

The North Star News

Edition 3, Semester 2, 2024



WOW: Book Week 2024 featured entertaining visits from children's book authors Cristy Burne, Gabriel Evans, Mark Greenwood and James Foley.



Reading is Magic

By **LISHIKHA NATARAJAN**

NORTH HARRISDALE Primary School was treated to a magical Book Week in 2024.

Our new librarians Ms May and Mrs Elstermann organised a thrilling array of events for Book Week that included visits from famous authors, a book character dress-up parade and a book quiz, organised with the support of the library captains.

The busy week is a favourite for both staff and students.

"Book Week is a chance to inspire and encourage everyone to try new things, to promote literacy and also the experience new and exciting writing," Ms May said.

"The students had such a great time with the visiting authors who were all very inspiring."

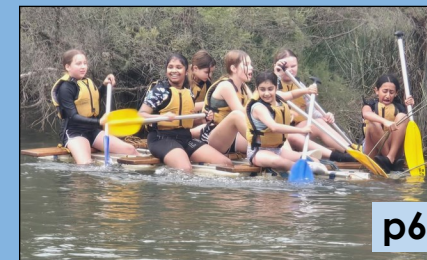
This year's Book Week theme was 'Reading is Magic' with the main library display featuring many weird and wonderful potions.

Ms May said the library team had a lot of fun creating an inviting space for the children to enjoy during Book Week. She also loved the dress-up parade.

"The parade saw so many enthusiastic and creative students dressed up as their favourite book characters. It was very entertaining."

The final job of Book Week was to crown Djiran 2 and Birak 6 as winners of the inaugural Reading Olympics.

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FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

WELCOME to the third edition of *The North Star News*.

A new hard-working team of five reporters have dedicated themselves to learning the craft of reporting and have filled these pages with exciting stories from around our school.

It has been a privilege to assist the students on their writing journey and it is our hope that you get as much enjoyment out of our newspaper as we got from making it.

Happy reading!

Mr Elstermann and The North Star News team.

Fantastic plans for the future

By **VAIGA VIBISH**

A GROUP of enthusiastic girls from North Harrisdale Primary School represented their school with pride in the 2024 RAC Hackathon.

The Hackathon is a STEM challenge that asks students to design a fleet of the future for the year 2050.

The Year 5 girls selected for the excursion busily designed what they believe will be futuristic essentials and perhaps one day we will see these things in the real world.

The two North Harrisdale teams had weekly webinars during Semester One



FUTURE FOCUS: Students making plans for 2050 at the RAC Hackathon.

to prepare for the event.

STEM teacher Mrs Henning said our two teams, Masterminds and Fantastic Futures, did themselves proud.

"We have some wonderfully talented STEM students and the ideas they had for our future were very exciting. I hope to see them one day!"

Turning ideas into reality

By LISHIKHA NATARAJAN

HUMOROUS author and all round nice guy, James Foley, inspired the junior students with new works, drawings and books.

Foley was a special guest at North Harrisdale during Book Week 2024 to share his amazing stories with us and to teach the students the secrets of picture book illustrating.

"I had a great time at North Harrisdale — everyone was enthusiastic and really excited to draw," he said.

"I've been to more than 300 schools in the past 15 years and I just love seeing kids get excited about books."

As a child, Foley loved Graeme Base books such as Eleventh Hour and Animalia as well as the works of Shaun Tan.

Foley said he is privileged to



HAPPY (Capybara): Author James Foley with a very excited reporter.

write and share stories with children.

"Teachers and Librarians need stories because if kids love to read, it is much easier to teach them," he said.

Foley is set to release two new books in the near future, including Happy Barry Capybara — a story about the most chilled-out creature in the savannah.

Looking lovingly at learning

By HAYDEN ROSS

THE hard work of the students at North Harrisdale Primary was on display for all to see during the 2024 Learning Journey.

For a special afternoon in Term 4, all of the classrooms and learning spaces in the school were opened to allow parents and



JOY: Parents admiring work at the Learning Journey.

friends to come and see the work that has happened this year.

Principal Mrs O'Donnell said the event was a success.

"It was wonderful to see so many people enjoying their tour of our school," she said.

"The feedback I received was that everyone was impressed with the work they saw in the classrooms."

The Learning Journey also featured a wonderful performance by our school's choir.

Cheeky monkeys at the Zoo

By HAYDEN ROSS

THE Year 3 students recently let our their inner animals during an excursion to Perth Zoo.

120 students from North Harrisdale had a wonderful experience seeing all the delightful animals from all over the world.

Teacher Mrs Guadagnino who organised the trip said the students more enjoyed seeing the crocodiles snapping as they ate fish.

Mrs G said the trip helped the students better understand the work they have done in Science about classifying living creatures.



ALL GRINS: The Year 3s had a wonderful excursion to Perth Zoo.

Super Science visits

By RACHEL NG

TO celebrate Science Week 2024, STEM teacher Mrs Henning organised for North Harrisdale Primary School to participate in a number of exciting incursions.

This included a visit from West Oz for the Kindy to Year 3s, the chance to meet an endangered black cockatoo from Kaarakin Wildlife Park for the Year 4s and an underwater VR adventure for Years 5 and 6.

The West Oz visit was particularly exciting with the students given the chance to meet some fascinating creatures like a sugar-glider, a python and a blue tongued lizard.

Mrs Henning said that there



CUTENESS OVERLOAD: The West Oz Koala Keira got plenty of pats.

was something for everyone to enjoy during the week.

