

The Heights Happenings

Thursday 28 March 2019



MOUNT WAVERLEY
HEIGHTS
PRIMARY SCHOOL

Dates to remember

TERM ONE 2019

Friday 29th March

Good Friday Appeal – Pyjama Day

Monday 1st April

End of term assembly 9am

Thursday 4th April

Year 3/4 Incursion

Friday 5th April

Bonnet Parade 9am

Last Day TERM ONE and Easter Raffle

Assembly 1:45pm

TERM TWO 2019

Tuesday 23rd April

First Day Term Two

Thursday 25th April

ANZAC DAY – Public Holiday

Friday 26th April

Greek Easter 2:30pm-3:15pm

Monday 29th April

Assembly 2:45pm

Tuesday 30th April

School Photos

Friday 3rd May

SDSSA Winter Sport Round 1

Wednesday 8th May

School Council 7pm

Thursday 9th May

Mothers Day Stall

Friday 10th May

SDSSA Winter Sport Round 2

Mothers Day Morning Tea P-2

Monday 13th May

Assembly 2:45pm

Tuesday 14th/15th/16th May

NAPLAN Language/Reading/Numeracy



Refer to the website for Notices

<http://mountwaverleyheightsps.vic.edu.au/parent-information/>

Principal's Report



CONGRATULATION KIRSTEN!

Earlier this term Mrs Furlong incorporated the 'Toyota Future Cars' competition into her Art program. Not only did the competition support the development of artistic skills, but it also promoted creative thinking which is one of our key learning skills at MWHPs.

Congratulations Kirsten whose 'Compassion Car' design was shortlisted from thousands of entries across Australia. She is now in the running for a trip to Japan! We will be showcasing Kirsten's design at Monday's end of term assembly.

EASTER BONNET PARADE

On the last day of term, we will be holding the Easter Bonnet Parade at 9am. **Families are asked to make a bonnet at home for this event.** Students will not be working on their bonnets during class time. We do not expect you to purchase items but rather to recycle and create using items you have at home. A student from each class will be awarded a prize for the best use of recycled material.

EASTER EGG DONATIONS

Thank you to everyone who has donated easter eggs. However, we are still in need of more eggs. If you are able to assist it would be greatly appreciated. Don't forget to return your raffle tickets by Thursday April 4. More raffle tickets can be collected from the office.



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LAST DAY CELEBRATIONS - FRIDAY APRIL 5

| | |
|--------|---|
| 9am | Easter Bonnet Parade (Dream Space - weather permitting) |
| 1.45pm | ASSEMBLY (in PAC). Easter raffle will be drawn |
| 2.30pm | School ends |

DIVERSITY

Just last week I wrote about our cultural and religious diversity. We are looking at ways the school will be celebrating and embracing differences in the goal to build empathy and understanding. New Zealand's tragedy last Friday, highlights the need for us to reinforce the notions of tolerance, understanding, respect and compassion. Our thoughts go out to all involved in this tragedy.

PB BBQ



We held our PB BBQ today for 46 students who earned four or more PBs for the term. Congratulations to all and thank you for contributing to a great school culture.

ROBLOX - iTunes set the age recommendation at 12+

It was brought to my attention that many students in the junior years are playing Roblox at home. There are genuine concerns for this game, particularly as children play online against others around the world. The game also encourages children to win and purchase additional extras. Adult items are not censored even with parental settings in place. There are also many violent games within this platform. If your child is playing this game then you need to be informed about the risks so that you can have appropriate conversations with your children. Here is some further information I found from the 'Cyber Safety Lady'.



For more information you can visit the website at <https://thecybersafetylady.com.au/2017/06/is-roblox-safe-for-kids/>

Here is a snapshot from the website:

[Roblox](#) is a very popular online multi player game similar in appearance to Minecraft. Roblox was launched in 2006 and now has over 30 Million active users. Roblox is primarily an online platform that hosts user/player made games. Players can choose which games they want to play. Games can be anything from navigating obstacle courses, finding your way through a spooky maze, role playing games and much more. Some games are quite scary and too violent for younger players. Shoot and Kill games and games with spooky characters like Slender Man and Zombies. Some games contain murder, guns and other horror themes. Players can also build their own "worlds" or games via the Roblox Studio app, but once launched they are public.

