Dear Parents,

Over the next few weeks we will be undertaking some of our assessments to assist with our end of semester report writing. Many of the assessments are undertaken individually, and as a result, some of our programs may run differently to facilitate this.

**Mother's Day Stall (for Dad's eyes only!!)**

Tomorrow is the Mother's Day stall so we are asking you to send your child with $5 to buy a lovely gift for mum.

**A Snapshot from recent Foundation classes...**

*Classifying and sorting living and non-living things

*Discussing animals and their habitats

*Identifying characteristics of animals, including number of legs on animals

*Exploring the letter Ww, the sound it makes and taking photos of objects beginning with Ww.

*Uncovering what we see outside our windows following a study of *Window* by Jeannie Baker. In addition to this, students gained a deeper understanding of the effect of change on the environment over time as well as the importance illustrations play in story books.

* Keeping a tally of specific items when we went on a habitat walk and using data to form a pictograph e.g. leaves, trees, people, insects etc.

*Surveying children about pets they have at home and interpreting this data.

*Making comparisons in weight and height between living and non-living things.

*Estimating and counting and making patterns from Autumn leaves.

**Investigations**

Please refer to the roster on each classroom door or the copy distributed earlier this term as to when your child is a focus child for Investigations. Focus children speak for a very short time on items or interests they would like to talk about. This will further support child-centred learning which we encourage on a day-to-day basis. As an example, recent Investigations have been centred on:

- Stuffed animal toys
- Books—both fiction and non-fiction
- Hand-made books and pictures by students
- Souvenirs from holidays
It is great to see children engaged in their Investigations and finding something meaningful to explore, as well as working well in groups, negotiating roles and taking turns. Recent Investigations have seen children:

- Role-playing in the kitchen or dress up areas
- Building sandcastles or towers outside
- Reading stories in the underwater area
- Using the magnifying glass to explore bugs and insects
- Creating letters and numbers out of play dough
- Building habitats at the construction table
- Writing stories and making Mother's Day cards

**You Can Do It – Resilience**

We have been discussing resilience at school. The children enjoyed meeting Ricky Resilience, identifying and creating a ‘feeling face’ on biscuits and will soon be role-playing scenarios that encourage resilient behaviours. Here are some strategies and language that you might like to use at home to help your child develop resilience:

*When I’m upset it is good to think of something fun to do.*

*When I’m upset I will find a grown up to talk to.*

*When I’m upset I will take three deep breaths to help me calm down.*

Many stories portray great examples of resilience and you may like to share these with your child. Examples include: ‘Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day’ by Judy Viorist, ‘The Bad Tempered Ladybird’ by Eric Carle and ‘Oh, The Places You’ll Go’ by Dr Seuss.

**Sleep Well Survey**

This week families received some information on the Sleep Well-Be Well study. This is a new research study by the Centre for Community Child Health at The Royal Children’s Hospital and Murdoch Children’s Research Institute. The purpose of the study is to determine how sleeping patterns affect behaviour, learning, quality of life and wellbeing. Please return the survey to the labelled box in your child’s classroom by **Friday 17th May**.

**Fire Ed**

Children enjoyed a final visit from Malvern Fire Brigade this week and they were lucky enough to tour the fire truck! Important handouts regarding our recent fire education program will be sent home this week, including a parent feedback form. Please complete and return to your classroom teacher and use the map to draw and discuss an important meeting spot near your home in the event of a fire.

More information is available at [www.mfkbidzone.com.au](http://www.mfkbidzone.com.au/)
Responsible Pet Ownership

Children will listen to and engage with a guest speaker next week who will discuss the importance of being a responsible pet owner. This will include important information about approaching and handling dogs safely. These important concepts can be followed up at home, particularly if you do own a pet.

Excursion

Our excursion to the Royal Botanic Gardens will be upon us very soon (Wednesday 22nd May.) More information to follow. We will require parent helpers so please see your child’s teacher if you can assist us on the day.

Materials Needed

Sticks for hand skills and indoor plants e.g. ferns.

Thank you to Sarah Beischer (Lachie’s mum) for bringing in a lovely range of sea shells for our investigation area.

Thanks

The Foundation Team