



WANDIN NORTH PRIMARY SCHOOL

Newsletter

Issue 8

28th October 2025

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From the Principal

Dear Parents/Guardians.

I will continue to shout from the rooftops that we are so very fortunate at Wandin North to have the dedicated, passionate and hardworking staff that we have. Teachers have one of the most accountable professions which exist and when you consider that each grade has an average of 22 students and on average have a 5-year range of ability, the expectations of meeting every child's needs is massive and I sincerely thank them all for their incredible work. Our Educational Support staff also play an important role in our school community and are at times working with our most vulnerable students. It takes everyone at Wandin North to ensure we have high expectations for learning, and the supports are in place to ensure our environment is a safe a secure one. Happy World Teachers Day for this coming Friday 31st October.

We are in the process of reviewing our reporting model and practices in preparation for 2026. Since 2022, we have moved to a continuous reporting model via Compass Chronicle to allow parents to have an increased connection to what is being taught in the classroom and a greater understanding of their child's capabilities and next steps for their learning. As part of this review, we are seeking parent feedback via a Google Form. I will be using this feedback, as well as feedback from staff to reflect and improve practices. Please click on the link to provide feedback <https://forms.gle/fJsb23d7L7ovh8D2A>

The results of our student surveys are in and were recently reported to our school council. The Attitudes to School Survey is a Department of Education survey where Grades 4 to 6 students complete. Each year we analyse any trends in our survey data which may indicate the need to shift our resources and approach. Based on the results of the survey Wandin North Primary School is an exceptionally safe, supportive and positive learning environment. Our goal to engage children with their learning was strongly supported by the student. The parent opinion survey results will be made available to schools in the coming weeks. We thank everyone who participated in the parent survey this year.

Diary Dates

Tuesday 28th October -
Prep Transition 9:15am—10:15am
Wednesday 29th October -
SEA Program Gr5/6
Author's Celebration Gr 3/4 3:00pm
Gr 2 Camp Information Session 3:45pm—4:00pm
Thursday 30th October -
Free Dress Halloween Gold Coin Donation
Friday 31st October -
P-2 Jr Sports
Hooptime Regional Finals - Kilsyth - Selected Gr 5/6 students
Monday 3rd November -
Curriculum Day
Tuesday 4th November -
Melbourne Cup Public Holiday
Thursday 6th - Friday 7th November - Gr 2 Camp Gundiwindi Lodge
Tuesday 11th November -
Prep Transition 9:15am—11:00am
Monday 17th - Friday 21st November - Dental Van Visit
Tuesday 18th November - School Council
Friday 21st November - Prep Little Night In 5:00pm
Sunday 23rd November - Working Bee #9 9:00am—11:00am

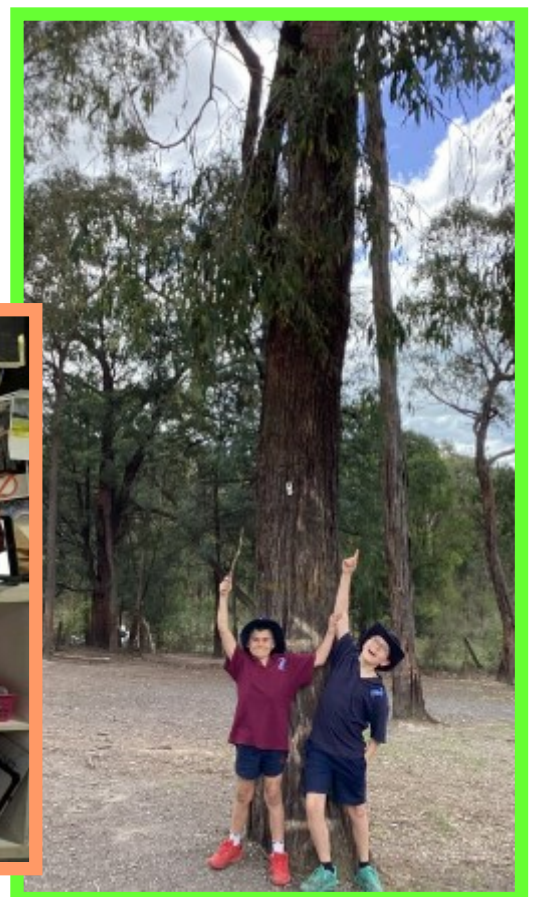
This week our Curriculum Contributions notice for 2026 went out to families via Compass and in hard copy. At Wandin North Primary School, we take great pride in providing high quality education and resources for our students. At our recent school council meeting, it was acknowledged that families may be under financial strain due to the current economic climate, therefore our curriculum contributions would remain at the same cost as 2024, \$300. Unfortunately, student funding from the Department of Education does not cover all the costs for student resources such as classroom readers, library books, classroom consumables and digital devices, laptops and ipads. Payment of the curriculum contributions ensures there is not a gap in funding.

