Metella Road Public School

AIM HIGH

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Term 3 - Week 8

Calendar

What's On

Term 3, Week 8

Wednesday, 7 September	Stage 3 Canberra/Snowy Camp
	Primary Proms Rehearsal
Thursday, 8 September	Stage 3 Canberra/Snowy Camp
Friday, 9 September	Stage 3 Canberra/Snowy Camp
Saturday, 10 September	P & C Movie Night

Term 3, Week 9

Monday, 12 September	Swim School Commences
Tuesday, 13 September	K-6 Assembly
Wednesday, 14 September	Sydney West Regional Athletics Carnival

Term 3, Week 10

Monday, 19 September	Swim School Continues
Wednesday, 21 September	Spelling Bee Regional Final
	Primary Proms Concert
Thursday, 22 September	M-League Grand Finals
Friday, 23 September	Last day of Term 3

Term 4, Week 1

Monday, 10 October

Students return to school for Term 4

Tuesday, 6 September 2016

Term 4, Week 2

Tuesday, 18 October	Multicultural Day
Wednesday, 19 October	Parents Auxiliary Meeting @ 2:00pm
Thursday, 20 October	Year 6 Mini Fete
Term 4, Week 3	
Term 4, Week 3	

Principal's Message

Go Live!

This week our school, along with many others in Western Sydney, begins using new finance and other administration technology and procedures with the Department of Education. Monday 5 September was called "Go Live" day!

Over the past months my administration staff have participated in days of training to prepare. I humbly request that our school community bear with us as we continue to learn and implement the new system.

Celebrating Father's Day

I would like to wish all our fathers a Happy Father's Day for Sunday. The men of our school community are such an important part of student's lives. Not just their fathers, but uncles, grandfathers and friends. As a teacher I have had the honour of playing an important part as a male role model to my students over the past twenty years. I hope all our fathers enjoyed a great day.

Movie Night – Big Hero 6!

This Saturday night we will be holding our very first Movie Under The Stars night. It will be a great opportunity for our community to come together. Gates will open at 6:00pm and the movie will begin at 7:00pm. The cost of tickets is \$10.00 for adults and \$5.00 for children under 16. Children under 3 are free. Tickets can be ordered in advance by sending money in an envelope to the front office, labelled "P&C". Online payments are not available for this event. A major raffle will be held on the night. There will be a sausage sizzle, popcorn, gelato and lollies for sale. Bring a picnic blanket, bean bag or camp chair and enjoy a great night helping us to raise money.







School Administrative and Support Staff Recognition Week

Metella Road will celebrate SASS Recognition week this week. An opportunity for our school community to recognise the integral part these wonderful people play making out school the envy of schools everywhere. Here are our fantastic staff:

School Administration Manager (SAM) - Mrs Carol Ryan

Mrs Ryan is responsible for the financial management of our school. Mrs Ryan also leads our front office staff.

School Administration Officers (SÃO) - Mrs Debbie Martin, Mrs Michelle Gafa, Mrs Michelle Luccitti, Mrs Alison Freeman and Mrs Terrina Pepper

These lovely ladies are the face of our school. These wonderful people are ready to assist our parents, our teachers and our students in a multitude of ways.

General Assistant (GA) - Mr Michael Nash

Mr Nash is entrusted with the responsibility of looking after the maintenance of our school, both in and outside of the classroom.

Student Support Learning Officers (SLSOs) - Mr David Martin, Mrs Angela Gauci, Mrs Diana Pescod, Mrs Michelle Gafa, Mrs Edwina Davies

Our wonderful SLSOs work one-on-one with students to provide support in so many ways. From supporting students with their school work, to physically helping students move around the school and providing support out on the playground.

If you get the opportunity this week to meet some of our SAS staff please take the opportunity to thank them for the great job they do supporting our teachers and your kids!

Professional Learning Room

We are currently in the progress of building a professional learning room within our Library. In our next newsletter I will provide photographs of the room completed. The PL Room will give our staff a learning space very much like a classroom to hold training during and after school hours.

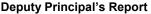
Australian Government Assistance For National Capital Excursion

Students from our school will soon be undertaking an educational tour of the national capital. Students will be given the opportunity to participate in a variety of educational programs with a focus on Australia's history, culture, heritage and democracy.