Players can earn spending money called Robux or spend real money to gain Robux for upgrades and for extras. Roblox is available on both mobile devices and on P.C's. Some games require spending Robux to play. Unlike Minecraft there is no overall single player options or private play on all the games with only whitelisted, vetted real life friends within all the games. Some games on this platform can have a VIP or private aspect to them that can be invite only, this usually costs money. If your child plays any of the games on this platform it's likely they will be playing alongside or with other players they don't know in the game.



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2018 NAPLAN RESULTS - FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH

At last week's Annual General Meeting (at School Council) I was able to share our outstanding NAPLAN results for 2018. Not only are we performing way above state means but we are also way above similar schools (size and demographic) and our network schools in almost all areas. Inner East (which we belong) is the strongest performing network in the state, so it was fantastic to see that we are performing at or above local schools as well.

The following results show the number of students in the top two NAPLAN bands. The **orange** color = schools results, **purple** = similar schools, **light blue** = network schools and black = State results.

Year 3 results on the left

Year 5 results on the right

Reading

NAPLAN - Students by bands ⓘ

Top 2 band students in 2018 (%) ⓘ
For students in Year 3: Reading

82%

65%

73%

57%



Top 2 band students in 2018 (%) ⓘ

For students in Year 5: Reading

61%

48%

56%

40%

Students by band over last 5 years (2014-2018)

Spelling

Top 2 band students in 2018 (%) ⓘ
For students in Year 3: Spelling

76%

58%

72%

50%

Top 2 band students in 2018 (%) ⓘ
For students in Year 5: Spelling

61%

40%

53%

33%

Grammar & Punctuation

NAPLAN - Students by bands ⓘ

Top 2 band students in 2018 (%) ⓘ
For students in Year 3: Grammar and Punctuation

86%

61%

69%

50%



Top 2 band students in 2018 (%) ⓘ
For students in Year 5: Grammar and Punctuation

50%

43%

51%

35%

Writing

Top 2 band students in 2018 (%)

For students in Year 3, Writing

71%

Your school

61%

Similar schools

70%

Network

51%

State

Students by band over last 5 years (%)

Top 2 band students in 2018 (%)

For students in Year 5, Writing

22%

Your school

17%

Similar schools

27%

Network

14%

State

Numeracy

Top 2 band students in 2018 (%)

For students in Year 3, Numeracy

55%

Your school

55%

Similar schools

68%

Network

45%

State

Top 2 band students in 2018 (%)

For students in Year 5, Numeracy

47%

Your school

41%

Similar schools

55%

Network

32%

State

Our focus over the past four years has been Reading, Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar.

For the past two years we have added in Mathematics. Our results in math have increased incredibly over the past couple of years and we are now surpassing state and similar school data. Our approach to Writing has just begun but we are already seeing a difference in the work our students are producing.

These outstanding results are due to the dedication and effort of the teachers at MWHPS. It is such a pleasure to visit each and every class - the culture, feel, curriculum approach, consistency, activities and sense of pride is definitely something to celebrate.

SCHOOL VISITS

Last week we had 16 Principals from South Australia visit our school. They were here because of our outstanding academic growth. They were interested in hearing about our journey - in particular about our Learning and Teaching Framework, developing consistent practices, the highs and the challenges. It was a great way for Carolyn and myself to reflect on our journey and to recognise that much has been achieved.

Also last week we had teachers visiting from a Ringwood primary school to see our IT practices. The word is definitely out there with more schools requesting to visit.

We need your old phones AND their charges!

If you have recently upgraded your phone and no longer need your old one, we would love to reuse it as part of our technology upgrade. Donated phones (smart phones) will be used in VR devices and run off our school's network. If you are able to help out, please drop them in at the office. Thank you



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FAREWELL AND GOOD LUCK!

