Dear Parents,

Since the last publication of our school newsletter, staff and students have been busy in the classroom. Our school community has also been very busy taking care of our wonderful grounds and play areas as well as attending our recent special assembly. All of your support to our students and school is greatly appreciated.

Extravaganza: Mr O’Toole and the children must be congratulated for this exciting event that happened last Tuesday. The children looked amazing and did an outstanding job as mime artists. I received lots of praise and congratulations from the Principals of the other participating schools. Our mime act was also featured in last Friday’s (8th August) Guardian newspaper in the Ultima News section.

Swan Hill Special School Production: Today we travelled into Swan Hill to see 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory' presented by the Special School students. The UPS students loved the show and had front row seats! It was a very professional, colourful and entertaining production.

Bendigo Writer’s Festival: This was a great opportunity for the students to listen to and meet some of the authors of the books that they read. We met Jackie French, Sophie Masson and Chris Kennett (an illustrator). Earlier in the year we also met Phil Kettle and we notice that the children become really engaged with their reading once they have met the authors! Even though it was a long day in the bus the children were very positive about their experience. Many thanks to Miss Oliver for assisting with staffing and driving the bus.

Nexus Arts: Last Thursday we travelled to Sea Lake to see an operatic version of Cinderella. It involved four actors singing and acting the play for us. Their voices were incredible; if a little intense! Once again we were very fortunate to see such a high quality performance. At the conclusion the actors talked to the children about their careers.

In the classroom: The children are focussing on 'Dinosaurs' this term which has seen them involved in lots of research, reading and exploring. They are all very engaged with this topic. In P.E. the focus is the Athletics Day which is to be held on September 1st. In maths the focus has been positive and negative numbers and doing the four operations with decimals.
Bendigo Writer’s Festival
On Friday 8th August we went to the Bendigo Writer’s Festival in Bendigo (of course). The first activity was to see Jackie French the author of “Diary of a Wombat” and she is the author of many other books too. Jackie French talked a lot about wombats. Our second activity was to see another author called Sophie Masson. She mainly writes chapter books. I found her talk a bit boring. Our third and last activity was seeing Chris Kennett. He is an illustrator. Chris draws all of his pictures on a computer. He also draws for TV shows. After Chris Kennett we went home. I had a good day. (Charly).

We were lucky enough to go and listen to Jackie French when we went to Bendigo. Some of the things I enjoy about her books are:
Her pictures, they make me laugh and giggle (Charlotte)
Her stories make me happy because she loves wombats (Charlotte)
Her pictures and her sense of humour (Jordan)
Her books are very funny, exciting, cool and extremely fun (Caleb)
Her funny pictures, the funny titles and I love the Wombat stories (Nick)
Her books are funny, excellent and really good (Patrick)
One of my favourite activities was at Dudley House. We saw Chris Kennett. He showed us a great drawing. (Nick)
On the way home on the bus we played Skylanders, the card game (Charlotte)
I liked this trip and I hope we can go there next year (Jordan)

On Friday I went to the Bendigo Writer’s Festival. It was so much fun there. I went to see Jackie French and an illustrator called Chris Kennett (Caleb).

The story of Tim Tam, the dinosaur by Charlotte Innes
One day I was going to Swan Hill to do some shopping. When I was shopping I found a dinosaur egg. I found it at Coles in the lolly section hiding under a bag of whizz fizz. I took it home and put it into a cardboard box with some hay and a hot water bottle. By the next morning it had hatched. It was a baby T Rex. I called it Tim Tam. He was a nice dinosaur even though he was eating all of my lollies. One day I went to the local shop and when I got back Tim Tam was gone. I found him with his family. I said “stay there, that’s where you are supposed to stay”. “Good bye, I will miss you”. One day I heard a noise. I opened the door and it was Tim Tam. He had come back to be with me. We lived happily ever after. The end.

The story of Spearhead, the Pterodactyl by Nick Webb.
On a tree, three Pterodactyls lived, one was called Spearhead. He was going for a little fly when he spotted nine coelophyses so he decided to annoy them but as he went to swoop down ‘ bam’ the coelophysics caught him in thin air. They dragged Spearhead to a den. Then he thought of what they might of been running away from. Crash, a T Rex crashed from a wall of the den. The coelophysics dropped Spearhead. He used this chance to escape. He flapped his wings and away he went. He went through the gap in the den wall. “That was a close one”, he said to himself and from that day on he never teased dinosaur.

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Terrific
Ready
Action
Adventure
Amazing
Great fun
Awesome
Noisy
Zuper
Actors everywhere!

Extravaganza by Jordan Galea
Excited
Excellent
Terrific night
Restful in bed
Anxious
Very fun
Acting with mime
Great night
Awesome

Extravaganza by Patrick Galea
Excited
Excellent
Terrific
Right
Artistic
Very happy
Active
Great
Anxious
Nervous
Zazzy

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