

Our  
Citizen Scientist  
Journey

2017

# George & Georgalina

"Wow ,look mrs Haggerty"

"Wow, we've never seen those birds before "

If your wondering whats going on we've seen two more birds. These birds are a muscovy duck. He is white with a red bumpy beak and she is white with a smooth red beak. There is a boy and girl and you probably don't see this coming but we actually named them the boy George and the girl Georgalina.

## Here's some facts

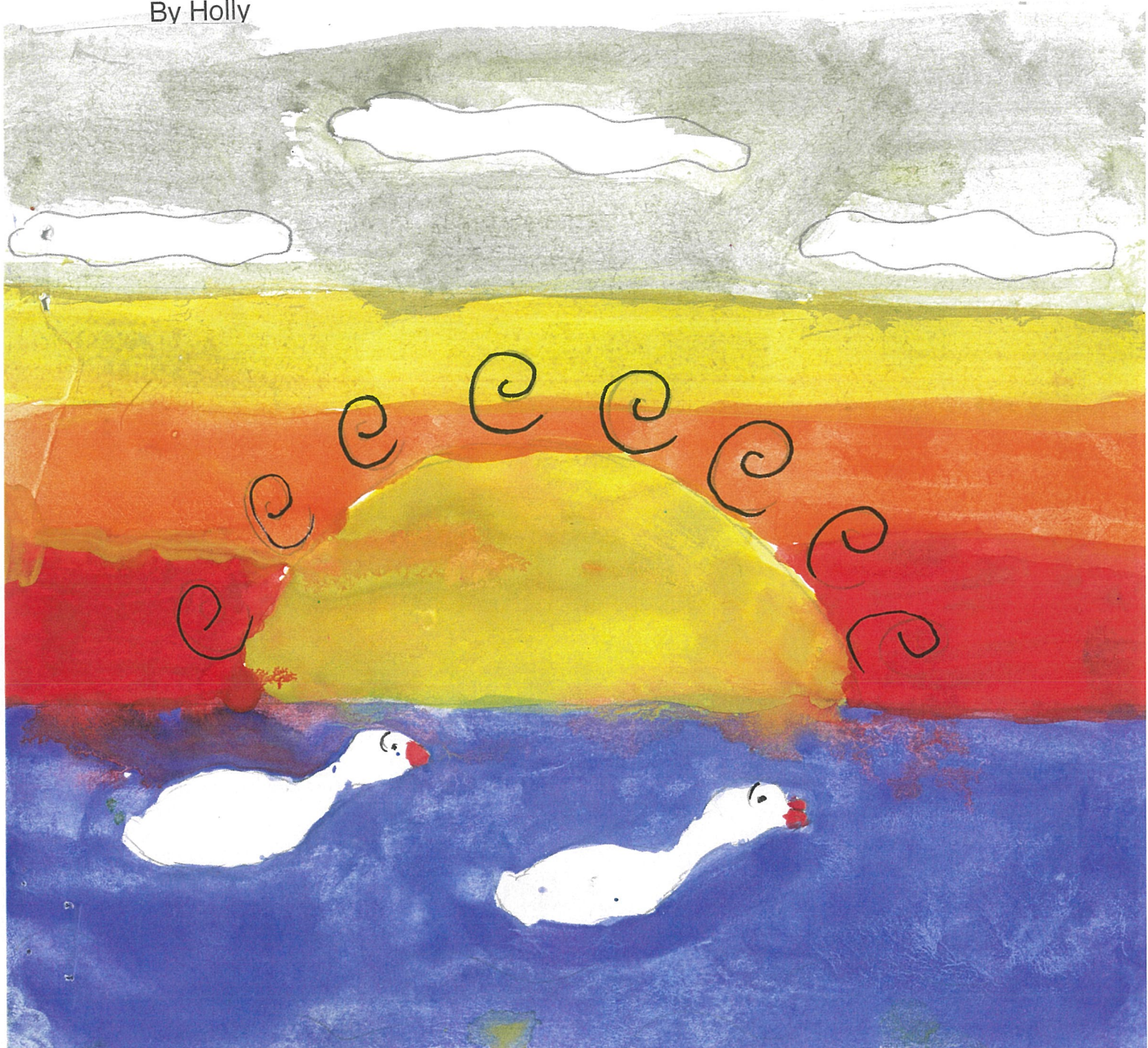
They can both walk on land and water. They eat greens, duck pellets and fish.

Here's a funny fact, we made him my husband and he's cheating on me with Georgalina

We actually used to fight over if they were geese or goose or a muscovy duck. We researched it and discovered they were a muscovy duck.

Arguments over!

By Holly



## Mind Maps

We used mind maps to do everything. We used mind maps to do things like going to the zoo, remembering to call the Salisbury Council about some leaking pipes underground in the wetlands, for Panayioti to meet Mrs Pickles about the gutters, and many other things. We also had a big mind map on the wall and the mind map on the wall was based on the wetlands learning. Every time the whole class would finish a task, Mrs Haggerty would stamp a star next to it. We nearly finished everything on the mind map.

Mind maps help us to sort out things and it also reminds us to finish things. We can use mind maps to plan our writing, sort our research and learn new things in all our lessons. You can write your ideas then add more ideas to it. Mind maps help us with everything.

