



Bell Primary School is a caring community that fosters a love of learning in young people. At school and beyond, students are confident to think critically and empowered to thrive in a rapidly evolving world. We are grounded by our school values of resilience, creativity, curiosity, collaboration and respect.

Bell Primary School is a Child Safe School. We are committed to the safety and wellbeing of all children and young people and have zero tolerance for child abuse.

Bell Primary School acknowledges the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nation as the traditional custodians of the land the school is located upon, and pays respect to Elders past, present and emerging.



From our Principal:

Contaminated Sand

As per yesterday's Compass Newsfeed, you will be aware of the recent alert regarding craft sand products that may contain asbestos. For the most up-to-date information about the recall, including the list of affected products, please visit the ACCC website.

At Bell, we have followed the Department of Education's guidance to collect and safely dispose of any relevant products, and we will continue to monitor the situation closely. We had a small number of craft/kinetic sand products in some classroom sensory tubs which have been removed and safely disposed of. Of these products, only a minimal amount were produced by a recalled brand, but we have removed all similar products to be safe. Current advice from both National and Victorian health authorities indicates that the risk to human health from these products is low.

If you have any of the recalled sand products at home, health authorities recommend that you stop using them immediately and follow the safety instructions provided on the ACCC website for safe disposal and further health information.

Transition

The first of our three *Step-Up* transition sessions for current Prep–Grade 5 students took place yesterday, giving students an opportunity to experience their next year level.

In line with our school's transition approach, students will participate in two further *Step-Up* transition sessions in Weeks 8 and 10. The dates for the remaining sessions are:

- **Thursday 27 November** – Session 2: Students will work in mixed groups for another taste of next year's learning, with a focus on Numeracy.
- **Tuesday 9 December** – Session 3: Students will spend time with their 2026 classmates in their future classroom and meet their new teacher/s. This session will include *Getting to Know You* wellbeing and engagement activities to help build a positive, connected classroom and support a smooth transition into next year.

It is extremely helpful when parents and carers begin discussing the upcoming transition, including a new year level and possibly a new teacher, as a positive and exciting change. Together, both at school and at home, we can support children to embrace the challenges and opportunities of a new classroom environment.

Planning for 2026

Planning for next year is in its final stages. Key points include:

- 2026 Prep enrolments are slightly higher than this year, with an expected intake of 78 students, which means we will run four Prep classes in the Learning Centre. With a small number of transfers in and out of other year levels still pending, our overall predicted enrolment is approximately 465.
- The Prep Transition Program is progressing well, with two of the four sessions already completed. Next week, our future Preps will meet their 2026 buddy - our current Grade 5 students are excited to take on this position of responsibility.
- The family BBQ in mid-December will conclude the Prep Transition Program and will be held in the northern play space. This event aims to help new families connect with each other and further support our incoming Preps as they become familiar with their peers, staff and the school environment. Several Grade 5 students will

run fun, family-friendly activities for the new Preps, and we thank those who have volunteered their time after school to support this event.

- Staffing for 2026 is currently being finalised and will be announced soon.

2026 Book Packs

A reminder that 2026 Book Pack Lists, outlining the items your child will need for next year, were sent out in a Compass Newsfeed recently. Our recommended supplier is COS as they provide a semi-open list that includes both required and optional items. The optional items include materials that are required but can be reused from this year, such as pencil cases, whiteboards, and headphones.

In the coming weeks, staff will send home reusable materials such as clipboards and headphones. If these items are no longer suitable for use, please ensure they are added to your 2026 order. They will also send home any unused consumable items to help families make informed decisions about what needs to be purchased in what quantities.

You can now order your child's 2026 Book Packs online through: <https://parent.cos.net.au>

*To ensure delivery before the start of Term 1, 2026, please place your order before **Monday 5 January 2026**.* Orders placed after this date may not arrive in time for the beginning of Term 1.

Parents and carers may also choose to print the book list and purchase items through an alternative supplier. While product brands are flexible, we ask that you carefully check book specifications, such as dotted thirds and line spacing, to ensure all materials are appropriate for classroom use.

Crazy Hair Day & Parade

A huge thank you to our Junior School Council, led by Lisa Yates, for organising Crazy Hair Day and the Parade! It was wonderful to see so many unique and imaginative hairstyles and the Parade was a fantastic way to celebrate everyone's creativity.

Alongside all the fun, \$550 was raised for Cystic Fibrosis; a fantastic contribution to this important cause.

Well done to the JSC for making it such a special and enjoyable day and thank you to parents and carers for your support and efforts in helping make it a success.

Emma Heywood
Principal



Back to School

Find and order your
child's school pack
in less than **4 minutes!**



A family
owned
Australian
business

Username: bellprimary@cos.net.au

Password: BTS2026-Parents



parent.cos.net.au



1300 79 27 85



parentportal@cos.net.au

2025 / 2026 Calendars

November 2025

Tue 25: Funkey Music EOY Concert
 Wed 26: 2026 Prep Transition Session #3
 (drop off 9.30; pick up 11.00)
 Thu 27: **Whole School Transition Day #2**
 Sun 30: Scholastic Book Club Orders Close 9pm

December 2026

Mon 1-Wed 3: Gr5 Camp Anglesea \$472
 Tue 2: Gr2 Celebration of Learning
 Tue 2: 2026 Prep Parent/Carer Information Evening #2
 (Bell PS Learning Centre, 6.00)
 Wed 3: 2026 Prep Transition Session #4
 (drop off 9.30; pick up 11.00)
 Wed 3: International Day of People with a Disability
 Fri 5: Parent/Carer Volunteer Morning Tea, 10am, Gym
 Fri 5: International Day of People with a Disability
 Incursion – Whole School - \$3
 Fri 5: 2026 Prep Starting School Information
 will be made available on Compass
 Tue 9: **Whole School Transition Day #3 (meet the teacher!)**
 Tue 9: Statewide Gr6 to Yr7 Transition Day
 Tue 9: 2026 Prep Families Optional Welcome BBQ
 (4.00-6.00, Bell PS – location tba)
 Wed 10: Gr3 Celebration of Learning
 Thu 11: Gr1 Celebration of Learning
 Thu 11: Gr3-6 Swimming Carnival, \$37, Oak Park AC
 Fri 12: Gr6 Luna Park Excursion
 Thu 18: Gr6 Graduation Night
 Fri 19: **Final day Term 4 – 1.30pm dismissal**