As mentioned last year Mrs Hillary Sullivan has decided to take leave as of the end of Term 1. I would like to acknowledge and thank Hillary for her leadership, care for all students and brilliant teaching skills over the past 8 years. Whilst Hillary has led the implementation of a range of curriculum initiatives, I would particularly like to recognise the work involved in establishing the School Wide Positive Behaviour program at MWHPS. Due to her leadership in this area, the program has remained strong and now embedded into the culture of the school. I know you will join me in wishing Hillary all the very best. Next week will be Hillary's last week at MWHPS.

Lynn Gyuriak will be taking Long Service Leave for Term 2. As such, we have advertised a Business Manager position to complete the financial management tasks. Louise Berry is currently undertaking finance training and will be working full time in the office for Term 2.

Enjoy your well deserved break Lynn!

END OF TERM AWARDS ASSEMBLY

Just a reminder that our end of term assembly will take place on Monday April 1 at 9am. Parents are most welcome to attend.

CELEBRATING OUR CULTURAL DIVERSITY – CALLING ALL GREEK PARENTS/GRANDPARENTS

As mentioned in previous newsletters we are looking at ways to celebrate our cultural diversity and build empathy and understanding for all. Our first celebration will be Greek Easter in the first week of Term 2. We will be requesting Greek parents and grandparents to assist us with these celebrations. On Friday 26th of April from 2.30-3.30, we are after a parent/grandparent to talk to each class about how they celebrate Easter. Despina who owns 'Greek Bakery' (Oakleigh) is kindly donating a Tsoureki loaf for each class to share. Helpers are welcome to bring along pictures or items which they can share with the class. Further information and sign up will be distributed in the next couple of days.

A Friendly reminder

- Our Easter Bonnet Parade on the last day of term. Students can make a Bonnet at home using recycled materials. A student from each class will be awarded a prize for the best use of recycled materials.
- The Parents Association are asking for donations for our Annual Easter hampers. Donations can be left at the office.
- The ANZAC Appeal is on – SRC members will be visiting classes tomorrow and next week. Prices start at \$2 for a badge.

Let's celebrate...

- Kirsten's success in the Toyota Future Cars competition
- Ms Sullivan's contribution to our school over the past 8 years
- The book reviews written by our Year 5 students in 2018 which were published in "Oz Kids in Print – February 2019 edition."
Check out the article on the last page of this weeks newsletter!
- A new addition to the Bux family. Idris arrived a couple of weeks ago!
Ameer will make a caring and loving big brother!

Until next week,

Sharon

Sharon Reiss-Stone



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Kinder visits

Today Teani, Anna, Max, Ryan, Helen and I visited Goodstart Oakleigh. Every year, Helen puts together a series of fantastic activities that we deliver to kinders and childcare centres throughout our community. This is a great leadership experience for our students but also strengthens the bonds between our school and kinders. Today, Helen read a story and then the kinder students made a chicken, with the assistance of our wonderful student leaders. We will continue to visits kinders throughout the year and if you know any families with kinder students please encourage them to visit our school as word of mouth is a great way to get our name out into the community.



"We are positive role models for the kinder students" Anna

"It was fun because the kinder students are so cute and funny" Teani



Carolyn

Carolyn Datson
Assistant Principal



Woolworths Earn and Learn is coming back to your local store in 2019.

In 2017, when Woolworths last ran Earn & Learn, over 15,000 schools and ELC's were involved and over 300,000 pieces of equipment for science & technology, maths, arts, and more was delivered to kids all over Australia.

Keep an eye out for the Earn and Learn sticker sheets to help earn rewards for Mount Waverley Heights Primary. More information coming soon!

S.D.S.S.A Athletics Carnival

Last Friday selected students from Year 4 and all Year 5 & 6 students participated in the S.D.S.S.A Athletics Carnival. All students tried their best whilst showing great sportsmanship and teamwork on the day. Overall Mount Waverley Heights finished in 5th position. A special mention goes to students who finished first in their events, being:

