Principal’s Report

Areas to Work on in Student’s Writing – The Six Writing Traits

In the current Strategic Plan one of the important key improvement strategies is to work on whole school approaches being reviewed and embedded to enhance teaching and learning in English. With the support of our English Consultant Terri Campbell we have been focussed on improving student’s writing across the school by focussing on the Six Writing Traits. The school’s English team led by Amy Dinsdale is continuing on with this work.

The Six Writing Traits are:

1. Voice
2. Word choice
3. Sentence fluency
4. Conventions – spelling and grammar
5. Ideas
6. Organization

Writing conferences and explicit teaching is based around these traits. For example in the area of word choice questions such as What strategies did you use to paint a picture with your words? are very useful. I have a selection of work in my office from Room 4 around word choice. They have listed words about characters from their literature groups. It is great to read words such as; fierce, smart, horrible, pretty and angry from our youngest students.

When we consider a student’s vocabulary there is a range of indicators that we consider.

For example

- What was the student trying to describe?
- Do the words paint a clear picture?
- Does the reader need to reread it to see the picture in their head?
- Sometimes the writing can make a picture in their head.
- Your words do make pictures in the readers mind and touch their senses

Students move along a continuum in the area of word choice. For example from a beginner who creates letter shapes, creates letter strings, writes easy to read words, writes with variety- tries new, less familiar words, keeps growing a personal dictionary of meaningful words to an experienced writer who uses vivid and expressive language using strong verbs.

If you have time drop into Amy Dinsdale’s class - Room 6 she has a wonderful display on the Six Writing Traits. There is also a handout on the school’s website on the Six Writing Traits which families may find helpful as they support their child’s learning.

Principal’s Report continues over page...
Principal’s Report continued..

**Facebook**

We’re getting very close to cracking the '150' people who like us on Facebook. The feedback from parents has been very positive. Many who work full time find it a way of feeling like they’re at school. We also find great feedback from photos of school events. We’re always interested in improving our communication so if you have suggestions as to the types of information you’d like to see through Facebook, our Twitter feeds or on our school’s website please let us know by emailing symons.randai.j@edumail.vic.gov.au

**Acceptable Use Booklets**

We were in a classroom the other day and noticed a student hadn’t returned their ‘Acceptable Use’ booklet. A reminder that this needs to be discussed and both student and parent/carer sign the document before it is brought back to school. If you require another copy it can be found on our website under ‘Policies’ by clicking this link - http://mooneewestps.vic.edu.au/app/webroot/uploaded_files/media/acceptable_use_policy_mpwps_2013.pdf

**Head lice recurrence**

In recent weeks there are a few classes that have had many reports from parents/guardians/carers of students needing to be retreated for head lice. This may well be as a result of not all students being checked by parents/guardians/carers. We seek your cooperation in checking your child’s hair regularly and treating if required. It is also important that you inform the school if you have started a course of treatment.

Our Head Lice policy states that if live lice are found/noticed in hair that a student can be excluded from school and not return to school until the day after appropriate treatment has started. Please note, this refers only to those children who have live head lice and does not refer to head lice eggs.

Moonee Ponds West Primary School is aware that head lice can be a sensitive issue and is committed to maintaining your confidentiality.

**Parent Opinion Survey**

Thank you to all families that have returned their surveys. A reminder to those who haven’t if they could do so by Friday 9th August.

Enjoy the week,
Jenny, Helen and Randal

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**Music: Count Us In 2013**

*Thursday 31st October @ 12.30pm.*

Following the success of last year’s event, MPW is excited to again be participating in Music: Count Us In 2013.

It’s Australia’s biggest school initiative. With support from the Australian Government, it has run since 2007 and is all about celebrating the value of music education to students’ development, whoever they are, wherever they are.

It involves more than 600,000 students, teachers - and often parents- from schools all over Australia who sign up to learn, rehearse, then perform the same song, on the same day, at the same time.

This year’s song is “Keep On”. It was co-written by four students from around Australia (selected from student song submissions) and mentor, acclaimed Australian musician, Katie Noonan. Darren Percival, Runner Up on "The Voice" last year, is singing lead vocals.

For more information about this great event and to listen to this year’s song, go to: www.musiccountusin.org.au/
**VICTORIAN PREMIER’S READING CHALLENGE 2013**

This year MPW has 89 children participating in the Victorian Premier’s Reading Challenge and 49 children have already completed the Challenge. Congratulations to them all. Many children have started and are very close to completing the Challenge, which is fantastic. However there are still some who have not yet logged on and listed their books, please do so ASAP.

The VPRC ends this term on the 12th September.

**‘Making it Possible’ Parent Workshop**

How you can think, plan and achieve goals for your child and family

The Association for Children with a Disability is running a workshop near you.

How can you create a fulfilling life with choices, purpose, friendship and happiness? If you want to take the lead in achieving these goals for your child (0-18) and family, then this workshop is for you!

Build on the strengths and skills you already have as a parent to better identify, plan and achieve your goals.

