



# THE WHITTY NEWS



Welcome to the latest version of our school newsletter. Last week, our Grade 4-6 students ventured into Canva to create master designs for our newsletters. Following a formal election, Reuben and Mike's design was selected to feature in this edition.

## WELCOME—MICHELLE BESTER & JADE MASKELL

This week we welcomed two new friends to our school. Michelle is our new chaplain and Jade is an education support officer for the remainder of term 1. Michelle will be working with us every Tuesday and we'll see Jade every Wednesday morning. They both loved meeting our students and are extremely valuable members of our team.



## SCHOOL COUNCIL

It was great to meet our school council members and a few new faces at our first meeting.

Our next meeting is the Annual General Meeting on Tuesday 22 March at 7.00pm. All parents are welcome to attend.

## CSEF APPLICATIONS

The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF) provides payments for eligible students to attend activities like:

- school camps or trips
- swimming and school-organised sports programs
- outdoor education programs
- excursions and incursions.

Families holding a valid means-tested concession card or temporary foster parents are eligible to apply. Please complete forms and return them to the office as soon as possible.

## SOMERS CAMP

Four of our Grade 5-6 students are looking forward to heading off to Somers Camp from 15-23 March. Parents, can you please forward payment of \$260 via the school account by Fri 11 March? Thank you.

## EXPLORING EXCEPTIONAL EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCES

Wow! Time really does fly when you're having fun! Our students have continued to engage in rich and challenging learning activities to help them learn, play and grow.

## MINI BEASTS

For integrated studies this term, Miss Feldtmann's class is learning about Aussie Beasts and we are focusing on minibeasts.

Minibeasts are small animals and insect like spiders, mosquitos and other insects. But we decided as a class that we would try and get a Flow hive... a fancy beehive! So to raise money, we looked online to see if we could get any grants for the beehive. We found a few and we've sent in our applications. The reason we want a Flow hive and



There's nothing quite like enjoying a great book under the shade of a beautiful tree...

not an ordinary one is because the honey just comes out of a tap instead of having to take out the honeycomb and scrape it off.

While we wait for the grants to be decided, we are going to learn about bees.

In the very bad case that we can't get a beehive we will change the minibeast we are researching.

*Joke: What did one bee say to the other bee?*

*When will you beeeeeee back?*

By Lars



## Dates to remember:

Cooking (4-6)	Tue 15 Mar
School Council AGM	Tue 22 Mar
Labour Day	Mon 14 Mar
KVC Spart Art Project	Various Dates
KVC Curriculum Day (no school for students)	Fri 1 Apr
Student Learning Conferences	Mon 28 Mar Tue 29 Mar Thu 31 Mar
Last day of term 1	Fri 8 Apr
First day of term 2	Tue 26 Apr

### MUSIC VIBES

Lately in music we have been doing guitar. We listened to a song called 'Wellerman Sea Shanty' by Nathen Evans, and 'Moonlight Sonata' by Beethoven. We learnt how to play and sing the song 'Lime In The Coconut'. We have music on Thursdays. Learning guitar is hard. We also learnt how to tell a major or minor. Major sounds happy, minor sounds sad.

**By Kody and Johann**

### GREEN THUMBS NEEDED

We need hands in the school gardens! Come in any time you have spare. It can be during school, after school or even on the weekend. The students have been working hard in the garden beds each week: weeding, harvesting and planting, but we can certainly use your help and expertise.

Thank you,

**By Elsey**



### CLASSROOM CRAFTS

The 4-6 class are hoping to decorate the classroom and were wondering if parents could please donate some knitting wool (especially in greens and blues), we are thinking of making gods eyes and other types of wool crafts to decorate the walls and ceiling! Donating the wool will make the classroom a more comfy and friendly place to work and Learn!

