Developing Mathematical Strategies

Learning mathematics is much more than just knowing facts and formulas. It is about understanding the concepts and processes and developing efficient mental strategies to help solve problems. Having the correct answer is only part of the learning. Having a variety of strategies that can be called upon to assist with problem solving is a big part of the learning that our students are engaging in during maths lessons.

Students are currently learning how to use empty number lines as a strategy to help them solve addition, subtraction, time and money problems.

Room 12 students have used an empty number line to help them solve an Easter problem

Initially students are encouraged to record all of their thinking on the number line. This student is able to break down the numbers into all the parts and has then implemented a “turn around” strategy by starting with the largest number first.

Once students have demonstrated an understanding and “just know it” the number of steps on the number line may reduce until more of the problem is solved mentally. In future this student may add the 80c in one step rather than breaking it down to three steps of 50c, 20c and 10c.

Number lines can be used to solve more complex problems. As students are introduced to more strategies they then have to decide if this is the most efficient strategy or is there another way that could be used to solve this more quickly.

Sonia Cooke
**Wilfred Taylor Reserve “Big Day Out”**

As a part of our ‘community engagement’ within the ‘Kids Matter’ focus, we have arranged for our school to attend Wilfred Taylor Reserve on Thursday 7 April. The purpose of this excursion is to enable us to continue to build our culture of a community of learners and celebrate engagement through activities that promote cooperation, engagement and resilience.

Students will be involved in activities organised and run by the various sports clubs such as basketball, table tennis, netball with their own class participating in a session of ‘Play Is The Way’. Students must have a packed recess and lunch and water bottle with them on the day as there are not shop facilities. Fruit will be provided. The whole school will come together at this time to enable teachers and students across the school to get to know each other. Wilfred Taylor Reserve is a fantastic local.

8.45am - Walk to Wilfred Taylor Reserve via traffic lights on States Road.
11.00am - Recess
1.00pm - Lunch - JP classes return to school
3.00pm - Return to school and dismissal.

**NB: This is a whole school activity so there will be no staff on site after 9am.**

**2016 NAPLAN**

Each year students in years 3, 5 and 7 are tested on their literacy and numeracy skills through the NAPLAN tests (National Assessment Program Literacy and Numeracy). These tests will be administered simultaneously in all schools across Australia on May 10, 11 and 12, (Term 2, Week 2).

It is important that, unless students are ill or there are exceptional circumstances that prevent them attending school on these days, students attend school to participate in the tests.

Parent/Caregivers may withdraw their child from the NAPLAN tests for religious or philosophical reasons. Students with a significant intellectual disability and/or co-existing conditions which severely limit their capacity can be exempted from sitting the tests with the agreement of both the School Principal and Parent/Caregiver. Please contact the school for a form if you wish to withdraw your child from the NAPLAN Testing. All paperwork needs to be completed and received by Tuesday 12 April

**Thanks, Carolyn Mildrum**

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**Finance**

The Morphett Vale East R-7 School Fees have been sent out early this term. The M&S Charge is a compulsory parent contribution towards the materials and services provided to students for their education. Our school community relies on everyone making a fair and equitable contribution to our school expenses by paying this charge in full by the end of this current Term. If you are unable to pay by the due date, please speak to Mia to make alternative arrangements.

All excursions, camps and swimming and school performances will be invoiced on an individual basis.

**School Card**

The Minister for DECD has approved the School Card Scheme for 2016. The criteria is similar to 2015 and available at the front office upon request. We encourage all parents/guardians who believe they are eligible for assistance, to complete a form for 2016 as soon as possible. Please be aware that no student will be automatically approved for school card. A new application must be completed each year. If you have students at more than one school, an application must be completed for each school.

Payments can be made by cash, cheque, Credit Card, Direct Debit, EFTPOS, or agreed payment plan.

**School Photo Day – Tues 5th April**

School Photo envelopes have been sent home with students. All students will have their photo taken on the day for school record purposes even if their family have decided not to purchase any photos.

