

# The Stroogle is in town

ALMOST 19 years ago, little Cameron Stelzer was sitting at his school desk, drawing aliens and space ships for his book *Mark's on a Mission*.

Yesterday, the grown-up author and illustrator was back at his old school, St John's Lutheran Primary School with his published book *The Stroogle*.

Dr Stelzer showed the students the book dust jacket he created in 1986 when he was a student at the school.

"I won first prize for it," Dr Stelzer said. "It was the first thing I had ever won."

Dr Stelzer, who has earned a Doctorate of Visual Art and a Bachelor of Fine Art, has won many major art prizes for his work but his first award will always be special to him.

"It shows the kids how far you can come in 19 years," he said. "I went from space aliens to a fully published book."

Dr Stelzer said it was important to get back and visit the local schools.

"They get a sense of authors being real people and also where you can go in life," he said.

"I myself was once sitting in the library looking up at a big person who had something exciting to tell."

The Stroogle is a colourful little creature that hatched from a purple egg in the garden.

The simple rhyming text teaches children about rejection, misunderstanding and sadness to friendships, courage and acceptance.

The little "strawberry" shaped creature is popular with children of all ages.

Dr Stelzer wrote the book two years ago when living in London.



**READING EVERY LINE:** Author and illustrator of *The Stroogle*, Dr Cameron Stelzer, visits St John's Lutheran Primary School students Tyler Lewis (front), Amber Lutter (back left) and Sarah Nelson. str2507b

"London was so grey and cold so I wanted to contrast that," he said. "So I created a rainbow coloured creature."

Dr Stelzer spoke with students about how he put the book together, formed the characters and developed the story line.

He also shared how he went

from his first idea and turned it into a book.

Dr Stelzer will visit local schools all week while he is in Bundaberg but St John's has a special place in his heart for many reasons.

"I used to live in a house next door to the school so when I stand

in the staff room, it is about where our living room was," he said.

The library also brings back fond memories of his school days at St John's.

"There are a few books in the library that I remember from years ago, that are still here," he said.

# NewsMail

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## Author back at old school

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### Author hatches new children's book

LOCAL export Cameron Stelzer will introduce his loveable character who hatched from a purple egg to Bundaberg next week.

Mr Stelzer, who grew up in Bundaberg, has recently written and illustrated his own children's book called *The Stroogle* and is looking forward to sharing his story with students.

The book is about a colourful creature that hatches in a garden.

His adventures begin when he climbs up to the farmhouse window for breakfast and falls into a bowl of porridge.

The simple rhyming text used in the book leads the reader through an adventure of rejection, misunderstanding and sadness to friendship, courage and acceptance.

Mr Stelzer will hold workshops aimed at students from pre-school to Year 7 and will encourage both girls and boys to be more active in reading and creative arts.

"Workshops give the students an understanding of several of the processes involved in putting together an illustrated book, by practically getting them to create things themselves," Mr Stelzer

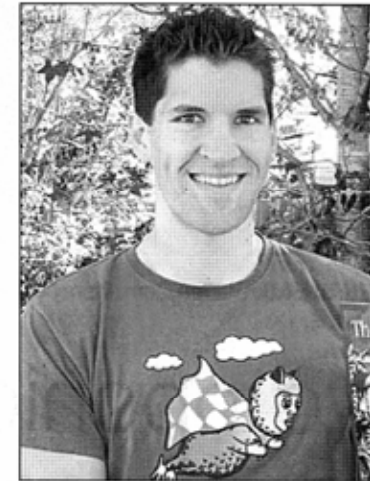
said this week.

"It also encourages them in their learning and brings to life things they learnt in English and art."

He will return to St Johns Lutheran Primary school, which was his primary school, to be the "author in residence".

Mr Stelzer also will visit Bundaberg West State School, Bundaberg Christian College and other schools around Bundaberg.

He will be in town for one week from July 24.



**AUTHOR:** Cameron Stelzer