



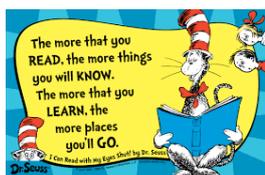
Haere mai te whanau whitu

Nau mai haere mai

Welcome to Term 4 - October 2019

This term we will continue to build on our basic literacy and numeracy skills.

In our English curriculum we focus on reading (both silently and aloud), writing (this now includes trying to edit our own work), handwriting, spelling and oral language.



Reading Eggs:

M.P.S. pays for our students to access Reading Eggs both at home and school. This app allows students to broaden their reading skills and practise the use of phonics to help with both reading and writing. If you do not have a user name or password for your child to access this programme at home please ask me.

We have a display of certificates earned in any month to encourage practice.

Home reading:

Please note that reading books are sent home with a notebook for you to sign that you have helped/ heard your child read.

Some students are very slow in returning their books, folders and notebooks. While it is *their* responsibility to give you the reading and then to put it back in their school bag it is obvious that several children still require more support from you. Please check their bags!

Reading is not about knowing every single word but rather using taught strategies to give every word a try. Children need to draw on previous experiences to make sense of the text and predict what might happen. We all know that English is a very irregular language with lots of exceptions to the rules but ... you child is encouraged to give words a go based on what makes sense, what sounds right, and what looks right. Pictures also give handy clues.

Please resist the temptation to rush in and tell your child a word- wait a few seconds for think time, then tell them.

Mathematics

Teachers at M.P.S. are currently enjoying our professional development in mathematics. Ask your child to show you our book of photos and how we can use photos of everyday things to count, subtract, group numbers and make reasonable estimations. A big focus this term will be doubling and halving - fractions.

Please help your child to **count on** when adding simple numbers like $8+5$, they need to hold the 8 in their heads and then go 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13 so $8+5=13$. With subtraction the process is to count back. So for the problem $13-5$, they would go 12, 11, 10, 9, 8 so $13-5=8$.

Number reversals

Although not strictly maths (it comes under handwriting) it is important that all students write their numbers the correct way. From time to time can you get them to write numbers at home - look out for those number 5s, 7s and 3s in particular.

Teacher release days:

This term I have again been allocated 3 days in which to assess students, do professional readings and observe lessons both at MPS and elsewhere. Mrs. Jan Dodd is my release teacher beginning on Tuesday Week 2 - October 22.

Coming up this term:

- 5 sessions with soccer coaches teaching football skills. Weeks 1,2,4, and 5.



- **Week 2- Our annual Book Week.** More information coming in the next school newsletter.
- **Friday October 25 - dress up book character day parade.** This year I'd prefer no super hero costumes- keep them simple but a character from a book your child enjoys please.



- **Week 3- Annual Junior School Mini Market Day** where we run stalls for the whole school at lunchtime to raise money to subsidise our end of year trip in December.



- **Week 5- Whanau Day** - Junior School organised tabloid sports. Friday November 15.



- **Week 7:** 3 Way Conferences 27 and 28 November. (For those students who last got a Term 2 report and who will receive one at the end of this term).
- **Week 8 - Junior School trip** - details later
- **Week 8-** School disco
- **Week 9 - Thursday December 12** Final assembly

Week 9- Last day of school Friday December 13 - half day.



Sunhats

I realise that the weather doesn't always co-operate but we need students to wear brimmed sunhats. We want students to get into the habit of wearing sunhats for their health.

The colour is not important but the brim is.

Class Facebook Group

We still have 18 members. This secret group is intended only for the families of Room 7 students.

You can join by giving me your email address and I will send you an invitation. This group will not show up in search results if you are not a member. As administrator I am the only one who adds people please. It is intended to share information with you about day-to-day activities.



While 18 members would appear to be OK it only represents 9 students as some students have 2 or more family members registered- **so please register so you can see photos of Room 7 in action.**

Denise Hancox