

Partners in Learning Newsletter

Moving forward With the Passion to Succeed

Assistant Principal

Dear Parent/Carers,

It is hard to believe that the end of the school year has arrived! Eleven months have passed very quickly! The year's end always brings with it a tremendous sense of accomplishment. So many things have been accomplished this year! From the Art Show and the Colour Run to the Grade 6 Graduation, which takes place on Monday, – our students have been involved in an extraordinary number of activities. Of course, we should not forget the tremendous amount of learning which has taken place during the year. Throughout all of these activities our students have demonstrated great character!

Year 6 sums up all that Melton West Primary School is about. The children have worked incredibly hard over the last year but also had a fantastic time. We hope they look back at their time at MWPS with fondness and perhaps return and regale us with their achievements. We are proud of them all and wish them good luck in the future.

For the children, the end of the school year brings the expected joy at finishing another year, and perhaps some sadness at leaving behind a year filled with great experiences, teachers, and friends. The daily life and structure of school your child has grown used to is about to end. They may be simply overjoyed to enter the free and easy days of summer, but they may also be experiencing some nervousness about leaving the familiar world of school. Will they see their friends over the holidays? Will they ever see their teacher again? They may even already be worried about who their teacher will be next year. Consider that this may be a bittersweet time for your child, and help them celebrate as you ease any anxiety associated with the end of the school year.

We would like to congratulate each and every child for their hard work and many achievements throughout this year. We wish our special Year 6 children luck and happiness as they enter a new phase of their schooling. For all our other year groups, enjoy the Summer holidays and we look forward to seeing the children refreshed and ready for many more achievements and successes next year.

Jennifer O'Connor

Assistant Principal Prep-2 Learning Community

IMPORTANT DATES

Grade 2 Sleepover -

Friday 15th December 2017

Grade 6 Graduation–

Monday night 18th December

Grade 5 360 Bounce Excursion–

Wednesday 20th December

Grade 6 Adventure Park Excursion–

Wednesday 20th December

Last Day of School– Friday 22nd Dec

Assembly @ 1:10pm

Dismissal @ 1:30pm



Jessica Hodge



Alith Panthum

A Word from Our School Vice Captains

Dear Parents/ Guardians,

On Tuesday 12th December students had orientation day and Grade 6 students went to their high school transition for the day.

Next Friday will be our last day of school– Assembly will be held @ 1:10pm and Dismissal will be @ 1:30pm.

We hope you all have a Merry Christmas and have a safe and wonderful holidays.

Alith & Jessica :)

Getting it right in English!

Fun family literacy projects

With the summer holiday period fast approaching, there will be lots of opportunity to spend together time together as a family. Why not continue to build students literacy skills by engaging in some fun literacy activities together, involving the whole family in reading, writing and speaking & listening?

Below are some ideas for some literacy oriented family projects:

- Email friends or family members.
- Use social networking sites to communicate with family and friends.
- Read a book series together.
- Read the instructions for a new item together to find out how it works.
- Record family events or travel experiences in a journal or on an online blog.
- Write plays and perform them for family and friends.
- Create hand puppets or finger puppets out of paper and icy pole sticks and put on short Performances.
- Read, select and collect news articles and create an album about, for example, a sporting team, pet type, or leisure activity.
- Solve crosswords, word puzzles, brain teasers, play word games and quizzes together
- Browse libraries and book shops together.
- Make a movie together using a video camera or iPad.
- Follow a map or brochure on an outing, including reading public transport timetables and information signs at public sights.
- Read a recipe together and have a family member record as a cooking show.
- Create a board game, including cards and rules, that can be played together as a family.
- Follow instructions on a website to create some fun paper and craft art projects.
- Create picture books of funny family memories that can be read over and over.

Ideas taken from '201 Literacy and maths tips to help your child', Department of Education and Early Childhood Development

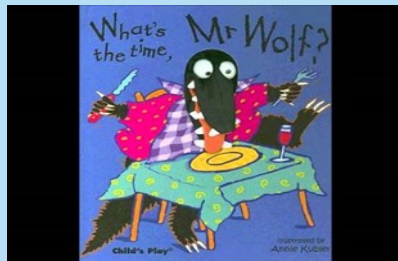
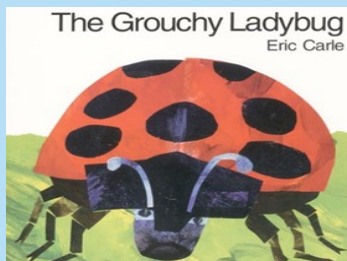
Sarah Marshall- Leading Teacher Literacy



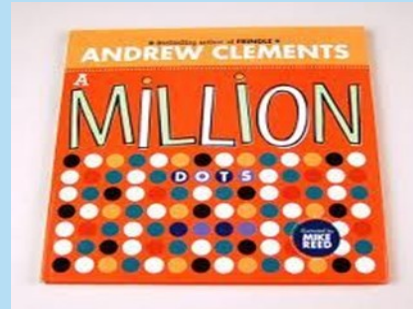
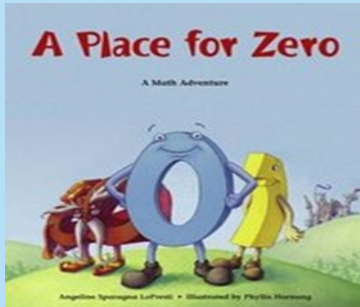
Marvellous Maths

Reading to your child is both a wonderful way to spend time together and also an effective way to engage your child in conversation. Students of all ages love stories and love to talk about stories. "Literature provides students with opportunities to make connections with their own lives, provides a context to think and practise mathematics, and enriches students' view of the world of mathematics." A Guide to Effective Instruction in Mathematics, Kindergarten to Grade 6. Here are some texts below with mathematical concepts that you could share with your child.

