Semester One has been a busy time for the students in D3, with many of the children taking a more independent approach to their learning.

Speaking and Listening
Students have produced many interesting and diverse talks and presentations, enhanced with a wide range of media. It’s amazing how the children have taken to this activity using IPads, mobile phones and computers and books from the library to research and present a wealth of topics. Oral presentations reflect written texts covered in class with the most recent emphasis being on persuasive texts. The students have presented some brilliant commercials and are progressing in their ability to deliver well-reasoned arguments and expositions.

Mental Maths
Competition is keen among some class members who are learning the Times Tables. Our top tables wizard at the moment knows all his tables up to and including his eighteens. A chart is maintained at the back of the room – you are welcome to call by and see how your child is going.

Reading
The students enjoy splitting up into graded reading groups to complete activities from the Springboard into Comprehension programme. These books are colourful and informative and a great way to promote progress in reading.
Science
In Term One, we spent time exploring the properties of materials. One of the tasks given was to modify the strength of polyester/cotton thread. We increased the weight suspended by our threads until...we invented rope! Plants have been the focus of this term’s investigation. We’ve studied their life cycle and many adaptations. Each student has grown a plant from seed observing and recording its progress. This was also an exercise in caring and nurture – many of our plants have been given names.

Design and Technology
Late last term we completed a brief to create a container to insulate an ice cube. The insulating materials used ranged from wax to foam. The record was keeping an ice cube solid for more than 5 hours.

ICT
D3 has been making good use of our new laptops. Our Diamante poems have been typed up and many are on show at the front of the room. Please, come in and have a look. The laptops have been great research tools and students have been refining their inputs into a range of search engines in order to acquire information.
**History and Geography**

So far this year we have looked at the states and physical features of the Australian continent. Currently we’re working on mapping exercises based on African countries. This has fitted in well with our History topic which is looking at the voyages of the early European navigators, particularly Bartolome Diaz and Vasco da Gama.

**Art**

We appreciated the terrors the early European navigators faced, by painting a set of pictures of *Caravels in a Storm*. There’s some scary stuff here.

**Games**

On the rare occasions, when we have a bit of downtime, favourite games include Bomb and Dodge.