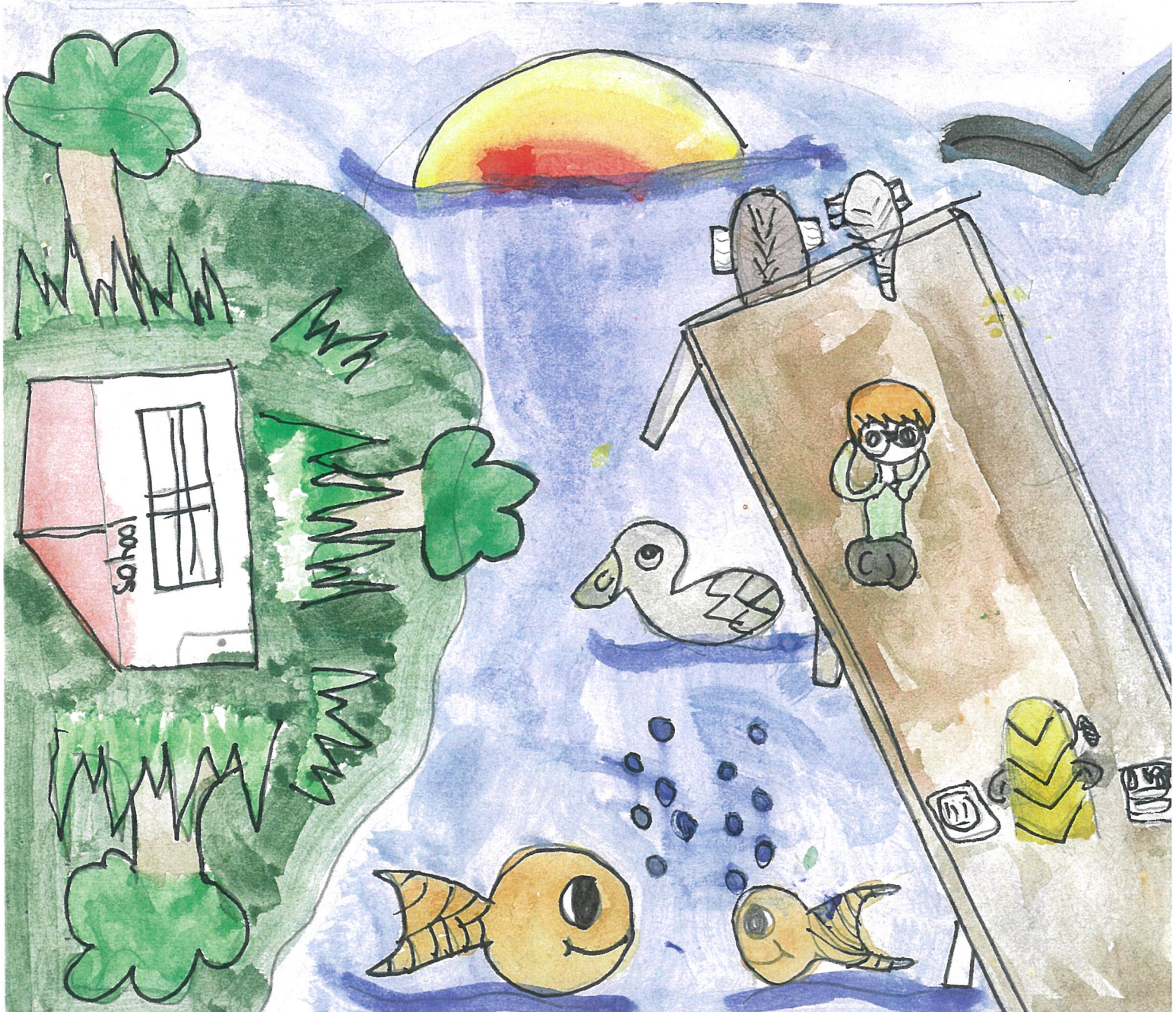
By Sienna



# The first time doing micro-invertebrates testing

When we first did our micro-invertebrates it was so cool, fun and amazing. But mostly we had a shared recess at the wetlands. Here is some of the wetlands micro-invertebrates we see: Caddisfly larva, Damselfly, Water boat man, Back swimmer, Yabbies, Seed shrimp, Water flea, Round worm, Mosquito larva did you know Jai found a leech in the wetlands with his cousins and his cousins said "ewww". Did you know leech suck your blood. In youtube my sister found this little kitten that had lots of blood and the leech sucked the blood for an hour. Maybe hurts. If you are brave it wont hurt but, if you are scared it will hurt. Be brave.

BY Cheynel in room 17



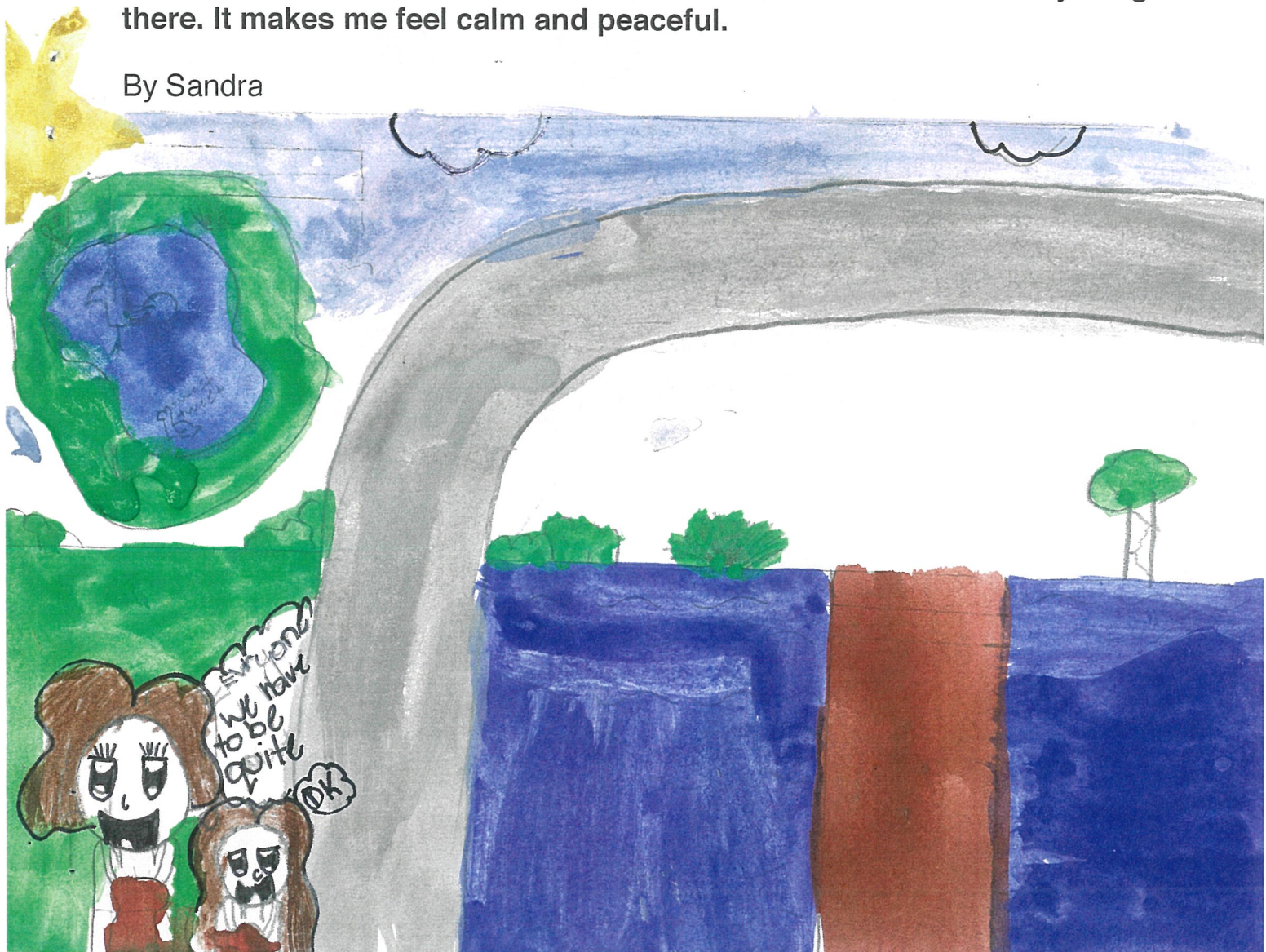
# The first time we went to the wetlands

