Newsletter
No 2    9th February 2017

Calendar Dates:
Friday Feb 10th    WRAP 17 Pavement Poetry Year 5
Wed Feb 15th     Apology Day 12.00, School Council 6.00pm
Fri Feb 17th    St Patrick’s Day/ Swimming Carnival in Chiltern
Tues Feb 28th  Census Day
Wed March 8th    School Photo Day
Mon March 13th  Labour Day public holiday
Fri March 17th  Funky Hair Day
Fri March 31st  Last Day Term 1
Mon April 17th  Easter Market
Tues April 18th  First day of Term 2

Silk Worms
Our students were truly delighted to see the silk worm eggs hatching out today. We were predicting they would be white but strangely they start out in life black!

The **silkworm** (*Bombyx mori*) is the lava (caterpillar) of a moth. Silk has been made for at least 5000 years in China. The moth is important because it makes the silk and no longer lives in the wild. It is entirely dependent on humans. Silkworms eat mulberry leaves day and night. Silkworm eggs take about ten days to hatch. When the colour of their heads turns darker, it means that it is time for them to shed their skins also known as moulting. After they moult a few times their bodies turn slightly yellow and their skin becomes tighter, which means they are going to become a pupa. While they are a pupa, they turn into moths. Before becoming a pupa, the silkworm wraps itself in a cocoon to help protect itself. The silkworm is called a silkworm because it spins its cocoon from raw silk that it makes in its mouth. Many other larva produce cocoons, but only a few silkworms are used to make silk.

Apology Day
Next Wednesday we will be holding a Commemoration of National Apology Day service at 12.00. All families are invited to attend.

WRAP 17 Pavement Poetry (Year 5)
We look forward to seeing our Year 5 students writing poems about trees and gardens on the pavement near the post office in Beechworth tomorrow.

Chris Varker Principal
On Tuesday David Dunn came and taught us how to paint. I painted in Red, Yellow and Black. The people in my painting were doing a handstand, swinging a bull roarer, a face plant and hopping.

Anton

I liked the telephone that was called a bull roarer. The painting was good fun. I liked the colours in the painting. One of my people were throwing a boomerang. I have one at home.

Aston

On Thursday I went to Melbourne. I was in hospital. I was missing someone, Megan and Matilda’s hugs. I had Chocolate icecream for breakfast.

Meg

I painted a aboriginal painting myself. It is so aboriginal, it is awesome. I love art. There is a man in my painting using a bull roarer and another mad throwing a boomerang.

Macca

Today in gardening I worked with Bec and we mixed up some bait to put in the fly catchers. Then I went up to the orchard and shade house and started watering the pumpkins and fruit trees.

Matilda

On Tuesday we learnt how to write Aboriginal style. David taught us how to paint using yellow, black and red. We painted people, background and a tree. It was fun.

Hamish

On Tuesday David Dunn came to our school to teach us about his culture. He taught us how to do Aboriginal paintings. He made it look easy, but it was quite hard.

Sacha

Today in the garden I worked with Meg and Hamish. We planted lettuce in Megs garden. We watered them in well so that they will grow.

Charli

On Tuesday we painted Aboriginal art. We used yellow, red and black paint. David told us about some aboriginal craft tools. Like a coolaman and bull roarer.

Kalum

I painted a aboriginal painting. I use black, yellow and red. I painted a man holding a boomerang, another man throwing a bull roarer, a kangaroo, a tree and a man face.

Henry

On Tuesday David came to teach us about Aboriginal art. I made my own artwork using the colours red, red and black. I learnt how to paint a sunset and people and a tree. I really enjoyed David’s lesson.

Cooper

On Tuesday David came and taught us how to paint indigenous paintings. In my painting I have five people, one is using a bull roarer, another is holding a spear, one is sitting on the ground, another is carrying a coolaman on their head, another is holding a boomerang. There is also a camp fire and a tree. I think it was a lot of fun and I would really like to do it again.

Keagan

On Tuesday an Indigenous man called David Dunn came to teach us how to do Aboriginal art. He taught us the symbols for boomerang, spear, person and coolaman. A coolaman is a sort of bowl used to carry food and water. He showed us lots of wonderful paintings that he had done. Mostly he paints for the enjoyment. We were lucky to have come and show us his style of paintings.

Hugo
News: What’s wrong with our tomatoes?

They’re bright red, a bit crunchy, and they don’t really taste like much. The standard tomatoes you can buy in a supermarket are a bit boring to eat. But if you’ve ever grown tomatoes yourself, you’ll know how sweet and full of flavour they can be. So what’s happened to the humble tomato?