The Australian Government recognises the importance of all young Australians being able to visit the national capital as part of their Civics and Citizenship education. To assist families in meeting the cost of the excursion the Australian Government is contributing funding of \$20.00 per student under the Parliament and Civics Education Rebate program towards those costs. The rebate is paid directly to the school upon completion of the excursion.

As we approach the end of Term 3 I would like to wish everyone a safe and restful holiday.

Mr P. D'Ermilio Principal



Term 3 is traditionally the busiest term and this year has been no exception. The students, staff and community have been involved in a number of highly successful events including book week, the book fair parade and the visit by children's author Aaron Blabey, the Blacktown Festival of Performing Arts. various knockout competitions and excursions, enrichment activities, debating competitions, the zone athletics carnival and sports and group photographs. This week will see Stage 3 attend their Canberra / Snowy Mountains camp and our first outdoor movie night; and the term will finish with swim school, Primary Proms and the regional spelling bee final! I would like to extend my thanks to our hardworking students and staff who continually strive to make our school a Centre of Excellence, and to our families who are so supportive of our extra-curricular activities. Engaging in non-academic extracurricular pursuits helps to encourage teamwork, cooperation, social development and leadership skills. For many students it allows them to discover their personal interests and passions, and opens the door for a potential future in the arts, music and sports. It is for this reason that we encourage our students to engage in the wealth of activities that we are so proud to offer.

This term NAPLAN results were sent home to parents. NAPLAN is a useful tool for the school in tracking progress and identifying areas for improvement. In particular, an area that we monitor carefully is the growth that our students make between Years 3 and 5. Our growth data for students in the areas of grammar and punctuation and numeracy this year was above the state average. Additionally, in terms of proficiency (that is, students who achieve in the top two NAPLAN bands) 48% our Year 5 students achieved in the top two bands of spelling compared with 33% state-wide and in Year 3, 66% of students achieved in the top two bands compared with 55% of the state. We have also identified some areas for improvement and will present our NAPLAN data and analysis to the school community next term.

At Metella Road Public School we maintain a stringent filtering system to ensure that websites and emails viewed on school equipment are appropriate for children. However, parents often ask how they can keep their children safe at home when they are online. In today's digital world, online activity is important for young people, however responsible online behaviour is essential. The term digital citizenship is the concept of educating students about how to use technology appropriately. It consists of a number of themes including appropriate etiquette, literacy in how digital technology works and how to use it, and an understanding of the law and health issues relating to the use of technology. All parents and carers should visit the Department's School A-Z website to access material information on digital citizenship. The link below provides essential information for students, parents and teachers about digital citizenship and being safe, positive and responsible online.



http://www.digitalcitizenship.nsw.edu.au/





Finally, I would like to wish our community a safe and happy holiday. Enjoy a well-deserved break and we look forward to seeing everyone back in Term 4!

Mrs N. Parker Relieving Deputy Principal

Kindergarten News

Wow, I can't believe it's almost the end of Term 3. We have had a productive term and the students have continued to learn many new and exciting things.

An exciting thing we have had this term is the start of our *Transition to School Programs*. These programs help us to support children and their families in making a positive and successful transition to school.

In Week 6 we conducted our *Kindergarten Enrolment Interviews*. These interviews gave us the opportunity to meet families who have enrolled their child at Metella Road Public School. It was a great opportunity to learn more about the children and their families. It also gave families an opportunity to meet the executive members of staff and learn a little more about what our school can offer. It was a worthwhile experience for all involved.

Another initiative we put in place, to support transition to school, is to establish links with local early childhood centres. We provide opportunities for preschool children to visit the school and become familiar with many aspects of school life.

Last week some preschool children from *Good Start Early Learning* had the opportunity to visit our school and attend a range of activities. These activities included a Library lesson with KL and Ms Brennan, joining KB for some classroom activities and participating in a PE lesson with KM and Ms Eren. The children had an enjoyable time.

Our preschool visits will continue this week. We have organised for children from *Children's Village* to visit our school. They will also be involved in a range of activities including a Library lesson, PE lesson and attending our Kindergarten Assembly.

Our *Kindergarten Orientation* and *Transition to School* programs will continue in Term 4. We are looking forward to providing families with further information about school readiness and how they can support their child to ensure a smooth transition to school.