1st PLACE GETTERS – LIST WITH NAME AND EVENT

Sophie K – 10 yrs Hurdles
Mia J – 11 yrs 100 M
Aaron C – 11 yrs 200M
Ricky H – 11 yrs 800M
Teani T – 12 yrs Discus
Ryan T – 12 yrs Discus
The final results are below:

| TRACK EVENTS | | | FIELD EVENTS | | OVERALL | | |
|--------------|------------------------|-----|------------------------|-----|-----------------|------------------------|-----|
| HT | Huntingtower | 200 | Huntingtower | 441 | 1 st | Huntingtower | 641 |
| SC | St Christophers | 88 | St Christophers | 247 | 2 nd | Highvale | 599 |
| KS | The Knox School | 189 | The Knox School | 362 | 3 rd | St Lukes | 594 |
| SL | St Lukes | 183 | St Lukes | 411 | 4 th | The Knox School | 551 |
| HV | Highvale | 189 | Highvale | 410 | 5 th | Mount Waverley Heights | 502 |
| MWH | Mount Waverley Heights | 159 | Mount Waverley Heights | 343 | 6 th | St Christophers | 335 |

A huge thank you to Ms Hannah, Mr Ryan, Mrs Douglas & Mr Morton for all the effort put into training and trialling the students for each event. Also to Miss Hannah, Mr Ryan, Mr Morton, Tracy Morganella, Louise Yaxley-Chan who assisted on the day. Huge congratulations to the students who tried their hardest on the day whilst being outstanding representatives of Mount Waverley Heights Primary School. Also I would like to thank those parents who came to support their children and cheer on Mount Waverley Heights. All in all, it was a great day.

Kate Black

PE Coordinator

Photos from S.D.S.S.A



2019 Taiko Drummers

Our Year 5/6 students Teani, Maggie, Mia, Ryan, Anna, Dai, Jemma, Raphael, Zara, Kirsten and Natasha are MWHPS regular Taiko members this year.

The students rehearse one lunchtime per week and perform at school assembly and community events.

Well done to all our Taiko Drummers!



| Class | Class award | HOM Persisting |
|------------|--|---|
| Prep DM | Harvey B - your positive attitude towards your learning. You always try your best in class. | Mark R - always persisting on set tasks with a positive attitude. |
| Prep S | Eliza W - for being inclusive. Eliza tries hard to include all her classmates in play and activities. | Theo R - for persistence. Theo works hard to keep going with tasks he finds tricky. He even persists after making a mistake! |
| 1/2B | Aliyana R - For having a positive attitude at school everyday and arriving at school ready to learn and try her best. | Anthony S - For trying different strategies when he comes across a word he doesn't know when reading and asking others for help when he is stuck. |
| 1/2G | Owen M: For helping the entire class learn about Microsoft Word on the laptops. | Oliver C - For working amazingly hard on writing his Twilight Sports recount. |
| 1/2J | Will H- for putting in lots of effort with his share and chat and giving the class a fantastic example of a healthy snack. | Cerise B - for persisting with her portfolio piece and producing a neat and detailed recount of twilight sports. |
| 1/2M | Sophie M- For being a kind and considerate member of our class and for helping others. | Gisele A- For attempting all tasks with a positive attitude and not giving up. |
| 3/4H | Theo R- for making excellent learning choices | Zoe-Ann B- for not giving up on her maths task |
| 3/4R | Ryah S - For being a kind classmate and including others in groups | Declan C - For trying his best in class and participating in all activities |
| 5/6D | Teani T - For her impressive presentation on how the Gold Rushes shaped our nation. | Cooper S - For his impressive presentation on how the Gold Rushes shaped our nation. He persisted when researching across a range of sites. |
| 5/6M | Mia J - For being a dedicated and active member of the classroom. | Angel J - For always trying her hardest in task she is faced with. |



Library News

The library is now closed for borrowing for Term One.
All library books need to be returned before
MONDAY 1st APRIL for stocktake.



Huge congratulations go to Kirsten Leow of 5/6M! Kirsten's Toyota Dream Car design has been selected as one of the top 3 entries across Australia in her age group! An amazing achievement! Her design will now be sent to Japan for the final judging process of shortlisted entries from around the world.

Congratulations Kirsten!

We are incredibly proud of you!!



Good Friday Appeal

Our School is helping to support children who are unwell by holding a PJ day to raise money for the Royal Children's Hospital.

