

Balloons released for Lilah

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EMMA ALTSCHWAGER

ON THE second anniversary of her death, **Lilah Bishop** has been remembered for her vivaciousness and fighting spirit.

When Lilah was born with a rare and incurable brain tumour, her parents **Andrea** and **Nic Bishop** were told she only had a five per cent chance of surviving birth.

But their youngest of three daughters was a fighter and defied doctors' beliefs to live for 19 months.

"It was a miracle she survived for so long because we were told she wouldn't take a breath," Mrs Bishop says.

"But she defied all odds and lighted up our lives for the time she was with us."

Students from Mercedes College, where Mrs Bishop teaches, released purple balloons last Friday (June 14) to remember Lilah and raise funds for the paediatric palliative care team at the Women's and Children's Hospital.

Mrs Bishop aims to raise \$50,000 for the unit so it can buy more pumps that allow children to leave hospital and enjoy activities with their families.

"We saw every ordinary opportunity with Lilah as an event ... and we want to be able to give other families an



UP, UP AND AWAY: Mercedes student Grace, 5, was among those celebrating the life of Lilah Bishop and helping to raise funds for the W&CH. Picture: Roy Van Der Vegt A12989067

opportunity to have those rich moments," she says.

"The hospital only has five pumps but 50 children on the books."

Mrs Bishop says Lilah's legacy is also to remind people to "live in the moment".

"We believe she came to us for a reason and to make a

difference," she says. "When you're a parent, your children change so fast and the one thing they want is their parents' attention."

To donate to the Bishop family's fundraising efforts visit everydayhero.com.au and search Lilah Sophie.