

# Tapping into the challenge of water

## BIALIK COLLEGE

Bialik's annual Science Week encourages students to think more deeply about the world around them, a key driver in the college's approach to education.

The theme of Bialik's 2016 Science Week was "Water" and students were challenged each day to explore weird and wonderful scientific projects that brought to light the different properties of water and the wonders of the natural world.

Emily Donaldson, head of science at Bialik, explains, "The aim of Science Week is to engage students in the wonders of science, demonstrate how science links into most areas of our everyday lives and to provide students with an opportunity to *enjoy learning in ways that cannot always be carried out in a classroom.*"

Students documented their investigations and processes with reports, photographs and time lapses, which provided multiple opportunities for learning and experimenting. Debates, discussions and hands-on participation were encouraged throughout the year levels such as "Bottled v Tap - Which is Better?" and sessions on "The Politics of Water in the Middle East – how to water the desert" – prompting a highly intellectual discussion on the complexities of a simple substance.

Young students in Bialik's Early Learning Centre were also included in Science Week, with students as young as 3 years old given the opportunity to explore



**Bialik's Science Week: we're forever blowing bubbles.**

freshwater ecology by interacting with real life specimens. They learned about some of the tiniest critters thriving in our waterways and enjoyed a presentation by an educator from Yarra Valley Water.

Primary School students engaged in exciting activities like 'Water Show', where they experimented with water properties, such as density, melting and freezing points and evaporation. They constructed terrariums, grew crystals and explored the water cycle, documenting their discoveries and honing their observation and reporting skills.

Middle school students made water rockets and created and programmed robots that could move objects through water. This gave them greater insight

into the properties of water as well as an opportunity to develop their computer coding skills.

A popular feature of Science Week is the building of Rube Goldberg Machines and the friendly competition between teams of students who this year, had to use water in various energy forms to propel movement.

There was ice-cream making using nitrogen, ice sculpture competitions and even a chance to help build an igloo! Families also got involved - attending Family Science Nights to explore "Water Tricks" and "Juicy Facts", a fascinating workshop that explored the Individual Quick Frozen method of making juices and soups.