When: Friday 29th March

Dress: Come to school dressed in your pajamas, onesie, slippers or even just your favourite trackies for a super comfortable day at school

Donation: Please bring a gold coin donation for the Good Friday Appeal to raise money for the Royal Children's Hospital

Icy Poles

The SRC will be selling Zooper Dooper icy poles at lunchtime on the following Mondays:

25th March, 1st April, 29th April and 6th May

Cost: 50c and Limit of 1 per person

Thank-you
SRC Committee



2019 Photo Day Envelope and Order Instructions

Dear Parents and Students,

Mount Waverley Heights Primary School PHOTO DAY IS 30-04-2019

School photo order envelopes have been or will be distributed to every student and it is important that the order instructions (below) are followed.

**** IMPORTANT PLEASE NOTE – ONLINE ORDERING FOR SIBLING PHOTOS WILL CUT OFF ON 29-04-2019 ****

ONLINE ORDERING Your child's school photos are now available for secure online purchase, please note if you are ordering online, you do not need to return an envelope to the school

4 EASY STEPS TO ONLINE SCHOOL PHOTO ORDERING

- Step 1: [CLICK HERE: Easy Access Link](#) - Click on this link if you are using a supported device
- OR - Go to www.advancedlife.com.au before photo day and enter your school code [RCC Y8R QXK]
Step 2: Enter your student's details
Step 3: Choose the package that best suits your needs (all orders will be returned to the school for collection)
Step 4: Pay for the photos via the shopping cart (upper right corner of the page)

**** Online Orders will attract a \$1 service fee**

Please Note: Late fees will apply once orders are closed (5 days after photo day)

FAMILY / SIBLING PHOTOS No envelope required if ordering online

4 EASY STEPS TO ONLINE SCHOOL PHOTO ORDERING

- Go to www.advancedlife.com.au before photo day and enter your school code [RCC Y8R QXK]
- Family/Sibling photo orders online close on 29-04-2019
- Orders can be placed by returning an envelope up until photo day with cash or cheque enclosed

ORDERING USING AN ENVELOPE

ENVELOPES WILL BE HANDED TO EACH CHILD, PLEASE SEE THE SCHOOL OFFICE IF YOU HAVE NOT RECEIVED ONE

Step 1: Student Details: Complete the student details section on the front of the order envelope.

Please use black or blue pen.

Step 2: Purchase Details: Complete the purchase details on the front of the envelope.

Step 3: Payment Method: Select your payment method.

Credit Card – Online Only at www.advancedlife.com.au

Cash – Please enclose correct money – no change is given under any circumstances

Cheque – Make payable to Advancedlife Photography with your name & address on the back of cheque

Please allow 60 days for your cheque to be finalised - a \$25 fee will apply to any dishonored cheque payments

Please Note: A portrait and a class group photograph will be taken of every student at the school, regardless of purchase. Photographs of your children taken as part of a class group are only permitted to be distributed within their own class. Your child's name will appear on the class group photo. If you Do Not wish your child to be photographed, please contact your school office with your instructions prior to Photo Day.

Please feel free to contact us via email or phone should you have any queries in regards to your child's school photo order.

info@advancedlifevic.com.au or 03 9852 1133

Advancedlife Team

Please note: that we do not photograph every family within the school.

Sibling photographs are by **request** - that is, only families that have placed an order online **or** via an order envelope by day of photography, will have a photograph taken.



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What's Been Happening?

This week at Extend we have been going crazy with paint, paint and more paint! Last week the children took part in sculpting many wonderful clay creations and with the warm weather on the weekend, this meant the clay was dry and ready to be painted. Check out Miesha's Colosseum

Last weekend Brownie and Marshmallow had a cosy sleep over at Ariana M-G's house. Ariana wished they could have stayed a little longer, as Marshmallow is her favourite!

The Extend Superstar is...

Mikeala M from 3/4H for being so kind and fair when offering your help to peers and educators. We can always rely on you and we love how great of a friend you are to everyone.

