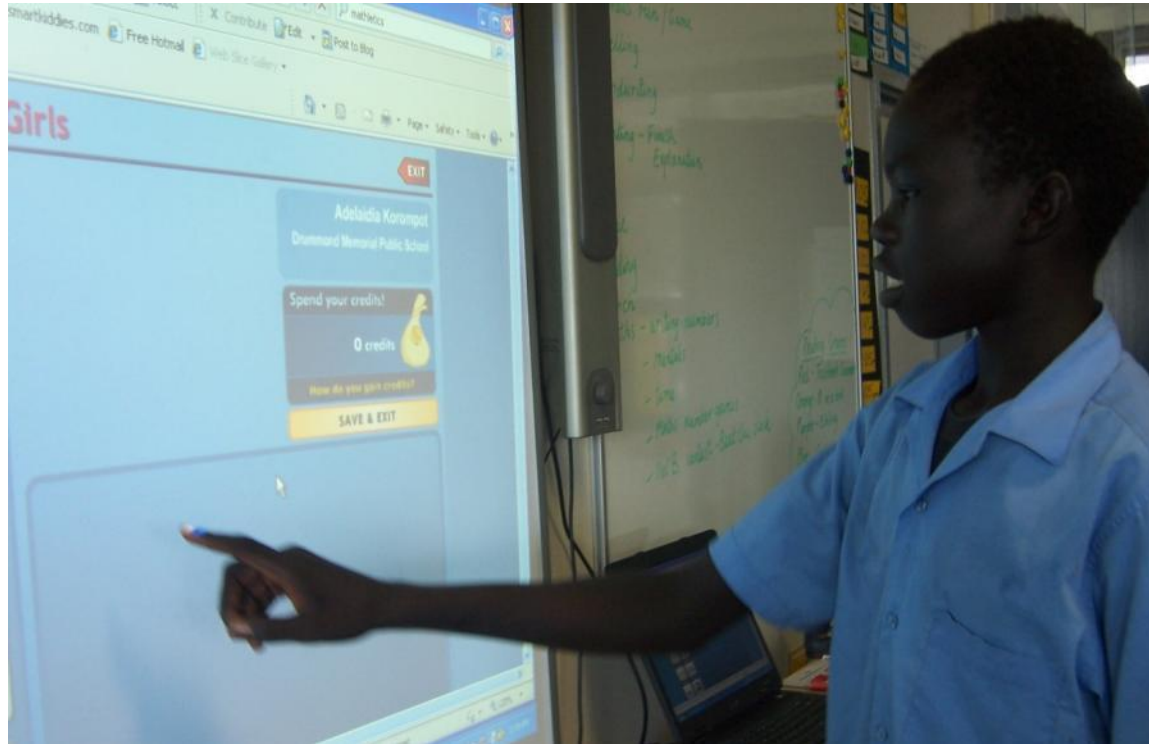


Playing games is a great way to reinforce new words and English skills. Here children are posting words starting with the same sound and playing 'Fish' with new sight words.



Learning takes many forms

Learning English can take many forms. Here students are performing a play which they learnt in drama lesson, in front of another class. Other learning activities include cooking, board games with fellow students, as well as traditional pencil and paper methods.



Use of Information Technology

Drummond Memorial Public School also places a high priority on students becoming proficient in the use of information Technology. Each classroom has an interactive Smart-board so teachers can make use of state-of-the-art programs to reinforce student learning. The school also has a bank of laptops for students to research issues and Ipads to extend student's familiarity with Information technology.



Parental Partnership

In Australia, education is seen as a joint effort. Parents have been a child's first teacher and schools are keen for parents to continue taking an interest in their child's education. If you have time, parents are always welcome to volunteer at the school – have you thought of helping in the library, canteen or listening to reading in a classroom. Also, by joining the Parents and Citizens Association you can be fully informed on school events and have your say in the running of the school.



Scripture

In Australia, there is a legal requirement for Religious Studies to be taught as a part of Human Society and its Environment for half an hour each week. At Drummond MPS, if students are of a different religion, the parents can choose for them to spend scripture time doing ESL extension activities with Mrs Paris.



High Achieving School Environment

ESL students from Drummond Memorial Public School have represented the school in many fields- basketball, soccer, athletics, Multicultural Public Speaking Competition and Premier's Spelling Bee and Reading Challenge. Well done students!



Harmony Day – March 21

Each year Drummond MPS celebrates Harmony Day. Australia is a multicultural country and that diversity is celebrated by respecting and learning more about the countries our students come from. The students also enjoy playing games from many countries. Drummond MPS has a 'no bullying' policy and that message is reinforced on Harmony Day



Multicultural Day

In June each year Drummond MPS celebrates our international families with a special celebration - Multicultural Day. We invite the parents into the school to share their culture through stories, cooking, sports/games, songs We have also listened to very interesting guest speakers, done research projects and students have brought in items of cultural significance and explained why they are special to them.



Everyone is welcome at Drummond MPS

No matter what your country of origin, religion or level of English ... all students are welcomed and supported at Drummond Memorial Public School.