Planning classes for 2025 has begun as it takes a considerable amount of time. At Wandin North PS we take into consideration a range of academic abilities, equitable distribution of students requiring behaviour management, student friendships, equitable distribution of health needs and consistency of numbers across a year levels. We recognise the importance of fostering and maintaining friendship groups; however, it is equally important for students to mix and learn with peers who have different interests. Parent requests for 2025 must be in writing and include the educational and social reasons for the request.

Paul Bailey ~ Principal



Grade 3-6 Students -
Orienteering at Maroondah Reservoir



Working Bee #9

**Sunday 23rd
November
9:00am - 11:00am**

School Council :
Sandra Mayes

Families :
Aitkins
Barnard
Best
Bombinski
Bradbury
Budgen
Di Pietro
Giles-Clark
Flanagan
Gerace
Ghaffari
Hadland
Hensgen
James
Jamieson
Jowitt
Kinsmore
Kosterman
Linley
Norris-O'Donnell
Richardson
Roberts (Lucy)
Robinson (Layla)
Robinson (Ollie)
Ruscitti
Tanner
Van Der Monde
Wallis
Watson
Winfield

Curriculum Day

Monday 3rd November

**Melbourne Cup Public Holiday
Tuesday 4th November**

Curriculum Day

Friday 5th December



Dental Van

This year we will be having the Dental Van visit Wandin North from November 17th to the 21st. Consent forms were sent home to all children recently.

If you wish for your child to visit the dental van, consent forms must be return to school by the end of this week, Friday 31st October, to enable them to be sent off in preparation for the visit.

Extra forms are located outside Mrs Salvitti's office.



SunSmart Hats

It is an expectation all students have a Wandin North PS sunsmart hat during Terms 1 and 4. Students who do not have a hat will be required to play on the Prep decking at lunch time and attend lunch club at recess.

Child Safe : Wandin North Primary School is commitment to creating and maintaining a child safe organisation where children and young people are safe and feel safe. Our Code Of Conduct and Child Safe policies can be found on the school's website.

A Community of Learners, Achieving Together



School preparedness and pre-emptive actions for the bushfire season

Fire danger ratings indicate how dangerous a fire would be if one started in those conditions and provide clear direction on the safest options for preserving life. They can be a trigger for action in community and for school and household level fire plans.

Schools and children's services listed on the Department of Education and Training's Bushfire At-Risk Register (BARR) and those at some lower risk of bushfire or grassfire on the Category 4 list will be closed when a Catastrophic fire danger rating day is forecast in their Bureau of Meteorology district.

Schools and early childhood services listed on the Department of Education and Training's Bushfire At-Risk Register (BARR) and those at lower risk of bushfire or grassfire on the Category 4 list take pre-emptive actions on elevated fire danger days to minimise the risk of being caught in a fire in these conditions. The category of risk (per the BARR or Category 4 list) determines the actions that the school or early childhood service will need to take on days of elevated fire danger.

Our school has been identified as being one of these schools at high bushfire or grassfire risk, and is listed on the Bushfire at Risk Register (BARR) / a category 3 school.

