Pre-school Literacy

As I am sure most of our parents realise, we are an L3 school – [Literacy, Language and Learning]. This is a programme that puts a strong emphasis on the way Literacy is taught in Kindergarten. As part of that the structure and programming of Literacy can be different to what it would look like in other rooms.

For most of this year Miss Jacqui and Binny have been running a highly structured Literacy room for the Transition class also on Mondays and Tuesdays. The children have been moving around work stations which rely heavily on developing the talking, recognising names and letters and early writing that is so important in the pre-school years.

As children go through school, whenever there is a concern for learning happening at higher grades, the influence of this early literacy always has an impact. If there was any “secret” magic helper that gives kids a great start to school, it is around talking to pre-schoolers. This starts at an early age, as you all know.

Keep talking to kids, give them the help and the words they need for what’s happening at the time and get them used to questions. These questions can be ones parents ask or the ones you help them ask. The more words children have in their vocabulary the more they can understand, the more they can ask about and the more they can express themselves.

I particularly like this saying – which backs this up –

“If I think I can say it
If I say it I can write it
If I write it I can read it”

Technology Upgrade

This week all classrooms are getting a technology upgrade. It was many years ago now that the original interactive whiteboards were installed in our school and, true to form for electronic equipment, they are starting to come to the end of their reliable life. This Friday we are installing interactive televisions into most classrooms – this means the children can use interactive screens through computers with lessons and demonstrations, without the need for projectors.

Here is an example of a PBL (Positive Behaviour for Learning) poster to help get the correct message out the to the children.

Through research it has been found that positive messages make a huge difference and need to be reinforced a number of times before they change a person's way of thinking!
Chat time……

Please feel free to contact the office to arrange a suitable time to chat about any concerns or questions you may have, or if more convenient please email me at: jane.cottee@det.nsw.edu.au

This technology is called a Commbox, and will have many, many applications for the classroom. Not only is this sort of technology an amazing way to deliver lessons it also helps the children learn to use equipment and publish their own works. While it may be so very different to the classrooms of the 1950’s or even 1990’s, it is a method of teaching that our 21st century learners need to be familiar with.

That of course is not to say the basics of pencil/paper bookwork, reading from books and actually making and creating is gone!…here at Coraki PS that is always with us and will never leave.

Tree Loppers
You may notice on either Thursday or Friday we will have tree loppers in the school. The paperbark closest to the Canteen building is being removed as the roots are interfering with the underground water and gas lines.

Rewards Day
Our twice-termly rewards afternoon is happening again this Friday after recess. These afternoons are for those children who have never been in our Consequence Room or have had themselves noticed for doing the wrong thing. This time it will be an afternoon of Tabloid games. Those children who are not part of this, stay inside to do work-style activities.

Bangara Dance
This amazing Aboriginal Dance troupe is based in Sydney and specializes in contemporary dance. We have been fortunate enough to have access to 10 really cheap tickets to their show in Lismore on November 18th. We have decided to offer these tickets to all our girls in Year 2 and to the first 4 girls to return their notes in year 3. The reason for a “Girl group” is because of opportunities that have been available for our boys in those years. In Term 2 and 3 Luke was taking some time with our boys and it was the girls who were missing out. We are also trying to help this group bond a little closer to help with change through into next year. We are not assuming dance is only for girls – not at all [anything but..]!!

We will be able to get this group into Lismore by private transport. Mrs Battese and Ms Cottee will be accompanying the group. A permission note is going home with the girls today, to be returned by FRIDAY 13th. The cost is $5 [so cheap!!]

A big Thank you
Thanks to all those parents who contributed to our Spooky Food day last Friday….. we have some amazingly creative parents. Thanks particularly to our parents who helped on the day and we hope the sugar intake for the day was manageable by the end of day.

Have a great week ahead and stay safe in this storm season

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Avocados are one of the few fruits to contain fat. They are a source of ‘good fats’, the type that helps to keep you healthy. Mash it up into a dip that you can dip other veggie sticks into.

Did you know the smaller the pod of the snow pea the sweeter it will taste? Snow peas can be washed and eaten raw so pop them in your child’s bag for Crunch & Sip.