November 2015

Dates to remember:

- Fri 6th Nov—Walk-a-thon and Fun Food Day
- Wed 11th Nov—Yoga/Dance Incursion
- Thur 12th Nov—Transition Session 1
- Fri 13th Nov—Junior School excursion to Chelsea Library
- Sun 15th Nov—Working Bee
- Thur 19th Nov—Parent Support Group Meeting 9am with guest speaker
- Thur 19th Nov—Transition Session 2
- Thur 26th Nov—Transition Session 3
- Sat 28th Nov—Christmas Market Day and Car Boot Sale at CHPS
- Thur 3rd Dec—Transition Session 4
- Tues 8th Dec—Statewide Transition Session
- Fri 11th Dec—End of Year Celebration and Christmas Carols
- Thur 17th Dec—Reports to go home
- Fri 18th Dec—Last Day of the year 1:30pm finish

Literacy

Listen to Reading

One fifth of the Daily 5 Program is ‘Listening to Reading’. Listen to Reading provides students with pronunciation and expression models that can only come from hearing fluent and expressive examples of reading. During these sessions, the students log on to various online reading sites such as Starfall and Storyline Online. Students who are members of the Kingston Library network are also able to access subscription sites, such as Sunshine Online... So make sure you get your membership forms into your classroom teacher soon.

Focus CAFÉ reading strategies:

Make a Picture or Mental Image: Have you ever tried to remember where you put something? Usually the first thing people do is retrace their steps or visualise the last time they had the object. Making a picture in our mind helps us to recall events more clearly. The same is true when reading a story. When readers listen to or read text, they can create pictures in their mind or make a mind movie. This helps a reader to remember more of what they read or heard.

How can you help your child with this strategy at home?

1. Remind your child that when making a picture or mental image, readers put themselves in the story or text by making a mind movie.
2. Explain that you can create a mental image by using sensory details to create mental pictures (what did it smell like, feel like, look like, etc.), or by looking back at the picture in your brain after the story to remember what has happened.
3. Read to your child and model how you make pictures in your mind. Then, give your child a chance to try it.

Tuning in to interesting words: When children learn to tune in to interesting words, they build word awareness and the understanding of words. By looking for words that are interesting and unique, children not only increase their vocabulary, but they also enhance their comprehension.

How can you help your child with this strategy at home?

1. Create a word collector at home to hang on the refrigerator
2. When your child is reading or you are reading to your child, ask your child to find three interesting words. Have your child write these words down and talk about the meaning of these words. Add these words to your family word collector.
3. Encourage your child to find interesting words when watching TV or in daily conversation.
4. As always, modelling is a wonderful way to spark interest in children. When you are reading a magazine, newspaper, or book, tune into an interesting word and discuss it with your child. Explain that even adult readers tune into interesting words to better understand text.
Work on Writing
During our Work on Writing sessions, students practise building their writing stamina and developing their own ‘writer’s voice’. They can choose a sentence starter or a picture writing prompt as the basis for their written piece, or write a narrative based on one of their own generated ideas. Here are some examples of students using the writing prompts:

Numeracy
The Junior School has been working on Time and Shape.

Time
We have been using songs and games to practise naming and ordering the days of the week and the months of the year, as well as comparing the duration of time (for example weeks vs years). Through the use of ICT and hands on materials, the students have been working on explaining the function of the hands and representing times on an analogue clock. You can support the learning at home by practising telling the time with your child or by using a stop watch function to time the duration of an event (i.e. timing how long they can sustain their reading stamina).

Shape
Students have enjoyed the hands on nature of our unit on shape, and finding 3D shapes in our school environment. In this unit, students named and described the features of 2D figures and 3D objects.

Excursion
Just a friendly reminder that we will be walking to the Chelsea Library on Friday 13th of November, so please try and have your Kingston Library Cards ready for that day. It would be lovely to have some parents come along, so please see your classroom teacher if you are able to join us.

Yoga
Throughout this year the Junior School have placed a large focus on mindfulness and helping students to develop strategies to self calm and relax. The students (and teachers) have thoroughly enjoyed taking part in this terms Yoga sessions with Aimee. During these weekly sessions, the students have practised a number of different yoga poses through song, dance and storytelling.