



# Grade 1 Newsletter

**May 12, 2017**

## **Important Dates**

### **Book Fair Opens**

Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> May

### **Mad about science**

#### **Incursion**

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> May

### **Whole school open**

#### **morning**

Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> May

Dear Grade 1 families,

Welcome back to Term 2! We hope you all had a fabulous Easter and restful break!

With the cooler weather on our doorstep, the time has come to put away the hats until Term 4 and replace them with raincoats! We ask that in Term 2, your child dresses appropriately for the weather we experience in the hills. This include warmer clothing, raincoats and even a plastic bag with spare pants and tops in case of slips in the mud!

You may have heard the buzz about our new positive reward program in Grade 1: Alien bucks! We have set up a 'shop' in our room with various rewards worth different values. Students can save their alien bucks and purchase a reward of their choosing i.e. snuggle buddies, treasure box, class DJ, VIP seating etc! Students have been receiving alien bucks for showing our school values of respect, responsibility and integrity. This new system also incorporates addition, subtraction and skip counting. We are having lots of fun counting, saving and spending our alien bucks!

Wishing all our Mums a very Happy Mother's Day! May you have a relaxing / adventurous / decadent day and are showered with love!

Megan and Tania : )

# NUMERACY NEWS

You may have heard your child talking about 'friends of ten' or 'rainbow facts' this week. This Term, our focus shifts to addition and mental computation. We have been exploring strategies to add to our 'Maths Toolkit.' There are many ways we can add (or subtract) numbers to work out the total. At the moment, our strategy is learning about and developing confidence in number facts, in particular, number facts that equal ten. We have been exploring number facts in various ways, such as songs, creating rainbows with facts, hands on tasks and games. We can begin by mastering facts that total 5, then move to 10 and extend to 20 and beyond!

We continue to practice skip counting (with an emphasis on counting by 5's), subitising, correctly forming digits and of course, Maths that is integrated through our STEM unit.

This week we will be handing out your child's username and password for 'Mathletics.' You should find this on the cover of your child's diary. Mathletics is an online program with activities targeted to the Australian curriculum. Over time you will see specific tasks and games we have allocated to your child. It's a fun and engaging tool that we hope you enjoy!



## ***STEM***

We are extremely excited about our STEM unit this term, which is all about weather, seasons and clothing! Students will be designing clothing that is appropriate for our school and the weather conditions. We will be investigating materials and determining which will be most suitable for outside learning i.e. rain and cold temperatures. In order to test materials, we kindly ask for donations of scraps of different materials. For example:

- Plastic, wool, scrap fabric, buttons etc.

Any donations to our STEM program would be greatly appreciated and will add to the authenticity of our learning. Please bring any donations in a plastic bag. We thank you!



# Literacy corner

It has been lovely to see your children recording their reading every night! We understand that there are some days where it doesn't happen, it's ok :) We have been encouraging students to record this information themselves, as well as the decoding strategy they may have used.

Last Term we sent home the decoding strategies learnt in Prep and we have spent the last few weeks recapping these guys and what they do! These strategies should live in your child's reader folder and can be used nightly to assist when they get stuck on a tricky word or something doesn't make sense. They are also there for you, the parents! So when your child is telling you that they can try 'Chunky Monkey' or 'Skippy Frog' – you know what they are talking about! Hopefully these strategies can also help you to prompt your child when they are having difficulty, rather than suggesting to sound it out. We have been using Dad's toolbox as our analogy for the decoding strategies: does Dad or Mum just have one tool in their box? No, because you need different tools for different problems, and sometimes you will need more than one tool! Or one won't do the job so you need to try something else!

We are very impressed by how well they are using their decoding strategies! This week we introduced the last of the decoding strategies: Flippy Dolphin. Flippy is tricky as it involves flipping between short and long vowel sounds i.e. Like (lick / like). As a result, in spelling we are also investigating short and long vowels to support this learning.