**By Inanay**



### SWIMMING

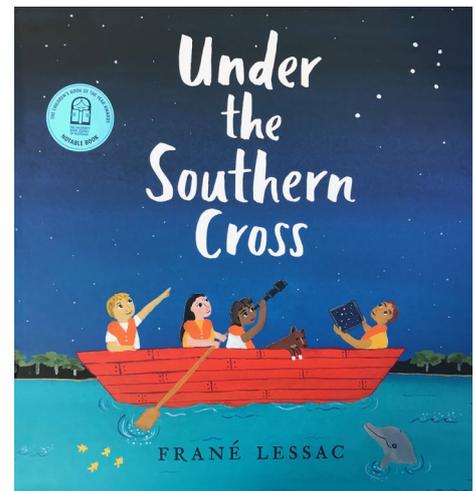
I've loved seeing our students smiley faces as excitement builds each morning before swimming. It's even more rewarding hearing their success stories when they've returned. We're looking forward to reading their anecdotes in our next newsletter. For now, a picture (or two) tells a thousand words!



## THE CRAFT OF WRITING...

"Writing is a craft before it is an art; writing may appear magic, but it is our responsibility to take our students backstage to watch the pigeons being tucked up in the magician's sleeve." Donald Murray

**How do young writers create rich, authentic texts?** By drawing on the expertise of published authors. Our Grade 4-6 students have been exploring the craft of Frané Lessac in her recent picture book, *Under the Southern Cross*. Frané is an author and illustrator who has written 45 award-winning children's books that have been published throughout the world. She is a dynamic presenter and shares with students of all ages the process of writing and illustrating picture books.



## UNDER THE BRIGHT MOON

At a pool a penguin dived into the water, then the penguin spotted a fish - under the bright moon.  
The penguin waddled under the willow tree under the bright moon.  
The penguin saw fish. The penguin dives into the river - under the bright moon.

**By Tobias**

## Under the Blazing Sun

At Cape Conran the waves crashed and surfers splashed - under the blazing sun.  
At Momosa Rocks children splashed in the waves and buried each other - under the blazing sun.  
At my place, goats bleated and Zippy stalked a bunny - under the blazing sun.  
At Sylvie's place, the cattle lazed and the calves frolicked - under the blazing sun.

**By Nina**

## UNDER THE WHOMPING WILLOWS

Kids laugh and splash in the river, men fish and mothers chat – under the whomping willows.  
At home, we eat fish and chips as the dogs play – under the whomping willows.  
In the trees birds flutter and tweet while I read – under the whomping willows.  
Amongst the blackberries rabbits run and snakes slither- under the whomping willows.  
Near the oval, teachers chat and kids chase each other- under the whomping willows.

**By Ruby**

## In the Blazing Heat

In the core of the Earth scaly lizard people swim slowly  
in the lava and they roll forwards to the outer core –  
in the blazing heat.  
On a Friday a volcano in New York blew up –  
in the blazing heat.  
In an old gum tree, a koala sat. A bush fire started and  
the koala was surrounded –  
in the blazing heat.

**By Mikey**

## Under the Boiling Sun

Kids at school play on the playground -  
under the boiling sun.  
Teachers talk and watch kids -  
under the boiling sun.  
Parents help at working bees -  
under the boiling sun.

**By Joah**

## THE CRAFT OF WRITING..

### IN NEWZEALAND

Kakapo chirp at day light, flying about at night – in New Zealand.

Kiwis flying about, eating seeds – in New Zealand.

Kiwis nesting about in trees, protecting their eggs – in New Zealand.

**By Aroha**



### At the River

Kids, fathers and mothers laughing, chatting and playing - at the river.

Kids finding some new friends - at the river.

Kids swimming and swinging off a rope - at the river.

Playing games and having fun - at the river.

**By Krystal**

### IN THE DARK GROUND

Below China, small moles quickly move around in the dirt,  
and they scurry further and further -in the dark ground.

Below Australia, big critters squirm around in the hard dirt  
and smoothly dig forwards to another city - in the dark ground.

**By Reuben**

## FINDING NEW FAVES...

We all know the power of finding a new book that hooks you in. There's nothing quite like being transported to another world, meeting interesting characters and exploring new adventures. Sylvie launched into the Rainbow Magic series last week, she was very excited!

As I wandered around our garden that day, I also experienced one of those 'beautiful moments' that we teachers are so lucky to experience. I heard a younger student reading to her friends at play time. She paused at one point and said:

*"I might just make up some stuff now because I'm not so good at reading..."*

Her friends didn't bat an eyelid as they eagerly awaited the next chapter in their adventure! Reading truly is magic so make sure you treasure the time you have reading with your kids at home. Establishing strong reading routines is a gift you can give them for free every single day.

