

Lateral Learning news

Author in our midst – Dr Ann Goeth

Keen student readers and writers were delighted to find out that they have been unwittingly in the company of a fresh new author, Meriden's Research Fellow, Dr Ann Goeth. Dr Goeth recently published a piece of creative non-fiction titled *Volcanic Adventures in Tonga* which detailed her time spent on Tin Can Island where she conducted an extensive scientific study of the exotic Malau bird.

Part memoir, part adventure, Dr Goeth's book captured the hearts of Senior School students when she spoke to them about her experiences in this remote Pacific Island paradise.

Interviewed by Library Captain, Anjali Kailasanathan, Dr Goeth explained the many challenges she faced, such as learning a foreign language, the island's extreme isolation, and the community's different social structures. Students were inspired by her resilience and perseverance and the library copies of the book flew off the shelves!

Students in the Senior Writing Group were also treated to a special talk from Dr Goeth last month, during which the girls were given an insight into the writing process. Dr Goeth discussed the task of collating her many letters home and the strategies she used to transform them into an engaging narrative form. The girls particularly appreciated her tips on navigating the publishing process. Several students are now formulating their own plans to have their works published once they have graduated.

On behalf of the students, I would like to thank Dr Goeth for generously sharing her experiences with them and inspiring them on their own writing journeys.

Ms Katie Bowie

Teacher Librarian

Years 7 – 8 workshops

This term, students have attended workshops in Research and Critical Thinking (Year 7) and Communication (Year 8). These workshops have helped students prepare for class work and upcoming assessment tasks, particularly the Year 7 Science research task on "My Sustainable Home". Students have learned how to access reliable and relevant resources online and via the Digital Library and correctly reference them in a bibliography.

Plagiarism and the use of AI in assessment tasks, such as ChatGPT, have also been addressed, with students viewing clear examples of unacceptable practice and gaining an understanding of how tools such as Turnitin can now detect the use of AI in student work. In their Science classes, students are also working through a unit of work that teaches them how to use TinkerCAD to cut, join and intersect 3D objects to build a model of their home.

Year 8 students learned how to structure a good argument and viewed our Year 9 Debating Team perform a debate, speaking clearly, confidently and in a well-organised manner. Students in Year 8 have also developed skills in communication and engaging an audience after completing their podcast task, which was part of their Year 8 History assessment task.



Angelyna Khoo, Stephanie Ly, Dr Ann Goeth and Maya David

Thank you to Dr Jocelyn Laurence, Coordinator of Learning Link – Research and Critical Thinking, Mrs Alex Phillips, Coordinator of Learning Link – Innovation, and Mrs Charlotte Yates, Coordinator of Learning Link – Speech, for their work in leading these workshops.

Lateral Learning eReport

The Lateral Learning Department works collaboratively with many departments across the School to embed skills and capabilities that can be transferred across a range of curriculum areas. If you have a daughter in Years 7 to 9, this is what you will see on her Lateral Learning eReport.

This term, the Lateral Learning department has been working with the Year 7 Maths, Science and DaCA teachers to build spatial skills, such as the construction of angles, the completion of CAD drawings, and sketching activities that demonstrate an understanding of 2D and 3D drawing conventions. These are essential skills as students progress through the range of STEM-related subjects available at Meriden.

As mentioned above, we have worked collaboratively with Science and History teachers in Years 7 and 8 to develop research and communication skills. In Year 9, students are assessed on these skills as part of the Global Citizens program. This term, students have completed a case study of homelessness in Australia and have explored the differing perspectives of a variety of stakeholders on this issue.

Next term, students will work collaboratively to research a global issue of their choice, seek to understand the differing perspectives through which this issue can be viewed and propose their own solution or response to the issue. Many thanks to Mr Kuhan Rajalingam, Coordinator of Learning Link – Global Outlook, for coordinating this program.

If you would like to know more about Lateral Learning or the Day 11 program, which sees academic tutors provide assistance to students in the library every Saturday Week B, please email me at pcurran@meriden.nsw.edu.au or [click here](#) to view the Lateral Learning eVe page.

Mrs Priscilla Curran
Dean of Lateral Learning