Great start - Strong Foundations – Powerful Learners

(DECD Numeracy and Literacy Strategy from Birth to 18)

Numeracy teaching and learning is allocated a large portion of the time in each week of school. Research shows that highly developed numeracy and literacy capabilities strongly contribute to the social, economic and physical wellbeing of individuals. Children who are able to apply mathematical understandings and communicate effectively in a range of contexts – economic, technical, scientific and social – are best placed to succeed in education and in life.

The Australian Curriculum, which now provides a consistent curriculum statement for schools across the nation, has this to say about numeracy:

Students become numerate as they develop the knowledge and skills to use mathematics confidently across all learning areas in school and in their lives more broadly. Numeracy involves students in recognising the role of mathematics in the world and having the dispositions and capacities to use mathematical knowledge and skills purposefully.

National Numeracy for Life (UK 2013) states that “Mathematical literacy is an individual’s capacity to identify and understand the role that mathematics plays in the world and having the dispositions and capacities to use mathematical knowledge and skills purposefully.”

Importantly, this description goes beyond mere computation – it includes essential skills such as solving problems, understanding and explaining the solutions, making decisions based on logical thinking and reasoning, and interpreting data, charts and diagrams. The age of information technology presents us with more data than ever before and puts an even greater premium on numeracy skills and understanding.

Kim Cooper
Executive Leader (Birth-Year 6)
IS YOUR CHILD ANXIOUS?

Some children can suffer from anxiety when it’s time to go off to school. If your child struggles with anxiety, it can often be a challenge to find the right thing to say when he or she feels worried. Rather than telling your child, ‘You’ll be fine’ or ‘Don’t worry about it,’ try one of the following phrases next time your child is feeling worried:

- “I am here; you are safe”
- “Tell me about it”
- “How big is your worry?”
- “Who do you want to tell your worry?”
- “Can you draw it?”
- “Which calming strategy do you want to use?”

The website www.lemonlimeadventures.com has some more great ideas to help with children who feel worried. Please also feel free to come and have a chat to me if you have any concerns about your child feeling anxious.

Jodie Molitor
Leader (Learning and Well Being)

MULTIPLE LANGUAGES

The MOC community is extremely diverse, with many children and their families coming from different cultures. Students whose first language is a language other than English may require additional support to develop proficiency in English, as may Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students whose first language is an Indigenous language.

Last week, two samples of writing (a persuasive and a procedure) were collected from all Primary and Early Years students for whom English is not their first language. These writing samples were then moderated by each teacher, which enabled our teachers to learn the individual needs of these students. This information is then collected by the Department of Education.

Candice Horton - Senior Leader

SCHOOL BANKING IS HERE TO STAY!

There has never been a better time to help your child learn to save. We will now have regular weekly pickups of BANKSA Littlesavers school banking. School bank books will need to be returned to students on Fridays.

Rhianna Woodbury
Preschool Teacher

BOOK BASED LITERACY IN THE PRESCHOOL

This term the Preschool’s Book based Literacy Program focused on ‘The Enormous Turnip’. This book linked in with the children’s interest in gardening and cooking. It also allowed the children to explore a range of new vocabulary and practice their syllables while looking at size and sequencing concepts. The children really enjoyed transferring their ‘Enormous Turnip’ knowledge to their play. Some children chose to plant turnips while others enjoyed pulling the enormous tug of war rope and calling for more people to help. The children were so fascinated with turnips that we decided to buy some and make some roasted turnip chips. They were delicious!

“I remember how we were chopping them up and peeling them and putting them in the oven” Mitchell

“It was good, very good!” Rachel

Rhianna Woodbury
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SATURDAY PROGRAMS

The Winter School Holidays are fast approaching, and bookings for our exciting Holiday Club program are now open. These holidays we have an “Out of this World” theme with lots of activities and incursions planned. We also have two excursions to look forward to: one to the movies to see The Minions and the other is to Bounce Inc. to see how high we can fly!

Bookings are essential and can be done online via www.campaustalia.com.au/holidayclubs or by calling our customer service team on 1300 105 343. Megan, Felicity, Charmaine and all of the OSHC team would like to wish everyone a fun and safe winter break, it is hard to believe we are halfway through the year already!