2026

January 2026

Sun 04: Final day to order 2026 Book Packs (to ensure delivery before the start of Term 1)
 Tue 27: **Statewide Curriculum Day (pupil-free)**
 Grade 1-6 families welcome to drop in to their new classrooms **between 2.40-3.30**
 Wed 28: **Grades 1-6 commence**
 Wed 28: Prep Drop In Day (scheduled times only)
 Thu 29: **Prep Group A commence**
 Fri 30: **Prep Group B commence**

February 2026

Wed 4: Prep entry assessment (scheduled time only)
 Wed 11: Prep entry assessment (scheduled time only)
 Wed 18: Prep entry assessment (scheduled time only)
 Wed 25: Prep entry assessment (scheduled time only)

Prep students attend on only one of the Wednesdays in February, at the time scheduled for their Prep Entry Assessment

March 2026

Fri 06: **Curriculum Day (pupil free)**
 Mon 09: **Labour Day Holiday**

April 2026

Thu 02: *Last Day Term 1 - Happy Holidays!*
 Mon 20: *First Day Term 2*

May 2026

Fri 22: **Curriculum Day (pupil free)**

June 2026

Mon 08: **King's Birthday Holiday**
 Tue 09: **Curriculum Day (pupil free)**
 Fri 26: *Last Day Term 2 - Happy Holidays!*

July 2026

Mon 13: *First Day Term 3*

August 2026

September 2026

Fri 18: *Last Day Term 3 - Happy Holidays!*

October 2026

Mon 05: *First Day Term 4*

November 2026

Mon 02: **Common Professional Practice Day (pupil free)**
 Tue 03: **Melbourne Cup Day Holiday**

December 2026

Fri 18: *Last Day Term 4 - Happy Holidays!*

Helpful Info From the Office:

Office Hours: 8.00am – 4.30pm

Lu Paglia, Business Manager:	School Council, Finance, Fundraising	Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri
Jo Taylor, Finance Administration:	Events, Payments, SSB, CSEF	Mon, Wed, Fri
Tania Levens, Administration:	Newsletter, Facilities, OHS	Tue – Fri
Jessie Storm, Student Administration:	Enrolments, Medical, Compass	Mon – Fri

😊 Please email Newsletter items directly to Tania at bell.ps@education.vic.gov.au 😊

SSB Use for School Activities – URGENT UPDATE**

Due to a DET issue, schools are currently unable to view SSB balances or allocate SSB to events. Until we receive an update from DET, families are requested to pay for all events. We appreciate your patience and understanding.

Assemblies

Assemblies are held on Friday afternoons at **2.50pm** in the gym. A Compass Notification will be sent to parents to advise if there is a cancellation.

Uniforms

- NEW** Bell PS uniforms can always be purchased from PSW.
- SECOND-HAND** Uniforms can be purchased from our Second-Hand Uniform Shop (far side of the basketball court) run by two fantastic family volunteers twice per week – **Wednesday mornings around drop-off time and Friday afternoons from 3:15-3:45**. Don't forget your gold coins – **no credit or credit card facility is available**.

TeamKids

To enquire about enrolling your child/ren into TeamKids for Before or After School Care, or any Curriculum Day or Holiday Program, please make initial contact at either www.teamkids.com.au or 1300 035 000.

Late Arrivals, Early Departures + Authorised Pick-ups

Don't forget to come through the front office *before* going to the classroom for any late arrivals (after 9am) or early departures (before 3:30pm). Your child must be signed in/out on the Compass Kiosk and the corresponding card should be taken to give to your child's teacher, indicating that you have completed the arrival/departure process.

**** CHILDREN ARRIVING LATE MUST BE WALKED TO THEIR CLASSROOM BY A PARENT/CARER ****

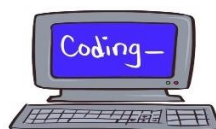
If your child will be collected early for any reason by someone who is not their legal guardian, the school office must be informed in advance as your child cannot be signed out in these instances without authorisation from a parent/carer.

Extra-Curricular Activities

BTS2026-Parents

Please see the Community tab on our website for details on activities offered both after school and/or during school time in Room 18 + 19 – always make direct contact with the provider:

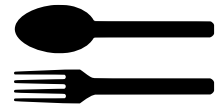
Keyboard : Guitar : Violin : Ukelele : Singing : Dancing : Computer Programming



More Helpful Info From the Office:

Lunch Utensils

If you are sending your child/ren to school with delicious food that requires a spoon or fork, please include a spoon or fork in their lunchbox! Much appreciated.



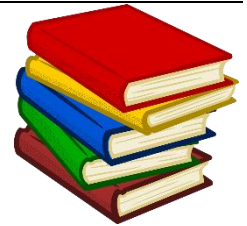
Sign Ins and Sign Outs

To ensure the important details of a late arrival or early departure are correct, please do not allow your child/ren use the kiosk at the front desk. *The kiosk is not to be used by students.*

Lost Library Book Procedure

If your child has lost a school library book, please follow the steps below:

1. On the Qkr! app, select Bell Primary School -> Payments -> Lost library book
2. Make a payment of \$5 per lost book
3. Email a screenshot of your receipt and child's name to bell.ps@education.vic.gov.au
4. School staff will then remove the lost/overdue book from your child's library account



Working With Children Checks + Volunteer Inductions

Parents/carers who intend to participate in any volunteering with the school (eg reading, excursion support, etc) **must** hold a current Working With Children Check card. Even if you don't have your name down for any volunteering on the immediate horizon, we strongly suggest applying for a WWCC as soon as possible- a Volunteer WWCC is free! List Bell Primary on your WWCC application and we will automatically receive a copy in the mail for our records, or you can supply your card to the front office for us to add to our parent/carer register. If you are a current VIT card holder, you can provide to the office in lieu of a WWCC.



