Our Motto — Work Conquers All
Our Vision — Every child improving, every day in every way.

Principal Communication

Dates to Remember:-
* NEXT P & C meeting (Monday), 17th August 6:00P.M.
* Next Playgroup week 6 (Monday), 17th August 9:15a.m.
* School Concert Wednesday, 9th of September
* Student Rewards Day Friday, 11th of September
* 3 - 6 school camp week 10, (14 - 18th) September

Our improvement agenda this year, focusses specifically on improving Reading, Spelling and Number. This term we are focussing more on the spelling strategies and sight words in the lower grades. In mathematics we are covering all aspects of the curriculum, there is a specific focus on number. Our reading results across the school are very pleasing and positive. Therefore, we are continuing to do what we have been doing, with even more focus on comprehension and decoding strategies.

We have some talented athletes at our school. Congratulations to Thomas Bath who won, all of his races and to Dylan, Gemma, Lachlan and Brandon who did well at the Zones. All students competed very well and should be proud of their efforts.

Playgroup will be every 2 weeks this term. The first week was a great success. It would be great to have more come, however all who did attend enjoyed the experience. Please meet at the prep shed at 9:00 - 10:45 and bring morning tea to share. A gold coin donation would be appreciated to help replace equipment used. Please contact either Rebecca Reinke or Angela Bath, or alternatively the school office, for additional information.

There is a P & C meeting this coming Monday at 6:00p.m., we hope you can all make it. It will be great to have you all attend. Some of the things to be discussed are fundraising ideas, working bee, uniform development and our improvement agenda.

NEXT 2 WEEK’S STRATEGIES
Reading -
Lower - Decoding strategies, and
Middle - Upper - Being book smart, decoding strategies and comprehension skills

Spelling - Words their Way Strategies
Yellow - ot, og, op sounds
Green - ish, ash, ush blends
Orange - ar, schw, or blends
Red - consonants tch and ch
Purple - gh and ph blends
Blue - suffixes, ation, cation, ition

Maths -
Prep - Number knowledge - concrete, oral and written knowledge of numbers up to 20
1 - 2 - Addition and subtraction strategies using money count on and count back
3 - 4 - 2 and 3 digit, division (and extension long division)
5 - 6 - Learning and practicing - Dad, Mum, Sister, Brother and Rover, as steps to remember for long division.
Students are making really good progress across the school in mathematics. This week the Prep students have been learning about numbers and counting back. Students use physical, concrete materials, oral language and written language to demonstrate their skills in number recognition and counting back. In years 1 and 2, students worked on counting back with larger numbers. Students learnt about strategies similar to counting on.

In year 3-6 students have been learning about division. As students learn at different speeds, some students have been pushed higher with larger numbers and have been learning about long division. Fast finishers and older students have been learning Dad - Division, Mum - Multiply, Sister - Subtract, Brother - Bring down and Rover - Repeat, as a way of remembering the steps needed to complete long division problems. Please ask older students about this. Long division is a difficult concept and 3-6 students will be continuing this concept next week. As the students get more confident, using long division, they will be exposed to even larger numbers.

Another week has flown by and we are now half-way through the term. Most children are on target to reach the Rewards Day target of $120. Good behaviour, attendance, completing homework, before school reading, demonstrating persistence, being organised, being safe and getting along with others are all ways to earn lots of Tinny cash.

This week in History the Prep children have been talking about how stories and information are passed down from generation to generation and how those stories about the same event may vary according to the storyteller. In the other classes, the children are learning how to pose questions in order to gather information about people and the past.

Our Science studies with the Prep, yr1 and 2 children have been about the clouds and the wind. The year 3 and 4 children have been learning about soil and rocks, while the year 5 and 6 students have been learning about earthquakes with much discussion about recent tremors and the Newcastle disaster.

Next week our Speaking and Listening topic is ‘My Favourite Colour’. Children are to tell the class about their favourite colour, why is it their favourite, what things are this colour, is there anything not so nice about this colour, try and convince Mrs Bishop that it is better than orange!

Thank you to all parents who continue to support their children with homework activities and reading. Your support is invaluable.
From Mrs Thomas I can’t believe that this term is moving along so fast! Maybe it is because we have been working so hard and learning so much!

In English this term we have been focussing on finding information in texts.

The Preps have been looking at information books about animals. So far they have looked at bats, hens and chameleons - with the chameleons being the favourites so far! They have drawn pictures about the animals based on the information they have read. Some of the information that they have been looking at are the number of legs the animal has, what it eats, where it lives, what colour it is. Chameleons were fun because they changed colours to suit their environment. Thank you Santino for bringing in your reptile book so that we could learn more about chameleons and other reptiles!

The 1-2 class have been reading the narrative story Stellaluna about a little bat who falls from his mothers grip into a birds nest. We have been looking at which parts of the story are fiction (made up) and which parts are based on fact (non-fiction). To do this we have looked at a number of books about animals - some fiction and some non-fiction. We found out that many non-fiction books have contents pages or indexes, they have real photos of the animals and lots of information that tells us about the animal. Whereas fiction books have drawn illustrations, no contents and tell us a story about the animal that is not always based on real information. In the coming weeks we will be focussing on learning how to research an animal to create our assessment piece for this term.

The 3-4 class have been looking at traditional Asian stories. So far we have examined ‘The Wishing Fish’, ‘The Tiger, The Rabbit and Chung Ho’ and ‘The Proud Son’ in detail. Together we have identified noun groups, pronouns, direct speech, saying verbs, adverbs, verb groups and time words. We have analysed the authors choices of words in the story and how they impact on the overall meaning or moral. The students have been enjoying watching the traditional stories come to life in the mini movies we watch as part of our unit. The next step will be for the students to use their knowledge to write their own stories with a message or moral as their assessment this term.

In the 5-6 class, we have been reading and watching, ‘The Lorax’, by Dr Seuss. The students have been working hard at pulling information out of the book and movie. We have watched the original short film made in 1972, as well as the newer version made in 2012. A lot of discussion has centred around the message of the book and film which remains strong - that we need to take care of our environment. We have been analysing the use of colour, words and imagery to convey moods and feelings. The next step is to look at comparative language and how we can begin to form our own opinions about the book and movie. This will help us write our assessment piece that compares the book The Lorax with the 2012 film.

Thank you to all students who have been working hard in English this term! Lets keep it up in the coming weeks!