Our school will **close** on a day forecasted as **Catastrophic fire danger rating** in **Central fire district**.

The department will advise our school of the potential for a **Catastrophic fire danger rating** as information becomes available, however the pre-emptive closure will be **confirmed by 1pm the day prior to Catastrophic fire danger day**.

Fire danger ratings are forecast by the Bureau of Meteorology up to four days in advance. Should a Catastrophic day be forecast, we will notify you of the potential closure by an email or hard copy letter and SMS message/phone tree. Closure of the school due to a forecast Catastrophic day will be confirmed on the day prior and we will provide you with advice before the end of the school day.

Once confirmed, the decision to close will not change, regardless of improvements in the weather forecast. This is to avoid confusion and help your family plan alternative care arrangements for your child. It is also important to note that:

- No staff will be on site on days where the school is closed due to a forecast Catastrophic day.
- Out-of-school-hours care will also be cancelled on these days.
- School camps will be cancelled if a Catastrophic fire danger rating day is forecast for the Bureau of Meteorology district in which the camp is located, or if the travel involves passing through areas that have Catastrophic fire danger.
- All bus routes that travel through the Catastrophic area will be cancelled.
- Depending on which fire weather district is impacted, bus route cancellations may affect our school.

Families are encouraged to enact their Bushfire Survival Plan on Catastrophic fire danger rating days.

On such days, children should never be left at home alone or in the care of older children.

For those of us living in a bushfire prone area, the Country Fire Authority (CFA) advises that when Catastrophic days are forecast, the safest option is to leave the night before or early on the morning of the Catastrophic day.

As part of preparing our school for potential hazards such as fire, we have updated and completed our Emergency Management Plan and hold regular evacuation drills and reprioritised any maintenance works that may assist in preparing for the threat of fire and cleared our facility's grounds and gutters].

What can parents do?

- Make sure your family's bushfire survival plan is up-to-date and includes alternative care arrangements in the event that our school is relocated / undertaking remote and flexible learning and/or closed due to elevated fire danger or a Catastrophic fire forecast. Further information can be found on the [CFA's website](#) .
- Ensure we have your current contact details, including your mobile phone numbers. Keep in touch with us by reading our newsletters, checking our website <https://www.wandinnorthps.vic.edu.au/> , by talking to your child's teacher or any other member of the teaching staff about our emergency management plan.
- Most importantly at this time of year, if you're planning a holiday or short stay in the bush or in a coastal area, you should check warnings in advance of travel and remain vigilant during your stay.
- If your child is old enough, talk to them about bushfires and your family's Bushfire Survival Plan.
- You can access current information about school and early childhood services closures, including those due to elevated fire danger, on the Department of Education and Training's website – see <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/health/pages/closures.aspx>

Multiple sources that offer information on emergencies are listed below:

VicEmergency app – that can be downloaded on your android and iOS mobile devices

VicEmergency Hotline (1800 226 226)

Website <https://emergency.vic.gov.au>

Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/vicemergency>)

Twitter (<https://twitter.com/vicemergency>)

ABC local radio, Sky News and other emergency broadcasters

Welcome back, everyone! We hope you enjoyed a restful break and are ready for a wonderful Term 4. As the days grow warmer and brighter, it's a great time to focus on new opportunities, fresh energy, and exciting learning ahead.

This term we have lots of special events and activities planned, along with plenty of chances for students to connect, grow, and shine. Warmer weather also means more time outdoors, enjoying the sunshine and staying active together.

Let's make Term 4 a positive and rewarding finish to the school year—filled with learning, laughter, and wellbeing for all.



At our school, we believe that children's wellbeing is at the heart of learning and growth. When children feel safe, supported, and happy, they are better able to focus, try new things, and reach their full potential.

Wellbeing isn't just about being healthy on the outside – it's also about feeling confident, connected, and cared for. This includes having positive friendships, managing emotions, and knowing there are trusted adults to turn to when things feel tough.

