

A Letter from the Library



May 2019

Hello Students, Parents and Caregivers,

IT'S A BOY!

It has been an anxious wait for the Monarch butterfly to come out of its chrysalis! The whole school has been a-buzz with excited anticipation. "Has the butterfly hatched yet?" "When will there be a butterfly?"

Research by Library Assistant, H el ene Thomas, identified this stage should take 10-14 days, which had come and gone. However, on the 17th day, Wednesday, 15 May, the butterfly appeared from its chrysalis, hanging down with its crumpled wings.

It took a few hours for the butterfly to open out its wings, which enabled H el ene to identify if it was a girl or boy butterfly. It had 2 black spots on the lower parts of its wings, making the butterfly a male. These black spots are scent glands and only occur on males.

Archie

As the butterfly was a 'Monarch' and male and it had been due when the Royal Baby Sussex was born, it was decided to name him 'Archie'.

Archie visited all classes on Thursday and there were many "oohs" and "aahs" each time he opened out his wings!



Monarch ready to eclose



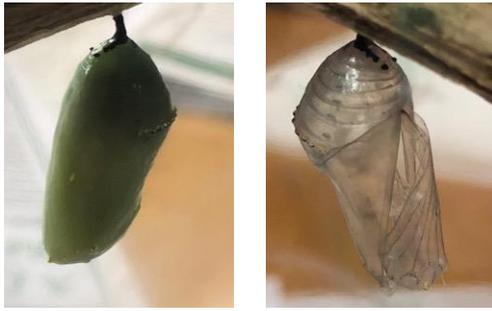
Wings opened wide

We learnt that:

- Butterflies don't 'hatch', they '**eclose**' from a chrysalis
- The cold weather can affect/delay their 'eclose'
- There are 5 'moulting/shedding' stages for a Monarch caterpillar called '**instars**'.
- The 5th instar is the change to a chrysalis.
- You can tell a male from a female Monarch by whether it has 2 black spots on the bottom wing segments and thinner veins in top segment.



- These black spots are **scent glands**
- The wings of the butterfly are all crumpled when they '**eclose**'. The butterfly pumps fluid from its body into its wings to 'inflate/unwrinkle' them.
- The chrysalis goes from lime green colour with golden dots to transparent and looking like a piece of broken plastic once the butterfly ecloses.



- Monarch butterflies are not native to Australia. They were first sighted in Australia in 1871.
- Monarch butterflies live for 6 weeks.

Hélène assisted Archie to have a honey water drink before releasing him back where he was found in her garden.



Archie drinking through his proboscis.

(It is just like a straw!)

Thank you Archie, it has been a very exciting, educational and wonderful 3 weeks with you.



Archie's release.



Sitting on Borage flowers.

Good luck being a butterfly!

LUNCHTIME LIBRARY SESSIONS

The Library is open **every** lunch time for Term 2 as the weather becomes cooler from 1:10 to 1:30pm.

Currently students can come in to:

- Read
- Colour in
- Play a board game
- Sit and talk with friends

Stay tuned for some new and exciting activities being planned for lunch times!

BOOKWEEK

Book week is only a few months away in August. The theme for 2019 is Reading is my Secret Power.

Start getting your thinking caps on for your wonderful dress ups!



**Regards,
Hélène @ the Library**