



# Howrah Primary School

Every Child, Every Chance, Every Day

## TOURNAMENT SUCCESS

EXCITEMENT exploded as Howrah Primary School's Tournament of Minds team won the state final of the language literature challenge in September.

Tournament of Minds is a problem-solving program for teams of students from primary and secondary years, requiring them to solve demanding, open-ended challenges in the areas of language/literature, maths/engineering, social science and applied technology.

More than 100 teams compete for the honour to represent Tasmania in the national finals each year.

Competition day was Saturday, September 1, and the University of Tasmania was a hive of activity with props and costumes being transported around and many nervous participants, facilitators and parents moving between rooms.

Grade 5/6 Grace/Vickers students Loren Johnston, Tom Bligh, Jacqui Walker, Hannah Dilger, Nathan John, Geoffrey Connolly and Ben Ling, worked hard over a four week period preparing their

long-term challenge. They had 10 minutes to impress the judges with their presentation of a new reading genre to inspire young readers of the 21st century.

A spontaneous challenge was also presented.

The Howrah language/literature team was awarded first place on presentation day.

After winning the state final, the team was invited to compete in the Australasian Finals in Canberra, October 19-21, against teams from around Australia and Singapore.

All teams were "locked down" for three hours to prepare a solution and presentation to a new challenge.

The judges thought Howrah's presentation was deep, ideas were clear and all the criteria had been addressed.

Team members raised money for the trip and received several donations including support from the Department of Premier and Cabinet, Motors Pty Ltd and Petrusma and Partners.

**TAYLA HAWKESFORD and KELSEY O'BRIEN**



**WINNING TEAM:** Howrah Primary School Tournament of Minds team, clockwise from front left, Loren Johnston, Geoffrey Connolly, Tom Bligh, Ben Ling, Nathan John, Hannah Dilger and Jacqui Walker.

## Howrah happenings

### MAKING MOVIES

CHALLENGING, inspiring, motivating and energising were just some of the words used to describe the Grade 5/6 Grace/Vickers adventure into filmmaking. We worked in groups on editing, filming, acting and storyboards. Our films were based on classroom investigations.

**BEN LING and BRAYDEN DART**

### EXTENDING MINDS

CREATIVE teachers at Howrah Primary School help children extend their knowledge in fun subjects such as art, French and ICT. Each term the Grade 3 to 6 classes experience these tasters and by the end of the year everyone has had a go at all three.

**MEGAN OLDING and PATRICIA AGOSTINI**

### SENSATIONAL SCIENCE

OUR classroom was abuzz with activity as we prepared our for the Tasmanian Science Talent Search. Our work was rewarded with four merit and three highly commended certificates. Well done to Kelsey O'Brien, Hannah Dilger, Tom Bligh, Edward Cranwell and Alex Finlayson. Earlier in the year Brody Clifford won second place in the poster division of the talent search.

**HANNAH DILGER**

### CRACKING COURTYARD

AN improved courtyard was opened in October by Senator David Bushby. There is now a stage, a pathway which leads to all the exits, shaded areas, a large chess board, seats and a vegetable garden. The courtyard is a great space we can all share.

**BRODY LOVELL, ALEX FINLAYSON, PAIGE SUTCLIFFE and KEELY WINTER**

### IN THE SWIM

THE powerful Howrah team swam into first place at the inter-school swimming carnival. Seventeen winners from our team will race in the Champion of Champions Carnival.

**NICOLAS STRAFKOS**

## Learning to be leaders Environment trail program

GRADE 6s at Howrah Primary have had an exciting year gaining leadership skills.

There are many exciting and enjoyable electives that can be chosen by the Grade 6 students who volunteer to become leaders. These teach skills such as mutual respect, caring for each other, self-confidence and active listening.

Mediators learn valuable skills such as learning how to resolve conflict between younger children.

Sport leaders work in

pairs to deliver a daily fitness program to the lower primary classes. The younger students participate in activities to keep fit and have fun, while the sport leaders have the responsibility of running a controlled situation and dealing with problems.

Library monitors help younger children choose books for their reading level. Our reading mate system encourages younger children to read confidently.

We also have ICT tutors who help younger

students learn about computers.

Grade 6 class assistants help young students with numeracy, literacy and other tasks. This provides assistance for the teachers.

A school-wide program is our buddy system where an older class is paired with a younger class for the entire year. The two classes meet on a regular basis for activities such as paired reading, assemblies, excursions and games.

**EDWARD CRANWELL and ALEX FINLAYSON**

IN the leafy suburb of Bellerive behind Howrah's Beachside Kindergarten is the Community Park.

Students from Grade 5/6 have participated in a joint community project with the Beachside Kindergarten, Clarence City Council, the Department of Parks and Wildlife and Eye Spy Signs in revegetating this urban bushland.

Students are lucky in that it forms the "backyard" of Howrah Primary School and is an ideal site for environmental

education. Grade 5/6 classes have developed signs to inform the community about what a special area it is, to help raise awareness about rehabilitating degraded areas and also protecting native wildlife.

The school was successful in obtaining a \$500 grant from Landcare Australia and Australia Post via the Mitre 10 Junior Landcare Grants Program.

Each sign is about a different part of the environment.

**LACHLAN TIDEY and ASHTEN DE HAAN**

THIS Mercury School Page was produced by students in Grade 5/6 Grace/Vickers at Howrah Primary School.

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