NB- if you are volunteering with activities onsite that don't involve working directly with students (eg organising resources, fundraising stall set-up, etc), you must still hold a valid WWCC and supply it to the office.

[Click here to apply for a WWCC.](#)

PLEASE NOTE: All school volunteers must also have completed the OHS Volunteer Induction process, and returned their Induction Checklist to the office, to be able to volunteer.

Head Lice



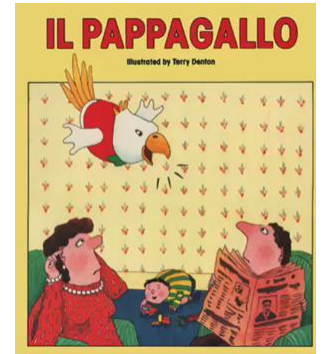
Once again, head lice are doing the rounds at Bell. **We kindly request that all families check and treat their child/ren's hair if needed over the weekend so that we can help curb this issue as quickly and effectively as possible.**

Could we also please request that students with mid-length/long hair have it tied up while at school to minimise opportunities for head lice to spread.

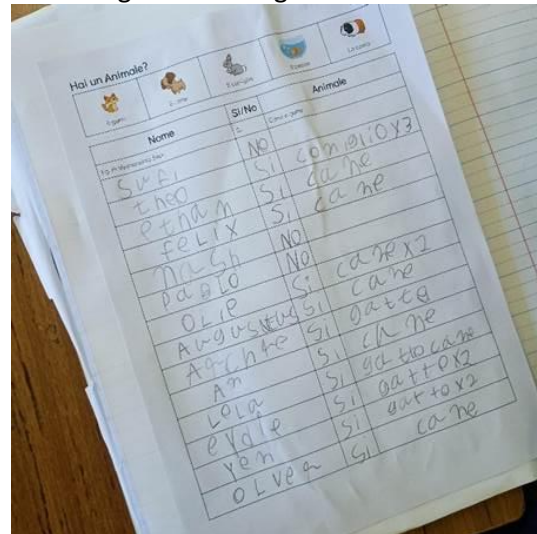
Students with **live head lice** must receive treatment before being able to return to school.

From the Italian Room:

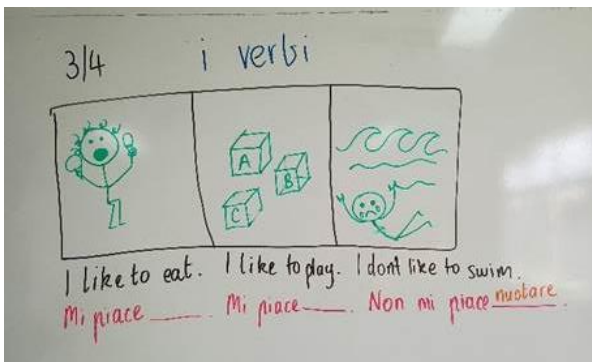
Prep: This term, Prep students are learning *i colori* (the colours) through lively songs, colourful pictures, and fun classroom activities. They are building confidence by repeating new words often and engaging with Italian in playful, memorable ways.



Grades 1/2: Grade 1 and 2 students are exploring animals and their body parts in Italian, using class surveys about pets to practise new vocabulary in a meaningful way. Through a “What am I?” card game, collaboration, and group work, they are developing confidence in speaking and listening while having fun.



Grades 3/4: Students in Grades 3 and 4 are learning to create simple sentences using infinitive verbs in Italian, building their ability to communicate with greater accuracy. They are also developing skills in translating for meaning rather than word-for-word and are becoming more confident using bilingual dictionaries to support their learning.



Conjugating Verbs Ending in -ARE

comprare (to buy)	singular	plural
1st person	io compro (I buy)	noi compriamo (we buy)
2nd person	tu compri (you buy)	voi comprate (you guys buy)
3rd person	lui/lei compra (he/she buys)	loro comprano (they buy)