Mrs S. Larobina Early Stage 1 Supervisor

Stage 1 News

Wow! What a busy last couple of weeks Stage 1 has had. We have enjoyed Education Week, our Book Parade and meeting a well-known author, Aaron Blabey! Lots of our parents came up to see our work, watch our presentations and watch us parade around in our special book character costumes. We all looked amazing!

Students have been learning all about water! In particular, they have been learning about the water cycle, how water gets from the rivers and reservoirs to our taps and how we can care for our waterways. We all visited our local waterway at Oklahoma Park to investigate the quality of the water. We were surprised to see that there is so much pollution around the waterway. We saw plastic bags, empty food packets, empty soft drink bottles and even a discarded suitcase. This made us really sad because we know that plastic bags take years and years to break down and are so bad for the environment and our wildlife. We collected water and found out that it was very murky and had a funny smell about it. We are now very determined to make sure that we put our rubbish in the bin so that we can keep our waterways clean. Students have also been convincing their teachers why we desperately need water. We found out that the human body contains 60% water and that without water, plants, animals and humans would definitely die.

Stage 1 students have enjoyed reading a variety of picture books about superheroes and then creating their own exciting narratives. They have been using literary devices such as alliteration and similes to enhance their writing so that their reader can make a special picture in their head. We have some amazing authors in Stage 1.

In mathematics, we have explored making and sharing equal groups, measuring the length of curved objects, identifying halves and quarters, as well as finding the most effective strategy to add and subtract numbers. Students keep trying hard and it is amazing to see their progress!

We hope that all our dads had a wonderful Father's Day on Sunday. Classes have been frantically making beautiful cards and presents for their dads, looking forward to seeing their father's reactions to their great work.

Over the past fortnight, Stage 1 students have been really trying hard to keep their hands and feet to themselves. They are making sure that they are <u>respectful</u> and <u>safe</u> at all times.

Ms J. Minenko Stage 1 Supervisor

Stage 2 News

The students in Stage 2 have made phenomenal learning achievements this term. So far this term in our school expectations we have looked at; Safe - keeping our hands and feet to our self and Proud - keeping our environment tidy. To encourage these school expectations teachers are handing out "Mini Metella's" daily. Each fortnight the "Mini Metella's" are drawn out of a bucket. The first four students drawn out receive a prize to Ultimate and in week 9 there is a special prize of a pair of virtual reality goggles.

We have had such a busy term in the last couple of weeks starting with the book fair, The book character parade and all our extra performances through various assemblies, the Opera House and Riverside theatre. It has been wonderful to observe their enthusiasm and positive behaviour from the students during all these events.

Also this term, students in Stage 2 has been learning about their learning intentions/goals for each subject and how they can achieve this goal through the success criteria. The students are responding very well to these goals in a positive manner and understand what they need to learn and achieve in their lessons.

In mathematics for the strand of number, the students have been learning various multiplication and division and fractions and decimal strategies. In the strand of measurement, we are learning all about the different concepts of length and area.





All the Stage 2 teachers look forward to a very productive Term 4.

Mrs L. Bartlett Stage 2 Supervisor

Stage 3 News

All students in Stage 3 have been continuing to work extremely hard to achieve specific learning goals in all Key Learning Areas.

In science, Stage 3 have been studying a unit called 'Earthquake Explorers.' They have been investigating where earthquakes occur, why they occur and how earthquakes are measured. All students are thoroughly enjoying this unit.

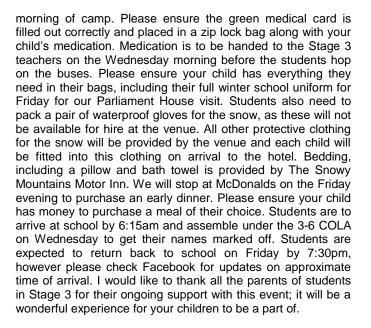
In week 5, we had our annual Book Week parade. Stage 3 enjoyed walking around with their buddy classes during the parade. It was lovely to see so many Stage 3 students dress up, their costumes were extremely creative!





