



Wee Jasper Public School

The Bugle

Term 1, Week 6 2025 | Principal - Michelle Stewart



Writing with Will Kostakis

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We acknowledge the traditional custodians of this land, the Wiradjuri and Ngunnawal nations, and pay our respect to Elders past, present and future • Proud member of the Binit Binit Learning Community

Term 1, 2025 Calendar

WEEK 6 MARCH	MON 3 Variety Bash P&C Fundraiser	TUES 4	WED 5 Swimming lesson	THURS 6 Pulse Choir Rehearsal (online) (Performing on 20 March 2025)	FRI 7 Swimming lesson
WEEK 7 MARCH	MON 10 Tennis lesson	TUES 11	WED 12	THURS 13	FRI 14
WEEK 8 MARCH	MON 17 Tennis lesson	TUES 18	WED 19 Pulse - Mt Annan Botanical Gardens	THURS 20 Pulse Performance	FRI 21 Pulse - Returning from Sydney
WEEK 9 MARCH	MON 24 Grow Your Mind	TUES 25	WED 26	THURS 27	FRI 28 Curriculum PLC Day at WJPS
WEEK 10 MAR/APR	MON 31 Grow Your Mind	TUES 1	WED 2 Athletics Workshop Dalton PS	THURS 3	FRI 4 BLC Cross Country Carnival
WEEK 11 APRIL	MON 7	TUES 8	WED 9 STEM PLC Breadalbane PS	THURS 10	FRI 11 End of Term 1

CHANGES TO STUDENT DAYS & STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAYS

2025 - School dates

First to last days for students

- [Term 1:](#) Thursday 6 February to Friday 11 April
- [Term 2:](#) Wednesday 30 April to Friday 4 July
- [Term 3:](#) Tuesday 22 July to Friday 26 September
- [Term 4:](#) Tuesday 14 October to Friday 19 December

School development days (8 each year)

- [Term 1:](#) Friday 31 January to Wednesday 5 February (4 days)
- [Term 2:](#) Monday 28 April and Tuesday 29 April (2 days)
- [Term 3:](#) Monday 21 July (1 day)
- [Term 4:](#) Monday 13 October (1 day)



Staff weekly schedule for 2025

Monday

- Teaching Principal - Michelle Stewart (teaching)
- School Administration Manager - *Mary Goulding relieving*

Tuesday

- Teaching Principal - Michelle Stewart (teaching)
- School Administration Manager - *Mary Goulding relieving*
- School Learning Support Officer - Helen Cathles
- General Assistant - Nobby Kozlowski

Wednesday

- Teaching Principal - Michelle Stewart
- School Administration Manager - *Helen Cathles relieving*
- General Assistant - Nobby Kozlowski

Thursday

- Teaching Principal - Michelle Stewart (principal admin)
- Teacher - Kim Rowling
- Assistant Principal Curriculum & Instruction - Troy Stewart
- School Administration Manager - *Helen Cathles relieving* (Week 2, 4, 6, 8, 10)
- School Administration Officer - Mary Goulding

Friday

- Teaching Principal - Michelle Stewart (principal admin)
- Teacher - Kim Rowling
- School Administration Officer - Mary Goulding (Even weeks)

STEM Project Officer

- Anna Kemp

Swimming Instructor

- Helen Cathles

Casual staff

- Sharlee Cassidy
- Elizabeth Young

In this issue



Enjoying the school garden.

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Principal's message

The year has started positively, with four students returning and settling well into school routines. They are actively preparing for the upcoming PULSE Alive performance at Olympic Park on 20 March. We would like to extend a special thank you to Kim and Helen for their dedication and for taking the students to the PULSE performance. Their support has been invaluable in ensuring the students' success.

Alongside their performance preparations, the students have excelled in their swimming lessons with Helen, showing great progress in both skills and confidence.

The focus on learning is evident across the school, with both students and staff prioritising their education. The atmosphere at school is truly uplifting, with a beautiful, happy energy filling the classrooms and hallways. It's wonderful to see the enthusiasm for learning, with students eagerly engaging in their work and demonstrating great curiosity.

