

Peninsula Community of Schools

Term 3, 2017



PENINSULA COMMUNITY
OF SCHOOLS



MACQUARIE
University

Elanora Heights Public School Writing Day

On Wednesday 23rd August 2017, Years 5 and 6 at Elanora Heights Public School participated in Write a Book in a Day (WABIAD). WABIAD is a competition that is held annually for all different age groups, from Year 5 to Year 12, and even for adults. The money that is raised from this competition goes to the Kid's Cancer Project to help fund childhood cancer research, improve treatments and to find a cure. WABIAD not only donates funds to the Kid's Cancer Project, but also provides copies of all the books made in the competition to kids undergoing treatment, all around Australia, so that they can enjoy the books that kids their own age wrote just for them. Last year, over \$157,000 was raised with 630 teams participating throughout 187 schools. 284 schools entered this year's competition with 773 teams and have raised \$150,085 so far.

For our WABIAD writing day, all Stage 3 students participated with two teams entering the competition. The two competition teams of 20 students from Years 5 and 6 worked tirelessly with the expert leadership of Elanora Heights parent and author, Ms. Kristin Prescott and guest author Ms. Zoya Nojin to write, edit, illustrate and publish an entire book of 2500 words.

The Year 5 and 6 classes also worked enthusiastically with their teachers to create imaginative books for their buddies and for the school library. The two competitive teams that took part were the 'Pencil to the Mental' (like pedal to the metal) and the 'WABIAD Warriors'.



Pencil to the Mental: Jiya V.S., Cooper B., Maisy B., Libby T., Tara W., Joshua P., Kate H., Roxie R., Kiana B. and Natalie P.



WABIAD Warriors: Lachlan S., Lazar R., Lily D., Jessica S., Oscar B., Jonah K., Tary Y., Lulu L.G., Mikala W. and Vania Z.

For WABIAD, the teams are given parameters that have to be included somewhere in the book. This limits the amount of ideas that can be incorporated, which is quite a challenge. It also makes everyone think a little harder and makes for stories that are a little wacky! These were the parameters for the day:

Parameters	Team: Pencil to the Mental	Team: WABIAD Warriors
Human Character 1	Singer	Tourist
Human Character 2	Thief	Robot-BUILDER
Non-Human Character	Elf	Crocodile
Setting	An Antarctic base	Art Gallery
Issue	Kidnapping	Flood

Here are the summaries of the two competition books made to whet your appetite:

WABIAD Warriors:

Into The Art

Ricky is a young Spanish man exploring Australia. But when he visits a suspicious Art Gallery and falls through a portal leading to another dimension, he becomes friends with a young girl in order to escape. But as he gets to know her, questions start to bubble up in Ricky's mind. Why is she here? Is she telling the truth? Will she help him return to reality?

Pencil to the Mental:

Snatched

Emerald is a world class singer, then one day a kidnapping occurs at the famous Sydney Opera House. She has to fight free with the help of her friends and family in the coldest place you could imagine. Will she struggle through or give up in desperate hope?

All of the students, teachers and guest authors worked imaginatively and diligently to produce amazing books to be read and enjoyed by children and adults alike, for years to come, proving to be a very rewarding and enriching experience for all.



Thank you to all of our students and staff, especially our guest authors and team leaders Kristin & Zoya, for such a successful and exciting day of creative writing. If you would like more information about WABIAD, please visit their website: <https://www.writeabookinaday.com/>

By Maisy B, Libby T, Vania Z and Tara W in consultation with Miss Heazlewood (Year 6 Teacher and WABID Co-ordinator).


Collaroy Plateau Public School Artwork and Powerhouse Visit

Last week, Year 3 were thrilled to meet some professional artists who helped them examine a wide range of 2D and 3D media. Not only did the students explore their creative talents, they were able to learn about a variety of Art movements and famous artists. The students had great fun exploring new techniques and processes. The finished art pieces were truly amazing and are worthy of an art gallery!