Coming up next week:

| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
|--|--|--|--|---|
| Around the world: Denmark Cooking: Baked Potatoes | Dream Time Program & Indigenous Game - Tarnambai | Science: Stay Afloat & Ball Sports | Art: Oil Pastel and Watercolour Creations & Playground | END OF TERM PARTY! & Group Games |

* THE GUINEA PIGS ARE GOING ON AN ADVENTURE *

Next week on Tuesday the 2nd, Brownie & Marshmallow are going to be visiting our pen pal school, St. Joseph's Primary School in Malvern. Don't worry, we promise to bring them back for more cuddles!

From Jayde & the children.

Enrol and book now: extend.com.au



www.digimaker.com.au

Computer Programming Club

In a world where technology touches every aspect of our lives, it is crucial that our children understand how it works. To accomplish this objective, there is an exciting Computer Programming club running at the school.

The aim of the club is to provide students with exposure to the fundamentals of computer science concepts. Run by external consultants from Digimaker, this program will:

- Build games, animations, stories utilizing pupil's creative thinking
- Develop logical thinking and problem-solving skills
- Express ideas & boost confidence working in a collaborative environment
- Enable the grasp of computational thinking which combines math and logic

For details on the course, visit <http://www.digimaker.com.au/courses/>

The club will run for 8 to 10 weeks each term (depending on the length of the term) and is charged on a per-term basis. Students work on school computer during the session.

Program for Term 2 2019 is as follows:

Room : Class Room
Year : 3 to 6
Fee : \$152

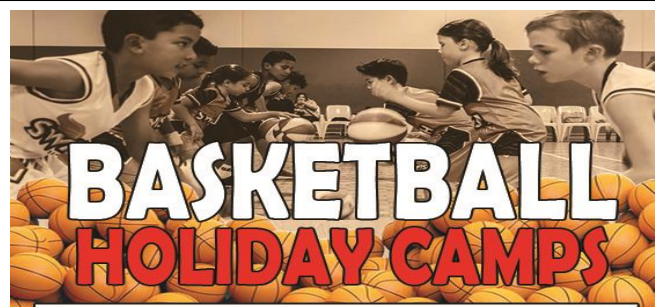
| Batch – After School | |
|----------------------|---|
| Day | Tuesday's 30 th Apr to 18 th Jun (08 weeks) |
| Time | 03:30pm – 04:30pm |

Mount Waverley Heights Primary School

If you are interested in your child being considered for the programming club, please *fill the form online @ www.digimaker.com.au/contactus/ latest by Thursday 4th April 2019. Digimaker will confirm your child's spot via **email.

*Existing students need not fill the form

**All important emails from Digimaker will be sent from info@digimaker.com.au Please ensure this address is whitelisted in your Junk Email filters or added as a Trusted contact.



GET READY FOR THE WINTER SEASON!

Just started or thinking of playing next season? Join us at our BEGINNER holiday camps for an introduction to the basics and fundamental skills of the game in an enjoyable learning environment.

Wednesday 10th and Thursday 11th April

Are you looking to prepare for a breakout season? More experienced players are invited to attend our ADVANCED holiday camp for further skills coaching and guidance.

Friday 12th April

Camps are ideal for players 6 - 12 years. Building confidence whilst having fun!

3 BIG days of basketball in APRIL
10am - 3pm BYO Basketball & Lunch
\$55 per day per participant

Waverley Basketball Stadium, Batesford Road, Chadstone
All ages and skills are invited to attend the beginner camp



Register ONLINE to book your spot
www.tinyurl.com/bballcamps
Enquiries please call 9095 6567



Join your local Joey Scouts



Groups in Monash District
are now recruiting girls and
boys aged 5-7 years.

Contact us now to hop in on the action!

More info at scoutsvictoria.com.au

Enquiries:

Liesl Tozer: 0420 858 398
dljs.monash2@scoutsvictoria.com.au



BOOK REVIEWS

Meet our book reviewers Shreya, Ryan, Abigail, Kezia and Anna from Mount Waverley Heights Primary School.

