

Authors visit Junior School for Book Week

During Book Week, Junior School girls were privileged to hear from real-life authors across two exciting sessions.

Tristan Bancks

On Wednesday, Children's Book Council of Australia award-winning author Tristan Bancks captivated our Years 5 and 6 students with an engaging presentation. Tristan shared a glimpse into his creative process, revealing how his stories often begin with real-life experiences, especially from his childhood, which he transforms into compelling narratives.

He illustrated his writing journey by sharing the visual prompts he uses, such as photos and drawings, that help him to craft his narratives. Tristan also emphasised the importance of routine in the writing process, sharing his daily ritual of writing three pages every morning as soon as he wakes up.

Tristan explained how he curates specific soundtracks to match the tone of his writing, whether it's a suspenseful thriller, a comedy, or a blend of both. This approach helps him set the right mood and immerse himself in the story.

Tristan left the students with five key writing tips to guide their creative efforts:

1. Read every day.
2. Write daily.
3. Be kind to yourself.
4. Find yourself in the story.
5. Rewrite, rewrite, rewrite!



Tristan Bancks with Molly Greenhalgh and Kaitlyn Xi

We are grateful for Tristan's visit, which was entertaining and a valuable learning experience, inspiring our budding writers to explore their own storytelling potential.

Kate and Jol Temple

Students from Pre-Kindergarten to Year 4 enjoyed welcoming authors Kate and Jol Temple.

The dynamic duo captivated the girls with an engaging presentation on the writing process, specifically focusing on their graphic novel *Frog Squad*. Kate and Jol explained how they brought their characters to life by drawing inspiration from native Australian frogs.

They highlighted the importance of observing the physical and behavioural traits of frogs and using them as a foundation to develop relatable characters.



Kate and Jol Temple with our younger readers

The students were fascinated by the way each frog's characteristics, such as its size, colour, and habits, were woven into the personalities of the characters in *Frog Squad*.

They read aloud from their Bin Chicken series and shared tips for how to improve writing and creativity with everyday experiences.

We are grateful to Kate and Jol for coming to Meriden and sharing their love of literature with the girls.

Mrs Cath Evans

Dean of Academic Care (Junior School)