When it comes to excursions at CPPS we think the Powerhouse Museum is a fabulous place to visit. Our Year 5 students were able to take a walk through the museum and were amazed by the unique treasures. They loved the fact that they were able to touch real artefacts and go 'behind the scenes'. Our students were able to see-think-and wonder. They are still talking about the 400 000 year old moon rock and the Experimentation Gallery which links in so well with the Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) projects we do at CPPS.



The smiles on the students' faces says it all. We  incursions and excursions at CPPS! What a great way to make our learning come alive.

Avalon Public School Book Week

For twenty years, Book Week at Avalon has been a very different event. In 1997 we moved away from the traditional parade because we wanted to celebrate the CBCA short list, promote reading across the school and explore the relevant Book Week Slogan which this year was “Escape to Everywhere”. In our school we celebrate for the whole week – with activities for our students every day. In 2017 we launched Book Week with a special song composed by our music teacher Mrs Jennifer Cincotta and we were presented with huge Book Week posters completed by 3/4AH. We have a collection of over 60 of these amazing posters in our school library. They take a full week to complete with the students working in small teams. We were then able to announce the CBCA winners to loud applause. Gary by Leila Rudge was an especially popular choice this year and it did receive an honour award.



During Book Week all students have the opportunity to participate in a range of activities. For our Kindergarten, Year One and Year Two students, each day the library offers a special lunch activity including craft and makerspace activities, a board game lunch and a movie event all supported by our team of library monitors. Our Primary students are presented with daily thinking challenges – design and make tasks, problem solving and creative writing. These challenges are completed over the course of the school day. This year our challenges involved making keys to open the library escape hatch, a wanted poster alerting our Avalon community that some of our books have developed wings and flown out the window, and the design of a patchwork bike. Hundreds of students entered each challenge and winners were presented with small lucky dip bags and school awards.

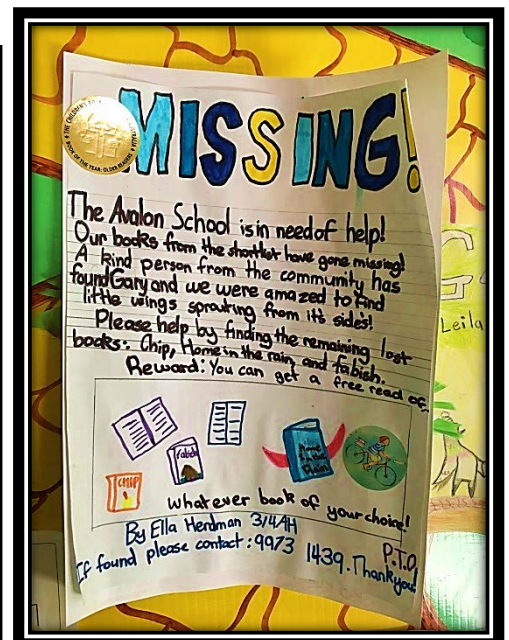
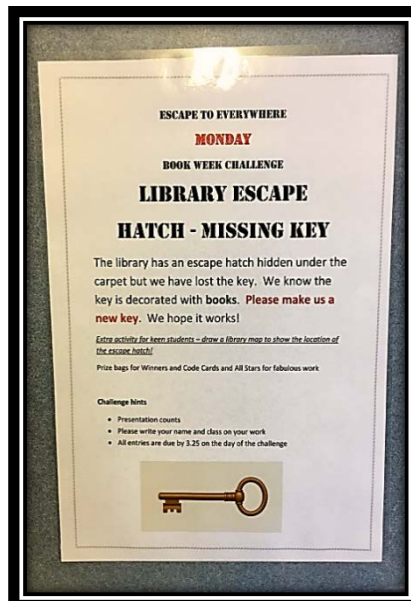


Here are some comments from the children in 3/4AH

“By the end of the week, I had discovered that Book Week is my favourite week of the year. I can’t wait for next year.”

“Which key will fit? We may never know. Can a patchwork bike ride through the snow? All these challenges were daring and fun. I can’t wait for next year’s Book Week to come.”

“Oh no! Books are escaping out of Avalon school library and we are stuck on a remote island. These are only some of the Book Week challenges. We all love Book Week.”



