

Year 3/4 Newsletter: Term 2 No 2

Challenge students to be risk takers who become independent, collaborative learners

Reading

Students have been learning how to summarise and synthesise what they have read using a range of fiction and non-fiction texts. They have been specifically focusing on non-fiction texts about their chosen ecosystem to gather information to use in writing for their Information Reports. Students have identified their prior knowledge of a topic, identified the main ideas for each subtopic of a non-fiction text and can explain what they have learned from reading their chosen text. They have been focusing on three statements: before reading I was thinking..., during reading I am now thinking... and now I have finished reading I have learnt....



Carina reading a non-fiction text



Jolene's Information Report

Writing

Students have been learning about ecosystems in Literacy. Each student has chosen to study either rainforests, oceans, deserts, grasslands or the Arctic. They have then planned, drafted and published information reports using subtopics of their choice. Learning in these writing lessons has been focused on writing paragraphs with well-formed sentences. This includes using punctuation correctly as well as using adjectives and verbs to make their writing more interesting. It has been great to see so many fascinating information reports and students are looking forward to sharing their writing with their families.

Maths

Year 3/4 Mathematicians have had a BIG term of learning. Students have enjoyed building their understanding of multiplication and division using a range picture books and engaged in connected hands on learning activities such as cooking, sharing objects and acting out situations. They have also developed their skills in reading and understanding worded problems, identifying the key language, matching the correct operation and using an efficient strategy to solve it. Students have also enjoyed exploring data by surveying their peers and constructing a variety of graphs. They investigated geometry and symmetry with patterning and pictures and learnt about money and Australian currency.



Sophia, Amber, Chelsea and Kloe playing a game about money



Christy leading the Year 3 girls.

Social and Emotional Learning

An exciting activity which has been introduced is Gender Group Meetings. The Student Voice leaders have been leading these sessions. They follow an agenda with some prepared points to discuss. There is also time to read a problem which students have put into special bags. Solutions and suggestions about how to solve the problem are then discussed. These sessions have been very valuable and enjoyed by all.

Science: Chemical Sciences

Year 3

In the Science unit, 'Melting Moments', the students explored concepts such as melting and freezing to understand how solids and liquids are influenced by temperature. They investigated the processes of heating and cooling by melting and cooling chocolate to make some scrumptious Rocky Road slices. Students engaged in their learning by making predictions and then compared them to the results of their observations. Many students commented on how their predictions were correct, with the solid block of chocolate going from a hard solid to a runny liquid when heated and back to a solid again after cooling in the fridge overnight.

Year 4

The students have had a fantastic time learning how to be chemical scientists. Students learned all about how scientists create fair tests by controlling and measuring different variables. They worked in collaborative teams to answer questions such as 'Which materials decompose most quickly?' and 'Which materials absorb the most water?' Students came up with their own hypotheses to test and then explored the different properties of materials in a series of practical experiments on decomposition, absorption and tensile strength.



Melting chocolate



The absorption experiment



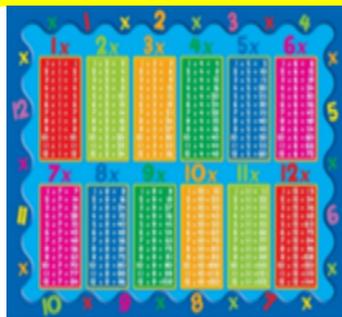
Inquiry

Students explored Civics and Citizenship, studied through the lens of the rules and laws in the local council. The students investigated what rules and laws are, distinguished the difference between them and wrote a list of rules and laws in their community. They drew different rules such as 'no running in the learning space' and different laws such as 'stopping at a red light'. The students participated in role playing, acting out a certain rule or law and participated in a community walk. The students walked around Springvale South, each group in a different direction, taking pictures of rules and laws they found on their way. They had a very enjoyable time learning in this unit!

Cooking

Students have been cooking at least once a fortnight, some even weekly. Sessions have been linked to Literacy or Maths. One group linked their cooking to synthesizing. eg What are you thinking we are going to make with these ingredients? What are you now thinking? Students have enjoyed these experiences, especially the taste test at the end!

(Picture: Lawrence, Angelina and Elina spooning the mixture into the pan)



Homework

Students are expected to continue to read each day while on holidays. Maybe go to the Library and borrow some books.

When you go out on an activity or even to the playground, talk with your child about what they are doing.

Please help your child to practise and learn their multiplication facts. Year 3 students are expected to know and recall their 1, 2, 3, 5 and 10 facts by the end of the year, progressing to knowing all facts to 10 x 10 by the end of Year 4.