Mali Diary - Our First Entry…

May the 9th

Mali the baby elephant has been turned to stone! No, not really! Roberts McCubbin has been lucky enough to receive a fibreglass statue of the baby elephant from the Melbourne Zoo, to celebrate their 150th birthday!

Twelve students have been given the opportunity to paint Mali and share their creative ideas. On Wednesday the 9th of May, we discussed and shared our designs and began working on a template design of Mali.

When our designs are finished, they are going to be fused together to paint onto the fabulous fibreglass Mali! Mrs. Wilson showed us gum leaves and gumnuts as well as other materials we can use to inspire us. These will work well as our theme is our local landscape and environment.

We also want to incorporate our unique tent/triangle symbols from our school uniform and our ‘creativity and endeavour’ motto in our artwork. We’re still deciding as a group where to put them, but we are thinking around Mali’s eyes or possibly on her trunk.

We are going to research those Australian animals that are close to extinction, as we are going to draw and paint some of these beautiful animals on Mali too. We hope that painting Mali will be a success and that soon she will be in her rightful place, amongst our gum trees.

Hannah H and Juliet
May the 31st

Over the last 2 weeks we have been drawing our new designs, on our Mail templates. Until yesterday we hadn’t drawn on the real Mali, we hope to start painting her soon. Last Wednesday, Garret, an Education Officer from the Melbourne Zoo, visited the 3/4 community to give them a talk about Mali. All of the children working on Mali project were also invited to attend the incursion too! Garret talked about Mali and all the animals at the Zoo. He also answered lots of our questions. When he had finished, we took him to the art room to show him our designs for Mali. Then we showed him our originals, which are a part of the display in the office! This week we continued deciding what designs we are going to paint on Mali with our parent helpers, Rachel H and Melanie R and Mrs. Wilson and Miss A. Isabella and I (Anna) started to sketch our ‘scale’ designs on Mali. Everyone else was sketching the endangered Australian animals that Garret spoke to us about. As a group, we also decided that we didn’t have enough animal designs to paint on Mali. Our Mali will be on display the zoo for 3 weeks with all the other Mali’s that the other schools are painting. Then we will get her back and put her on display permanently, in the garden outside the performing arts room. Did you know Mali’s Mum’s name is ‘Dokkoon’ and her Dad’s name is ‘Bong Su’, Mali was the first female calf born in Australia - and we love her!

Keira and Anna