Families play an important role too. Simple things like regular routines, time to talk, play, and rest all make a big difference. By working together – school and home – we can create a strong foundation where every child feels valued and ready to learn.

Together, let's keep wellbeing a priority, so our children can continue to thrive and shine.



Celebrating Wandin North Primary School Community

A special thank you to all the parents who generously gave their time to help with our Father's Day Stall in September of Term 3. Your support and contribution made the event such a success, and we are truly grateful. We are fortunate to have such a wonderful and supportive school community.



If you or anyone you know needs help or support, please reach out!

Teresa Salvitti — Mental Health and Wellbeing Leader

A Community of Learners, Achieving Together

Why is Gratitude Important?

At our school we use *The Resilience Project (TRP)* to support students' wellbeing. One important principle we focus on is **Gratitude**.

Gratitude is the practice of being thankful for and focusing on what we have in our lives, not what we don't. It has been shown to have numerous benefits for our mental and physical health, including:

- Less likely to get sick
- Higher levels of energy
- Feel happier
- More enthusiastic, focussed, disciplined and optimistic
- Better quality sleep
- Can have lower levels of anxiety/ depression

So how do we focus on Gratitude at home? Simple habits like Gratitude chats around the dinner table or Gratitude journaling can get our brains into a good habit of finding things in our day that make us grateful. Research shows after 21 days of practicing gratitude you rewire the brain to scan the world for positives. This contributes to an improved mood and reduced feeling of stress and anxiety.

Use the following prompts to discuss or journal at home and increase moments of gratitude.

What are three things that
went well for you today?

What is something you are
looking forward to tomorrow?

What **made you**
smile today?

What has made you **feel**
proud this week?



Respectful Relationships



This Term, we have begun teaching Topic 7 of the Rights, Resilience and Respectful Relationships program. This topic is called Gender and Identity and provides age appropriate activities that assist students to

- Understand and critique the influence of gender norms on attitudes and behaviour
- Engage in critical thinking exercises within which they detect and challenge the limiting nature of many gender norms
- Learn about gender equity and human rights
- Explore self-expression in relation to learning, leisure, health and work.
- Learn about key issues relating to gender identity, and the importance of respectful gender relationships.

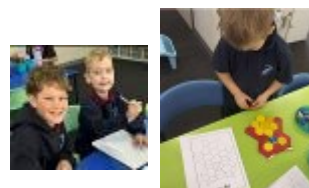


The prep children have returned to school full of enthusiasm and excitement! They were eager to see their friends, share their holiday stories and dive into new learning adventures! They've settled back into routines and shown how much they've grown this year. It's wonderful to see their confidence, curiosity and love of learning shining through as we begin our final term together.

Literacy: In reading, we have been exploring narrative texts and learning different accuracy strategies to help us become more confident readers. The children have been practising chunking words to make tricky ones easier to read and using cross-checking to see if their reading sounds right looks right and makes sense. We have also been using strategies like backing up and re-reading or skipping a word and coming back to work out unknown words. After reading, the children have been learning to summarise by retelling the story in their own words and making text-to-self connections, linking the story to their own experiences.

In writing, we have been learning how to plan and create our own narratives. The children have been practising how to plan their ideas by thinking carefully about the characters, setting, problem, and solution before they begin writing. They have been working on starting their stories with a bold beginning to grab the reader's attention and finishing with an excellent ending that wraps the story up nicely. We have also been learning how to edit and revise our writing by checking for punctuation, spelling, and ways to make our stories even better.

Numeracy: In numeracy, we have been learning lots of new skills and building on what we already know. The children have been practising partitioning numbers into two or three parts and using their knowledge to solve addition and subtraction problems. They have also been exploring sharing using concrete materials to help them understand how numbers can be divided equally. We have been learning to sequence days and events to understand the order of time and practising collecting and organising data to make simple graphs and talk about what we notice.



