

# YEAR 1 BULLETIN

## TERM 2 - Week 5

### READING FORUM

This was held on Tuesday evening and the aim of the night was to strengthen the home school partnership. The forum's content was designed to engage you into understanding the young reader a little deeper and then decide on ways in which you can best support your child develop into an *effective* reader.

The main emphasis was to promote a balanced approach to reading where the environment at home is one where reading becomes a 'real'. Quick fix strategies Learning to read does not simply happen by memorising words nor does it happen by 'sounding out'. Learning to read does not simply happen when children become efficient in decoding print. A huge component of becoming an efficient reader is to develop creative and critical skills.

The following extract is from a credible source, *PRIMARY ENGLISH TEACHING ASSOCIATION AUSTRALIA 'PETA - Parent's Guide to helping children at home with reading and writing)* and supports the message we were trying to deliver to you:

*Reading time, whether at home or in the classroom must be fun. Learning occurs best when what is being learned is relevant, interesting and has a purpose. Spending quality time with your child reading books, newspapers, magazines, comics, music lyrics, poetry, junk mail, and accessing information on the Internet is what brings your child back to reading night after night – tomorrow night and the night after. The value is in creating readers who want to read rather than creating readers who see it as a chore and hard work. Practising meaningless tasks and reading drills does little to entice the reader to engage with real books.*

Our aim is to continue to support you with how you can best support your child at home. This will mainly be done through our Bulletin but do not hesitate to seek clarity by simply asking us.

Some of the wonderings that surfaced from the evening included:

**How are children taught to read?**

**How do I read 'with' my child?**

[This link to an article](#) from the Primary English Teachers Association of Australia addresses these questions and provides some great advice to helping your child learn to read.

### **We have been learning about...**

Our 'Lemonade Stall Project' has taken us to places we could never have planned for without the children's input. Exploring persuasive writing and suitable vocabulary has been very exciting and the children have tackled this with intent and purpose. We can't wait to hear how their writing will convince us to drink their lemonade.

Exploring poster layouts, particularly the use of headings, diagrams and captions, has prompted us to think about how we will design our stall banners. The book 'Possum Magic' by Mem Fox has enabled us to be critical thinkers and discuss why the author perhaps chose to include the specific foods and animals in the story. This has played a huge part in developing our understanding of symbols, logos and emblems. Looking at flags and Australian emblems has engaged the children and many new 'wonderings' have emerged including '**Who** is the government?' 'Who decides how much things cost?'

As mathematicians, the children have been challenged with the task of identifying and articulating how to START a problem that has been posed. These experiences have led children to collaborate and developing their ability to reason. It has also highlighted the importance of being organised and has offered them the opportunity to solve real life problems with a real purpose. We continue to promote the children's ability to share their thinking behind an answer. This week we decided to give children the answer to problems related to each class' collections and they were asked to 'Prove it'. Once again this proved to challenge many of our children and revealed many opportunities to strengthen their understanding of counting efficiently, recognising the effect half has on the original amount and representing possible solutions in more than one way. 'Tell me or show me how you know' continues to be a focus in our classrooms.

### **What you can do at home:**

Read the attached article about helping your child to read and write. Think about ways in which you can make reading REAL. Perhaps look at some lemonade recipes and make some lemonade.

### **HELP US PLEASE:**

1. In order to make the lemonade, we will need electric juicers. We only have one juicer at the moment. If you have a juicer we could borrow, please leave it with one of us. We promise to take exceptional care of them.



The stall will run at school on Thursday 25 May at morning recess. We will be collecting the following until Tuesday 23 May:

1C – lemons (We have 141 lemons but we still need more)

1P- sugar

1K – soda water

1Z – ice trays and plastic cups

2. We need a parent helper from each class to walk to Lauriston Girls' School on Wednesday 24 May. We have been invited to see their school production, 'The Little Mermaid', and will be departing school at 12:40pm. The show begins at 1pm and is estimated to finish by 2:20pm. If you are able to walk up with us and walk back, please let your classroom teacher know.

3. We are in need of packaging and boxes. These are key materials for creating in our Investigation sessions.

Have a great week!

The year 1 Team