Narrabeen Lakes - Inquiry Based Learning

Year 6 IBL

Year 6 students have been busy learning about Natural Disasters in their Geography unit this term. The students have chosen to investigate one of the following and are required to create a short presentation to their peers:

Floods; Bushfires; Droughts; Cyclones; Earthquakes; Severe Storms; Tsunamis;
Heat Waves; Pandemics; Volcanos; or Landslides

Students are working collaboratively using Google Docs or Office 365 to produce their presentations to entertain the audience. Students are also provided with various supplies in order to complete their tasks. The inquiry is taking the students on a journey of discovery and exploration with the guidance of the teachers. As you can see from the students, they are highly engaged, working collaboratively and in control of their own learning. An exciting time for Year 6 and we look forward to seeing some of their final presentations.



Kindergarten IBL

This semester kindergarten students are involved in an IBL project that is close to their hearts. They are re-designing the Adventure Playground. Most Kindy students love playing in this area so we asked the question – How can we make the Adventure Playground even better? The children have been researching what is there at the moment and discussing what parts they like and want to stay. We have been on a mini-excursion to some local parks to discover what we like to play on or with. Another favourite part was surveying children in other years to see what they would like too. At the end of all this discovery the kindergarten students built a model of their ideal Adventure Playground. We were amazed at their creations and have passed a wish list onto the Student Representative Council and P&C.



Narrabeen North's Sustainable Gallery Walk

Taking care of our environment is always an important issue at Narrabeen North Public School.

This year, NNPS held a 'Sustainable Gallery Walk' around the school as an extra feature of our Open Day. Students had the opportunity to engage with a theme based on sustainability, to create artworks that generated awareness of environmental issues.

The gallery walk was set up around the school for classes, parents and visitors to view. It gave the students a chance to explore lots of creative ideas through different forms of artistic representation using sustainable materials. These included recycled bottle top animal art, murals, re-usable shopping bags, environmental weaving, sculptures and important messages about taking care of our environment. It was a huge success. The showcase of artworks was fantastic and everyone put in so much hard work to make it happen.

All of the students and teachers at NNPS did a fantastic job supporting this project and the important message that it represents.



Bilgola Plateau

Aboriginal Education Initiatives

Over the last term we have been reflecting our Aboriginal Education initiatives. In 2016 all staff at Bilgola Plateau Public School participated in a Staff Development Day workshop '8 Ways of Aboriginal Pedagogy'. This workshop provided a framework that enables teachers to integrate Aboriginal perspectives into their overall teaching practice. Many initiatives have been implemented into our programs this year across all Learning Areas.

This term our staff has also participated in an Indigenous Games professional learning workshop with NSW Sport and Recreation. This has provided new games that will be included in our PE programs.



K-6 Athletics Carnival

Our K -2 novelty events included games modified from traditional indigenous activities:

- Kurroongee – Kutthung (NSW) word for jumping which is a vine jumping game
- Kangaroo (Gangurru) – Guugu Yimithirr (QLD) word which is a kangaroo hopping game
- Gula (Koala) – Dharuk (Sydney) word which is a relay of backwards and forwards running

Other traditional games are also included in each rotation of the weekly Kindergarten Gross Motor program.

Bush Tucker Gardens

Bush tucker garden beds have been established throughout our school grounds and are a valuable part of our Aboriginal Education program. Year 6 students are researching the traditional uses of specific plants and this information will be used to permanently label individual plants which will inform the whole school community and be integrated into programs.

In the Kindergarten 'Healthy Eating' unit, students made damper in groups and then cooked the loaves in the school canteen. The students toured the school grounds to find our lilli pilli trees that were in fruit and then enjoyed their dampers with lilly pilli bush tucker jam.

NAIDOC celebrations

For Friendship Groups during NAIDOC Week, our Year 6 leaders created a notebook 'Our Language Matters' sharing indigenous words for local native animals. Students were then given a range of native Australian animals to 'scratch' designs on.

Students enjoyed a performance by Fred Reid and his son on the last day of Term 2. They shared their culture through storytelling and dance.