It’s not just your imagination. For years, supermarket tomatoes have been getting less and less delicious. But now, an international team of scientists is on the case, trying to bring back tasty tomatoes.

The first step is to work out what’s missing in a modern tomato. The team started with a taste-test, asking people to rate different tomato breeds. For instance, they asked people how strong the taste was, and how much they liked it. Then the team looked at the chemicals inside the tomatoes, and found 29 that were present in strong-flavoured, likeable tomatoes.

So why do only some tomatoes have the tastiest chemicals? The team looked to genetics for help. They surveyed the entire genome of several varieties of tomatoes, including supermarket, home-grown and wild versions. Then they compared the genes of each plant with the chemicals found in the fruits.

With this information, the team found which areas of the genome were important to produce each tasty chemical. They also found one reason why supermarket tomatoes don’t taste as good. There were five genetic sequences controlling the sugar content of tomatoes. But those five areas were also linked to the size of the tomatoes – and big tomato genes also turn out to be bland tomato genes.

All this research leads to the third and hardest stage. With all this new information, can tomato breeders make tomatoes tasty again? In a few years’ time, the answer may well be in your salad!

Try this: Make tomatoes great again!

Over the past decades, farmers and plant breeders have changed the humble tomato. Modern supermarket tomatoes are larger, redder and bruise much less easily than older breeds. However, they’ve also lost a lot of the tastes and smells that make tomatoes so tasty. Let’s reintroduce some flavours and make tomatoes great again!

You will need
- Tomato
- Balsamic vinegar
- Sugar
- Salt
- Large piece of tomato stem – you can find these attached to tomatoes in many supermarkets and greengrocers. Try to get one that is as fresh as possible – give it a sniff and make sure it really smells!
- Knife and chopping board
- Small bowl and fork

What to do
1. Cut the tomato up into small pieces.
2. Set aside a few pieces so you can compare them with the improved tomato pieces.
3. Put the rest of the tomato into a small bowl.
4. There are several tasty chemicals that modern tomatoes lack, and they come in three main categories: acids, sugars and volatile aromatic compounds (smells).
5. To replace the acids, add a splash of balsamic vinegar to the bowl – no more than ¼ teaspoon.
6. To replace the sugars, add a pinch of sugar. Once again, no more than ¼ teaspoon.
7. Stir the tomato pieces to evenly spread the new flavours.
8. To replace the volatile aromatic compounds, hold the tomato stem under your nose, and breathe in as you eat. You can scratch the surface of the stem to make the smell even stronger.
9. To test the flavours, first eat a piece of the tomato you set aside. Then smell the stem and eat a piece of your improved tomato. Which tomato tastes better?

If you want to make your tomato taste better still, try a small pinch of salt. It’s well known as a flavour enhancer!

Enjoy this article? Visit doublehelix.csiro.au for more.
**Thank You to:**

Owen and Eric for helping in our garden program.
Grace for being the principal whilst Chris was sick.
Bec for running our breakfast program.
Jo Bankier for organising uniforms.
Shireen Porteous for organising Book Club.
Emma and Marty for organising the Dyslexia P.D for our staff

Parent Tips:

*Helping your young child to read, write, speak and listen*

In the early years of primary school children learn to read through rhymes, story telling, and following along with their favourite book. Learning to write begins with scribble and drawings. Suggested activities:

1. Share rhymes and songs and encourage your child to join in
2. Have a dress up box for your child to use for imaginative play.
3. Listen to your child, respond to their ideas with questions and ask for more information.
4. Write down your child’s stories as they tell you and encourage them to read their story back to you.
5. Point out letters, words and numbers around you.
6. Cook simple things together, Read out the recipe and discuss what you are doing.
7. Look at junk mail and talk about things for sale.
8. Provide materials and create a writing/drawing table
9. Talk about family photos and histories.

**STORY TELLING**

Story telling is a great way to extend your child’s listening skills as well expand their imagination. Either you can tell the story, or encourage them to tell the story.

Storytelling might be about:

1. A favourite character from a book or TV program
2. Another family member
3. Your child’s favourite toy

Make the story exciting with different voices, puppets, props. Tell stories that are interesting to your child. Create interesting characters and settings. Enjoy!

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**January Birthdays:**

- 6th Cooper
- 6th Macca
- 14th Henry
- 25th Michael

**February Birthdays:**

- 14th Meg

**Friday February 10th 2017**

**Menu**

- **Hamburger Patties**
- **Veggie Patties**
- **Mini Damper Rolls**
- **Roasted Potato Salad**
- **Pavlova**