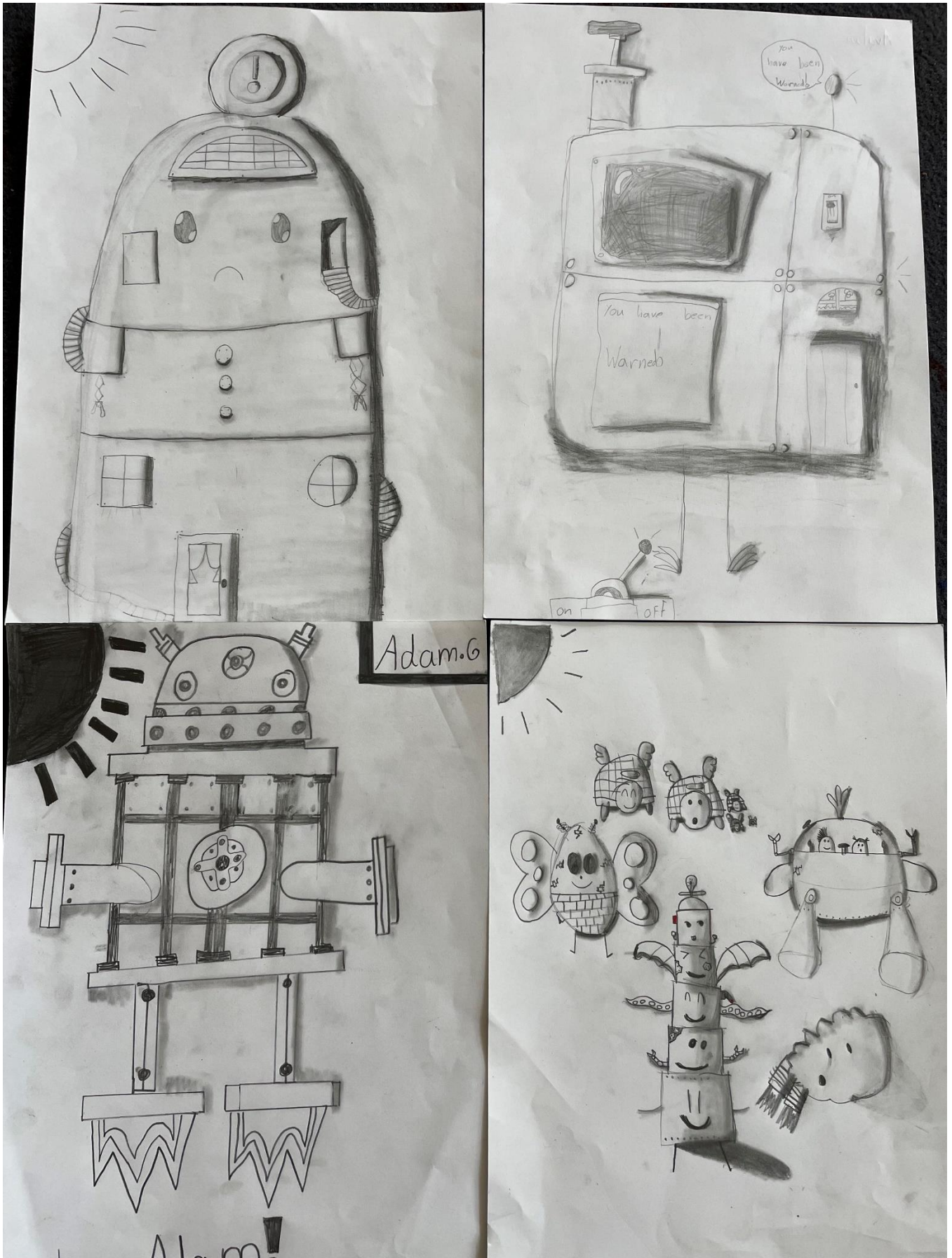
Grades 5/6: Students in Grades 5 and 6 are creating sentences in Italian to express their preferences about school subjects, using adjectives and infinitive verbs to add detail. They are also using *perché* (because) to justify their choices and incorporating technology to showcase their growing confidence and creativity in Italian.