We are thrilled with the students' dedication to their home learning tasks, maintaining a perfect record so far! A heartfelt thank you to parents for their ongoing encouragement and support.

Wendy Griffiths will be on leave from 4 March. During her absence, Helen Cathles and Mary Goulding will share her responsibilities. We wish Wendy a speedy recovery and thank Helen and Mary for stepping into the role with enthusiasm.

We're excited to roll out LifeSkillsGo, a new student wellbeing tool helping students identify their emotions and track their readiness to learn. This data empowers students to better understand their emotional states, fostering growth in their emotional intelligence. Next term, they will engage with wellbeing lessons and activities within the platform.

The triage model for counselling continues to be a great success, providing tailored support through assessments, meetings, and Telehealth conferences. We're also excited about the upcoming Grow Your Mind program with Kim Rowling, delivering sessions to Year 4 and Year 2 students on 24 and 31 March. Our students are also preparing for the BLC Cross Country at Gunning Showground on 4 April. Students will participate in Athletics on 2 April at Dalton PS and Dance/Circus on 18 June at Wee Jasper PS.

Our recent Will Kostakis Writing Workshop was a resounding success, with students significantly improving their writing skills. We are looking forward to potentially offering more workshops in the future. A big thank you to Helen and Tim Cathles for their generous support in providing accommodation and meals for Will.

In discussions with Rachel Barnet from Assets, we're pushing forward with several improvements. A UV filtration system will soon be installed to ensure treated drinking water for all students, and the Mud Kitchen funded by Variety Club will enhance our kitchen and garden program.

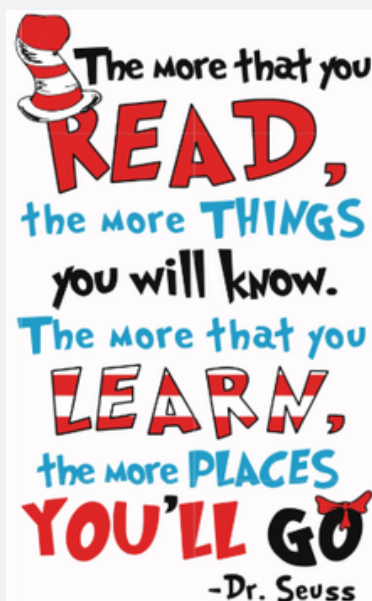
Thank you to Jenny and Paul at Reflections for their ongoing support in selling our leftover 125 memorabilia, contributing over \$200. Their kindness is truly appreciated, and they've generously offered to sell mugs over Easter.

Michelle Stewart
Teaching Principal



Wee Jasper Public School's vision

Our school will remain the heart of our small rural community. Here, core values will be learned and lived, as every learner is fully engaged and challenged, in preparation to making their contribution to our complex and dynamic society. Every student will be known, valued and cared for and experience a secure sense of belonging and connection to this school, community and land. All students will be literate, numerate and curious. We will continue to see the diversity of our community as a pedagogical strength and draw upon our diverse human and natural resources to sustain learning. In this way, we will counter the potential disadvantage of living in a small, remote community.



School news

Learning with Mrs. Cassidy

With Mrs. Cassidy's support, the students put forth their best effort as they crafted their own narratives. They are now eagerly awaiting valuable feedback from Will Kostakis, which will serve as an excellent starting point for the upcoming writing workshop. This feedback will provide a strong foundation for their continued growth and development as writers. The students also continued developing their understanding of place value.

Charlotte's Narrative

Slowly the metal wheels stopped moving.

"What are you doing?" asked the naughty black cat. The little pink robot did not answer.

The black cat picked the robot up. A light turned on. The robot made a squeaking sound.

"I need charging", squeaked the robot. His one eye slowly closed.

"I do not want you to go," said the naughty black cat. The naughty black cat was sad. The tears dropped from his eyes.

