

Primary entry #39: Tighes Hill Public School



TIGHES HILL TRIBUNE



BOOK TIME: Reading Buddies India and Heather.

Picture: Dayna Garside

A program to inspire a love of reading

By **HEATHER WASSON**
and **DAYNA GARSIDE**

TIGHES Hill Public School has started a weekly reading program called Reading Buddies where younger kids and older kids come together to read to each other.

The aim of Reading Buddies is to encourage kids to increase the amount of time they spend reading and to promote a love of reading.

Miss Elley, one of the teachers who initiated the program at the school, said Reading Buddies came about as a way to "engage the students in reading and increase volume and confidence".

When asked how Reading Buddies was helping younger students, Miss Elley said: "They're enjoying reading in a non-threatening situation and building positive relationships and skills for the future."

One of the side benefits from the program is the way the students have formed friendships with their buddies. Grayson, a year 1 student, said the reason he likes Reading Buddies is that his buddy "is a good reader and he is nice".

Chris, a year 6 student, said he likes Reading Buddies because "I like reading and you know that you're inspiring a young reader".

There are many positive effects to this program and there are bound to be many more as it continues to grow in popularity.

By **CHRISTOPHER FALLEY**
and **ALLAN PARMENTER**

MANY of the students in the Tighes Hill Opportunity Class travel from different areas around Newcastle to be a part of this selective class.

This is a big achievement. Within the local community there are many students that have travelled even further and worked even harder to be a part of this educational environment.

Recently, some students from Islington Public School were interviewed to gain a greater understanding of the cultural diversity in our community.

It was discovered that many of the students who travelled from countries such as the Congo, Uganda, Sudan and Rwanda have amazing stories to share.

The students spoke of the violence, conflict and upheaval that their countries were experiencing, which caused them to flee to Australia. They were in danger on a daily basis. They took what little they could carry and travelled thousands of kilometres across Africa to the uncertain safety of refugee camps hoping for a better life. There they gained some basic knowledge of English and were luckily welcomed as refugees to the Hunter Region.

"I love it here in Australia," said



FEEL AT HOME: Tighes Hill students Chris and Allan get acquainted with Jimmy and Munga from Islington.

student Munga. "There is no fighting, no bang-bang-bang, we are safe and have medicine."

Munga's views of life in Australia were shared by his fellow students. They all spoke of how happy they are and how lucky they felt to be given an education and have access to basic healthcare.

African schools are very tough

places, with beatings for even the most minor transgression. All students were relieved that Australian schools didn't mete out such punishment and Australian teachers were much more friendly.

These students have a new hope for the future: Agum is hoping to become a nurse, Byringiro wants to teach his language, Joy wants to

become a teacher and Kasikile wants to play for the Sydney Swans.

These ambitions had been beyond the wildest dreams of the students until their arrival in Australia.

Our visitors are proud of their African culture and hope to bring that pride and passion to their new home in Australia.



TAKE THREE: Heather and Allan get their hands dirty for the Tighes Hill litter audit.

Saving our oceans from rubbish

By **KATHERINE KITCHINGMAN**
and **SAMANTHA YOUNG**

FRAN Davy has been visiting schools all across the Hunter to educate students about the Take 3 program.

Take 3 was started when a group of young surfers started to see more and more litter floating around in the ocean. They were seeing all sorts of things such as plastic water bottles, chip packets, lolly wrappers and straws. One surfer even had a nappy caught around her leg rope. That inspired them to begin Take 3.

The message is simple – "Take three pieces of rubbish with you when you leave the beach, waterway or anywhere and you have made a difference," Fran explains.

Fran hopes that her "visits to schools may inspire some kids to help me and the other Take 3 people to make the ocean a cleaner place and to save the lives of whales, turtles, dolphins and birds".

The students at Tighes Hill Public have been inspired by the message of Take 3. They have begun work on their own environmental campaign within the school and hope that the work they do will educate the wider community.

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