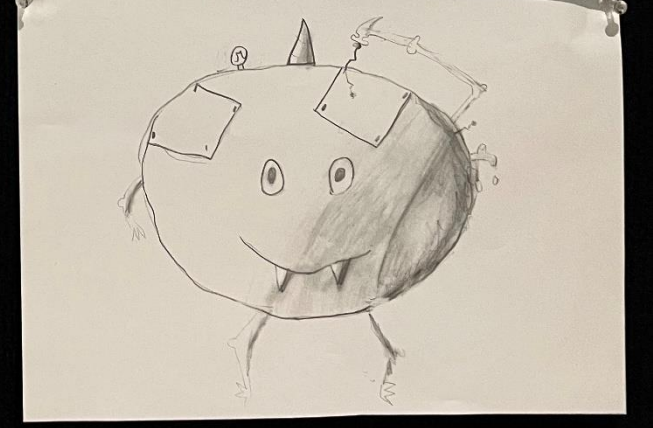
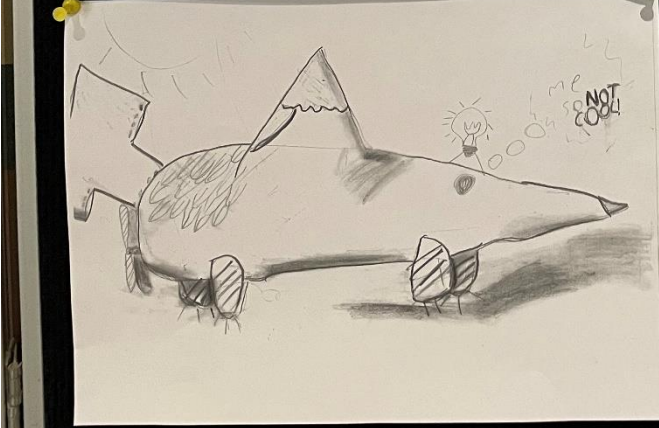
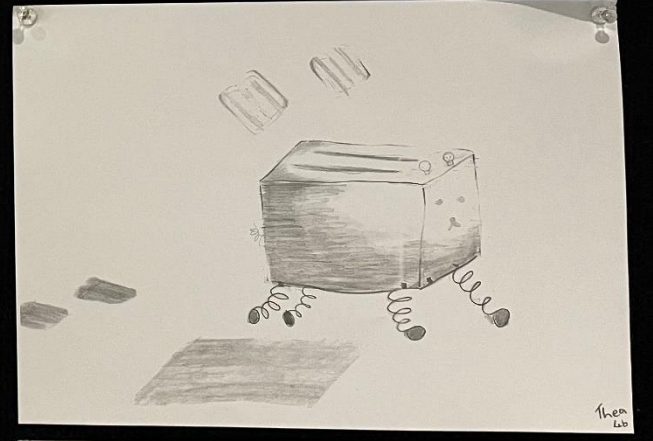
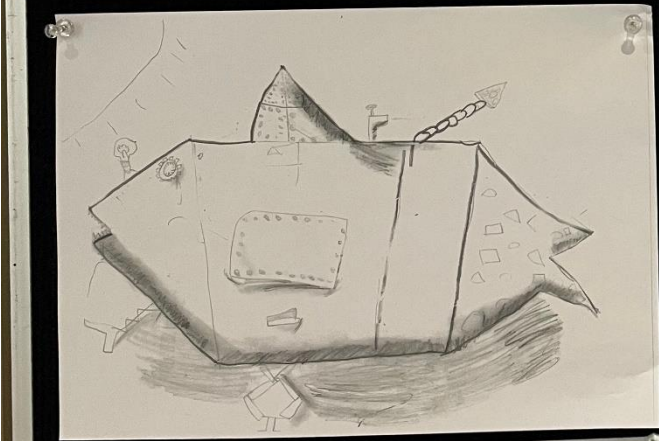
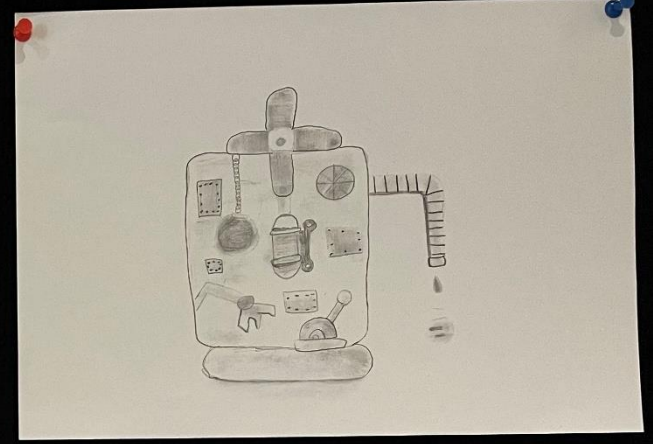
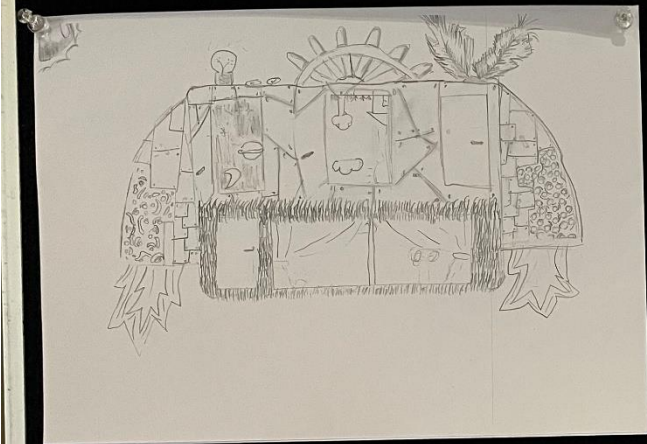
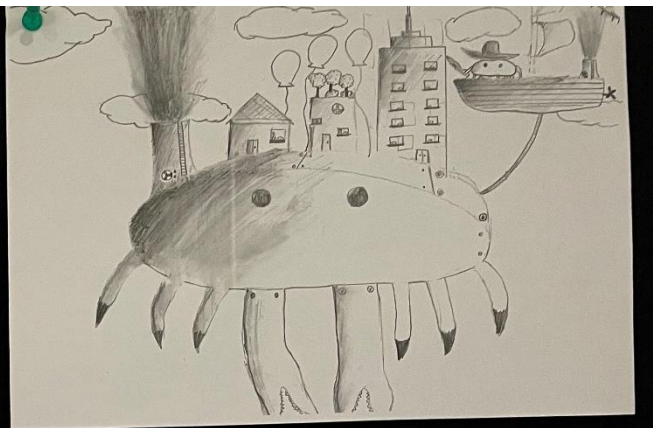
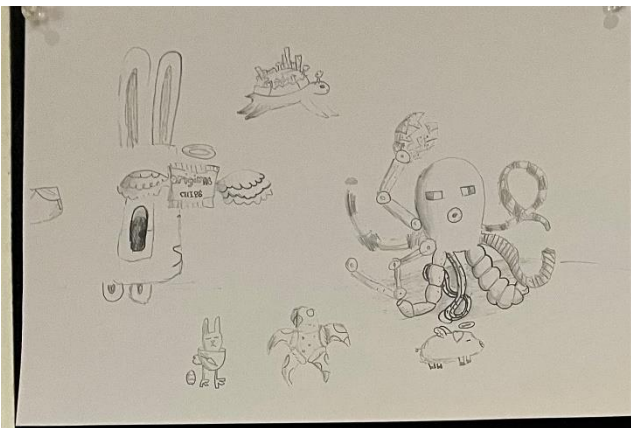
My sentences	
1	I like to swim because it is fun. Mi piace nuotare perché è divertente.
2	I like to eat pizza because it's tasty. Mi piace mangiare pizza perché è saporito.
3	I like to play because it's fun. Mi piace giocare a calcio perché è impegnativo.
4	I like to play board games because it's cool. Mi piace giocare ai giochi da tavolo perché sono divertenti.

