September 2015

Dates to remember:
- Fri 4th Sept - Father’s Day Stall
- Fri 4th Sept - District Athletics Carnival—selected students
- Thurs 10th—Thurs 17th Sept—Book Fair
- Fri 18th Sept—Fun Food Day, Footy Colours dress-up and tabloid sports
- Fri 18th Sept — Last day of Term 3 —2:30pm dismissal
- Mon 5th Oct—Term 4 begins
- Fri 9th October—Welcome back morning breakfast 8am-9:30am

English

Our 25 Day roll out of the Daily 5 program is now complete and we have now implemented all areas of the Daily 5 program. Our students now choose from 5 activities over a 2 day period, as well as working with their classroom teacher to set learning goals and build reading and writing strategies. Giving students ownership over their learning in this way has seen a dramatic change in their attitudes toward reading and writing.

Read to Someone

Our second Daily 5 focus area was Read to Someone. Students learned how to be a good “coach” and encourage their partner to implement their strategies they have learned. Explaining and coaching others helps our students to reinforce their own understanding of their reading CAFE strategies and ensures that they also receive coaching from a partner. Students are required to sit ‘Elbow to Elbow, Knee to Knee’ (EEKK) to ensure that they are following along with their partner’s reading. Read to Someone ensures that all students have an opportunity to be coached by a peer and provide coaching to reinforce their own understanding.

A quick note on Homework....

You will have noticed that the homework format has changed this term. This is to support our Daily 5 program and to ensure our students are practising the important skills that we teach them at school. We ask that students practise building reading stamina at least 5 times throughout the week. This can be in the style of ‘Read to Self’ where students read uninterrupted for as long as possible. We also ask that students ‘Read to Someone’ at least twice in a week to give them the opportunity to practise their reading fluency and discuss their reading with a caregiver or friend. These reading times should then be recorded on your child’s homework sheet and form part of the weekly homework. If you have any questions about the new homework format, please see your child’s classroom teacher.
Mathematics

In maths, our students are currently working with fractions. They have been learning how to identify common fractions, work with equivalent fractions and, in Level 4, convert these fractions to decimals.

Students have practised these skills using a variety of hands on tasks and a number of different manipulatives. Most importantly, we have been practising applying these skills to real life situations, for example dividing cakes at a birthday party or a chocolate bar among friends.

Inquiry

Our Inquiry topic this term is ‘Communication – How We Express Ourselves’. Our students have been investigating ‘non-verbal communication’ through the creation of short clips modelled on the work of Charlie Chaplain. This has helped our students to understand how they communicate with much more than their words.

Have a happy and relaxing holiday break!

Ms Baker, Mr Duncan, Miss Jeanes, Ms Johannsen and Ms Milana would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a safe and relaxing holiday break. Don’t forget to maintain reading stamina over the holidays by practising reading frequently. We look forward to seeing you all after the holidays for what will be a VERY exciting Term 4!

Michaela Jeanes, Amanda Johannsen, Kim Milana, Paul Duncan and Paula Baker