Dates for your Diary:

Friday 21st November:

Prep Little Night In

Monday 1st December:

Bizarre Bazaar Market

Tuesday 2nd December:

Christmas Concert

Friday 5th December:

Curriculum Day

Tuesday 9th December:

Back up Christmas Concert date

Friday 19th December:

Colour Run

Reports & Portfolios go home

Last day 1:30pm dismissal

Reminders:

Please continue to read your child's reader with them each night and record it in their yellow reading journal. Also keep practising the alphabet letters and corresponding sounds (out of order) and Magic Words as often as possible. Any counting practise at home is a bonus and greatly benefits your child!

We are looking forward to another wonderful month of learning.

Teachers: Tayla Eisele, Isabella Woodlock, Steph Burnage & Jamie Sansom

A Community of Learners, Achieving Together

LITERACY

We've been learning...

Grade 1/2's have loved exploring our brand new series of mentor texts this term. We have done a deep dive on Ellie Jackson's books, that follow various animals who experience the dangers of environmental issues. We have learnt how narrative stories can reflect problems in the real world.

We've been reading...

Buddy's Rainforest Rescue
Sunny's Blazing Battle
Duffy's Lucky Escape

We've been writing...

We have been mirroring Ellie Jackson's concept of writing a narrative story, about an animal facing an environmental issue. This term we have focused on language and purposeful word choices.



NUMERACY

We've been learning...

This term we have kicked off our learning with mathematical modelling. Students have learnt about the four operations— addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. We have investigated worded problems and the key words that indicate which operation to use.



INQUIRY

To begin the term we have started our History unit in inquiry. The 1/2's have learnt about the history of WNPS, looking at the centenary celebrations and comparing Then and Now. We have also learnt about the Wandin Railway station and how our much used 'Warby Trail' was once built for huge steam trains!



REMINDERS

Spelling words: Students should be practicing their spelling words nightly at home. Once your child passes their retention set/s, they will commence Magic words again. Your child's tests will go home in their Magic Word books in their take home folders. Please chat to your child's teacher if you have any questions about this process and we would be happy to help.

Students should change their take home reader/good fit books each day at school to complete nightly reading.

Upcoming Dates in 1/2:

OCTOBER

THURS 30th—Halloween Free Dress
FRI 31st—P-2 Sports Day

NOVEMBER

MON 3rd/4th—Cup Day Long weekend
THURS 6th/7th—Grade 2 Camp
FRI 28th—Free Dress (No theme)

Teachers: Kiera Rankin, Carly Bell & Emma Hoehne

*What's On in 3/4**Welcome to Edition 6, 2025 in*

We hope everyone enjoyed their Term 3 break, can you believe we are already in Week 4 of our learning. So many exciting things have already emerged from the first 4 weeks and there is so much to look forward to in this busy term. Please if you are going to be absent, inform the teacher.

Literacy

READING; We have explored, dissected and immersed ourselves in the amazing mentor text; An Illustrated Poetry Book Inspired by Poems from the Dreamtime. The illustrations, rhythm, and word choice has inspired our readers. We have focused on finding poetry devices that help us infer the author's purpose (PIE).



Writing; Poetry has been a beautiful creative journey. Writing Quatrains, considering syllables, rhythm and word choice have helped guide our students to write, edit and publish some insanely original pieces. Everyone cannot wait to showcase in our Author's Celebration. All the teachers have marveled at their independence, unique theme and topic choice and really enjoyed the independence that poetry has allowed.

Numeracy

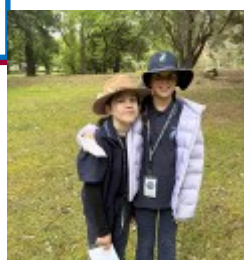
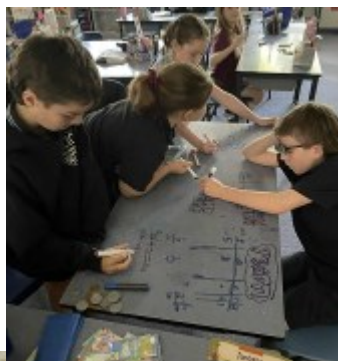
Decimals; what makes a whole, what is the value of decimal places? These are just some of the questions students have asked and answered – and with amazing success. Students looked into the value of decimals and what makes a whole. Tenths, Hundredths, renaming and seeing the link between money and decimals. Finding equivalent ways to represent decimals such as fractions. Lots of visual clues gave students a deeper understanding of these part of a whole numbers. It is great to recover topics and see the students show a deeper understanding of the topics! Scaled instruments; have brought out a lot of hands on learning experiences and the students have loved it. Seeing the link to decimals, conversions and real life.