Year 6 Fundraising is going extremely well. Our next Year 6 Fundraising event is the Year 6 Mini-Fete, which will be on Thursday 20 October (Week 2 of Term 4). On September 15 all students from K-6 will be encouraged to donate a variety of items to help support the Year 6 students to run their Mini-Fete stalls. Every student who donates an item will be given a raffle ticket and on the morning of the Mini-Fete, twelve tickets will be drawn. Winners will receive a "Free Pass" to attend the game and activity stalls and \$5.00 towards the food stalls. All of the Year 6 students are looking forward to this event and are very excited about making it as fun as possible for students in K-5.

Our Stage 3 camp to Canberra and the Snowy Mountains is this Wednesday and all students are getting extremely excited! All students are required to hand in their medication on the



Mrs B. Adams Relieving Stage 3 Supervisor

Student Leaders

In our recent meetings we have been discussing the current leadership policy and voting process. We hope to make a few small changes and thank the student leadership team for their input.

Mrs M. Holburn and Mrs M. Gafa Coordinators

Library News

All stage groups have completed activities that have helped decorate our library for the theme – "Australia: Our Story" and we have viewed many of the shortlisted books for the Children's Book Council Awards. Aaron Blabey's visit was a sensation with students and he has left with us a few drawings that will be framed and hung in the library. Our Book Fair has been a huge success thanks to the support of Metella Road families. All orders have been placed with the Book Fair company and hopefully by the time you are reading this they have received them. Just over \$10 000 in items were sold at the Book Fair which means a healthy commission allowing us to purchase many more resources for the school. The Premier's Reading Challenge has now closed with 164 students being validated for the task. Congratulations to those who finished this year. Our students certainly love to read!

Mrs B. Aylett Librarian

SRC Update

Our annual talent quest is drawing near. If you can sing, dance, play an instrument or have another talent, why not consider signing up for the talent quest. Each year the acts are more impressive. Sign-ups will be early next term.

We discussed having a mufti day to help the less fortunate. We are hoping to hold this early next term. Stay tuned for more information.

> Mrs M. Holburn Coordinator





PSSA News

Winter PSSA is drawing to a close. Unfortunately, we have been extremely unlucky with the weather and constant sporting ground closures. This is beyond the control of the school. We wish every team all the very best and congratulate them for always demonstrating good sportsmanship. We will endeavour to let you know if any of our teams have won the season. We are just waiting on results from other schools.

Summer PSSA will resume in week 9. For weeks 9 and 10 sport will continue to be held in the afternoon. Next term it will go back to the morning session. Fingers crossed we get some good weather.

Mrs M. Holburn Coordinator

Sport News

Last week, our school sent a team to represent at the district athletics carnival. With over 800 students participating in the carnival we were lucky to have two age champions. A big congratulations to all the students who competed at the Zone Athletics Carnival. Congratulations to Lauryn 6B and Siaosi 6C who were age champions. We wish you all the very best of luck as you continue to represent our district.

We would like to congratulate and wish the following students well as they compete at the Regional Athletics Carnival on Wednesday 14 September.

Track Events:

- > 100m Waiaria & Tasha (9YO), Lauryn & Jodie
- (11YO), Kowarthan. (13YO)
- 200m Lauryn (11YO)
- 800m Lauryn (11YO)
- As well as the Girls Senior 4 x 100m relay team.

Field Events:

- High Jump Lauryn (11YO), Siaosi (Snrs)
- Long Jump Waiaira (Jnrs), Lauryn and Harini (11YO),
- Shotput Tanisha (11YO), Siaosi (Snrs)
- Discus Tasha (Jnrs), Harini and Tanisha (11YO), Siaosi (Snrs)

We would like to give a special mention to Alexander 4W who demonstrated true sportsmanship while running in the 800m. He noticed another competitor was down on the track and stopped to assist. This young man should be so very proud of himself, and it did not go unnoticed with many comments about his act of kindness.

Congratulations to Anna 6D who was a member of the U12 NSW Girls Football (Soccer) Team who competed in the recent SSA National Football Championships in Perth. The team finished 2^{nd} in the championships and are to be congratulated.

