Wonthaggi Primary News News

From the Principal...

Over the past week, I have had a number of conversations with parents about the importance of reading and talking (oral language) with our children. Our Prep teachers ran very successful sessions on how to support your child to read. They are producing a support video and this will soon appear on our website to support our families as a refresher. In the primary school years, children first learn to read through rhymes, storytelling and following along with their favourite books. Learning to write begins with drawing. It is the talk that goes with the drawings that helps children make sense of their world. The following ideas will help your child develop these skills.

1. Share rhymes and songs and encourage your child to join in.

2. Save safe cardboard and household items for your child to build with.

3. Have a dress-up box for your child to use for imaginative play.

4. Listen to your child and respond to their ideas with questions and ask for more information.

5. Write down your child’s stories as they tell you and encourage him or her to read it back to you.

6. Point out and talk about letters and words all around you. For example, on cereal boxes, car number plates, signs.

7. Cook things together. Read out the recipe, talk through what you are doing as you are doing it.

8. Join our library and choose items together.

9. Look at junk mail and talk about the things for sale.

10. Provide materials and create a writing/drawing table or area.

11. Talk about family photos and histories.

The following information shows the importance of the amount of reading practice your child has at home:

- Children who read:
  • less than 1 min/day read 8,000 words per year
  • 4.6 mins/day read 282,000 words per year
  • 20 mins/day read 1,800,000 (1.8 million) words per year.

The last group of children students read the same number of words in 2 days that a student in the first group read in 1 year. Which group of children would you expect to be “better” at reading?

At our school, we are indeed very fortunate to have staff that have a great skills in teaching children how to read. However, we cannot compensate for lack of practice, and I encourage all families to try to find at least 10 minutes per day to listen to your child read. The importance of reading aloud is vital for all Primary School children.

Grade 5 Camp

Our Grade 5 children have had a very successful camping experience. The children are all learning important attitudes and skills that are outlined in our state curriculum (AUSVELS). These attitudes that have been best highlighted has been children having a go, getting along with others, being organised and helping others. I would like to acknowledge our staff Chris Terlich, Ros Whiteman and Will Rankin also to our parent volunteers David Andrighetto and Keryn Green that have attended the camp to ensure our children have an opportunity to gain these important skills. Campers are expected back tomorrow Friday 13th at approximately 2:30pm with pick up at the Gym.

Principal
Leonie Anstey

REVAMPED GARDEN BED

Recently our maintenance handyman Steve painted the sleepers on the corner garden bed opposite the Library. We have had some wonderful helpers from the Senior School help to weed, clear and replant the garden bed and it’s looking lovely. Thank you to all involved.

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Students negotiated part of their learning in music this week. Some grades arranged instrumental parts for the song "My Island Home" after viewing You Tube. Other grades created percussion rhythms to use with the same song, creating an Island feel. The call and response "Telephone Song" has been popular again this week. It's a catchy song, useful for long trips in the car!

Ruth Chambers
Music Teacher

IN SPORT

House swimming

With some Grade 3/4 students attending a camp in the last week of term, we will be looking at holding the House Swimming Sports next week. Ideally this will be later next week. A decision on the exact day will be made once weather forecasts have been made available.

Will Rankin

PARENTS AND FRIENDS

Easter Raffle

RAFFLE

If it is that time of year again when we will be holding our annual Easter raffle. We are asking for donations of Easter eggs. Every child who donates an Easter egg will get 1 free entry into their class raffle. We will also be selling tickets to go into the draw for the major prises. Tickets were sent home with a note regarding the Raffle earlier in the week and there are more available from the Office. Tickets are 50cents each or 3 for $1 and need to be returned to school no later than Tuesday 24th March. There will also be a prize awarded to the child who sells the most tickets. The Raffles will be drawn at the last Assembly of Term 1 on Wednesday 25th March.

Fundraising Committee

We are currently in need of volunteers to be on the Parents and Friends Committee. If you can help please contact the Office as soon as possible. Our Annual General Meeting will be held on Friday 20th March at 9:15am in the staff room. Everyone is welcome and we hope to see you there.

Parents and Friends

RAFFLE

EASTER

00A Ebony P. Working co-operatively with her class mates.
00B Jackson G. Always playing sensibly and with respect for others.
12B Millie S. Trying hard with her writing and finishing her work quietly.
12C Leroy I. Creating an interesting set of questions about elements and compounds.
12D Isaiah S. Working hard on his reading.
34A Seth R. Making it to the Pool Room.
34B Marshall M. Helping Miss Vagg learn the song for Assembly.
34D Jack H. For being a great bucket filler.
56B Nathanyal B. For willingly accepting extra responsibilities and being an excellent role model.
56D Luke C. For being punctual.

STUDENT OF THE WEEK

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MUSIC NEWS

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Ruth Chambers
Music Teacher

PARKING

It has come to our attention that some parents have been using the staff car park on Drysdale Street for dropping off and picking up their children. It is a safety risk to do so and we ask Parents to please park in the designated spaces provided in the streets surrounding the school. The staff car park is for staff cars only, particularly as staff arrive long before and after children have arrived/left the school.

Double parking to drop off and pick children up is also another issue. This is dangerous and illegal. Police are regularly out checking the area especially around school zones and anyone caught doing the wrong thing will be booked by Police.

The works that have been carried out recently at the front of the school, paving the footpath and the crossing, have helped to make this area a much safer route for those attending Wonthaggi Primary School. With your help in the above matters we can keep our school zone a clear and safe area for all.

FACEBOOK

Most of the school community would be aware by now that we host a facebook group for the school. This has been very popular and is used widely by all the staff at the school to inform everyone of what is happening at the school and even on camps and excursions. Reminders, Awards, and all kinds of information is share via our facebook group to the community and it is also another place that the newsletter can be read and downloaded. Feedback from families has been very positive and many people find it a useful and helpful tool to keep up to date with school events and happenings.

We have heard that many people do not have a facebook account and therefore feel they may miss out on a lot of information that is share via this medium so we have come up with an alternative for those who do not have a facebook account. You can still see our facebook news feed if you head over to our school website at http://www.wonthaggips.vic.edu.au and click on the news link.

GRADE 3/4 SRC REPS.

Zac B, Ania T, Angus C, and Eve L

LIBRARY ASSISTANT/MONITOR

Rikki T.

EASTER Raffle

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