The Great Book Swap

At the end of Term 3, our school is hosting The Great Book Swap, a national event organised through the Indigenous Literacy Foundation. All our students enthusiastically gathered books from home to donate to the book swap. In week 9, students will donate a gold coin and choose a new book. The funds raised will go towards improving literacy in remote Indigenous communities across Australia.

In our library, we have a vast selection of Indigenous fiction and non-fiction, Big Books, picture books and novels which teachers and students use for enjoyment and study. We also have a range of Indigenous guided readers used for differentiated Literacy Groups throughout the school.



Visual Arts

The whole school recently participated in our Art Enrichment program with our artists in residence Meredith Rasdall and Liz Dunn who specialise in K-6 Visual Arts. Year 5 students' preconceptions of Aboriginal art were challenged as they considered and responded to the work of Indigenous artist Vernon Ah Kee. They created their own installation as an art form by making individual surfboards, having looked at traditional Yindiji shields from far North Queensland. Personal designs were developed on one side and charcoal self-portraits, inspired by Ah Kee, were created on the other side.

For the PCS NAIDOC celebrations held at Warriewood Square, all students from Bilgola Plateau Public School created a collaborative artwork inspired by Indigenous artist Emily Kngwarreye, pictured at the beginning of this article. Beginning with Kindergarten and finishing with Year 6, every student mapped his or her journey from their home to our school. We are thrilled to have this artwork exhibited in the foyer of our Administration Block and hear the stories that students tell of their journey to school and the friends they meet along the way.

Pittwater High School Year 10 Snow Experience

The Winter Season at Pittwater High School could only be described as supreme delight. Students from year 10 were able to experience a winter wonderland with a 3 day express trip to Perisher Smiggins.

Altogether 50 students attended the experience and their unique reflections are provided for you to enjoy. Blue skies, falling snow and many a smile were seen from everyone over the 3 days.

Also, a HUGE thanks goes to Mrs. Fleming, Dr. Hardy, Ms. O'Donnell and Mr. Cornish for increasing the fun factor throughout the journey.



Student's reflections...

The snow sport trip summed up was amazing! After a long bus ride with limited sleep we had reached Perisher Smiggins. The snowfields were so beautiful with the first and last day being really sunny and having heaps of snow throughout the day Sunday. Learning to ski was so much fun, getting the hang of it after falling over all of the first day and being able to speed down most runs by the end of the trip. Becoming closer to all my friends was also great as we had many long chair lift rides with each other and staying in the cabins together. Overall this trip was incredible, thanks to Pittwater High School who helped organise this amazing experience for everyone!

Jasmine Bridge



After waiting 3 terms for the ski trip it was finally here! The overnight trip wasn't that hard as we were all so excited (50 kids from year 10) and on Saturday morning we were on the bus (with good music) travelling to Perisher and we could see snow everywhere with bluebird skies! We hit the slopes and learnt some stuff in lessons then joined our friends and skied/snowboarded all over the mountain with hot chocolates + cream on the way. On the second day we had POWDER! Imagine gliding through fluffy cold stuff. Amazing trails through the trees and good terrain parks. Words can't explain the thrill of landing a good jump or even stacking from going too high. We stayed up late on the last night laughing and I just had the best time with my friends and other amazing people in the year and on top of all that the food was really good (Potato wedges were a highlight). So many funny and amazing memories and wish we could do it all over again. Will never forget it.

Arnu Matthews

Wow, the 25th-28th of August 2017 were probably the most memorable 3 and a bit days of my life. At first I was quite nervous as I hadn't been on a school camp in a while, but I was so glad that I took the opportunity to go on this Snow Sports Experience Trip. As soon as I saw the snow after more than 4 years, it was so exhilarating, and it just psyched me up even more to get onto the slopes. To be surrounded by such an awesome group of year 10's made the experience even better, and I got the chance to ski and bond with so many different people in our year group. My skiing abilities increased greatly. Day one of steady and controlled snowploughs, turned in to day 3 of confident parallel turns and skiing. The skiing conditions were pretty awesome as well, day 1 and 3 the sun was out and shining, perfect! And even though day 2 was snowing, windy, and freezing, it just made the experience so much more of an adventure. I am so grateful to have taken this opportunity, and it will definitely be one to remember forever.