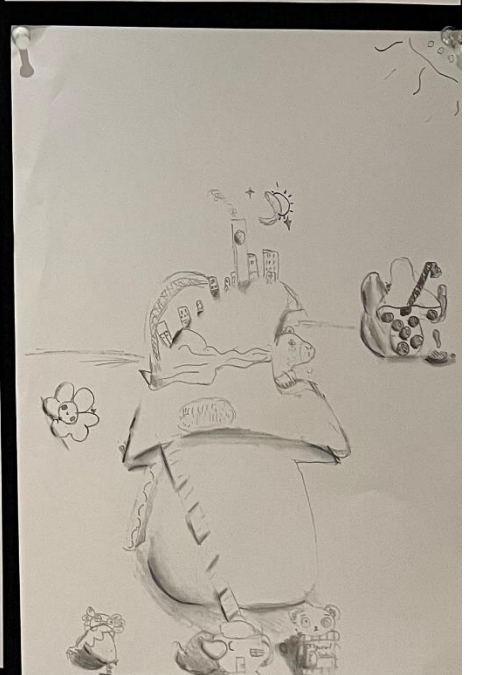
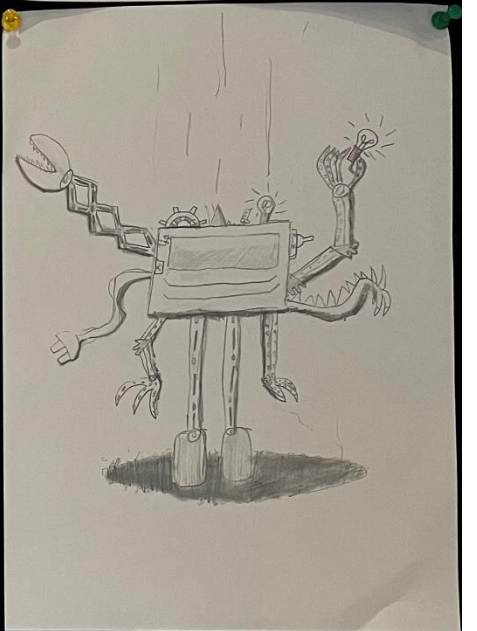
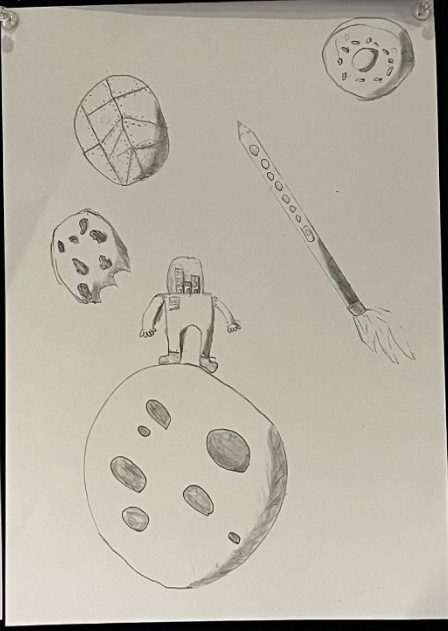
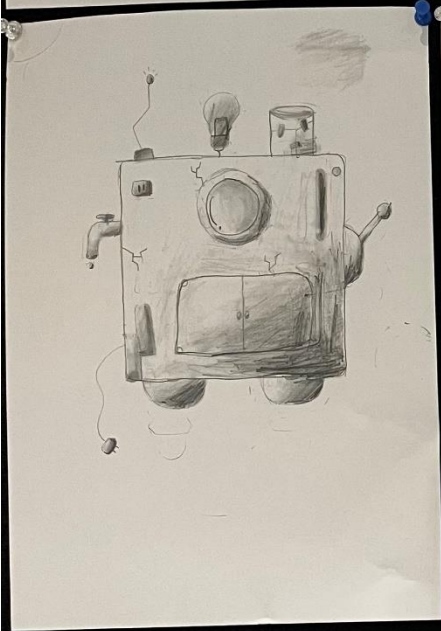
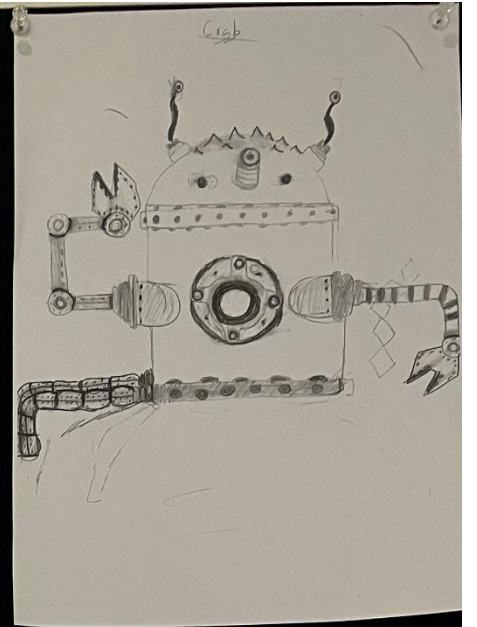
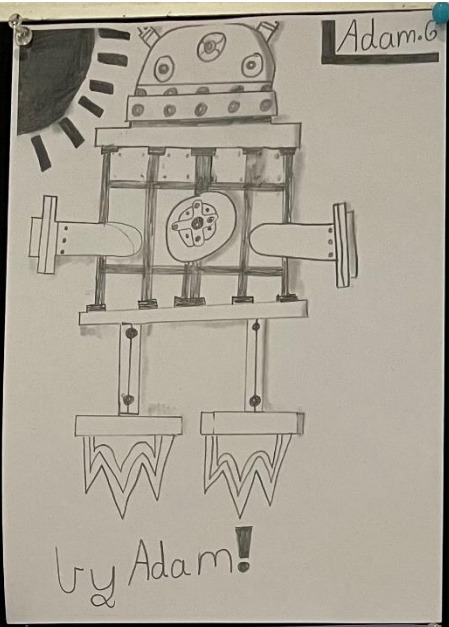
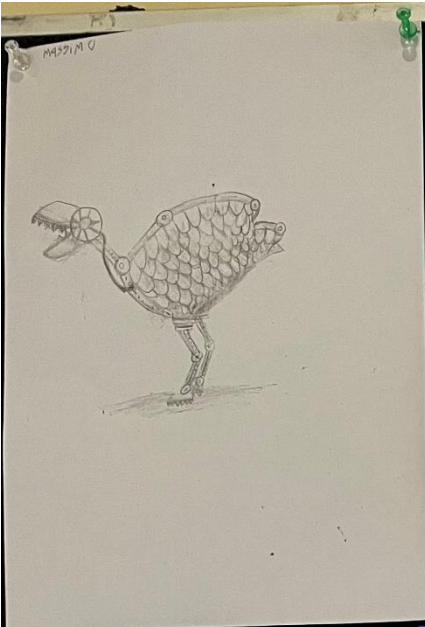
Le mie materie preferite sono l'educazione fisica e l'educazione artistica perché sono divertenti.
 Le mie materie preferite sono l'educazione tecnica e l'inglese sono interessanti.
 Le mie materie preferite sono la matematica e la scienza perché sono utili.
 Le mie materie preferite sono l'italiano e l'italiano perché mi piace suonare e disegnare.
 Le mie materie preferite sono l'italiano e la musica perché mi piace leggere e disegnare.