The black cat looked out the window and saw a green grasshopper.

"Could you help me plug in my robot friend?"

"Yes," the grasshopper replied. The naughty black cat and the grasshopper slowly picked the robot up and put it on the charger.

The naughty black cat was happy because the robot did not leave.



Ava's Narrative

Tisksh! Tisksh! Tiny sparks were shooting everywhere.

The elf princess called Smea looked up. "Oh, what is that?" she yelled loudly.

She ran towards the shiny lightning.

Smea saw a baby dragon caught in a little net made out of black rope. It was crying loudly.

Lightning strikes filled the sky.

Smea was shocked to see a dragon crying. She quickly ripped the net off.

She gently picked the dragon up.

She patted it with care.

The dragon was very calm and snuggled up in her arms.

"Where's your home?" Smea asked.

"Rooo.. epggggyyy," said the dragon.

Smea got her friend and off they went on a big journey to return the baby dragon to his home.

School news

Tilly's Narrative

My breath is panting. Sweat is running off my face. My horrible stepmother has Kicked me out of my own house.

I'm running to the only person I know in town, the old man who used to tell me stories about the magic staircase. Stories can take you anywhere and I need to go to the mystical land called The Castle of Great. The only way to get there is up the magic staircase. I bang on the wooden door as hard as I can.

The old man slowly opens the door and asks in a surprised voice, "Why are you here?"

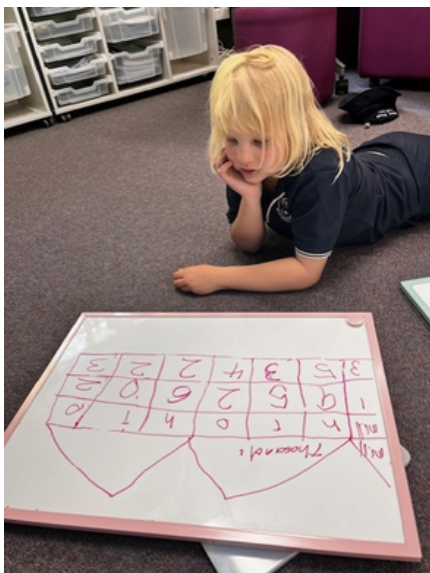
"I need your help," I say and tell him my sad story of being Kicked out of my house.

"Can you tell me that ancient story again about the magic staircase?" He asks, "Why?"

I tell him about how I found out that the magic staircase is real and I need to get there.

The old man grabs an old metal Key from a secret drawer in the wall and slowly puts it in a Keyhole in a wooden box.

Click. he pulls out an ancient map.



Abi's Narrative

The wolf is growling and snarling.

Its grey fur is bristling up. Its yellow teeth are snapping.

"It's going to eat us!" shouts the girl panicking.

Her friend the snow leopard hears her cry.

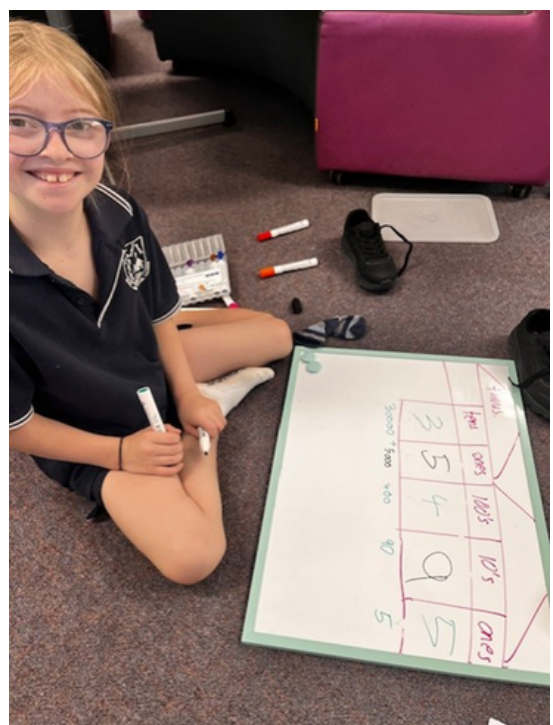
She runs across the white snow as fast as she can because she knows that something is wrong.

