Reading Comprehension

Belinda Klose  
Deputy Head of Junior School - Taylors Lakes Campus – Teaching and Learning

With the new school year underway, I take this opportunity to extend a very warm welcome to all of our Junior School families. After much planning and preparation from all the teaching staff, it was great to have the children start school on Wednesday 5th February. It has been wonderful to see the many smiles and bright eyes across our Junior School Campus and I have personally enjoyed visiting the classrooms and getting to know the Junior School community.

On Monday 10th February our very first Parent Information Evening for 2014 took place. The evening was well attended across the Junior School and I trust that parents found this evening both valuable and informative. Ms Tracy Fielder introduced our evening with a very comprehensive presentation outlining our Junior School focus for the 2014 school year.

One focus we touched on during the evening was Reading Comprehension. As readers, we know that reading comprehension takes our reading to another level. Reading is what I would refer to as a high profile, necessary and essential skill; one that often attracts many misconceptions. If readers can successfully decode, have phonemic awareness, the ability and knowledge to connect sounds, a strong vocabulary, fluency and have mastered the code of reading, the assumption is often made that comprehension will occur naturally, that comprehension will just happen because we have all of the above. However, this is only true for very few readers and research indicates that comprehension is a separate aspect of reading and one that requires the same amount of instruction time as the decoding skills of reading. To improve children’s comprehension skills we must explicitly teach children how to think while they read.

Reading is a complex multistep process that must begin and end with meaning in mind. Proficient readers continually draw on a range of strategies to ensure they maintain understanding while reading. Strategies utilised by proficient readers are;

**Making Connections** - The power to connect to a text about a familiar topic or character during reading.

**Asking Questions** - The power to ask questions during reading, reflecting on textual understanding and text direction.

**Visualising** - The power of readers to visualise during reading by constructing and making pictures in their head, from words and images they see.

**Making Inferences** - The power to infer occurs when readers come across a word they are unsure of or they are aware that good authors leave many clues in their stories and images.
Analysing and Synthesizing (Transform) - The power to transform is to change thinking during reading by continually reflecting on their understanding.

Comprehension is an important part of reading. The essence of comprehension is the awareness of the ‘**what is happening**’ while we read. Children must learn that reading is not simply words on a page, but it is what those words mean to them. How to make sense of what we read is just as important as teaching children how to read.

**Assembly**

We enjoyed the first Junior School Assembly for the year last week. Although there were no classes performing, it was great to come together as a Junior School and set the tone for the year ahead. Ms Fielder reminded students of the playground protocols, classroom standards and how to treat each other as well as thanking them for the wonderful start to the year. Ms Treacey shared information based on the first College value being worked on this term – Community. We watched an effective clip that showed the power of being a community. You may want to share this at home with your children and discuss the meaning behind it. We celebrated our first Star Students and the Junior School House, Chapel and Choir captains were presented with their badges. We look forward to many more exciting assemblies as the year progresses and the classes share their learning.
Junior School - Taylors Lakes Campus
Star Students

IN Menara Ranantunga for a confident start to Year 1, and for her amazing "visualisation" work in reading

1MI Sahara Haynes Star Student award for her positive contributions to circle time and her ability to get along with her new classmates.

1MA Shiven Dias Abeygunewardene for demonstrating care to his classmates

1MA Ella Hall for the daily curious questions she asks to gain deeper understandings

2O Olivia Bonaguro for being persistent with her work about venn diagrams. Ensuring that she had it all correct and that it was completed to the best of her ability. Fantastic work ethic!!

2O Javiah Najdovski for fantastic work in skip counting using the final digit of her number to identify the pattern.

2A Mia Sprague for confidently sharing her background knowledge about our identity.
2A Olivia Mansu for writing a clear description of her physical appearance.

2H Derek Cheong for his determination and interest for new learning this week.

2H Oliva Tilling for organised and responsible approach to her learning.

3M Dylan Smith for displaying a mature and resilient attitude. Great start to Year 3.

3M Jaya McRobb for an excellent work attitude during Numeracy sessions.

3BF Ryley Najdovski for showing commitment to his learning.

3BF Ethan Georgopoulos for demonstrating excellence and confidence in his learning.

3G Isaiah Binu Varkey for making a new student feel welcome to Overnewton and the class.

3G Allan Chau for doing so well on a difficult piece of dictation.

4NJ Lauren Cuce for showing respect and a strong sense of responsibility.

4NJ Lucas Conde Osorio for displaying independence and great organisational skills.

4NW Ram Mude for consistently demonstrating a ‘can do’ attitude.

4NW Sana Sharma for settling into class and the Overnewton community with ease.

4L Zoe Marcote for being an outstanding role model in the Junior School community showing confidence and organisation.

**Coming Events, Junior School - Taylors Lakes Campus**

**Wednesday 26th February**
Nude Food Breakfast – 8.30 – 9.30am

**Thursday 27th February**
Assembly – 4NW presenting, 2.30pm
Prep Barbeque 5.30pm – 7.00pm

**Thursday 13th March**
Assembly – 3M presenting, 2.30pm

**Friday 14th March**
Outdoor Movie Night, 7.30pm – 9.30pm

**Tuesday 25th March**
Parent Teacher Interviews 3.30 – 8.00pm

**Thursday 27th March**
Assembly – 2H presenting, 2.30pm
Parent Teacher Interviews 3.30 – 5.30pm

**Student Banking Day Reminder**
Remember School Banking is every **WEDNESDAY at both Keilor Campus and Taylors Lakes Campus**. Remember to fill in your deposit slip and place money in the velcro pocket. A reminder that there is no minimum amount.

Every time a student makes a deposit at school they receive a silver Dollarmite token. Once they have individually collected 10 tokens, they can be redeemed for an exclusive Dollarmite reward item.

*Tip - Place a reminder in your calendar, diary or phone for the night before to remember banking day.*