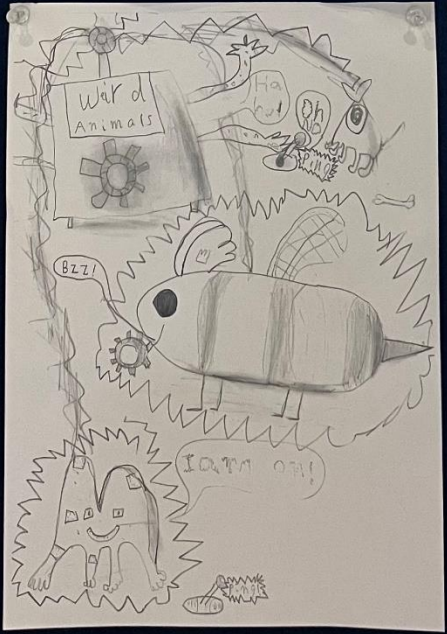
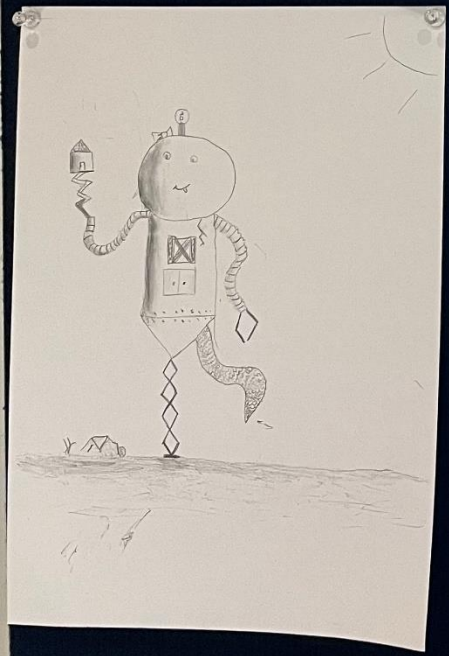
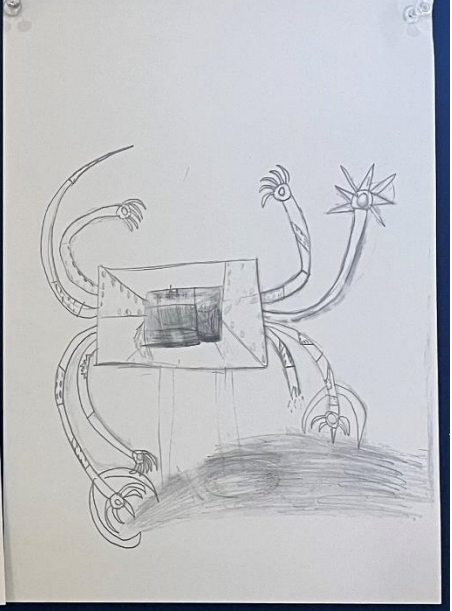
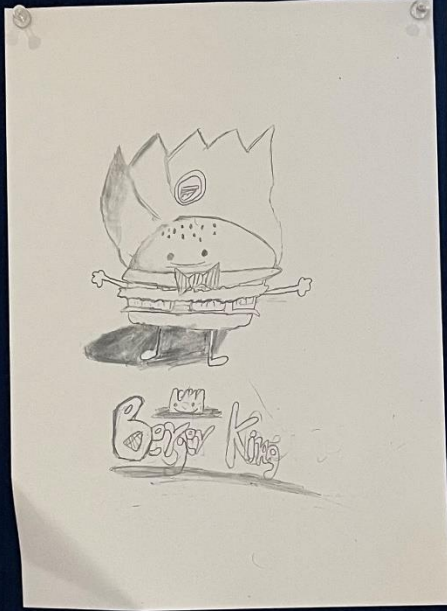
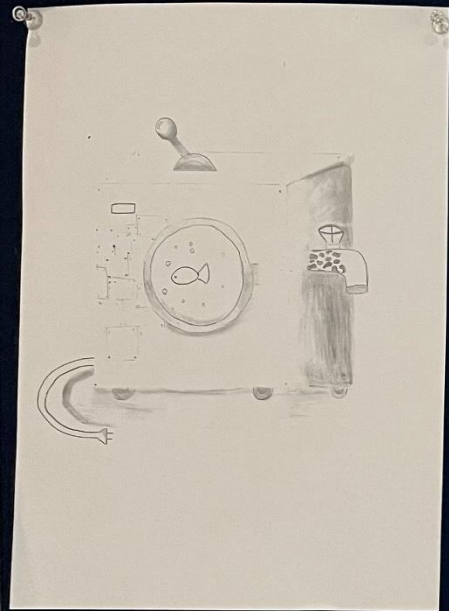
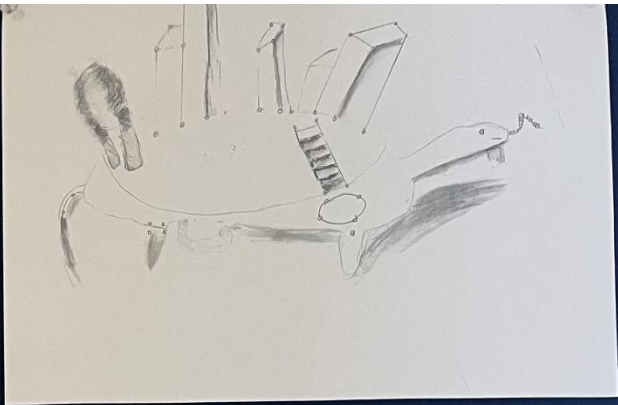
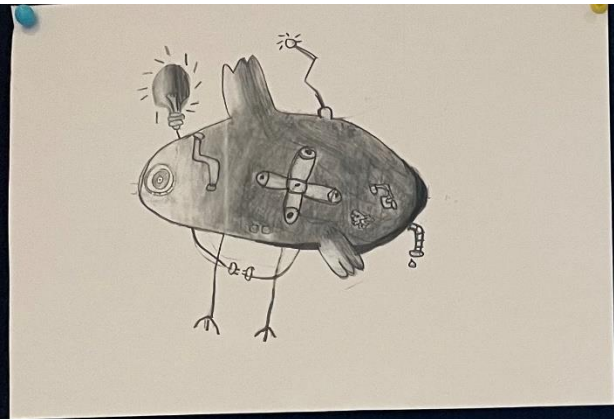
From the Art Room:

Grade 3 and 4 have been working on Shaun Tan inspired creatures. They used graphite pencils and blending sticks to create a realistic version of an imaginary creature.