Please note the payment options on the reverse side of the envelope. Our office does not hold change so please have your cash arranged by Tuesday if you are paying this way.

Please assist us by have you Children in correct School Uniform on this day.
Spare clothes
Parents/Caregivers of all Junior Primary are asked to have a spare change of clothes in their child/ren’s bag. This allows us to assist your child/ren into dry clothes if the need arises.

Sick children at school
It is always difficult, as parents, to manage sick children and work commitments. Within a school the spread of infections in heightened due to close contact, so we ask parents to be mindful of this, particularly as the flu and cold season approaches. Please help us by keeping your sick child home until they are well enough to return. Please also be mindful of asthma and its effect during the colder months.

Library Lingo
Many students have now completed their first Premiers Reading Challenge sheet and handed it in to me. They have now qualified for their award at the end of the year. Now the task is to broaden their reading, and to work on their own particular reading goals to improve their reading skills. These students are now also continuing to hand in their records of their reading, to compete for the “Mrs Hall award” at the end of the year. Great reading everyone.

Next week in week 10, there will be a 10 cent book sale of culled books from the library before school and at lunchtimes in /outside the library. All proceeds will go to the orang-utan appeal, as do the proceeds from collecting drink cartons.

Helen Hall - Teacher Librarian

Harmony Day Celebrations
Did you see the sea of “Orange” last Monday when staff and students dress up to celebrate Harmony Day?

Carolyn works to build “Spanish Connections”
In Term 2 Carolyn will be taking leave from week 2 to 5 inclusive. She will be visiting schools in South America to make connections for our school. We congratulate Sonia Cooke who has won the Principal’s position for the 4 weeks and also Rob Thornton has won the Deputy position.

Easter Raffle
Thank you to all those that donated towards our Easter fundraising raffle. We made LOTS of families very happy with their prizes. Easter Bunny herself came and delivered some of the prizes. Our P&F committee will spend the money raised wisely.

SMS absence & late notifications
Please utilize our SMS system to advise the reason for your students absence/lateness. This is just a quick SMS reply to our message but keeps your child’s record correct.
Counsellors Corner

Last week saw the whole school participate in a ‘Growing with Gratitude Schools Program,’ presented by Adelaide Football Club. The students watched a video presentation featuring Crows players and Claude the Crow. The message that they learnt from the presentation focused on the ‘5 Habits of Happiness’ and each student received an activity book.

To continue giving positive messages to our school community, next week we welcome Brainstorm Productions—who will be presenting their student wellbeing program ‘Sticks & Stones’ for R–7 on Thursday 14th.

Seen and enjoyed by over 1.7 million students, Sticks & Stones is a live educational theatre experience that tells the story of two students who are angry, frustrated and always in trouble. They have to learn to control their anger and to treat people with respect. Ultimately, they discover they’ve got more in common than they could ever imagine and form a friendship that heals them both. This is the perfect opportunity for your child to learn practical skills on how to deal with anger, aggression and resolving conflict.

Sticks & Stones is part of our student wellbeing curriculum and the program has been developed in consultation with teachers, psychologists, as well as real-life student experiences. The methodology of the program is safe, supportive and nonjudgmental and designed to provide students with positive and useful tools that they can use in their everyday lives.

Brainstorm Productions is Australia’s largest educational touring theatre company. Their programs cater to the specific wellbeing needs of students, helping to create a healthy and harmonious school environment. If you would like to know more about Brainstorm Productions, visit their website at www.brainstormproductions.edu.au
On Friday March 4, Rooms 17, 18 and 19 attended the Spirit of Anzac Centenary Experience at Wayville Showgrounds.

The Experience was a highly engaging exhibition. We were fitted with headphones and listened to the audio presentation as we toured the interactive displays. We discovered Australia’s history of courage, service and sacrifice from the First World War to the present day.