Before the week we went to the wetlands Mrs Haggerty gave the whole class a note about going to the wetlands in our diaries. Our parents had to sign our diaries for permission from our parents or caregivers and everyone's parents said yes or ok. One week later on Tuesday... this is everyone... "YAY!" Everyone shouted.

The first day of wetlands we all got an Art Journal. Mrs Francis and Mrs Haggerty wrote our names on the sticker at the front. We all went to the wetlands and drew up ten shapes on the page. In each one we had to draw things that we saw in each shape. Things that people drew were spider webs, playground, trees, little ducks and birds, dragonflies and flowers. We walked around for a while and tried to see what was there and to think about the questions that we had about the wetlands. We went in the morning and it took until recess..and I was so hungry.

I feel really connected to the wetlands because I like outside more than inside. Inside it's stuffy but outside it smells really fresh. I love the wetlands because it looks so beautiful. I love the ducks and everything there. It makes me feel calm and peaceful.

By Sandra



## RBL-Wetland birds

The first time we did RBL, every one needed to pick a bird each then needed to research what it eats, what time of the year it reproduced, are they endangered, how can we make changes so they are in a safe environment, and what bird family are they in. Then if we were done we printed it, then presented it to the class one by one and students could ask questions about their presentation. After everyone had finished presenting we had learnt so much about the wetlands birds.

Earlier this term in week 4, we had our wetlands expo celebration we each got placed at a station and the families would come around and ask us questions about the station we were at and could leave us a comment on our comment board. After that on the next day we brought all the things back to our class room.

Rithy



# Laws and Rules

Oh Madi, Look at all the things we have had to report! A mattress. Ooh yeah that is really unhealthy for our wetlands. We also had to report a chair covered with moss .We definitely had to report this! Leaking pipes that could make the path all slippery and people could hurt themselves, yeah, that could be really bad! Oh yeah! I also saw a mouldy mat that has browny white colour. Madi I really loved being the people that report about the wetlands to keep it safe. :)

By Hannah



# Sustainability

Sustainability is multiple things like keeping the wetlands clean and plants that refresh the air. Now I will be talking about keeping the wetlands clean.

So first I will tell you that you must keep your gutters clean or all the gunk in the gutters will fill up, rust and everything in the gutters will go down the stormwater drain into the wetlands . When it gets into the wetlands it pollutes the water and that will kill lots of the animals and plants. It goes mouldy and lets algae grow on it. The water gets cold and prevents oxygen from getting out.

It is very important to keep your gutters clean because if you don't it will all the animals. Remember that the gunk in the gutters will go down the stormwater pipes and into the wetlands.

By Panayioti



# Genius Hour

Genius Hour is you asking a question to your self. It can be any kind of question but our class went with the wetlands. After you have got a question you research it and research it, but the research does not take 5 minutes it takes at least 1 hour. But our class takes at least 2 or 3 hours. After you researched you make a model, poster, do some sketching or interview someone. The model, interviewing or posters did not take 30 minutes or something... it took at least 2 weeks!

Here are some question my class mates thought of.....

- .How do purple swamphens stand on the reeds?
- .Were do birds nest?
- .What can you make out of reeds?
- .How do pelicans change the colour of there beak?
- .Why cant you feed ducks bread?
- .What creatures are under spring bank wetlands?
- .Where do macro-invertabrates live?
- .How do ducks get warm?

How do Pelicans Change the colour of their beak?



How do Purple swamphens stand on the reeds?