The angry wolf scrapes his foot along the slippery, cold ice and takes a big step towards the frightened.

The girl's heart is pounding.

The wolf takes another big step onto the wooden bridge that divides the wolf side and the girl side. "I think the wolf wants our sun to warm him." whispers the girl to the snow leopard.

"But if he takes our sun, we will be cold forever," says the girl worriedly.



School news

Will Kostakis Writing Workshop

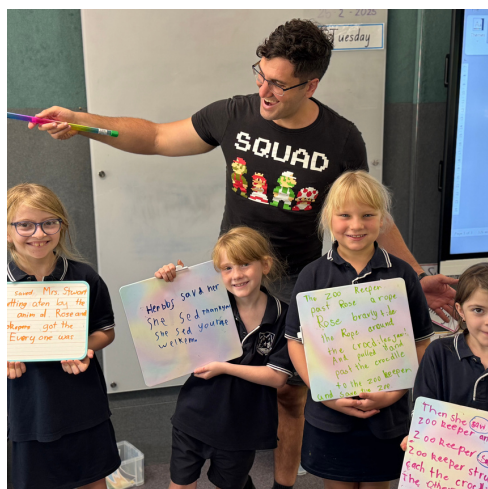
The students thoroughly enjoyed their writing workshop with Will Kostakis! They gained a solid understanding of how a narrative is structured, beginning with an Orientation, followed by a Complication, and concluding with a Resolution.

The primary focus of the workshop was on developing the Orientation of their stories. Students learned valuable techniques, such as using strong verbs, naming their characters, and incorporating imagery through the use of their senses.

We also emphasized the importance of making their stories realistic, steering away from "talking" animals and ensuring the inclusion of plausible complications, actions, and resolutions. While it took a little time for students to adjust (as they love writing stories similar to those of Pixar and Disney), they eventually embraced these new concepts.

Each day, the students participated in workshops focused on sentence structure, punctuation, and the origins of words, further enhancing their writing skills.

A big thank you to Helen and Tim Cathles for their continued support of our school by providing accommodation and dinner for Will Kostakis during his visit. We also extend our gratitude to Wendy Griffiths for her wonderful catering over the two days. Your generosity is truly appreciated!



More stories to come

The students are looking forward to sharing with you their new stories in the next newsletter publication. Thank you to P&C for financially supporting the continuation of our writing mentorship with Will in 2025.

Congratulations Will Kostakis

We Could Be Something wins the Prime Minister's Literary Award

"We Could Be Something has won the Prime Minister's Literary Award for Young Adult Fiction. It's a tremendous honour, and literally life-changing. I couldn't have done it without the support of my publisher, Jodie Webster, and editor, Kate Whitfield." - Will Kostakis



There was a lovely write up about this in Neos Kosmos

The award holds a special place for Kostakis.

"We Could Be Something is a love letter to my family, and a reflection on the generation of Greek migrants we are now farewelling," he told Neos Kosmos.

"I would not have achieved this without my Yiayia's sacrifices and I'm so grateful I can share this moment with her."

Will Kostakis is a multi award winning author. Photo: Supplied/Dion Nucifora

In a Creative Australia announcement, the judges said he the author has achieved a new level of excellence with this novel.

"Kostakis writes with authenticity and insight about a teen novelist having his ego and creative spirit crushed when his first novel falters."

"The novel's bittersweet conclusion avoids cliché and leaves the reader with something far more complex, realistic and lingering than a tidy ending.

"Kostakis balances the reader's desire for satisfaction with this story's demand for authenticity with enviable skill.

"This is a powerful novel with universal appeal, imbued with heart and wit, told with control and maturity."



'The enormous heart of We Could Be Something beats with a rare, thrilling authenticity. Every funny, smart, tough word of it rings true. I loved this book.'