From the Grade 6 Team:

On Friday the 15th of November, the Grade 6s had an excursion to Coburg High School. We began by walking to Coburg High which took thirty minutes. We walked through the Merri Creek and many beautiful places. We all enjoyed talking to our friends and dawdling.

The subjects we did at Coburg High School were much enjoyed. After a long walk to Coburg High, we had three fun sessions. The three sessions were PE, Art and Food Tech. In PE, we did a mix of futsal and quick ball tag. Everyone had heaps of fun competing in futsal. In Art, we expressed our feelings in neurographic art. We were challenged to show our feelings and express them through art and draw whatever we were feeling and then use water colour to fill in the rest of the paper. In Food Tech, we made coconut chocolate balls and put sprinkles and shredded coconut on them. Everyone enjoyed them and thought they were delicious.

Everyone's favourite part of Coburg High School was the canteen. People brought money from home to buy food and drinks. Everyone enjoyed having something other than their usual sandwich. Everyone enjoyed their lunch and overall, the whole experience. We walked back to Bell Primary and, after having a quick play on the playground, we were back and just chilled until the end of the day.



From the Prep Team:

Last Friday the Preps went to CERES to continue their learning about the culture of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples. We learnt about story telling, expression through painting and got to try native foods that were new to us. A huge thank you to our parent volunteers who came along to help us!



Final Book Club of the Year:

**ISSUE 8
2025**

SCHOLASTIC Book Club
Stories that travel with you!

Will be sent out from 12th November - order your copy now!

DOG MAN
Big Jim Believes
Graphic Novel
NEW! Big Jim Believes The Space Cuties from Space return to the city! \$23.99 **SAVE \$14.00**

ZOOTOPIA 2
THE MOVIE NOVEL
NEW! Zootopia 2: The Movie Novel
A mysterious reptile is turning the city upside-down! 144 pp. AGES 7+ \$12.99 **SAVE \$9**

HAS SANTA BEEN?
Lucy Baines' Got Hot
NEW! Has Santa Been? Santa enjoys a drink in each house he visits... and now he needs a wheel! 32-pp hardcover. AGES 2+ \$19.99 **HALF PRICE! \$10**

AN H DO HOTDOG & FRIENDS
New from Anh Do!
NEW! Hotdog & Friends, Fun Parks!
The perfectly planned picnic quickly turns into a disaster! 24 pp hardcover. AGES 3+ \$19.99 **SAVE 40% \$12.00**

ORDERS DUE BACK BY:

\$5 Earn a PROMO CODE
Included with order confirmation

SCHOLASTIC Book Club

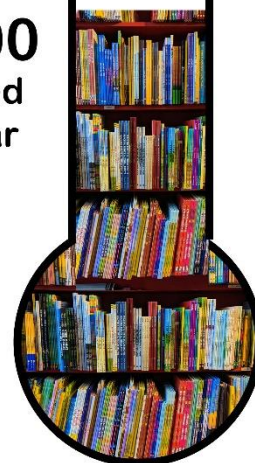
A WEEK TO GO FOR BOOKCLUB!

We are on track to meet our goal of raising \$2,000 for the school library. **We are half way there!!!!** If you want to help expand the school library, please make sure that you order online by 9.00pm on Sunday 30 November.

Order at www.scholastic.com.au/loop.

OUR GOAL!!!
\$2000

\$1000
raised
so far



Bookclub orders close 9pm on Sunday 30 November. Order online to help us reach our goal and grow our school library.

Meet Paul Nicholson, Assistant Principal

What do you do in your spare time?

I actually do get really excited in my spare time learning more about education and working on projects that can make our school a better place. I'm an out and proud educator. I also have a family and a couple of dogs. At home you would find me in the kitchen cooking up an extravagant feast.

What is your favourite thing about Bell Primary?

Over the years of teaching at Bell, I have made some of the best friendships of my life. People who are passionate about doing their best and inspiring each other are the kinds of people I choose to surround myself with.

What is a quote you find really inspiring?

I actually try to live my life by a code that I learned from the chorus of a song by an Australian artist named Mel Watson. In her song "Julia Butterfly Hill" she gives the following advice on living your best life.

"The remedy for hate, you gotta understand.

The remedy for pain, try and lend a hand.

The remedy for betrayal, you gotta rise above it.

The remedy for this life, is to live in love."

These lyrics just resonate with everything I want to be, and when I listen to them it just shifts my cells. I can feel grounded and at peace with the world and it reminds me to choose kindness.

What is your favourite book and why?

This was actually a really hard question. There are so many right answers, but if I had to narrow it down to one, I choose "Peter and Max", a retelling of the fable of *Peter Piper* by Bill Willingham. The author weaves between two timelines and across a multitude of worlds, building every step of the way to a poetic finale. Even just writing this makes me want to pick it up and start the journey over again.

What did you want to do when you were a kid?

I actually wanted to be an Olympic swimmer and worked my way towards it. I never achieved that goal in life, however I have won more State Championships medals than I have ever counted and National Medals under my belt (well, goggles). In the end it taught me to work hard and to lift up others, because we do better as a team.



From the TeamKids Crew:



✦ Fairy Bread Day is happening after school **THIS MONDAY** at Bell TeamKids ✦

Get ready for a day that's **BUTTERED, BRIGHT, and SPRINKLED** just right!

It's going to be a slice of pure fun and a day you definitely won't want to miss!

MINIROOS JUNIOR EAGLES – JOIN THE FAMILY!

Our MiniRoos program is expanding, and we're calling for more coaches and players to be part of it!

- 🏀 Ages 7–14
- ★ All abilities welcome
- 📍 James Reserve, Heidelberg
- 📅 Trials date announced soon!



If you love the game and want to be part of a proud, community-driven club – this is your moment: ❤️🖤

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