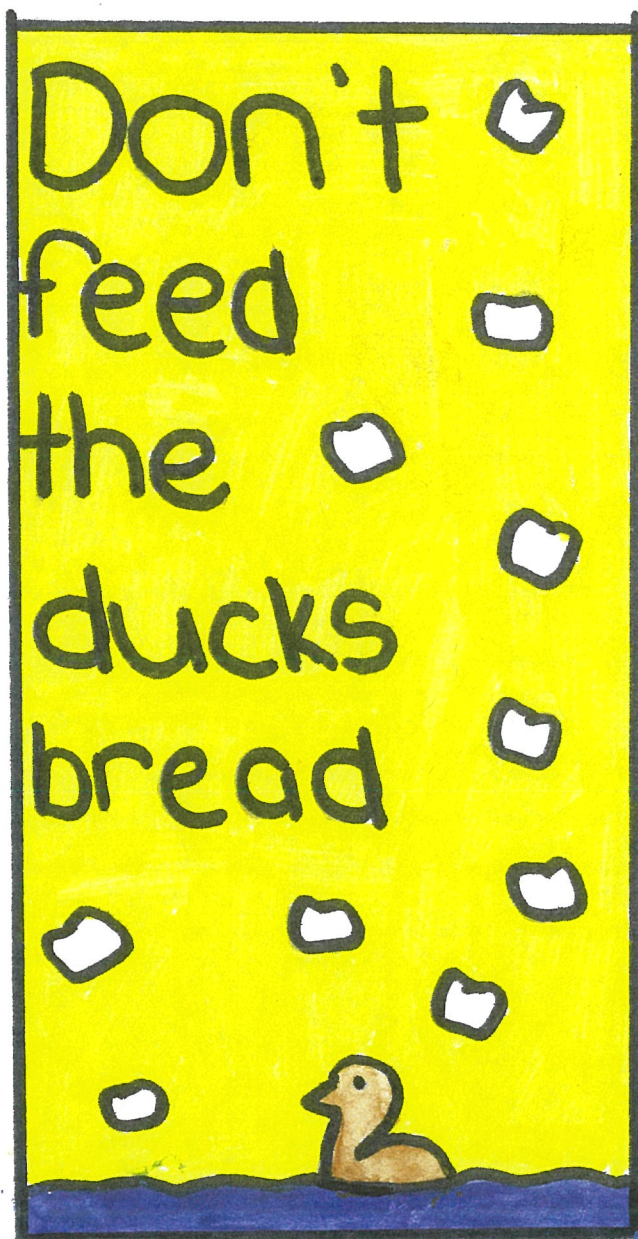
By Teagan



# Shop Presentation

On Friday we went to the shop to share our learning to the community. We made 5 brochures. They were called macroinvertebrates, gutter and storm water drains, visitor guide, wetlands bird and don't feed the ducks bread which I was in. There were 5 people in my group; Sienna, Dannika, Luke, Kongkea and Jai and we all worked as a group to make this brochure. It took us a while for us to do but we managed to finish it. It was the day that we went to the shops. I was really nervous to talk to strangers but I got used to talking to them. There were some people who didn't want the brochures and some that did want the brochures. It was getting close to the end so we had to get ready to pack all of the stuff because we were the last group. It was the end of the shop presentation and we had to say thank you to woollies for having us. When we were walking back there were still more brochures left so we handed out our brochures in the mailboxes for them to have a look.

From Belma



You can feed  
the ducks

- Corn
- duck pellets
- lettuce other greens
- grapes cut in half



# Group Work

Me [Ella L] and our class mates love Group Work. Well I do.

You can meet new people and get to know them better. If you make new friends you could play with them.

We have pop sticks with everyone's name on them. What ever amount of people your teachers pick.

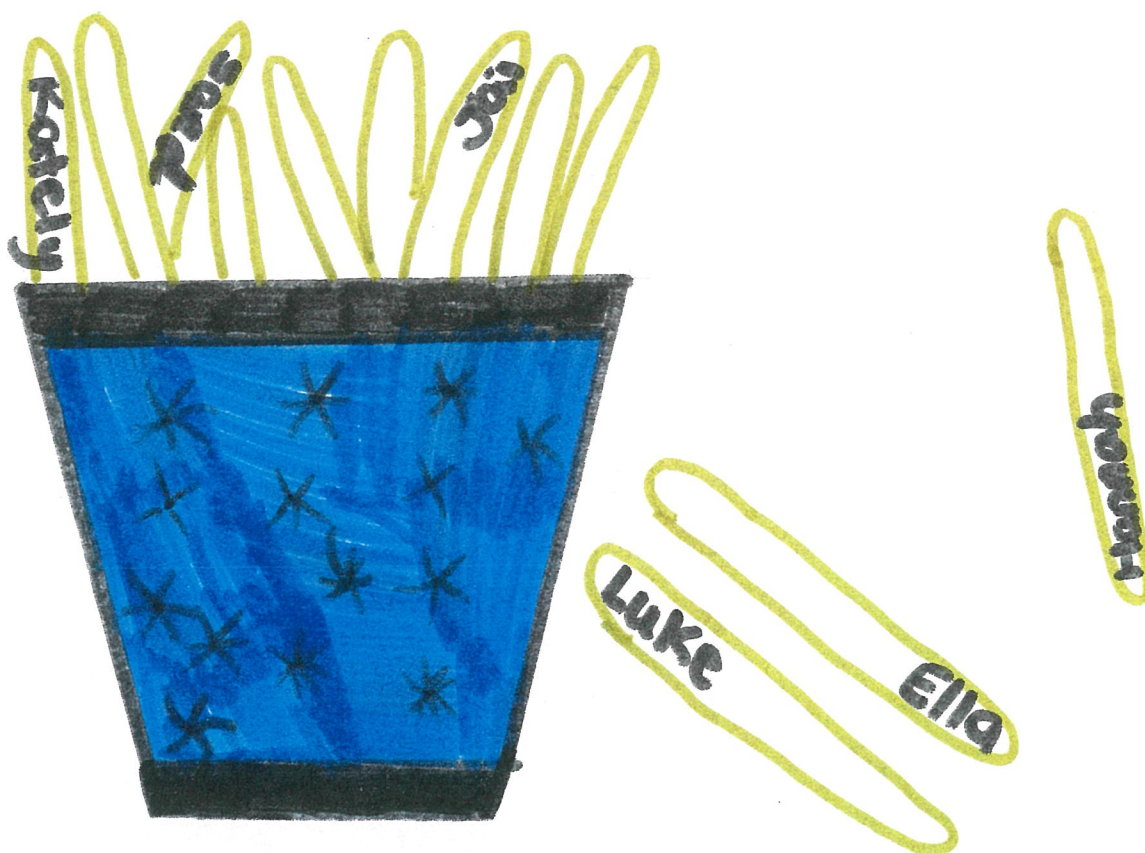
Then Mrs. Haggerty picks names out of the pot then read the names and you have got your groups. My favourite thing about this is you can work with different people and get to know them better.

Some of the things that we have done in Group Work with popstick picks have been...

- \* Making the Butterfly Garden
- \* Making the brochures for the Shopping Centre Presentation
- \* Going to the Zoo

We did a lot of things with Group Work all year long.

From Ella.



# Art

Room 17 have been learning to be artist. We have been doing lots of art about the wetlands. We have had a challenge to deign and make exotic birds. We got into small groups of four or five. In our groups we had to deign our birds. We had to figure out what materials we needed to make our birds. We had to change the birds to fit in the cages. Then we had to make a book with information about the birds.

People in our class took photos of the wetlands then we took them back to the class room so we colored print them out then we cut them into patterns and glued them on A3 colored cardboard paper. This is called strip art and they were beautiful.

In Genius hour some of us did art the kids who did draw pictures or made models with clay and other material. We made reed pens and a reed mat from the reeds from the wetlands.

When we go to the wetlands we sketch the birds, plants and lots more and we tried to map the wetlands. That was really hard. I loved sketching all the birds. It was fun doing the challenges because it challenged my brain.

By Dannika



## Mapping

When we walked around the wetlands we sometimes saw two pelicans but sometime we saw four or six of them. Also, when we walked we saw lots of rocks and a cement path across it. When we kept walking, there were lots of big tanks behind the wetland and I think there is a car yard next to it. Then we went up a hill and when we went down I ran because it's hard to walk because it was so steep. Then we crossed a bridge and there were not many ducks there. We crossed another bridge and that's where George and Georgelina live. Also, there was an enormous island near the bridge. George and Georgalina liked to go on there sometimes. Also we created a map from where we started all the way back to school and drew what we see. After walking around the wetlands, we came back to school and reflected about the wetland journey.

