



Grade 1/2 Newsletter

Welcome to Term 2, 2014

Maths

During Term Two students will continue to develop their skills in the areas of : Addition; Place Value and Skip Counting by twos; threes; fives and tens to 100.

Students will also be working on the following areas: Counting and ordering money according to the value; Subtraction; Length; Capacity; Mass; Time: analogue to the hour, half and daily routines; 2D shapes; Location; Months of the year and calendar; Chance and Data. It's going to be a busy term!

The Mathletics website will be used during classroom activities and can also be used at home.

You can help your children at home by involving them in mathematical activities and talking to them about mathematics and its everyday uses. Be positive! Praise your child's success.

Encourage your child to have a go at measuring, calculating, counting, estimating and solving problems. Invite children to investigate and make discoveries for themselves. Encourage them to find their own answers. Don't be too quick to tell them the answers.

Materials to have on hand: dice; dominos; number cards 0-9; 100 chart; games such as UNO and Snakes and Ladders.

Show children how you use maths in your everyday activities, e.g. measuring ingredients, estimating costs, calculating change, timing how long things take to cook, preparing shopping lists, using calibrated containers, using kitchen scales, tendering money, playing card and board games, telling the time, looking for patterns in the environment, reading house numbers, number plates.

Keep the Calendar Up-to-date Mark any special events on the calendar, e.g. family and

friends' birthdays, outings, holidays, etc. Look for patterns in the number squares. Encourage children to make their own calendars.

Differentiated Literacy and Numeracy Groups: Our daily differentiated groups will incorporate Mathematics and Literacy sessions which will enable support and extension activities for all students in Years 1 and 2.

Mass and Height Keep a record of your child's mass and height. See how much they have grown each year. Do this for everyone in the family. Graph the results.

Inquiry

In Term 2 our Inquiry topic is 'What makes it move?' which is a science based topic.

The understandings for this unit of study are:

Mechanisms cause movement in everyday objects.

Many different objects use the same basic mechanisms.

There are many parts that work together to make objects move.

Students will be asked to bring in household objects, which use different mechanisms, for us to observe in class. This could be anything from a kitchen utensil to a toy or something from your garage. Have a look around and see what you can find.

We have planned for an excursion to Scienceworks on the 10th June. More details to come closer to the date.

In Inquiry learning, students have many opportunities to investigate their own interests and questions related to particular concepts.

Reflection is an important component in Inquiry based learning.

Towards the end of Term 2 students will be asked to design and make something that moves.

Literacy

In Term 2 we will continue with writing recounts and move into writing narratives. Students will read narratives and learn about their structure.

They will identify and describe the main characters, the setting, the conflict and resolution in narratives.

Throughout the term, students will consolidate their editing and publishing skills. They will complete their own narrative and have the opportunity to present it to their class. Students will focus on sequencing, cause and effect to improve their reading comprehension skills.

In grammar, students will further explore the different aspects of sentence structure; learn to identify and use adjectives, conjunctions, talking marks, speech bubbles, contractions and compound words.

Reading at Home with your Child



I hope you have enjoyed sharing books with your child in term 1.

Remember that communication with your child is very important when reading, so if your child is sometimes reluctant to read aloud, discussing a book and talking about the pictures before reading will help develop reading skills.

In this newsletter I thought I would share how to support your child's reading by providing an overview of a new book by discussing the pictures to help gain an understanding of the text before reading.

Introducing a New Book:

Before reading a new book, make your child familiar with the story by looking at the pictures. Ask your child what they can see in the pictures and encourage them to predict what might happen next. You might build up some anticipation about what might happen at the end by saying "I wonder if..." Discuss unusual names and new words.

An understanding of the story enhances your child's literacy development as well as their reading enjoyment. Jackie McArdle

To further enhance their learning the Reading Eggs/Eggspress website will be used during classroom activities and we strongly encourage students to use this website at home.

Outline of the Visual Art Program for Year 1 and 2 Term 2 2014.

The focus in the Art Room this term will be on the areas of painting, photography and construction. Students will use their imaginations to create simple sculptures from a variety of materials. They will also view and discuss works from well-known artists. The Art Room now has a large flat screen TV that when connected to a computer can access Art Galleries around the world via the internet. The children will also be able to view their photographs well and share their images with the class.

As some of the art materials are messy and can stain clothing please ensure your child has an art shirt to protect their school uniform.

Thank You - Merrilyn

We would like to remind all parents to log in to Premier's Reading Challenge and continue to record all the books children are reading.

PE This Term

Term 2 promises to be as busy and as action packed as Term 1 has been. Besides our normal programs, including after school sport, joggers club, ride 2 school, pmp, etc. this term there is a major focus on our fundamental motor skills, in particular, skipping, as we prepare for our bian-annual Jump Rope For Heart Jump Off Day. Keep an eye on the rocket for weekly updates. We are always looking for parental assistance with our PMP program on a Thursday.

Grade 1/2 M need more Mums and Dads to help out with reading. If you have half an hour in the morning we would really appreciate your help.

Upcoming Events

May 19	Grandparents' Day
May 20/21	CraftPower Incursion
May 22	Open Night at S.S.P.S.
June 2	Curriculum Day/ No school
June 9	Queen's Birthday holiday
June 10	Excursion to ScienceWorks
June 27	End of Term 2