We encourage you to spend at least 10 magical minutes reading with or to your child every day. Imagine the places you'll go (and the people you'll meet)!



*"The peace that the rhythm of reading gives you is almost meditative. Your temperature goes down, your heartbeat slows; you're in a magical space."*

Mem Fox

## EXPLORING NARRATIVES...

Our Grade F-3 students have been exploring story writing through traditional and fractured fairy tales. They have been focusing on creating interesting characters in unique settings. They have also been learning about the structure of narrative texts and how to keep the reader hooked with a problem.

These are our students' beginnings...

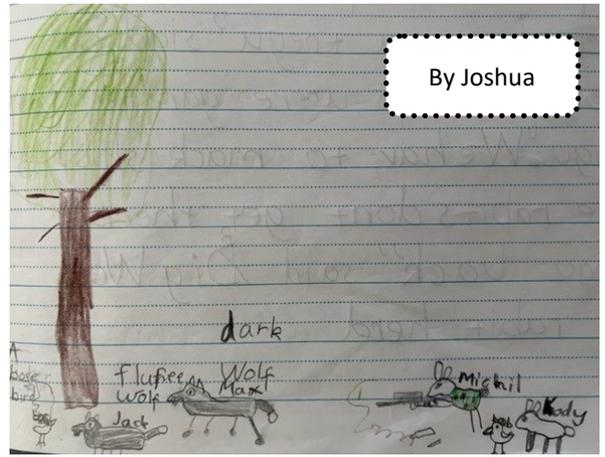
### The Wolves

Once upon a time, there were two rabbits and a smart bird. They lived in a rabbit hole. There were wolves and a bird. "We have to get the gold back!" said little rabbit.

"It is okay," said Daddy Rabbit. "The wolves have a special den where they keep our treasure."

"The wolves are guarding the treasure. We have to make sure the rabbits don't get their treasure back." said Big Wolf....

By Joshua



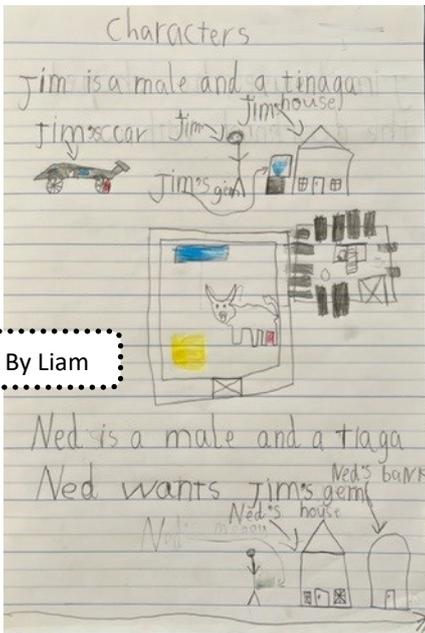
The Wolves.  
Once upon a time there were two rabbits and a bird they lived in a rabbit hole. There were wolves and the bird. "We have to get the gold back!" said little rabbit. "It is ok said Daddy rabbit." "The wolves have a special den where they keep our treasure" said Daddy rabbit. "The wolves were guarding the treasure. We have to make sure the rabbits don't get their treasure back" said Big Wolf. Big rabbit heard

## THE CHICKEN

Once upon a time, there was a farm. It was a big farm. There was a big family and a friendly person was living there. His name was Jim. Jim owned the farm and had pets, a cow and a chicken. He had a neighbour. His name was Ned. (Ned pretends to be nice but he's actually bad!)

One night, Ned broke into Jim's house, he chopped the doorknob with an axe...