By Dim



# The Wetlands Expo

The purpose of the the expo was to show our family members all of the learning we have done this year and all the fun we have had at the wetlands. The first thing that happened at the wetlands expo was a slide show and half of the class read one slide each that represented each station. After that, all the parents went around the gym to look at all the stations. There was eleven stations don't feed the ducks bread, feather map, challenges, laws and rules, RBL, genius hour, art, sustainability, NRM and bowerbird. There was at least 2 to 4 people at each station.

Don't feed the ducks bread is a station where they sold duck pellets and were 1 dollar each. At the end of the expo we made enough money to pay off our sausage sizzle that we had before the expo because our duck pellets. Feather map was a programme that we joined at the start at the year and when we were looking at the website we found out that the information comes to us in one year. Challenges were where people in the classroom gave us a task to do at home but you didn't have to do it and at the end everyone became great researchers. Laws and rules is when 2 people in the classroom report to the council about things at the wetlands that aren't supposed to be there. RBL stand for Resource Based Learning and it was a subject that helped us to research and information into our own words. Genius hour was a very big subject for us because it nearly took up the whole of term 3. Art was all about using ink pens and sketching things at the wetlands. sustainability was about the money savings and helping the environment. Futures is where we write a pervasive and narrative about what will happen to the wetlands in ten years. NRM testing the wetlands waters and graphing the data we collect. Bower bird helps us take pictures of animals at the wetlands. At the end of the expo everyone went on a walk to the wetlands.

By Kaitlin



# Air Cleaning Plants



There are more than one air cleaning plant.



Here are some of them...

- \* Pot Mum
- \* Golden pathos
- \* Peace Lily
- \* Heartleaf Philodendrum
- \* English Ivy



We bought air cleaning plants in our classroom.

Mr Dan French told us to because plants give us oxygen (O<sub>2</sub>) and we give them carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>). We have six in the class.

The plants made a big difference for the air. Now the air is much fresher.

People in my class have a job of watering the plants and now it's my turn. We noticed something when we put too much water in the planters. There are lots of bugs over there.

The strawberry and pepperint plants died because they did not get enough water. Mrs. Haggerty bought self-watering pots.

By Jashan

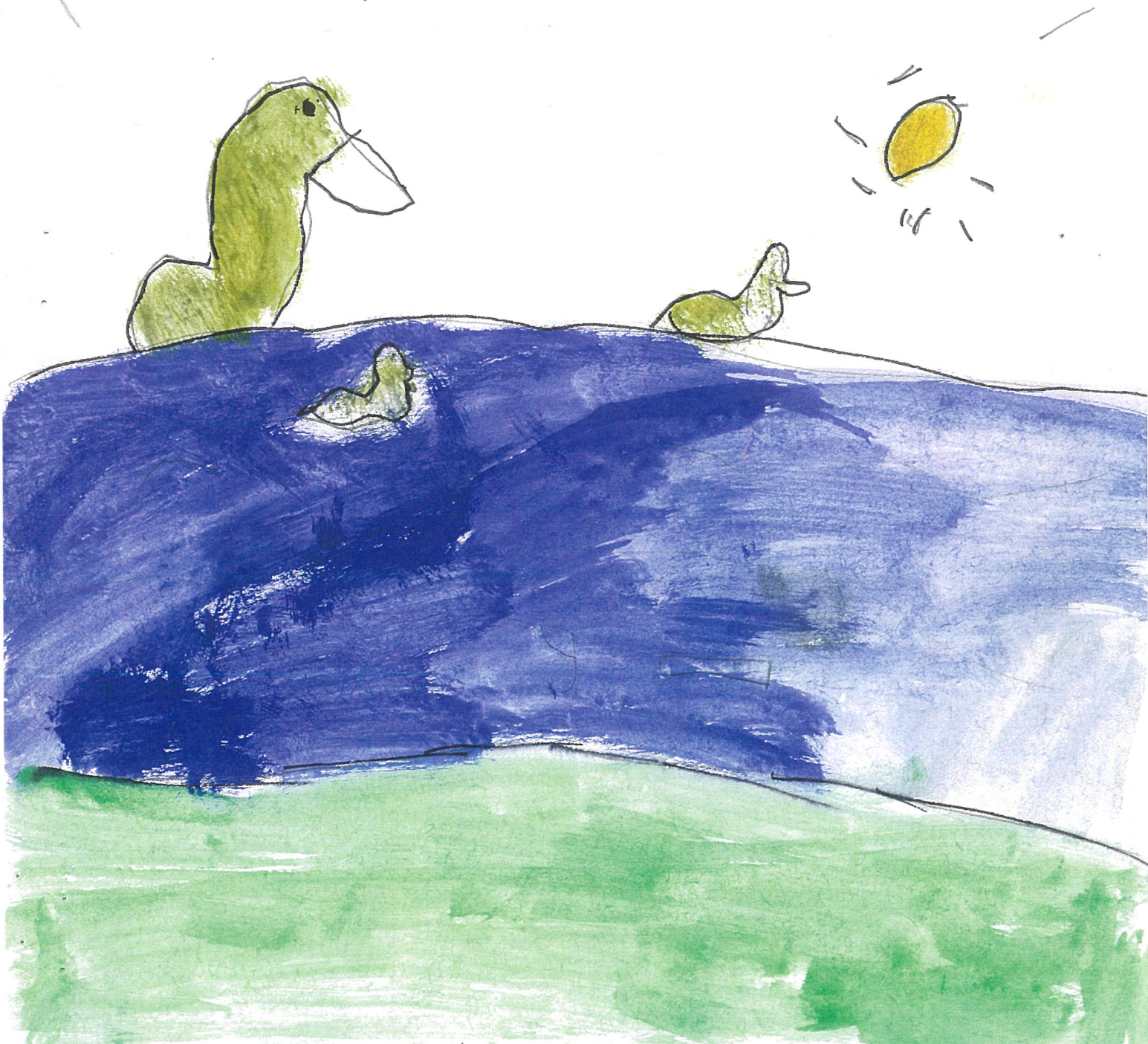


## Bowerbird

For Bowerbird we took close up photos of creatures and plants that we saw and posted them onto Bowerbird. Then scientists identified the things we saw. Some people are so lucky that the scientist tell them it is a new species. If you are lucky enough to find a new species you can name it after anything you want, but the name has to be appropriate and it has to be in a family. You need to know what it is, like a frog or maybe a bat, bird, fox, insect, spider or even a cat.