PATRICK NESS

WE COULD BE SOMETHING



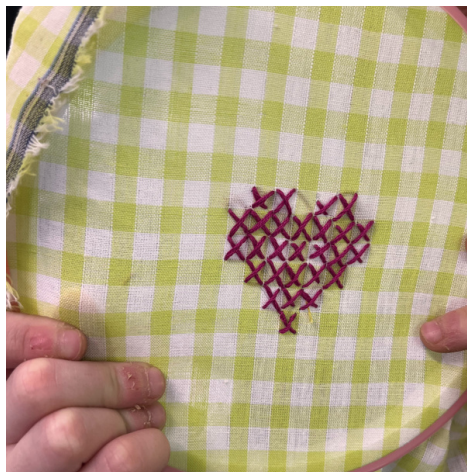
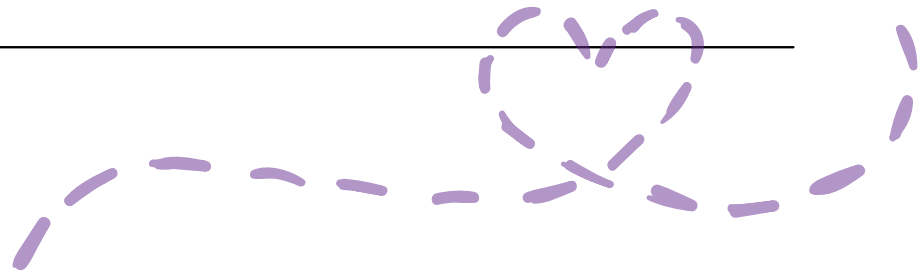
School news

Art at WJPS

Embroidery is the art of decorating fabric by stitching colourful thread or yarn with a needle. Our students have been practicing this craft, starting with a heart design. They've used cross stitch techniques to decorate what will become their very own lavender bags.

As part of the process, the students also harvested the beautiful lavender from our front garden. The fragrance is so lovely that it's even making its way into parents' cars and homes! The students are incredibly proud of their work so far and are excited to fill their lavender bags in the coming weeks.

Next, they will sew a border around their design before filling the bags with lavender, completing their lovely creations!



School news

STEM Dalton & Wee Jasper - Exploring Adaptations and STEM Learning

Our students are currently delving into the fascinating world of adaptations in plants and animals, exploring how they grow, evolve, and adjust to their environments in order to survive. They are identifying different parts of plants and animals, understanding their functions, and using microscopes to closely observe these living organisms.

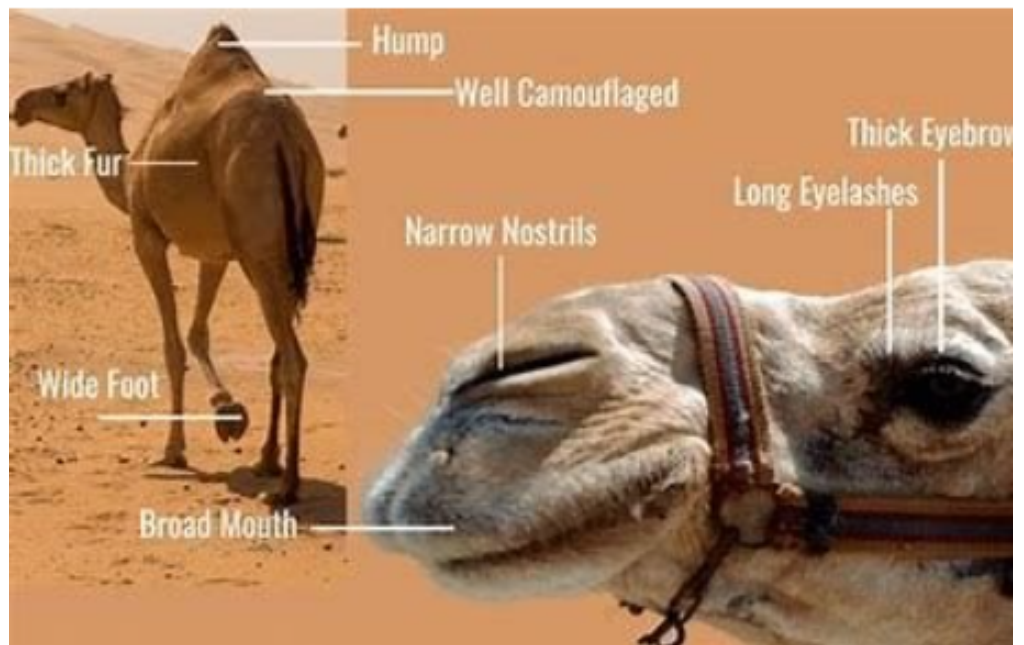
Through the STEM process, students are investigating, experimenting, and solving problems, which is deepening their understanding of the natural world.