By Liam

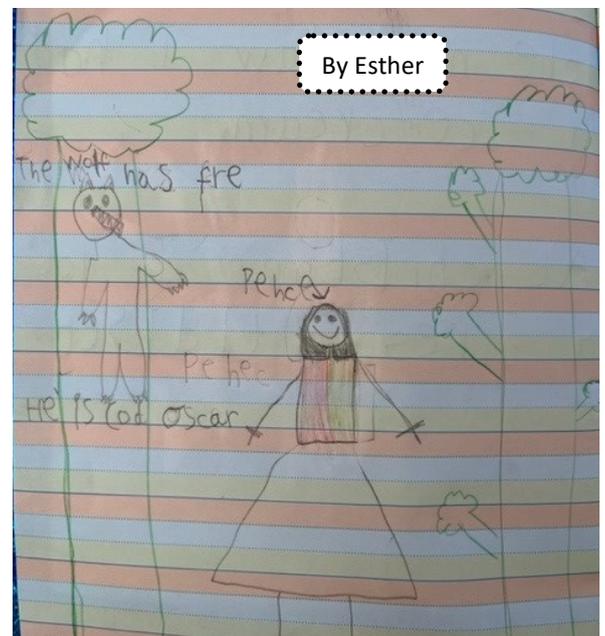


By Liam

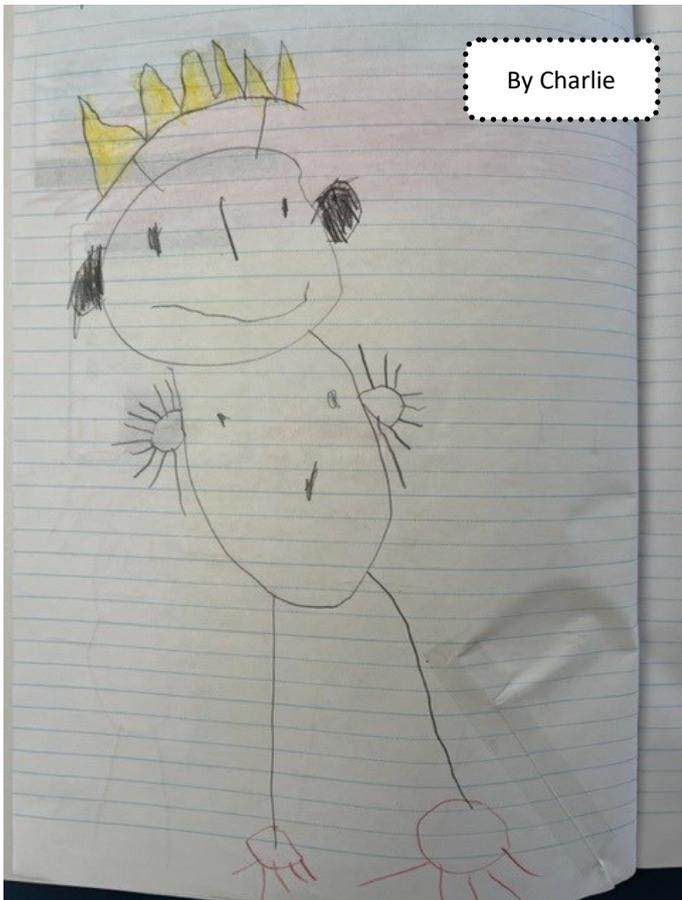
## TITLE

Once upon a time, at the end of a forest, there was a house. And in the house there was a girl and her name was Peach. Her mum's name was Peek. The next day, Peach went into the forest to see her grandmother...