Did you know that if you zoom in, it will be blurry then you will not have a clear picture of the creature so we won't be able to know what creature it is. The best thing to do is to get really close so your picture is clear. then the scientist can easily identify it.

By Anthony



# Uni Data

Room 17 has been collecting information about the wetlands for the university of South Australia since the beginning of the year. We have done so much and have become citizen scientists. A citizen scientist is someone who helps collect information for scientists just like we have for the scientists at the university.

One of the things that we have done as citizen scientists is water testing for the NRM, which you can find out more about at the NRM website at [www.NRM.com.au](http://www.NRM.com.au), which should give you some more information. Another thing that we have done as citizen scientists is a bird count, it is pretty self-explanatory, what it is, we make a list of the birds we see every time we go to the wetlands, then keep a tally of how many birds we see of each species. The reason we do this, is so that the NRM (Natural Resource Management) know what species of birds live in what wetlands.

It has been so much fun being a citizen scientist and we have learnt so much about the wetlands and never get bored while going there because Room 17 are powerful learners.

By Ella



# Butterfly Garden

“What? Uh, yay are we doing a butterfly garden.” Luke and Sandra planned out our new garden. Mrs Haggerty’s family pulled out the old plants and John put flags around it and we made fake butterflies to go on the ropes so kids can notice it is a butterfly garden.

Soon after John, the gardener, dug up some dirt so there we be some new dirt in the ground. John had to put rope around it because the kids walk in the garden. Now we can put our plants in there. A couple of plants where really tall and some were small. We got in groups, Mrs Haggerty pulled our names out. I was the leader and Luke and I put the plants down and spread them out in height order. All of us put the plants in and then the other groups watered them. Next we dug bark and surrounded the plants with bark to make a well. We will water the plants by filling up the well. We also need to water them often so that they live. There are 50 plants in the garden.

By Madi



# MR DAVIES

We had an amazing student teacher Mr Davies .  
When he came into our classroom for the first time he knew he was going to learn something new. We all had books ours was big and his was small. He pretty much did the same thing as us, he drew birds recorded tests and also did a little bit of testing him self.He made a few mistakes along the way but got there in the end. He taught him most of the tests but not Nitrate we learnt that a few weeks ago but i'm glad he was our student teacher not any one elses teacher and wish he cold stay longer because he could of learnt more.

By Katelyn



# Wetlands in 50 years.

In room 17 we have been wondering what will happen in 50 years or 20. So we have drawn what we think will happen in 50 years. Then this led us to writing a story called Wetlands in 20 years. Some of us did it so the animals were talking. We turned some in to funny stories and sad ones too. Our teacher made a fake note from the Council saying that they are going to get rid of the wetlands and we wrote a fake note back saying, "Stop! We are not going a let it happen!" This has made us be careful about the wetlands future and ours.

By Hannah



# Ducks, birds and hens

In our wetlands we have different ducks like brown ducks fat ducks and tall ducks. We have much more but do you know the name of these ducks? Well first of all you can't feed the ducks bread so instead buy some wild duck pellets from the store.

The most common is the Pacific Black Duck, the purple swamp-hen and the sacred ibis. They both nests in reeds but the ibis nests in. The most uncommon is the Australian pelican and the black tailed native hen the hen lives in grassy areas and the pelican lives in large open areas. Rare is the great egret intermediate egret and the dusky moorhen the two egrets nest in trees and the moorhen nest in reeds.

## Ducks

Pacific black duck - nests in reeds

White muscovy duck - nests near water Wood maned duck - nest near reeds

## Hens

Purple Swamp-hen - nest in reeds

Eurasian Coot - near lakes and ponds

Dusky Moorhen - nest in reeds

Black Tailed Native Hen - grassy areas

## Birds

Sacred Ibis - nest near waters

Royal spoonbill - trees

Seagull - near water

Great egret - trees

Intermediate Egret - trees

Magpie - trees

Australian Pelican - Large open areas

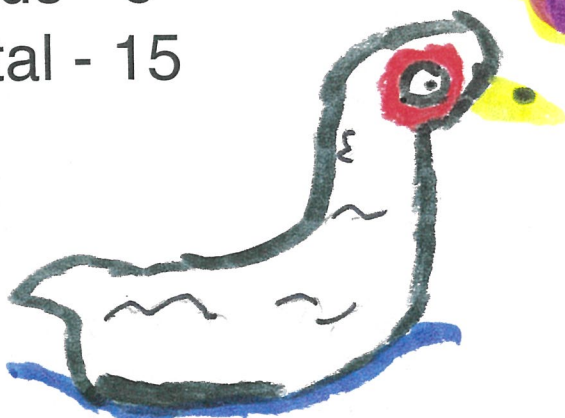
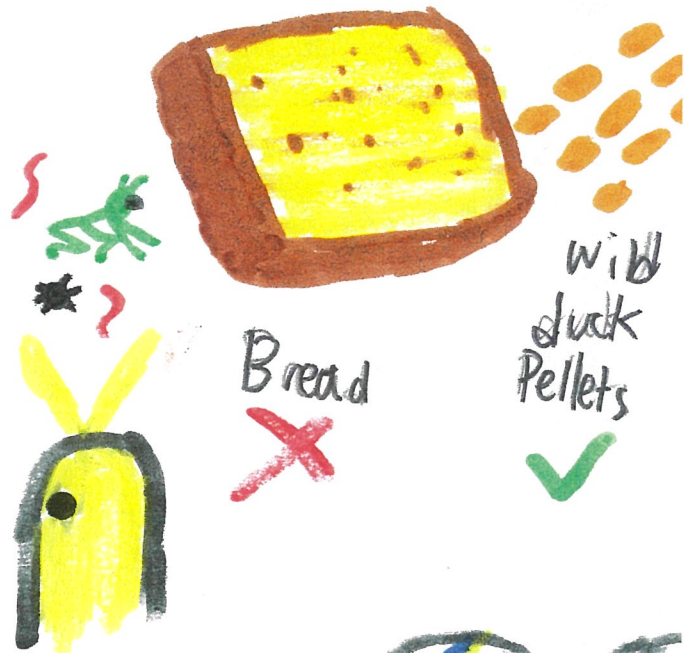
Pied cormorant - trees

Ducks - 3

hens - 4

Birds - 8

Total - 15



# Botanical Gardens

In the Botanical Gardens we went to the wetlands area. The teacher there told us where the water comes from. It comes down from the Adelaide Hills in a creek. From there it goes down into an underground filter that cleans out all the rubbish. They have to clean the filter out especially in winter time because that's when it rains more and so more rubbish in the water.

