Numeracy in theJunior School

This term the Junior School have been busy learning about Australian Currency. The students were able to compare our money with the money from different countries. We learned about the Australian animals that are on coins and other physical features such as their size, shape and colour. Some students noticed that all the silver coins were worth ‘cents’ and that the gold coins were worth ‘dollars’. This helped some students to remember the ordering of the coins and notes.

Students were busy counting collections of money. They were practising their skip counting skills and sometimes had to jump denominations. Students who were counting collections with a range of coins, often used a 100s chart to help them.

It is important that students continue to practise using real life money. You might ask them to count their money box or make their own lunch order, ensuring they have the correct money. When you go to the shops, you can ask your child to work out what change you might get back.

It was great fun learning about money!

Literacy in the Junior School

CAFE

Over the past few weeks, the Junior School classes have been focusing on these Comprehension skills:

- making a picture or mental image as you read.
- working out and analysing author’s purpose (why the author wrote the text)
- recognising literacy elements (genre, plot, character, setting, problem/resolution, theme)
- summarising a text (including the sequence of main events).

You can help your child to practise these skills at home by asking them questions as they read to you. For example:

- What do you imagine the main character to look like? (especially good for those children reading texts with less illustrations.)
- Why do you think the author wrote this book?
- What element of the story did you find the most interesting? Why?
- Can you tell me what happened at the start/middle/end of the story?

WRITING

Our focus during Writer’s Workshop and Big Write sessions have been on Expositions. These should be written with an introduction that states the author’s point of view, followed by at least 3 supporting reasons and a conclusion. The students have had the opportunity to write a number of these and are now working on editing and publishing their good copy of their chosen piece.
**Play is The Way**

This month, students are focusing on the key concept:

*‘Pursue your personal best no matter who you work with.’*

Students have been involved in discussions on how to ‘pursue your personal best no matter who you work with’. These discussions help students understand that ‘You don’t come to school to be better than others. We come to school to better ourselves by being able to work with others’. ‘Play is the Way’ sessions often involve lots of talking, movement and laughter. Each new game requires students to face new challenges as an individual and as part of a team. Students are encouraged to reflect on what they have discovered during the session, from personal feelings, team discussions and game strategies for next time. Every student has a voice and a part in our sessions.

**Science - Watch It Grow**

It was with some reservation that Level 1 and 2 teachers recently opened their small calico bags and tipped a pile of mealworms into classroom containers. There were so many of them in each bag!

Students have also enjoyed watching the mealworms with varying levels of interest and enthusiasm. Students are describing the changes that they see each day. Over the next few weeks we all hope to see the various life stages of these animals. Some classes have found shredded skins and others have noticed some small pupa in amongst the oats. We will all be very excited to see our first beetles.

**Junior School Excursion**

Last Thursday the Level 1s and 2s took a bus all the way to the city for a huge adventure. As our focus for Integrated Studies is ‘places and our connection to them’, we explored the main sites of the city and discussed ways in which each of us are connected to these. Some of the sites we visited were the Melbourne Cricket Ground, Captain Cooks Cottage, Federation Square, Flinders St Station, The National Gallery of Victoria and finished off at The Shrine of Remembrance. The students had a wonderful time exploring our great city and are to be commended for their behaviour.

A big THANK YOU to all the parents for their help— we couldn’t have done it without each and every one of you!

Jenny Stokes, Emily Foley, Emily Harkins, Michaela Jeanes and Angelique Lowe