



MERCEDES COLLEGE

COMPASSION LOYALTY JUSTICE INTEGRITY RESPONSIBILITY MUTUAL RESPECT

1 August 2016

Dear Parents and Students

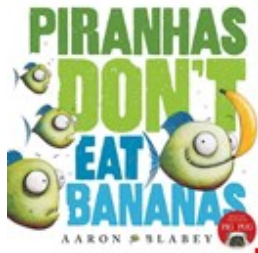
“Australia IS a Story Country. Our stories come from all over: from our own indigenous people, from migrants and refugees who have come to live here, from books, movies and orally transmitted stories.” (Susan Stephenson, 2016)



‘Australia: Story Country’ is the theme for Book Week this year, where once again, we celebrate the latest Australian contributions to literature and the tradition of storytelling. Book Week will be celebrated in Week 5 this term, Monday 22 August to Friday 26 August.

The Children’s Book Council of Australia is a not for profit organisation which promotes enjoyment of literature for young Australians. Each year they select recent books of merit in a range of categories. The Junior School will focus on two categories: Early Childhood and Picture Book of the Year. Below are the shortlisted books in each category. A copy of each title is available in the library for **overnight loan** and is labelled with the suitable age range. Please come to the Library and enjoy these books with your child.

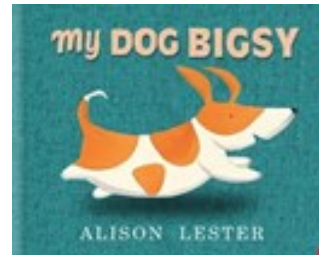
The Book of the Year: Early Childhood:



Piranhas Don't Eat Bananas
Written & illustrated by Aaron Blabey



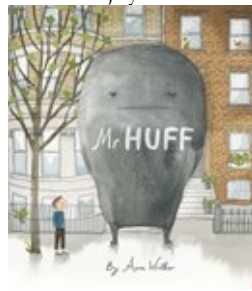
Ollie and the Wind
Written & illustrated by Ronojoy Ghosh



My Dog Bigsy
Written & illustrated by Alison Lester



Perfect
Written by Danny Parker
& illustrated by Freya Blackwood



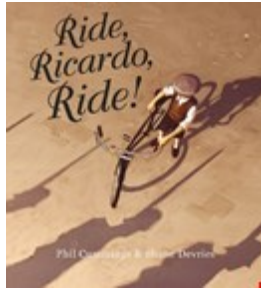
Mr Huff
Written & illustrated by Anna Walker



The Cow Tripped Over The Moon
Written by Tony Wilson
& illustrated by Laura Wood



The Picture Book of the Year



Ride, Ricardo, Ride
Written by Irena Kobald &
illustrated by Freya Blackwood



My Dead Bunny
Written by Sigi Cohen &
illustrated by James Foley



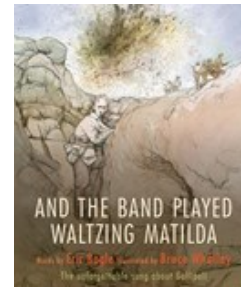
Flight
Written by Nadia Wheatley &
illustrated by Armin Greder



One Step at a Time
Written by Jane Jolly &
illustrated by Sally Heinrich



Suri's Wall
Written by Lucy Estela &
illustrated by Matt Ottley



*And the Band Played Waltzing
Matilda*
Written by Eric Bogle &
illustrated by Bruce Whatley

To launch Book Week celebrations, students are already participating in class in our **'Tell a Yarn'** Storytelling competition. We have many exciting and challenging activities planned during Book Week. To celebrate the class completion of the Premier's Reading Challenge, all classes will have a Pyjama Day on Wednesday 24 August. Classes will enjoy a variety of fun team challenges in the Library, designed to connect students to the Shortlisted Books and to the Book Week theme. Our **Book Week Assembly** will be held on **Friday 26 August at 9:00am in the Junior School Hall**. Students are encouraged to dress up for this assembly as a way to celebrate Australian books. We encourage students to create, construct or design their costume using materials found at home and to think about how their costume relates to a book they have enjoyed, been inspired by or learnt from.

How can parents/guardians support Book Week?

- Read with your child. Revisit some old favourites from your childhood and share why you enjoy them.
- Talk with your child about the importance of reading. Why is reading significant to you? Ask them to share with you what they like about reading.

We look forward to celebrating an enjoyable and entertaining Book Week. It is a lovely opportunity to rediscover the simple pleasures of reading and the power of stories. ***"Let's encourage Australia's children to immerse themselves in a range of stories, to read them, listen to them, watch them, think about them, and go on to share them with others!"*** (Susan Stephenson, 2016¹)

Kind regards
Lara Ebbs & Davina Cimarosti
Junior School Teacher Librarian

¹ Stephenson, S 2016, *Children's Book Week 2016 - Resources*, accessed 1 August 2016, <<http://www.thebookchook.com/2016/04/childrens-book-week-2016-resources.html>>.