From the filter area the water goes into the reeds and we got to walk out on stepping stones. The water was moving really slowly in that area. She also showed us some plants like waterlilies, which were growing healthy, and some different types of reeds. The reeds help to clean the water. We could see lots of little bugs in the water.

From the reeds area the water moves into a really big deep pond. It's so deep that it is as deep as a building that she showed us. We got told that the big lime rocks we were sitting on at the end were from that big pond. The water is used at the Botanical Gardens.

By Luke



# CHALLENGES

In our wetlands project we had to pull through a LOT of challenges such as!: extinct bird challenge, premier's reading challenge, Mr John's giant pelican challenge AND our holiday bird challenge!

Starting off at number one!

Our extinct bird challenge! In this challenge we had to come up with a bird that we had to research about. My most fav extinct bird was the dodo. Others chose what was interesting to them. I did not really do the challenge but others did and also the person who made this was NATHAN. He was one of my friends. So when we got all the info about our bird we have to present our bird to the class.

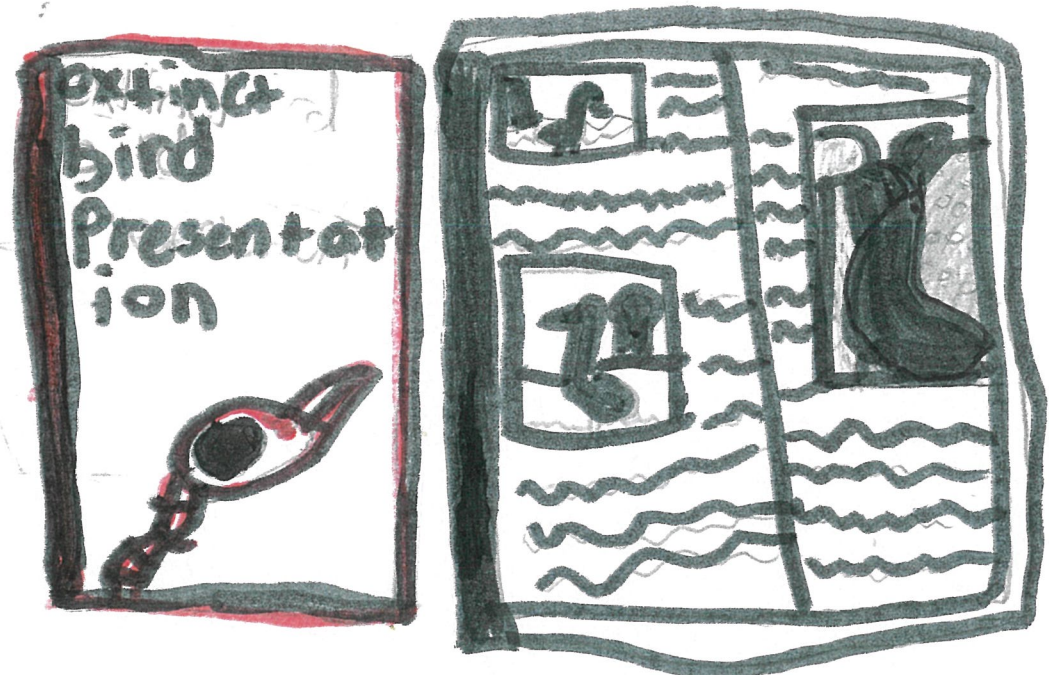
Almost finished! number two!

This challenge was the premier's reading challenge or for short PRC and yes I did not do this challenge either. In this challenge you read 12 books and then with all that info and we come up with a invention that will help us in our everyday lives. These were FANTASTIC inventions!

In my top fav and finally finished Number three!

This challenge was kinda like the extinct bird challenge but instead this was a challenge when you can research WHATEVER BIRD YOU WANT! But again I did not do this challenge. In the holidays we had to research about any bird. Well lots of people did this challenge except for me \*sad face\* but it was fun watching other people present it!