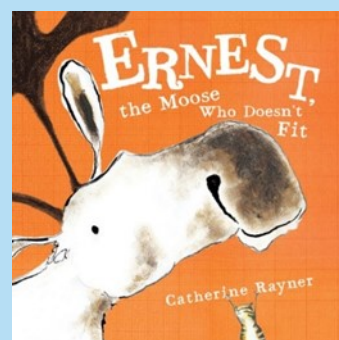
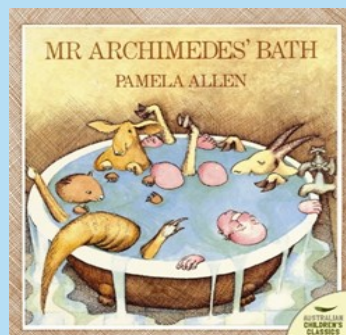
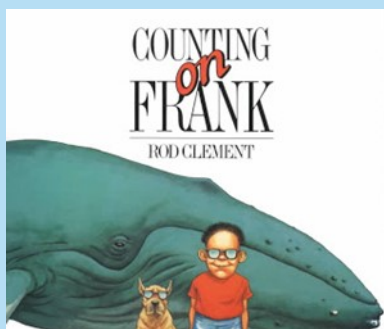
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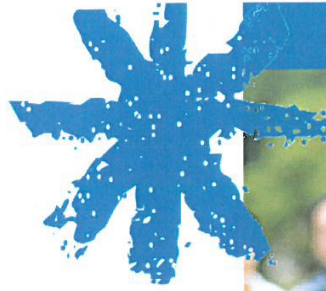
Place Value:



Measurement:



Leonie Hooke



Preparing your child for high school

by Sharon Witt

Entering high school can be just as daunting for parents as it is for a child. It is a huge time of change, and coupled with the fact that starting secondary school often coincides with the onset of puberty, it can be quite a roller-coaster ride!

Spend as much time as you can reassuring your child that they do not have to face this change alone and that it will be, for the most part, a positive experience. Avoid sharing any horror stories you may have experienced as a teenager in high school – these will not help your child. Rather, recall any positive experiences you had, especially if you made life-long friends at high school.

Organisation is crucial to helping your child cope well with entering high school. Those students that are well organised have a much better chance of settling in those first few weeks of secondary school.

Here are 6 tips for preparing your child for high school:

1. Ensure your child has everything they need for high school well before school starts for the year

Having items missing at the beginning of the year will frustrate not only your child but the teachers. Ensure they have enough books to write in for each subject and always have spares on hand at home.

2. Practise using public transport if your child is using it for the first time

For many students, changing schools means they may now have to travel on buses or trains for the first time. Help them to familiarise themselves with the bus/train timetable and offer a contingency if they miss their transport. If possible, practise the trip during the holidays.

3. Set up a designated study space in the home

This tip is so important as so many children don't have a specific area set up to allow them to quietly complete their homework. The bedroom is not recommended as this is purely a space for sleeping and relaxing. Use any area that is reasonably quiet and well lit. Set up a desk with a computer, if possible, along with stationery items.



4. Set up a high school parent folder

This will be a place to file all correspondence so that you can know exactly what is happening for your child at high school, including important dates. If you know what is going on at school, you will be able to help your child feel in control and stay organised. I cannot recommend this highly enough. As a parent you really need to stay on top of school information, at least until your child has established their own routine and systems for staying organised at school.

5. Encourage healthy sleeping patterns at least one week before starting high school

If your child has got into a holiday habit of staying up late and waking up at lunch time, they will get a rude shock come first day of school when their sleeping patterns are all out of whack! Get your child into 'school routine' for sleeping during the final week of the holidays.

6. Keep your child's high school in the loop

Inform your child's new school if they have special needs or learning difficulties. Teachers will benefit from being made aware of any particular needs or special circumstances that will help them in working with your child. If there are any specific family issues that might affect your child's ability to settle into high school, communicate these to your child's class or home-room teacher as soon as you know who they are. Never underestimate the importance of keeping the lines of communication open with your child's school.



Sharon Witt

Sharon Witt has been immersed in teen world for over two decades in her role as a Secondary teacher, Author and Presenter. Sharon is one of Australia's leading book authors for young people. She has written 12 books for young people to help guide them through many of the issues they face in early years and help them develop key strategies in building resilience. www.sharonwitt.com.au