Talija Hrnjak

On 25 August, myself along with 50 other students found ourselves packing sleeping bags and suitcases into the base of a coach outside the gates of Pittwater High School. The 6-hour bus drive ahead was only the start of our three-day trip to the snow-capped mountains of Perisher.

With almost half of us (including myself) being first time snow seers and beginner skiers, the excitement was overwhelming. Lucky for us on the second day, snow fell in the morning covering the tops of our helmets and the ground in a soft layer of powder.

Our days started with sessions based on our ski or boarding level, and by the end of Saturday, we had a collection of sore behinds, stiff legs and glowing pink faces.

Over the next two days, everyone's skills grew tremendously. Through our lessons and the help of each other, all our hard work had paid off and we were racing down the slopes. So much so, that by the last day, only a flash of our pink arm bands could be seen speeding through Smiggins.

Whether it was conversations on a chair lift, partnering up on the T-bar or the pure joy of seeing someone else with a pink armband amidst a sea of white, I know I can personally say that my friendships broadened and grew from going on such a thrilling trip with such an amazing group of people.

Perri Mortensen



Barrenjoey High School \$500,000 Worth of Reasons to be Excited



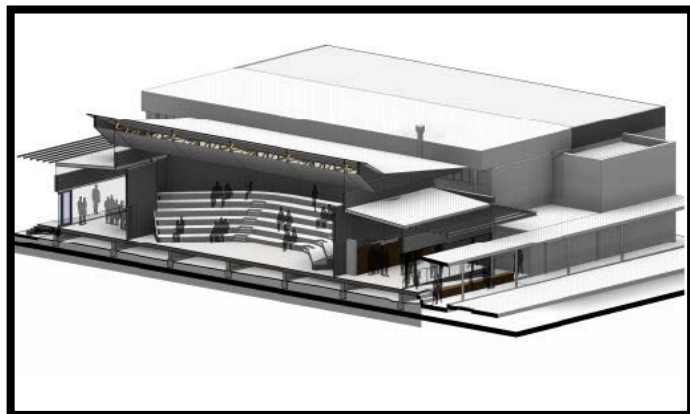
For several generations of Northern Beaches residents, Barrenjoey has been a highly regarded comprehensive public high school, an integral part of our unique community and a stimulating learning environment. The School has discovered, nurtured and celebrated the artistic and creative brilliance of our youth. From the popular Music Room to the MADD nights, the wider community has experienced high quality art exhibits, drama and musical performances by our students.

A major project to create a new, more intimate performance space that will benefit the whole community is in its final stages of development. The Barrenjoey Community Performance Space, designed by local architect and parent, Richard Cole,

will provide a purpose built amphitheatre that supports the vision of the school leadership to better showcase the art, music and drama talents of our students and members of the wider public.

A P&C Sub-committee has been fundraising to expand on the growing reputation of Barrenjoey High School as an exceptional place of learning and creativity for the past four years. Last week we received wonderful news to help provide a valuable community facility dedicated to the arts where performance and creativity can flourish.

The State Government announced they will contribute \$500,000 towards finalising the plans and complete Phase 1 of the project. Pittwater State MP and Education Minister Rob Stokes noted "Barrenjoey High School has an outstanding reputation in the performing arts and this project will help enable this talent to be encouraged and shared."



Collectively the money from the State Government, successful grant submissions, school sources and other contributions takes the tally raised to just over \$800,000.

It is estimated that the entire project (both Phases 1 and 2) will cost around \$1.2m, so we're getting close now. It's not too late to still support this important project which will build on other milestones in Barrenjoey's growth, including construction of the school hall, the Art Shed and Art Gallery, new technology in classrooms, new hospitality kitchens and BBQ area, resurfaced basketball courts and improved landscaping.