A key highlight at Dalton PS was the introduction of the Sphero BOLT, an interactive robot that students control and program using a phone or tablet. This hands-on experience is teaching them the fundamentals of coding, fostering creativity and problem-solving skills.

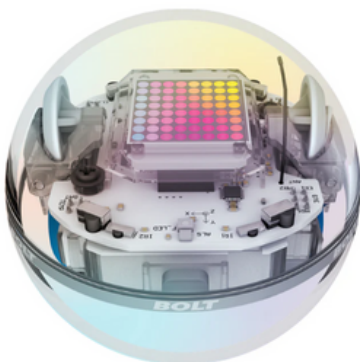
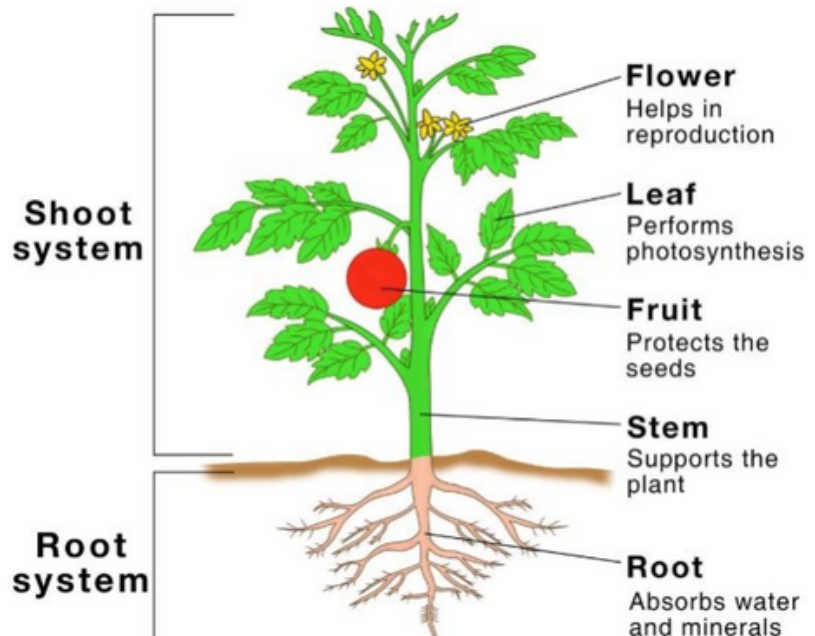
During our STEM PLC Day at Wee Jasper, students further explored how adaptations help plants and animals survive. Working in groups, they applied the STEM process to design solutions for survival, confidently identifying and utilizing adaptations in their projects. This collaborative approach allowed them to successfully solve problems and enhance their STEM knowledge.



School news



Parts of a Plant



Out and about



Swimming with Helen

Our students recently had the incredible opportunity to spend more time in the pool with Helen, allowing them to refine and enhance their swimming skills.

With each session, they've made noticeable progress, mastering new techniques and building their confidence in the water. Helen has been excellent at guiding them on areas for improvement while also celebrating the progress they've made.

As they continue to practice and apply what they've learned, we're excited to see just how far they'll go!