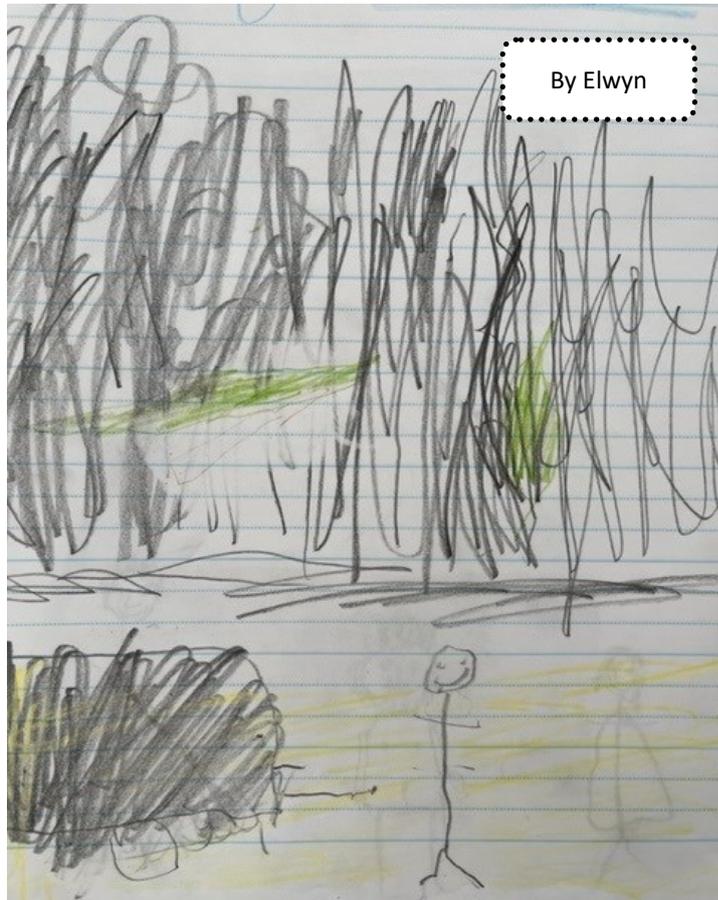
By Esther



By Esther



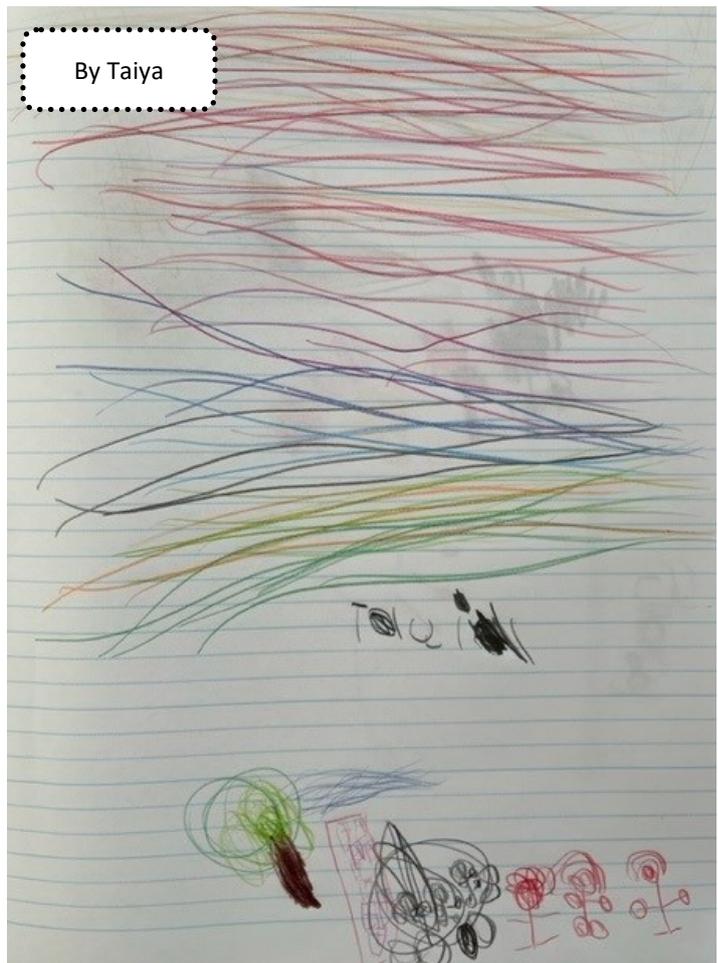
By Charlie



By Elwyn



By Archie



By Taiya



**CREATING CHARACTERS:** These guys have already got the hang of it! Their characters are super cool!

### The Spark King Valley Project

This project delivered by the Wangaratta Art Gallery, is fully funded through Murray PHN, managed by Rural City of Wangaratta. The funding goal is to bring art into the Community, targeting bushfire impacted areas across the Wangaratta Shire.

This project is delivering artists and an ecologist into schools to work with students around the themes of climate change and local ecology. Students will make their own works and contribute to larger collaborative works that will be exhibited at Gallery2 at the Wangaratta Art Gallery in the later part of 2022. The exhibition will include solarographs, wind drawings, wind/solar drawing machine, sculpture, single channel video and student journals.