Barrenjoey's academic programs achieve high educational outcomes through the use of the "Senior Study" library facility, advanced HSC course offerings and tutoring programs. HSC results have significantly improved, particularly over the last decade, with students achieving at the highest levels. For more information please visit Barrenjoey High School's website by clicking on this link:

<http://www.barrenjoeyhighschool.com.au/community/barrenjoey-community-performance-space/>

Narrabeen Sports HS

MADD Concert

Our first ever MADD Concert Series showcased the diverse musical, dramatic, dance, and artistic talents of Narrabeen Sports High School. Performed on our formal stage with lighting and sound equipment, MADD is a truly professional presentation of the amazing Music, Art, Dance and Drama work achieved at Narrabeen Sports High School.



The library hosted an Art Exhibition consisting of works by students from Years 8-12, including Senior Bodies of Work from Year 12 Visual Arts students and Major Design Projects from Year 12 Design and Technology students. The two evening shows included performances by a large number of Years 7-8 students, Elective and Senior Music and Drama as well as our Ensembles including Drama Club, Vocal Ensemble, Chamber Choir and Dance Ensemble.



Our performing arts students now look forward to preparing and refining work in time for our Winter Tour where we visit a range of local primary schools to share music, dance and drama with younger students.



Write a Book in a Day

A small group of our dedicated students from a range of year groups participated in the arduous task of writing a 5000 word book and illustrating it in a 12 hour timeframe to raise some funds for The Kids' Cancer Project. The students were responsible for collaborating, writing, illustrating, editing and printing the book that will be sent to the children at the Children's Hospital.

This project was a fun way to raise sponsorship money to support a great cause and teach real life skills to students who have a set of parameters to follow in the creation of their Australian tale!

Cromer Public School

Northern Beaches Council Book Launch



On Friday 25th August, as part of Children's Book Week our K-2 students participated in an interactive theatre show as part of a book launch titled "*The Litter Bug and Lisa the Litter Guard*".

Northern Beaches Council General Manager, Mr Mark Ferguson, addressed the students about the importance of recycling and reducing waste along the Northern Beaches, in particular single-use plastics to protect our sensitive bush and beach habitats.

The Northern Beaches Council has produced the book and show especially for students as part of its ongoing campaign to educate students and reduce waste on the Northern Beaches. "*The Litter Bug and Lisa the Litter Guard*" tells the story of a Litter Bug who learns the impact of his choices on animals and the local environment, and how to make a difference.

With help from Lisa, the students learnt about how to be litter guards at school and around the Northern Beaches. The show featured lots of audience participation and games, and the importance of looking after our local environment.

Senior Choir students perform at the 2017 Festival of Choral Music

Cromer's Senior Choir under the leadership of our talented Music teacher, Mrs Jill Bradford, were selected to participate in the 2017 Festival of Choral Music at the Concert Hall of Sydney Opera House on the 12th September. This prestigious concert is an annual showcase of NSW Public School students in a Combined Choir and involves hundreds of schools and students from across NSW.

Students and their teachers come together to form Combined Choirs of 700 performers over four nights. The choirs sing repertoire which is specially composed and arranged for them.



The 2017 repertoire included 11 songs carefully selected from a variety of genres including traditional, folk and musical theatre arranged for unison and two part singing. Included were compositions and arrangements by Rachel Kelly, Daniel Murray and Ian Jefferson.

Wheeler Heights

G&T Drama Group Performance at NIDA

On Wednesday 26 July Wheeler Heights PS sent a small group of 19 G&T students from Years 2-5 to perform their play 'Chicken Clicking' at NIDA in the Arts Alive Drama Festival. This play explored the idea, using farm animals, of the importance of not trusting everything you see and hear on social media, particularly if you don't know the person communicating the messages to you. The students put on an amazing performance with spectacular costumes and clear voice projection. Performing at NIDA was a wonderful experience for them all... you never know some of them may be our future famous actors in the years to come! Well done everyone and thank you to Ms Ginny Macpherson for your time, creativity and talent shared with all of our students and Miss Kate Thompson and Ms Deanne Earl for coming along on the night to support her.