By Kongkea

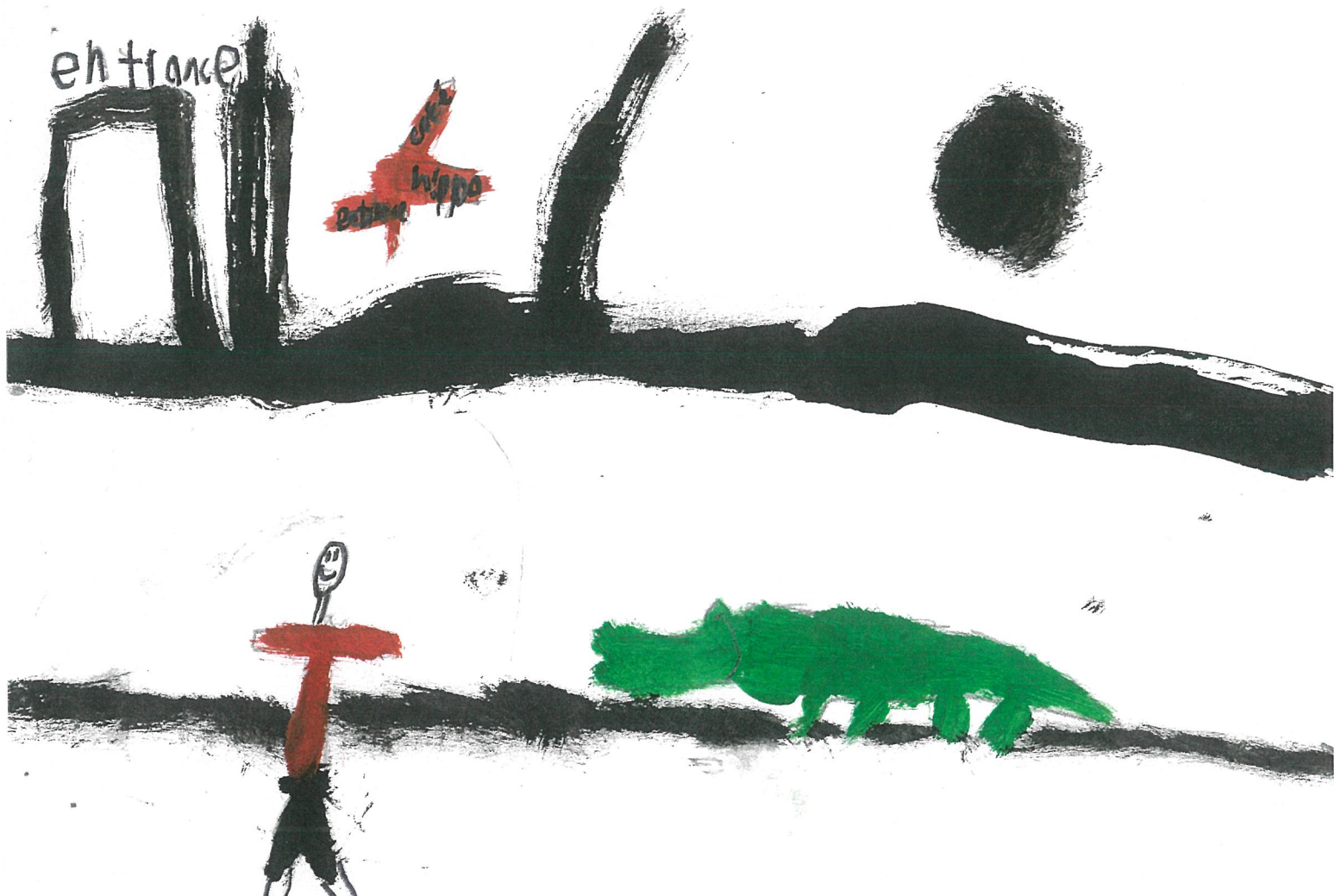


## Zoo Trip

The first thing I did on the zoo trip was go to the entrance then we saw a fat hippo and alligators also we saw hamster thing that Sandra fed one then we went to the bird area. On the first section, there was a, echidna at the door so one of the employees put it back also we looked at the birds for 5 minutes then we sketched them then wrote some info about them.

Then we went into the other enclosure and did the same thing but when me and Luke were drawing a huge black cockatoo who came right up to us then he swooped me and Luke then mister Davies laughed with us so I got back up laughed it off then walked to the other side of the enclosure then I saw a turtle in the water then we went out of enclosure then we went to the pelican enclosure and there were also purple swamphen after that we went to the ape enclosures right next to the enviro-dome where we ate recess after that we went inside and Nat touched a fish which was being very still then me Caleb and Nat all laughed then we walked seal section one of them hurt its eye but it was really hot day so one was hiding under a cliff when we were leaving to go see the lions ; Caleb spotted it. Then we went to the nocturnal place/reptile room then we had lunch and played on the playground then we went to the botanical gardens

By Harvey



## Fly Fisherman

One Thursday we went to the wetlands and we were walking on the footpath. Then halfway around we saw a fly fisherman and he nearly caught a carp but the carp got away.

When I saw the fly fisherman I thought he was fishing but then when I saw him standing in the water I was like, "but fishermen don't go in the water, they sit on the grass and wait till they catch a fish!" So I knew that he was not fishing.

When he said that he sometimes teaches kids how to fly fish, inside my mind I was like... "I really want to fish one day but not fly fish." Then when we were going to go and finish the walk I just wanted to stay until he caught at least one fish.

After that we went back to class and when we had to write on our learning journal I thought about it and one of the things that I wrote about was, "One day I really want to go fishing with my whole family." But they might say "No" because they might not think that I can fish even though I can fish, not even if I tell them I can because Harvey, Caleb and Cori all taught me how to fish.

Thought that I would catch a fish but I didn't anything but when I wound the fishing rod up. I thought I caught a big fish but instead I got a long thick stick which was really heavy and hard to get out of the fishing rod.

I felt like that was the best time of my life ever because I thought that I would never ever fish with anyone but I actually did get to fish for the first time ever. This happened because in my reflection I wrote down that one day I really want to go fishing and it came true. So I was really really happy and excited to go fishing with Caleb, Harvey, Luke and Cori. Jai, Dannika, Teagan and some of the other people showed me how to fish.

By Cing Cing



## Feather Map

- For Feather Map we collected feathers from Springbank Waters then we sent them to the University of New South Wales. They identified what birds they are by the DNA on the feathers.

A lot of the feathers are from the pelican because they are really big, black and white. I'm not really sure because the Sacred Ibis and the Muscovy Duck are also big. We don't get feedback from Feather Map so I can't be sure.

One day I found a small feather with green and blue on one side. Some have spots on them, some are fluffy, some are hard, some are tiny and some are really big. I wonder if the hard ones are a result of the duck coming out of the water wet, then the feather falls out and dries hard.

We collect the feathers then we take the feathers back to school. We sort them out in colours then we put them into bags. Mrs Haggerty sends them to the University of New South Wales where they will be identified by what bird the feather comes from. They put Springbank Waters onto their Australian map on their website.

By Cing Cing



## The First Time Water Testing

The first time our class went to the wetlands a person from the N.R.M called Mr Marchant taught us all how to test the water quality. There is Salinity, Turbidity, PH and Temperature. Salinity is testing how much salt is in the water. Turbidity is testing how clear the water is. PH is testing how high or low the acids levels are in the water. Temperature is testing how warm the water is. We are also testing the air temperature. At first it was so hard but now our class is so fast at finishing every time.

We record the data to see if the wetlands is getting healthier or not healthier. We do it to see if the wetlands if healthy or not healthy and if animals can live at the wetlands. So far the wetlands is not bad but not that good as well.

By Caleb

Before



After



# Taxidermy birds

Mrs Francis had a huge tub of taxidermied birds and we all held them. We felt them and drew details of their body. We looked at them and traced their bodies we also looked in books and researched about them on computers. We got to see their information like what they eat, where they live and their nests. As well as colours and their prey and predators. Then we all held different types of birds and we all found out that there's a few birds in the wetlands like them.

By Makayla



# Mr John Whitney Visit

First, we had some warm ups.

we had continuous line drawing, sixty seconds drawing, the opposite hand drawing and non looking at an object.

Next we used sharpies we had to miss some pages so it would not go through.

We had objects to draw then we did a drawing of an object and drew a shadow next to it. Then we went outside with a shape and we put it on the ground then we drew what we had seen. We had things like bark, leaves and some more interesting things. After that we used ink. We used a nib to draw feathers. We also used graphite and drew eggs, we had to shade with graphite from dark to light. We got set a challenge by Mr John Whitney, we had to shade these shapes and Mr John put them together to make a pelican and we also did a magpie. We had been put into groups and made exotic birds and we had list of instructions and things we had to include. We shared and everyone loved everybody.

By Ella