Dates Coming Up

Wednesday 29th October — Author's Celebration Poetry

November 2nd —Curriculum Day

Tuesday 3rd November — Melbourne Cup Public Holiday

**Integrated - First Contact**

Students will learn about how and why life changed in the past, and identify aspects of the past that have remained the same. They will discuss the experiences and perspectives of an individual or group over time and recognise the significance of events in bringing about change. Students will learn about the role of cultural traditions in the development of various identities and develop perspectives on and respect their own and others cultures.

Teachers: Kirsten Burrows, Georgia De Koning, Natalie Johnson & Kristy Kennedy

Reading

In Reading, students have begun exploring persuasive mentor texts. They have been learning to analyse the structure of paragraphs, beginning with a topic sentence, then elaborating this idea further with examples, evidence and explanations. Students have also been critiquing the use of persuasive devices and tone, including the effect these have on their audience.

Writing

In Writing, students have been putting their learning from reading into action. They have delved into planning and drafting their persuasive letters to companies, politely asking for donations for their Bizarre Bazaar stall. Students have written fantastic reasons why companies should assist their stalls and have shown through their writing their capabilities to incorporate persuasive devices, tone and excellent word choice. Students are also learning the formal format of a letter, including how we address our recipients and conclude our letter.

Maths

Students have been learning all about fractions, decimals and percentages and making the connection between all three areas and how they relate to each other. They have been learning to add and subtract fractions with known and unknown denominators and how to find the lowest common multiple. Students have also been converting fractions to decimals, using the hundredths and tenths grid. Using this knowledge, students have been able to find 10%, 25% and 50% percentage of numbers and are currently working on applying the percentage to work out discounts of items.

Teachers: Mrs Kemp, Mrs Grisold, Mr Langley & Mrs Cooper



Bizarre Bazaar

Students have been really excited to finally have Bizarre Bazaar here! They have formed groups and begun planning their stall or product they are going to market and sell on the day. Planning has involved coming up with a catchy name and slogan, identifying roles and responsibilities of tasks to be actioned before and on the day of the market and what their marketing campaign will look like. Students have been learning the importance of marketing timeframes and how this will impact audiences enthusiasm surrounding their product.

Special Visitor

The students were lucky enough to have Ben Grisold come in to talk and present to them about the importance of brand identity. Ben discussed with the students how big companies become well known through the use of colours, tone and traits and how this can be incorporated into students brand for Bizarre Bazaar. Students then created a company logo, to make their stall stand out.

What's On in HEROES

Habitat HEROES

As you may remember, we were the lucky recipients of a \$5000 grant for our winning sustainable initiative, Habitat HEROES in October 2024 from Planet Ark and Coles. 12 months on and we can say that the project is finally complete! We now have 16 nesting boxes in our school grounds, designed to support hollow dwelling animals and 7 microbat boxes. We also have an epic wildlife rope bridge that connects two sections of canopy in our 'cubby' area at the top of the school. Even more exciting is that we have cameras in the area to detect any animals that use the new habitat. The students are very excited to see what animals choose to call WNPS their home in the near future!!!!



Teacher: Laura Attrill

The Yabby Tank

Exciting news from the yabby tank here in the HEROES room– The fresh-water snails have had babies. LOTS of them. What we thought was scum on the tank glass actually turned out to be tiny baby snails. They are doing a fantastic job keeping the tank clean!



