

1/2 Durrong Community Newsletter

Term 2, 2017

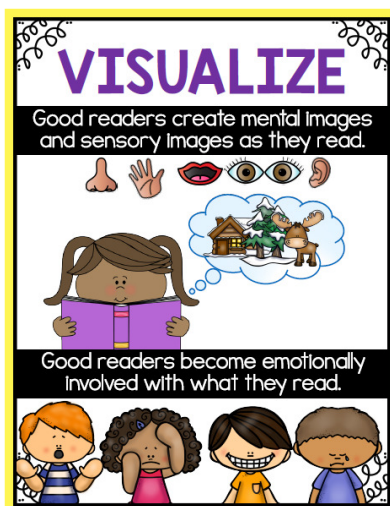


Welcome back to Term 2! We are pleased and proud to say the students have returned from their break happy and ready to learn. Students are continuing to display our school behaviours of *Being Respectful*, *Being Safe* and *Being Your Best*. Our community students are continuing to be rewarded for their display of behaviours with 'Hero Stamps' inside the community and 'Hero Cards' when showing these behaviours outside.

This term we are focusing on:

Reading:

Students have been working in their groups on their shared and personal reading goals. Student groups may change throughout the term depending on assessment results and the learning needs of your child.



Your child may be working on one or more of the following skills in their Reading group:

- Using Fix-It Strategies, such as stretching the sounds in words or 'chunking' familiar parts in words.
- Rereading a sentence when they have made an error or their reading does not make sense
- Asking questions about a text before, during and after reading
- Continuing to build reading stamina during Independent Reading
 - Reading with fluency and expression
- Making predictions and inferences using clues from the text
- Finding evidence in the text to assist with answering questions



Writing:

Our writing genre this term is Narrative and students will be writing short stories as well as a major project which is the planning, composing, publishing and illustrating of their own Mr Men or Little Miss book. Each writing group will be working on different stages of the writing process (planning, composing, editing, publishing) throughout the term. There will be an opportunity for the community to be the first ones to hear these exciting stories at a special Book Launch at the end of this term. Stay tuned for more information later in the term!

Within their Writing groups, students may be focusing on the following skills:

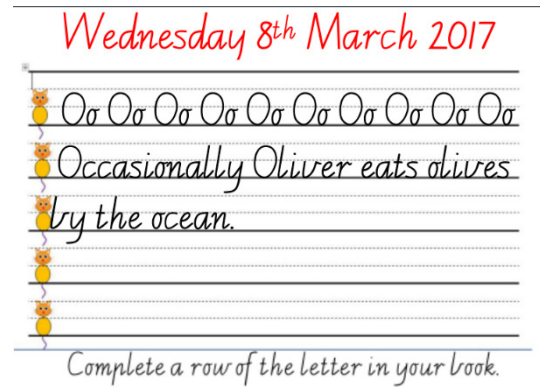
- Writing letters correctly and ensuring their writing is on the lines
- Ensure there is adequate spacing between words
- Grammar and punctuation
- Using capital letters correctly
- Vocabulary and sentence structure
- Sound knowledge and spelling
- Use of interesting words, such as adjectives and adverbs



Handwriting

Students in the Durrong Community will continue to start their day with a handwriting fluency task. Each week, the focus is on forming letters correctly, correct size and orientation of letters and ensuring correct starting position and pencil control.

Students will also be involved in weekly Fine Motor Skill activities to strength their finger and wrist muscles which will support pencil and scissor grip and movement.



Numeracy

Students have been given individual counting goals which they have been working on during number fluency. Students are regularly assessed to see whether they have achieved these goal and can move to the next goal. The counting skills involve counting forwards and backwards by 1 to 100 and beyond and skip counting forwards and backwards by 2, 3, 5 and 10 from 0 as well as various starting points other than 0. Students will be regularly assessed according to their knowledge in the related topics taught.

Within their Mathematics groups, students may be focusing on the following skills:

- **Counting** – Students are working on their various counting goals which are displayed in the Pod in the Durrong Learning Community
- **Place Value** – Students are working on various Place Value strategies such as making, recording and ordering 2 and 3 digit number as well as being able to place numbers on a number line and problem solving.
- **Shape** – Recognising and clarifying 3D objects.
- **Addition and Subtraction** – Count on, count back, tens facts and fact families.
- **Data** – Represent, describe displays, collect, check and clarify data.
- **Money** – Recognise and describe Australian coins and notes and order small collections of coins.

Challenge-based Learning (CBL)

This term, students will be investigating healthy food and why they are important for our bodies. Students will be immersed with healthy messages and experiences and will use this information to promote healthier food choices at Harvest Home Primary School.



Grade 1/2 Homework Expectations:

It is recommended that students in Grades 1 and 2 participate in a minimum of **20 minutes** of homework per day. Students are to read either their take home book or a book on Wushka/Reading Eggs on a daily basis. Please record the book read each night in their yellow home reader book.

READING: Please read Our 'Reading at Home' document sent with this Newsletter for some tips on reading at home with your child and an explanation of some of the Fix-it Strategies your child is being taught at school. A reminder that the purpose of home reading is to build fluency, comprehension and word-solving skills at an independent level, therefore the book they are bringing home is a level range below what they are working with at school. Students' levels have been determined by the accuracy of their decoding (reading the words) as well as their ability to answer a variety of questions about the text (comprehension), which is equally as important as the ability to read the words.

ONLINE PROGRAMS: Many students have commented on the exciting progress they are making in the online programs our students are fortunate enough to have access to. If there are any issues with logging in, please see Renee in the Resource Centre. A reminder that students have access to the following online programs aimed at supporting their learning in Literacy and Numeracy:

Reading Eggs- www.readingeggs.com.au

Wushka: www.wushka.com.au

Mathletics- www.mathletics.com.au

Students can also access the program **Spellodrome** www.spellodrome.com.au using their Mathletics password.

PERSONALISED HOME LEARNING TASKS: Students have received their OWL Reading and Spelling Word Lists to work on at home. In addition to this some students have received other personalised home learning tasks related to counting. These tasks will only be sent home on a needs basis and not applicable to all students in the community. Students may need support or extension at various times throughout the year and home learning tasks will be sent home when this need arises. Ongoing assessment will determine whether your child requires any home learning tasks from community teachers.

ABSENCES: Just a reminder that if for some reason your child is absent from school, you can explain the absence on Compass or make contact with the school on 8468 9000.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to email one of your child's community teachers via Compass, or call the office to arrange a time to pop in for a chat.

*Kind Regards,
Bianca, Christina, Di and Kellie
Grade 1/2 Community Teachers*