Dear families,

As Education Week 2016 draws to a close, we reflect on our learning over the past week.

The children were introduced to a new blend this week – ‘wh’. We discovered that lots of ‘question words’ start with the ‘wh’ blend, including what, why, when, where and which. Learning to identify and say blends supports children’s reading and writing development.

The children were introduced to imaginative writing through fairytales as part of this week’s lessons. They did fantastic work, learning how to write a sentence which included ‘who’ (the main character), ‘what doing’ (what the character was doing) and ‘where’ (where the character was doing it). We will be exploring this genre of writing further next week.

In Numeracy, we continued our work on understanding numbers in terms of their parts. This understanding supports children to work flexibly with numbers and underpins the development of future maths concepts, including addition and subtraction. We also had lots of fun using informal measurement to measure, compare and order our heights using lengths of string. Finally, we began to investigate 3D shapes in our environment, attempting to identify which 2D shapes were similar. We discovered that a circle was similar to a sphere (ball) and that a cube (dice) was six squares joined together.

Have a great week!

Kind regards,

Foundation Teachers

Bree Rowe, Kira Green, Fiona Jacobs and Tania Hente

Did you know…?

Did you know that it is important for us to show children that everything they learn at school has a purpose beyond the classroom walls? Conversations and involvement in experiences at home can promote reading, writing and maths through everyday activities.

This can be as simple as involving your child as you read a recipe, make a shopping list of ingredients, read a shopping catalogue and visit the shops and use money to purchase goods. Most children love being involved!

Winter clothes!!!!

Please make sure you send your child in appropriate clothes and footwear for the cold, wet weather.

Important Dates:

**Tuesday 31st May**
ThinkLinks, session 2

**Thursday 2nd June**
Australia’s Biggest Morning Tea, 10:40am in the hall. Entry is by a gold coin donation with all proceeds being donated to the Cancer Council. We hope you will join us.
**ThinkLinks**

Our ThinkLinks program commenced last week and was a huge talking point across the Foundation classrooms. With an Indonesian theme, the children each worked with students from year levels across the school on either a mask or puppet, inspired by traditional Indonesian masks (Topeng) and puppets (Wayang Kulit). In last week’s session, the children learnt about these cultural artefacts and began work on their designs. They will start creating their items during the next ThinkLinks session on 31st May. Be sure to ask your child about what they are making. Whichever item they do not make this term, they will make next term. It’s exciting to see learning and friendships being enhanced through this program. We look forward to seeing the children’s finished products! 😊

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**Healthy Lunchboxes**

With Winter fast approaching, it’s more important than ever to be eating lots of nutritious food and drinking plenty of water. A mix of fruit, vegetables, dairy (milk, yoghurt and/or cheese), lean meats and grainy foods is ideal, such as:

- Fresh or dried fruit, pre-packaged fruit in natural juice.
- Crunchy vegies with dips (eg. hummus, tzatziki) or natural yoghurt.
- Savoury muffins or scones, homemade pizzas, soup (in a small thermos), tinned tuna (in springwater), boiled eggs, baked beans, pita bread or wraps, English muffins, rice cakes, crackers, crispbreads, pikelets and crumpets.

Dinner leftovers that can be eaten cold are also a fantastic, low prep lunchbox idea. Please remember to be mindful of any allergy restrictions in your child’s classroom.

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**Education Week - Open Morning & Afternoon**

The children were thrilled to have some family members join us for Thursday’s open morning and afternoon, in celebration of Education Week 2016.

In the morning, we ran our daily Reading session. Our visitors discovered how our Reading program is structured, first enjoying a big book reading followed by a range of hands-on group activities covering concepts such as letter and letter sound identification, sight words, syllables, rhyming words and initial sounds. The children were so proud to show off their developing literacy skills.

Our open afternoon saw us showcase our Number Fluency program. At the end of each day, the children complete number fluency tasks/games where they practise maths concepts learned in our main Numeracy lessons. This allows them to consolidate their understandings and develop fluency.

Thank you to everyone who attended! We hope you enjoyed your time in our classrooms as much as the children and teachers enjoyed having you there! 😊

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**Toy Construction Materials**

Thank you to all the families who have already sent in materials for the children’s toy construction. They have been putting a great deal of thought into their toy design and we can’t wait to see their constructions taking shape this week!

It’s not too late to contribute materials! We would welcome items such as cardboard (boxes, sheets), string, egg cartons, cotton reels, rubber bands, polystyrene, pipe cleaners and icy pole sticks.

Thank you for your support! 😊