THANK YOU

To all the parent helpers. This month we have had 'bushwalks across the carpark' and cooking week. We can not continue to run these sessions without the support of our parents. We are grateful for you and your time!

Our 5th Star-ENERGY

In 2026 we will be focussing on ENERGY in all year levels. If you have any contacts or know any experts about renewable energy, please let me know at laura.attrill@education.vic.gov.au

I want to create really engaging lessons for the students so any support would be appreciated.

*What's On in Global Studies***Global Studies**

The students have settled in beautifully to Global Studies in Term 4, as we welcome back Ibu Flowers from maternity leave. We are so excited to have Ibu back!

This term, our unit is called 'One World, Many Ways', where we compare different countries traditional clothing, types of homes, foods, school life, music, sports and inventions. Each week, students are presented with a new topic and two countries to compare and study.



Our Prep-2 students have been busy learning about traditional foods from Italy and Japan. They worked hard to create excellent sushi plates, complete with chopsticks! When comparing myths and legends in Australia and Greece, we loved the display of Tiddalick the frog masks hopping around the classroom!



Our 3-6 students have been busy researching traditional recipes from around the world, to collate into a whole class cook book. Last week, students focused on myths and legends, creating impressive comic strips and drama plays, acting out the stories of Tiddalick the Frog and Artemis. This week we have researched tartan patterns and the history of the Scottish kilt.

Teachers: Steph Clarke & Nari Flowers

Update on our Sponsor Child!

This is Yanuarius, our World Vision sponsor child. He lives in a rural community where families often rely on farming and local resources to meet their daily needs. Through our sponsorship, World Vision is helping to provide access to clean water, education, healthcare and better opportunities for children like Yanuarius.



What's On in ART

Oct / Nov 2025

Children's Literature - Digital Art

This term in Art, students are exploring **Children's Literature** through **Digital Art**. All classes have been discovering different Children's illustrators from the past and present. Our young artists have been exploring different websites and apps, and learning new techniques and skills to apply to their work. We are excited to see what they will produce this term!

Prep Students have loved learning about the Digital Art world. Using the iPad, our young artists have explored museum websites and apps. They are beginning to create a book character using Pixel Art.



Grade 1/2 Students have enjoyed learning about the Digital Art world and how illustrators use technology. Our young artists were very creative using the Tate Paint website on the iPad. They are now beginning to create a book character and landscape using Pixel Art.



Grade 3/4 Students have entered the world of stories and shadow puppets. Forming small groups, they are bringing a Julie Donaldson story to the small screen. They have been busy creating their puppets and props.



Grade 5/6 Students discovered the art of Flip Book making. The young animators have planned their storyboards and are now creating their own Flip Books. Soon they will film them and create a promotional poster including an QR code for audiences to engage with them.



Melanie Smith & Kaitlin Saynor

Reminders

Art pieces are filling up our office area and Art Room. Please come and have a look at our artists wonderful work!

ART CLUB

Every
Wednesday at
Recess in the
Art Room.
Everyone welcome!

Welcome to Term 4 Health and Physical Education

Our students have made an active and energetic return to PE after the holiday break. They have remembered to be SunSmart each week - wearing hats; bringing drink bottles; applying sunscreen; and dressing in appropriate clothing - which has been very impressive to see! Let's take a look at what's been happening in PE recently across our school.

Upcoming Important Dates

Friday 31st October - Junior Sports P-2

Monday 3rd November (week starting of, during weekly lessons) - Martial Arts Program for Grade 3-6

Prep students have learnt new games to practise their range of movements and explore different ways of moving their bodies. These skills will come in handy when learning about soccer in the upcoming weeks.



Students in Grade 1/2 have started a unit about cricket. Kids have been working together in teams, and have enjoyed learning to strike the ball correctly and accurately with a cricket bat.

Our Grade 3-6 students have continued focusing on AFL. They have practised handballing and kicking techniques, and have participated in drills with their classmates to further hone their skills.



Teachers: Nick Syme, Paul Bailey & Nari Flowers