"The theme for National Science Week 2024 was all about biology (animal survival) and it was great to bring some hands-on activities to

inspire the students.

To round out Science Week there were also science quiz questions during the morning announcements and a whole school scavenger hunt.

Talented problem solvers

By RACHEL NG

THE 2024 Maths Talent Quest was an amazing success for North Harrisdale Primary School.

Three superstar students in Thivain Korelage, Dilain Ranasinghe and Lalit Kamma each won national awards for the topics they investigated.

Teacher Ms Firman, who coached the students along with Ms Dagostino and Ms Simpfordorfer, said she was very proud of their results.

"This competition is a really good opportunity for students to use their maths knowledge to solve complex problems," she said. "It was good to challenge them and get them out of their comfort zone."

North Harrisdale was also named the best performing school for the third year in a row, allowing us to keep the shield for another 12 months.



THREE-PEAT: Ms Simpfordorfer, Ms Dagostino and Ms Firman accepting the MAWA MTQ Shield.



Science knowledge on show

By VAIGA VIBISH

NORTH Harrisdale has shone brightly at the 2024 Science Talent Quest.

STEM teacher Mrs Henning entered a number of students into the competition which is organised and supported by Scitech.

Our school produced 10 junior finalists which Mrs Henning said was a great success.

Year 6 student Thivain Korelage was named as a senior finalist for his project about climate change.

Being named as a senior finalist earned him a prize of \$50.

Mrs Henning said the students demonstrated great science understanding throughout the competition and she was very proud of them.



TALENT: STEM teacher Mrs Henning and Year 6 student Thivain Korelage.

YEAR SIX CAMP



FLOATING (sometimes!): Raft building was a highlight for many of the Year 6 students while on camp.

Marvellous memories

By RACHEL NG

THE Year 6s enjoyed three awesome days of fun in October at their camp.

Year 6 teachers Mr Leatt-Hayter and Mrs Hodgson were joined on the camp by Mr Boulay and Ms Hiew.

Mr Leatt-Hayter said the students embraced the challenges and enjoyed all that the camp had to offer.

"My favourite part of this year's camp was when I watched the kids fall off of the canoes," he said.

"The point of camp is to help the students build confidence, independence and cooperation — along with having as much fun as possible."

Some of the activities the students participated in were raft building, flying fox, canoeing, crate climbing and catapult building.

Ms Hodgson said the camp was a great success and enjoyed by all who attended.

"My absolute favourite part of camp was watching the students overcome their fears," Ms Hodgson said.

"The point of camp is for the students to help learn more about themselves and they absolutely came back from camp richer for the experience."

Now that the camp is over the Year 6s move full steam ahead towards graduation.



GUTS: Taking the leap off the flying fox platform took bravery.

Deep thinking on show

By VAIGA VIBISH

PHILOSOPHY stars from North Harrisdale put their reputation as deep thinkers to the test this term by participating in the Philosothon and the Ethics Olympiad.

Six students attended the Perth Primary Philosothon at Methodist Ladies College.

They were given tricky questions to debate against private schools from around WA.

Philosophy teacher Mrs Fitz said the judges were impressed by the detail and deep thought in the North Harrisdale answers.

A major highlight of the Philosothon was student Johana Habby being named the 'Most Promising Philosopher in Year 6'.

Students also took up the challenge of the Ethics Olympiad — an online philosophy competition.



INQUISITIVE: The North Harrisdale team at the 2024 Philosothon. Johana Habby (third from left) was named as the Most Promising Philosopher in Year 6.

The North Harrisdale team earned the Most Improved Team of the Day award at that competition.

Rounding out the recent Philosophy success, Mrs Fitz was awarded an Outstanding

Service Award by the Professional Teaching Council of WA in recognition of her exemplary teaching and leadership of Philosophy, and service in the Association for Philosophy in Schools WA.

Building towards success

By LEAH ZACHARIAH



BRICKTASTIC: Max proudly holding the Core Values trophy.

THE North Harrisdale Shining Stars team have made it to the state finals for the First Lego League Challenge.

In their heat, they competed in three rounds and demonstrated the values of discovery, innovation, impact, inclusion, teamwork and fun.

This outstanding performance led to them

being presented with the Core Values trophy.

Team member Max Savige said the team won lots of points during the day by completing robot challenges made out of Lego.

He also said he was excited about the state finals which will be held at Curtin University on December 7.

Stay tuned to the NHPS Facebook page for more updates.



PUSHING THE BOUNDARIES: The race to be crowned champion house was fierce all day long.

Bellatrix triumph again

By LEAH ZACHARIAH

FOR the second year in a row, Bellatrix has claimed the Champion House shield at the North Harrisdale Athletics Carnival.

There were very proud students as the winning house was revealed after a challenging day of fierce competition.

Sports teachers Mr Foulk and Mr Boulay said they were incredibly proud of everyone who gave their best effort throughout the two days of the carnival.

Judging by the atmosphere, the most loved event was the tug-of-war between the four houses and Mr Foulk's brilliant run in the parents vs teachers race.

It was also a successful day for Rigel whose good sportsmanship helped them to claim the Spirit Shield.

Bellatrix house captain Spencer said he was proud of his house for showing perseverance and sportsmanship throughout the carnival. He also congratulated the other houses for a fair competition.



VICTORIOUS: Bellatrix captains Spencer and Kobi.



PULL: Bellatrix participating in the Tug of War.