THE WAY

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FROM THE JUNIOR SCHOOL DIRECTOR OF TEACHING AND LEARNING

I was fortunate to walk into a Year 4 classroom yesterday whilst a few students were promoting the books they were reading to their peers. What a wonderful environment to share their growing love of reading.

One of the students was looking for a new read and expressed interest in Emily Rodda novels. I suggested he try ‘Rowan of Rin’, one of my favourites. How special to be greeted in the playground this morning by that student, who delightedly told me he had started the book and was loving it. It made my day.

Every day at the top gate, I see a couple of students holding books in their hands. I ask them what they are reading and if they are enjoying it. Many happily tell me about the book and why they chose it.

Our words and our enthusiasm count. Helping our students gain an enjoyment of reading is crucial to learning. We can see when students extend their vocabulary through reading. We can see how images become richer in their writing when students read quality literature. We can see how friendships can form through the sharing of favourite books.

Please consider using this link when helping your children choose their next quality book. The site lists all the books chosen for the 2026 Premier’s Book Challenge:

Premier's Reading Challenge

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Offering a wide range of genres, the list will support you encourage your child to grow in their reading choices with quality books. Many will be available in local libraries.

Let’s continue to build a community of literacy at Thomas Hassall.

Ms Lisa Hansford
Director of Teaching and Learning - Junior School

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