Reviews Coordinators: Georgia Despotellis and Meredith Costain



Rivers

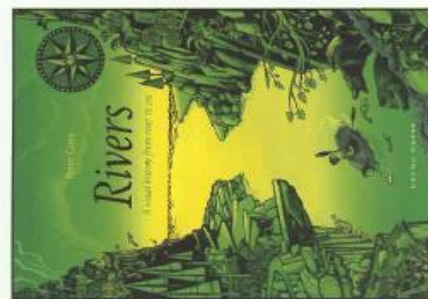
by Peter Goes (Gecko Press)

Rivers is a non-fiction book for young readers that gives a visual history 'from river to sea'. This book is really good because it is historical and teaches you things that have happened many, many years ago. It has lots of different sections for each continent that help to explain how different things happened in the world through the ages.

I think the type of readers that would enjoy this book would be people who are interested in history and geography. I recommend this book for children aged 8+.

Rating: ★★★★★☆☆ [8/10]

— Ryan Taranto

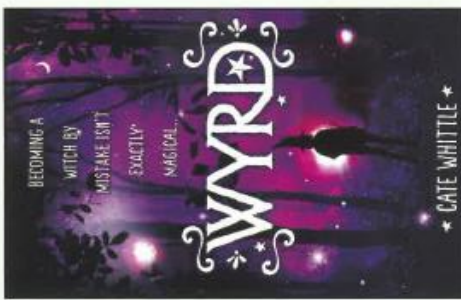


WYRD

by Cate Whittle (Scholastic Australia)

Reading the blurb of this book gave me a feeling of happiness. Emma, the main character, is competitive and determined. The book begins with a marriage that brings a new sister, Pip, into her life. But then things start turning strange when Emma's spell book accidentally turns Emma into a witch!

After reading the first chapter, I was enjoying where this book was going. At the end of chapter one it says: 'After that Emma's day went all downhill.' That phrase gripped me so much! As I continued to read, there were a lot of ups and downs with Emma and Pip's life, with the conflict brewing in. Both go through their trials and



errors and suddenly, this story turns out in a most magical and intriguing way.

I am recommending this book to fantasy-lovers aged 8+ who love witchery and magic.

Rating: ★★★★★☆☆ [8/10]

— Kezia Leow

Embassy Of The Dead

by Will Mabbitt, illustrated by Chris Mould (Hachette)

Surviving can be hard for Jake Green. His existence becomes even harder when a mysterious shadow appears in a dark alley on a gloomy afternoon. His breath



trembles and clashes as the mysterious figure gives him a parcel. The thrilling adventures in this story are incredibly breathtaking. Every chapter has so many twists and turns that it's hard to put this book down.

If you are into stories about ghosts, zombies and people of the dead this is the book for you. There is a mix of horror and humour in this adventurous tale. Recommended for readers aged 10+.

Rating: ★★★★★☆☆ [8/10]

— Shreya Prashanth

How I Didn't Straighten My Hair (and other life lessons)

by Angela May George (Omnibus/Scholastic)

This book is about a happy Greek family that have a daughter called Theodora, who is trying to find her 'thing'. She tries Greek dancing, but apparently that isn't for her. She has an older sister, Athena (the ice queen), and wants to beat her in something. While doing that, they encounter many events that make you laugh!

I enjoyed this book because it's reliable and funny. It doesn't include pictures, but it's descriptive so you can imagine what the author was thinking. I wanted to keep reading, to find out what happened next!



The only thing I didn't like was some parts could be predictable and sometimes dull.

I think this book would be good for readers aged 9+, because they would get the humour. It would suit people with messy hair and people who love funny stories.

Rating: ★★★★★☆☆ [8/10]

— Anna Karaliadou

The Perfect Leaf

written and illustrated by Andrew Plant (Ford Street Publishing)

Elly and Mai are two young girls who love autumn. Both find leaves that are beautiful to them. But no matter how hard they search, none of the leaves are perfect — they all have some sort of flaw. But with the help of imagination, Elly and Mai see past the little hole or small mark.

The Perfect Leaf is interesting and sweet. The pictures, colours and words work together to make a beautiful and captivating book. I thought the moral of the story is that no one is perfect. We all have some sort of spot or mark that makes us flawed in life. We must accept our imperfections but also strive to fix them and make our lives as good as they can be.

I recommend this book to any kids who love a calm, quiet story. It's a good lesson for anyone to know that everyone and everything fails at perfection.

Rating: ★★★★★☆☆ [8/10]

— Abigail Oh