Mrs M. Holburn Coordinator

P&C and Parents Auxiliary Family Movie Night

Come and enjoy a night at the movies. The outdoor family movie night will be on Saturday 10 September at Metella Road School Oval. Gates open at 6:00pm for a 7:00pm start. Adult tickets are \$10.00 each, Children's tickets are \$5.00 each with children under 3 are free. There will be a raffle on the night with some great prizes; a Mini iPad 2 and case, Sony Wireless Stereo Headset and a Hoyts Family Pass movie ticket. The raffle tickets will be; \$2.00 each or 3 for \$5.00.

There will be plenty of food for sale; a sausage beef and veggie sizzle, popcorn, coffee van, lollies and gelato. Come along with your family and friends and have a fun evening. All the money raised will go to the school.

Father's Day Stall

The Father's day stall was a great success this year. A huge thanks to all the parents who helped out on the day.

Next P&C Meeting

We hope to see you all at the staffroom on Tuesday, 13 September at 7:30pm for the next P&C / AGM meeting it is a great opportunity to meet other parents and find out what is going on at school.

Next Parents Auxiliary Meeting

The next Auxiliary AGM meeting will be Wednesday, 21 September, 2:00pm in the staffroom. All welcome to come and join us in organising events, fundraising and eating yummy cakes or slices.

Mrs R. Black and S. Kendall P & C Representatives

P&C FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT Come and join us for our major fundraiser for the year an open air cinematic experience on the back oval! Enjoy a picnic, BBQ, popcorn, gelato, lollies and help us to raise money for the school. A major raffle will also be held on the night - tickets will be 1 for \$2.00 or 3 for \$5.00. So bring your money!! When: Saturday, 10 September 2016 Where: Metella Road Public School Oval Time: Gates open 6:00pm for a 7:00pm start Tickets: \$10.00 Adult (16 years and over) \$5.00 child (under 3 years free) Bring a rug, a picnic blanket, bean bag or camp chair!! Money can be sent to the front office in an envelope for the P&C or purchased at the gate on the night. Sorry NO Online Payments (POP) payments available as this is being run by the P&C Association.







Fred Reid Workshop

On Thursday 1 September, Aboriginal background students participated in an engaging workshop hosted by performers, Fred and Todd Reid.

Fred discussed the importance of family heritage and encouraged the students to explore their Aboriginal family history. Students were then treated to a display of Aboriginal tools and musical instruments.

Did you know there are a few different shapes a boomerang can be, depending on its purpose e.g. hunting or sport?



Fred showed the students how to make paint from rocks and then painted the faces of many willing boys and girls!.

The group painted an expansive canvas mural to be displayed proudly in our school grounds.

It was a very worthwhile morning, collaborating and learning together.

Mrs Fekkes.















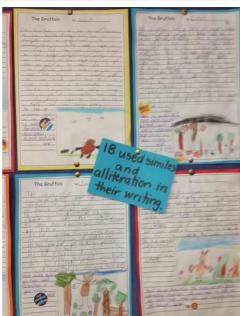


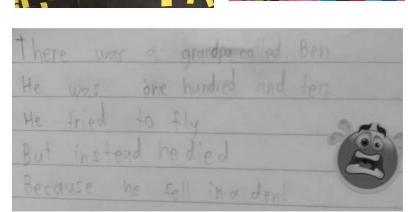






Stage 1: Super Learners! Super Heroes!









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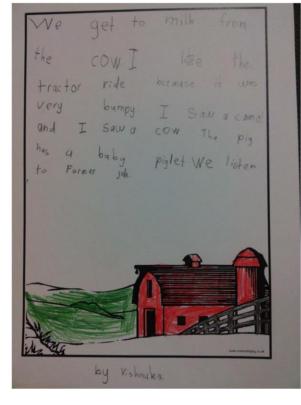






Old MacKindergarten Went to the Farm!

Monday 29th August was our first school excursion! Kindergarten had a wonderful day of learning at the farm. We got to pat the animals, milk a cow, watch the farm shows (whip cracking, sheep herding and shearing) and go on a tractor ride! Kindergarten have been hard at work back at school, writing all about our exciting farm adventure!



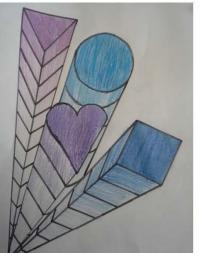




What's happening in 5T?

