Dear Parents and Caregivers,

We have had some tremendous growth in reading achievement over this semester. However, with such a focus on reading in our school, some parents have been wondering why their child is not moving up to a certain level even though they have heard them read their home reader fluently. The answer is that each child must be able to comprehend (understand) the text when questioned about it. This is to ensure that they understand what they have read. Children are tested every term using a standardised reading kit, in which they need to be able to read the correctly levelled book and answer a series of questions based on the text. You can help your children to comprehend what they are reading better by asking them questions about what they have read. This may be a summary of a page or a book. You may also scan through the book and ask questions based on what you have skimmed through. Ask literal questions, which are questions where we can find the answer directly in the text e.g. Why did the boy fall off his bike? Also ask inferential questions, which are questions where the text does not actually tell us, but we can work out the answer by considering the hints and clues in the text in the light of our own knowledge and experience. If you would like further hints and tips on reading please see further information in this newsletter or talk to your child’s teacher.

D. Broadfoot
14th May, 2015

NAPLAN

Well another year of NAPLAN testing is now over and the students have applied themselves well. The students should be congratulated for their efforts. The hard work of the teachers must also be recognised, as they go above and beyond to prepare the students for the tests. An individual NAPLAN report for each child will be sent home later this year. Results provide additional feedback for parents, carers and teachers on how students are progressing in key curriculum areas. We then use this information for school-wide planning and to cater for the diverse range of abilities within the classrooms.

Walk Safely to School Day

Walk Safely to School Day (WSTSD) is an annual, national event when all primary school children are encouraged to walk and commute safely to school. It is a community event seeking to promote Road Safety, Health, Public Transport and the Environment. It will be held throughout Australia on Friday 22nd May 2015. Children are encouraged to walk safely to school on this day if practical and safe.

Date claimer – CORRECTION

Our Inter-house Athletics Carnival will run over the last two Tuesdays of the term. The field events will be held on 16th June for 10 to 13 year olds. The track events for all students will be held on 23rd June. This is usually the day that we get many families attending. As always, we welcome all families and friends to attend this event.

DISCO CANCELLED

Due to unforeseen circumstances, the disco has had to be cancelled. However, please see below for details of a fun time planned for the same night!

FAMILY FUN NIGHT!

The school has decided to host a ‘Family Fun Night’ with support from the P&C next Friday 22nd May. This event will be held from 6:00pm to 7:30pm. It will start with a sausage sizzle and be followed by a range of games and activities for children and parents. Games such as parent vs children basketball shooting competition, newspaper hockey, novelty relays and ‘Are you Smarter than a First Grader?’ trivia competition are some examples of the family fun planned. Remember, classes are open from 5:15pm for families to see what the students have been learning over the term. A flyer for the Family Fun Night will be sent home shortly.

STUDENT SAFETY AT SCHOOL EVENTS

All students attending the Family Fun Night must be collected by an adult at the end of the event. No child is allowed to walk home without adult supervision.

BREAKFAST PROGRAM

The Breakfast Program would love to have some more new volunteers. If you would like to lend a hand please see any of the breakfast program helpers.

LEARNING FAIR AND UNDER 8’S DAY

On Friday 22nd May we will be holding a Learning Fair. This will involve ‘open classes’ where parents can come to their children’s classes and see all the hard work that has been happening. Open class sessions will be 2:30pm – 3:00pm and 5:15pm – 6:00pm (with the Family Fun Night to follow from 6:00pm). This day will also incorporate ‘Under 8’s Day’ for Prep M, Prep/1MM, 1/2E, 1M and 2/3A. This will involve a range of fun-filled activities over the morning session. Parents are welcome to attend this event from 9:15am – 10:40am.

Electrical Show

Don’t forget, permission note and $2.00 entry cost is due by Friday the 5th of June. Don’t miss out it should be an electrifying experience. A note should have made it home by now.

LOTE

If your child is in grade 5 or 6, they have been given their speaking and listening test in advance (so they can practise for their upcoming speaking and listening test in Japanese). Perhaps you might ask them how their practise sessions are coming along.

I know some parents are interested and have asked me. Well, please find the address below of a web site bursting with digital Japanese resources. (Thanks to Ms Katani Yuki for the information.)
SCHOOL PHOTOS: AdvancedLife photography will be photographing our school on Wednesday 27th May. Please refer to the attached flyer for further information. Envelopes are being sent home today and should be returned to the photographer on photo day. Please ensure you have the correct money as the photographer will be unable to give change.

V8 Parking
It’s almost V8 time again and the P&C will be organising the parking on the back oval. This is our biggest fundraiser for the year and we are very lucky to have this opportunity at our school. A lot of work goes into planning for this event and we’ve got that covered. Where we need help is on the weekend of the V8’s to help park cars, give out tickets, take payments and guide cars out at the end of each day. All up the event runs for approximately 50 hours over 3 days and during peak times we need at least 6 volunteers to keep things running smoothly. So every hour you can spare will go a long way to helping us out. A note will be going home shortly with a roster and we’ll be asking you to plan now so you can give us some of your valuable time later.

Does your child understand what he/she is reading?
If not this could be an area that you could help your child’s reading progress through comprehension. Discuss with your child these questions to get them thinking about what is happening in the text.

Before, During, and After Reading Strategies

What do good readers do before reading?
- Determine the purpose for reading
  - literary experience (to just enjoy)
  - perform a task (to make something)
  - to be informed (true facts)
- Select a text to meet this purpose
  - Why did I choose this book?
- Look at the cover of the book
  - title
  - illustrations
- Preview the text
  - Look through the book (picture walk)
- Think about what you already know about the subject
- Make a prediction based on your background knowledge (what you already know about the subject of the book)

What do good readers do during reading?
- Make connections by using background knowledge
  - Text-to-Self
  - Text-to-Text
  - Text-to-World
- Ask yourself if what you are reading is making sense
- Stop and use strategies to help you understand what you have read
  - Rereading the text
  - Making connections
  - Asking questions
  - Inferring (If...Then...)