

## Year 5/6 Visit to Parliament House



On Monday 21<sup>st</sup> September, Pingelly Year 5/6 students visited Parliament House as part of their learning in the Society and Environment Strand – Political and Legal Systems.

We left at 8:40am and arrived at Parliament House, where students had morning tea looking out over the city.

While waiting for the tour guide, a number of students chatted to a delegation of Chinese business people and politely answered questions, explaining where we lived and how far we had travelled.

We entered the foyer and met our tour guide. After a short time, Mia Davies MLA our local representative as well as Martin Aldridge MLC came and introduced themselves to the students. Ms Davies and Mr Aldridge talked about the size of their electorates and the amount of travel they do. Mia Davies talked about the importance of young people contributing to their community. She explained that she was brought up in the country and lives in Northam and how they too, as young people, can make their communities great places to live in.

The Guide then took us upstairs where we learnt about the history of State Government in WA. We were taken to the Lower House and got to sit in the seats of parliamentary representatives. Students acted out a parliamentary debate and passed a Bill regarding punishments for graffiti. Gabrielle Cousins was the Speaker of the House and kept dignified control of proceedings.

One similarity with school we found was that parliamentarians pass notes to each other while other people are speaking. Hayley found one the cleaners had missed. 😊

We then visited the Senate chamber where the red colours made the room more inviting and everything appeared more luxurious.

The tour guide complimented the students on their fantastic behaviour, noting there is a vast difference between city and country students' behaviour and manners. She then presented the students with complimentary badges as a memento of their visit. (They were the first recipients of the badges in WA). We then had a drink of juice or water and Gabrielle thanked the guide for the tour and we moved out to the buses.

Mr Steel took us to the Volcano Park in Belmont for a toilet break and lunch where Mrs Nottle thought she was 10 again and displayed a spectacular landing off the flying fox. Check it out on Facebook!

We arrived back at school at 3:05pm after an enjoyable but long day travelling!