Education Week Open Day!

On Wednesday 2 August Wheeler Heights PS had a wonderful morning at our Education Week Open day. We had a number of families attending to watch the school Jazz Band, Combined Band, Senior Dance group, G&T Drama group, Year 1 & 2 Dance group, Wheeler Wailers Choir, Junior Dance group, Year 6 Ballroom Dancers and Senior Choir perform in the hall. These students did an outstanding job of

demonstrating some of the amazing opportunities public education offers in NSW. Thank you to our Year 6 families who ran a delicious fundraiser cake stall for our visitors and also to the library for their organisation of the book donations. As a school, we are very fortunate to have such a kind, cohesive and empathetic student, staff and parent community. Open days are a wonderful way for us to stop and recognize how fortunate we are to be able to attend such a wonderful public school.



Stage 2 Kimbriki Excursion - 4W and 4RM

On Thursday 10 August, all students in Years 3 and 4 attended an excursion to Kimbriki Resource Centre this term. On what was a divine sunny and warm day, we were shown through the entire centre before being taken back to the 'Eco House and Garden'. Here we were shown recycling ideas and to learn ways to help improve and protect our environment. We were amazed to learn how much waste is taken to Kimbriki each and every day.

Whilst looking at the recycled plastic bottles we were upset to see lots of other waste that didn't belong in with the recycling.



What you can see in the photo is 10% of the bottle recycling taken to Kimbriki in only one day. We then learnt that if there is too much other waste mixed with the recycling and it cannot be removed easily the whole lot has to be put in landfill. This made us really worried because we were also shown the landfill pit. It took four years to dig and will take less than that to fill. There is only enough land at Kimbriki to last the next 20 years in landfill. We realised, everyone needs to take more care in how much waste we create and how often we use single use plastics that take hundreds of years to break down.



At the Eco House and Garden we were shown how to compost and how easily food scraps can be used in the garden rather than being put in the rubbish and going to landfill. We got to taste amazing native raspberries and got to hold worms from the worm farms.

These few facts we have mentioned are only some of the things we learnt throughout the day. We've all left more determined to watch our personal waste and to recycle more efficiently. We are excited to be involved in wrapper free Wednesday at school and are all going to try and do it every day, not just Wednesdays! We'd like to give a massive thank you to Miss Smithies and Mrs Natalie Cook for coming along with us for the day.



We will learn more about recycling and reuse this term and next in our geography unit but seeing the waste in action at Kimbriki really opened our eyes to the impact we are having on our environment and how incredible the people at Kimbriki are in reusing items for other purposes to avoid unnecessary waste.

Mona Vale Public School Strives to be Environmental, Sustainable and Healthy

Over the past few years, the students across the school have worked hard to become environmentally aware. The students engage in "Take 2 Tuesday" and "Take 3 Thursday", where they collect 2 or 3 pieces of rubbish off the playground. "Waste Free Wednesday" is also enjoyed across the school, where students aim to bring no rubbish to school on Wednesdays.

The school has 4 large composting bins that are in constant use. The students in Years 3 to 6 are involved in the composting program and the compost is run by students in the Eco-Warriors Team. The Eco-Warriors are a small but dedicated group of students in Year 3 to 6. They organise and tend to the composting each day and care for the school's vegetable garden. The students have an extremely successful organic garden that has produced over-sized vegetables that go straight to the canteen for lunches. The canteen has adopted a healthy and sustainable approach, serving homemade soups, Bolognese, salads, muffins and other delicious healthy treats. This year, the school canteen has also adopted bamboo cutlery, bowls and plates to reduce our environmental footprint.

The Eco-Warriors also assist in running a Junior Eco-Warriors Team for students in Year 1 and 2. These students have a small vegetable garden that they tend to and also supply the canteen with their fresh produce.

Through our environmental and sustainability programs, students at Mona Vale Public School have become more aware of their local environment and the impact they have on it. Mona Vale Public School students cannot wait to continue our programs into Term 4 and 2018. We hope that our small contribution to the environment will help save it for future generations.

Alex McGain, Classroom Teacher

