

PREP BULLETIN

Week 6 - TERM 3

Last Friday, Beth Cregan came to visit the students in a 90 minute interactive workshop session where she engaged with students through oral storytelling. The workshop focused on inspiring students to become aware of their unique 'imagination powers' as writers, creative thinkers and storytellers. Beth completed four oral storytelling experiences that highlighted various ways students could use their imagination to create and tell stories. It was remarkable to watch the students become inspired through oral storytelling and their engagement throughout the workshop. By the end of the workshop, students were inspired to use their 'imagination powers' to create their own stories. These workshops remind us how profound an oral story can be and the importance of listening to and having opportunities to tell stories. Oral stories influence our students with the ability to use and become aware of their unique imagination powers, to visualise what is being explored, their ability to concentrate without having visual aids and verbalise their ideas when it is their time to share.



Our Enduring Understanding:

We will be concluding our unit of *'Feelings and interactions influence the way we learn at school.'* But, this forms part of lifelong learning for students and these are conversations we will continue to have. Next week, we will be starting our new unit *'Seasons affect the way the world works.'* We will begin by sharing literature about the seasons and discuss and notice the changes in our environment as we move from one season to another. We will explore how these changes make us feel.

Some things we are learning about:

Creating oral number stories
Problem solving 10
Exploring /j/
Developing ideas to use for writing stories
Building our imagination
Managing feelings

What you could do at home to support this learning?:

- Discuss what it means to be persistent and difference ways your child can show persistence
- Discuss ways that your child manages their different feelings (starfish breathing, telling someone to stop, having a drink, doing something calm, talking to someone etc.)
- Discuss various ways your child can represent the number 10 using a combination of numbers by creating a number story. You may like to explore this when they set the table for dinner discussing how many places at the table you need and how many more they need to get to 10. Allow your child to explore their imagination through storytelling about the many ways to make 10

- Create oral stories together at home about the places you have visited, who you were with, or stories about objects that surround you. You could begin by allowing your child to choose the main character in the story and start the first sentence. Then you could create the second sentence and continue going back and forth until you have created a magical story together

Book Week:

This year's theme for book week is 'Escape to Everywhere' with students having the opportunity to escape everywhere learning how to use and activate their imaginations to create, tell, and write stories. During Book Week, students have experienced and engaged with authors, productions, storytelling and writing workshops. Each learning experience has provided students with valuable knowledge and the foundations to become effective storytellers and writers.

Through books, I can escape to all sorts of places...

On Monday, author Alex Miles visited the students for an interactive workshop that focused on various ways students can use their 'imagination muscle' to think, create, and begin the story writing process. Alex is an author of the Olive Black series and has worked across theatre, television and advertising, and under the alluring pen name H.I. Larry for the Zac Power series. The key to an 'imagination muscle' is to ensure students are constantly training and practicing to become better writers and storytellers. Alex engaged students in exercises to activate their 'imagination muscle'. First, students stand up and stretch as high as they can reaching to the sky, then flex all their muscles as hard as they can, and lastly create and pose an action for 'game on.' These exercises help students become empowered and confident as they activate their 'imagination muscles' and begin creating stories. Alex also discussed the importance of persistence when creating and writing stories and how it takes continuous practise and time to become great a storyteller and writers. Alex's workshop captivated students' interests, ideas and importantly, the many possibilities and directions their imaginations can take them.



On Wednesday, students watched a musical production based on the book, *Gary* by Leila Rudge, which is shortlisted for the Childrens Book Council of Australia's awards. *Gary* is a book about a pigeon unable to fly but dreams of exploring the world until one day he falls into an adventure of his very own. This production of *Gary* empowers students through musical theatre and provides a key message of encouraging students to look beyond limitations and embrace their differences.



If it is raining before school:

In the event that it is raining before school, we ask that you take shelter in the yard until an announcement is made. Following the announcement, teachers will open the doors and let the students in.

Discussing friendship issues:

When discussing friendship issues or concerns with your child at the end of the day, ensure that you have a conversation about both sides of the story. Often children will only give you their side of the story as developmentally they are only able to readily communicate how they were feeling and how they were impacted in the situation. This occurs because they may not yet understand how the other child was feeling/impacted or recognise how the situation has been resolved. If after having a conversation with your child, you are still concerned about the issue please come and speak directly to the classroom teacher and they can follow up with situation.

Upcoming Dates:**Parent Helper Forum: Monday, 28th of August - 9:15am-10am**

In this session, Connie and Angela will be exploring your role as a parent helper in our classrooms during Reading Rotations. This session will be held in the Health and Wellbeing Room (next to the MPC). Please contact your classroom teacher as soon as possible to let them know if you are attending so we are aware of numbers.

Prep N at Assembly: Monday, 29th of August

Prep N students made finger puppets in Italian lessons and spoon puppets in The Arts. A video will be played at our next assembly showing the students introducing their spoon puppets in Italian and singing the 'Giro Giro Tondo' song. Please come along to view your child on the big screen at our whole school assembly.

**Prep Feelings Screening: Tuesday, 5th of September – 2:30pm-3:15pm**

SAVE THE DATE! Stay tuned for more details in next week's bulletin.

Thank you,

Angela, Steph and Nikita