5T have been working hard during Visual Art lessons. We have been learning about perspectives and how to manipulate perspective in order to create art that represents the likenesses of things in the world.

We followed a step by step guide to draw a vanishing point road art work, creating similar yet unique artworks. We also linked our art to our learning about three-dimensional shapes in Mathematics.



5T enjoyed creating these artworks.



What's happening in 6C?

6C created interactive art with Miss Forster. We had to think creatively to make a drawing that could be photographed to look like it was interacting with real objects or people.







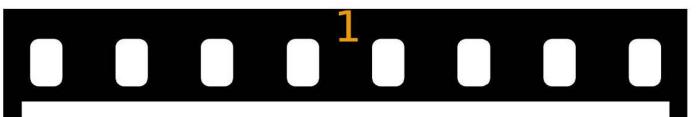






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5/6H Jumanji Film Techniques

5/6H has been enjoying learning about the film techniques that were used in the film Jumanji. We have been exploring the film technique of an extreme close up. An extreme close up is a shot where the camera is zoomed in onto the chosen object to draw attention to an object or person. The viewer enters the character's space, revealing certain characteristics and emotions that would otherwise go unnoticed from afar. 5/6H enjoyed exploring this film technique in Visual Arts using colour and tone to explore an extreme close up of an eye in the film Jumanji. Check out our amazing artworks!





What has 6B been learning about?

6B have been studying the science behind earthquakes! We have been exploring many factors; from tectonic plate movements to our ever evolving planet and how it has changed over time. We have conducted some experiments which have tested plate movement theories as well as our understanding of time and our existence within it. 6B have researched why Australia feels little effects of earthquakes and other countries, such as Indonesia, experience higher magnitude quakes. 6B have made enormous efforts think scientifically in order to deepen their knowledge of earthquakes and have become mini-scientists in the process!





What's happening in 5A?

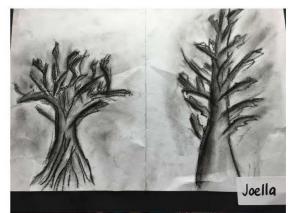
In Science 5A have been Earthquake Explorers. We have been investigating where earthquakes occur, why they occur and how earthquakes are measured. In order to gain an understanding of earthquakes 5A have been researching this in computers. They have discovered that the Earth's crust is broken up into tectonic plates. They also researched where these breaks occur on the Earth's crust. 5A then explored the different ways the Earth's crust moves through modelling the three types of movements with plasticine. These being divergent, convergent and transform movements.

We have been completing a film study on Jumanji. Throughout this we have been discussing camera angles and the reasons that different camera angles are used. To be able to visualise first hand the difference in an eye-level angle and a low level angle 5A went out to the backfield, chose a tree and drew it from the two different angles. They then used charcoal to add depth to their drawings. When discussed at the end the students said that the when they viewed the tree from the low level angle it appeared much larger and as they looked it up it towered over the top of them, thus making them feel small.

















What's happening in



6D?



6D have enjoyed being creative whilst learning about the '7 Elements of Art' this term. We recently looked at element of 'form' and created some very unique pinch pot monsters using modeling clay. Techniques such as slipping and scoring were introduced, and the little monsters

soon became the focus of some wonderful pieces of writing.

We are continuing to focus on improving our writing during our CAFÉ activities and all students are enjoying the challenge of setting individual goals to reach. As a class, we are working on our skills towards 'showing not telling' as a way to engage our audience and write more descriptively. Some amazing writing pieces have been created and we're enjoying giving constructive feedback to each other.

Crack! The inky, black sky lit up as if it was day. Puddles of water formed in the thick, muddy ground. Ben's car had broken down in the middle of the forest. He was stranded there... alone, afraid. Cautiously he stepped out of the car and within seconds he was soaked in water. With all his might he opened up the bonnet of his car to see the engine. Plumes of smoke billowed from the oily engine. It looked like he would have to spend the night there. The trees seemed to wave at him as he looked around the dense and darkening forest. [Ajinkya – 6D]



◀ 6D's Individual Writing Goals based on the 6 traits of quality writing





Community Noticeboard

Metella Road Public School, as a service to parents, will advertise community events that may be of interest.

Metella Road Public School does not necessarily endorse or sponsor the events and accepts no responsibility for the management or organisation of these events.





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