#### Term 1

After several Covid19 postponements in 2021, we are really looking forward to engaging and sharing learning with your school community. We are really excited about finally making a start this week, local photographer, Marc Bongers, will deliver two workshops on solarography. During the workshops Marc will demonstrate how to make a pin hole camera. At the end of each session, students will take away a pin hole camera to install in a location at home. The cameras will stay in their selected positions for several months, after which Marc will develop all of the prints.

Later in the term grades 4 -6 students spending time with local ecologist Ian Davidson. Activities will be centered around fauna and flora of the immediate environment and how it is impacted by climate. Students will work through a range of hands on activities supplemented by notes/drawings in their journals that are provided for them.

In late March artist Cameron Robbins will be working with students to design, refine and create a **wind/solar machine** that will create a series of drawings. To find out more about Cameron Robbin's art practice go to his website:

<https://cameronrobbins.com/artwork/>

\*For the construction of the **wind/solar drawing machines** we are putting out a call out for unwanted materials, especially materials or objects that have the capacity to move.

It is a rather eclectic list, here goes:

- Broken pottery wheel
- Record player
- Fishing rods
- Small motors 12 – 24 volts
- Satellite dish
- Musical instruments – guitars, violins, etc parts of/broken
- Spinning items
- Wind turbines Air roof vent exhausts
- Aluminum &/or gardening wire, lengths of sturdy twine
- Lengths Bamboo/cane
- Picket type fence palings without nails and toxins
- Meccano sets parts of/broken



**In Term 2** local sculptor Ben Jenkins, will be working with students to develop a series of drawings from their reflections from term1 learnings and activities. These student drawings will become the basis of sculptural artwork that will be completed by Ben with the students having the capacity to add to the sculpture/s before completion. It is planned that some of these drawings will form the basis of a large-scale collaborative image that will be digitally printed.

**In late Term 2 or early Term3**, performance artist Devika Bilimoria will be presenting a series of workshops, starting with mindfulness, movement, breathing and drawing activities that are all centered around the theme of wind exploring the effects of wind on us and the environment. These activities will inform a series of choreographed movement and photography sessions leading to a video performance.

Many thanks for your time.

**Inga Hanover**

Exhibitions Officer at Wangaratta Art Gallery





**THUMBS UP!** Both of my thumbs are up this week for Ruby O, Joshua and Krystal. They have all worked hard to achieve their learning and social goals.

**Ruby:** For your wonderful leadership and persisting until you have explored different options in your learning challenges. We also loved your thinking and initiative when you took the lead to modify games and create Mini Skittles for us to enjoy under the covered area when it was raining this week! It was such a hit that some of our younger students have continued to play during breaks.

**Joshua:** For your extremely positive attitude and persisting with your learning. We've loved your ideas and commitment to having a go (and you're always so willing to help others).

**Krystal:** For committing to having a go and making a positive start to your journey at our school. Your smile lights up the room and we've loved hearing you develop the confidence to ask questions and share your ideas.



### COMMUNITY VOICE

Although we didn't get to meet at our Family Picnic, we're keen to hear your ideas. Rest assured we've been putting our minds together to work out when we can meet as a community—stay tuned! In the meantime, we'd really love to learn more about you and hear your ideas about the rich traditions at Whitfield District Primary School.

This will also be a great opportunity for me to learn and for our team to gather feedback to help us plan our work moving forward. Our staff and students have already been sharing their ideas, now it's your turn!

We'd like to know:

- What you love about our school? What are you proud of? What do you want us to continue?
- What do you think we could strengthen, improve or begin?
- Do you have any questions or wonderings (perhaps ideas that you've been thinking about and would like to explore further)?

You can share your ideas via email or by jotting them down on a post-it and sending it along in your child's notes folder (just be sure to write the category on your page so we pop it in the right spot)! Alternatively, you can add your ideas to our Jamboard.



Jamboard

Jamboard is a collaborative digital whiteboard (think of it as an online post-it tool). If you need any help accessing or using jamboard, your kids will be able to help (if they're in 4-6) or give us a call.

<https://jamboard.google.com/d/1a48lshhA1meNSxKY7BwKiDoV5qXDu6ZsJZNUlBs1Yfc/edit?usp=sharing>