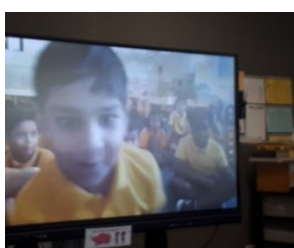


ES1 & S1 RUSS THE STORY BUS

In 2014, Sydney Writers' Festival transformed an ordinary bus into Russ the Story Bus: a bright and colourful creative space full of bookshelves stocked with children's books and comfy benches for kids to read. He was also wrapped with colourful picture book illustrations. The concept behind Russ the Story Bus is the creation of a *welcoming and inspiring place for children that celebrates storytelling, reading and creativity.*

At the beginning of 2020, I was able to secure a place for Kingswood PS to be part of Russ the Story bus adventures. Unfortunately due to COVID restrictions Russ the Story Bus was unable to visit the school... *but ...*



today the ES1 & S1 students were provided with the opportunity to participate in Russ Story Bus – author talk – to help foster the lifelong connection we aim to build for students with books that begins in childhood. Our students enjoyed taking part in an interactive talk presented by a children's book author or illustrator. Felice Arena, the children's author, shared his love of books, discussed his craft



and inspired our students to think creatively about reading, writing and storytelling. Students from each class had the opportunity to ask some fabulous questions about the writing process. Felice was amazed at how insightful our Kingswood PS students were.

As part of the Russ the Story Bus experience students are also allowed to choose a brand-new book to *take home and keep forever.* ES1 & S1 students browsed a virtual library filled with quality text and had a hard time choosing just one book. These books will be individually wrapped and sent to school by the end of the school term.

Many thanks to the Sydney Writer's Festival organisers for such a privileged opportunity for our students.



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