Our presenters are parents of a person with a disability so they do understand issues from a family perspective.

**Details for ‘Making it Possible’ Parent Workshop in Footscray**

**Date:** Wednesday 21st August 2013

**Time:** 9.30am – 2.45pm

**Venue:** West Footscray Neighbourhood House
1/539 Barkly Street
West Footscray 3012

Check out the flyer here: [www.acd.org.au](http://www.acd.org.au)

Book at [www.trybooking.com/45865](http://www.trybooking.com/45865) or phone the office on 9818 2000.

**Mini-Market Update!**

There was a great turnout to the Mini-Market last Friday and stallholders were very appreciative of the school allowing us to use the Performance Space on such a cold, windy and rainy day.

There are two more Mini-Markets planned for later this year in Term 4, on **Fridays 18th October and 6th December**

**JAI AND BELLE – RECYCLE FOR LIFE.**

Our School is participating in the SIDS and Kids NSW and Victoria – Red Bag Superstar Event.

Your children will be bringing home a Red Donation Bag which we ask you to fill, plus any additional bags with any unwanted Men’s, Women’s, Children’s Clothing, Curtains, Linen, Shoes, Toys, Books, Bric-a-brac, and any Small Household items.

The Campaign commences on 13/08/2013

Please return your donations by 27/08/2013

Please contact the office if you require any additional bags.
Leigh Hobbs library visit...
Did you know...?

- Leigh Hobbs visited the 3/4/5 team at Moonee Ponds West Primary yesterday in the library.
- Leigh Hobbs was born in Williamstown, and grew up in a country town called Bairnsdale.
- Leigh Hobbs is an Australian artist and author.
- Leigh has written and illustrated many humorous children’s books.
- From a very early age, Leigh always wanted to ‘be an artist and drawing was what he was always best at.’
- At school, Leigh enjoyed art.
- As a child, Leigh’s favourite book was ‘Captain Pugwash.”
- Green is his favourite colour because it reminds him of England.
- Leigh’s proudest moment was when ‘Horrible Harriet” was shortlisted in the 2002 CBC Picture Story Category.
- Leigh Hobbs enjoys visiting his favourite city, London.
- Leigh Hobbs worked as a secondary art teacher.
- Leigh has published many books. Some of his titles are: Old Tom series, Horrible Harriett series, Mr Badger series, Fiona the Pig series.
- Leigh Hobbs’s artwork, paintings, drawings, prints, illustrations and ceramics are found in various art galleries throughout Australia.
- Some of the Old Tom series books have been made into television series throughout Australia and Europe.

Room 20’S thoughts on Leigh Hobbs...

“Leigh Hobbs visited our school and helped us to draw his characters Old Tom and Mr Chicken, as well as make up our own characters.”
Charli P.

“It was very interesting and I liked how he showed us the first video of Old Tom.”
Livi

“I really enjoyed drawing Mr Chicken and Old Tom and it was really funny.”

“I enjoyed making our own characters. I did a weird thing based on a spray can with a face.”
Tom

“I liked drawing the chicken because it was very creative and fun.”
Hala

“I liked seeing the new Mr Chicken picture from the new book because no one else in the world has seen it yet.”
George

“I thought Leigh Hobbs was hilarious!”
Reuben

NEXT WEEK—room 16
Parents' forum
Managing your child's anxiety

Council is holding a free forum to help parents easily manage children’s anxiety with simple strategies and tools.

Guest speaker Nicky Johnston, who is an artist, primary educator, author and illustrator, will share her journey, knowledge and insight gained from raising a child with an anxiety disorder.

In the past eight years Nicky has worked with numerous mental health professionals and supported thousands of desperate parents and teachers to help and care for their ‘little worryers’.

Hear how Nicky turned a dark and negative experience into a positive, hopeful and inspiring journey.

Date: Monday, 12 August
Time: 7pm–9pm
Venue: Moonee Valley Civic Centre, 9 Kellaway Avenue, Moonee Ponds
Cost: Free

Secure your place – please RSVP by 4pm on Monday, 12 August by emailing your details to council@mvcc.vic.gov.au, calling 9243 8888 or joining the event on facebook.com/mooneevalleycc
Children With Type 1 Diabetes - Are You Challenged by Your Child’s Diabetes?

Research into parenting children with type 1 diabetes.

The University of Queensland is conducting research into parenting children with type 1 diabetes. Parenting a child with diabetes presents many challenges (everything from the regular blood glucose monitoring and insulin intake, to more general parenting tasks). The aim of this study is to understand the factors that make the management of childhood diabetes particularly difficult, and to use this information to develop strategies that might assist parents in managing their child’s diabetes.

If you are a parent of a 2 to 10-year-old child with type 1 diabetes, we would love to hear from you! By sharing your experiences (confidentially), you will be making a valuable contribution to the development of much-needed childhood diabetes management strategies for parents.

To complete the online survey, please log on to: https://exp.psy.uq.edu.au/type1diabetes

For further information about the project or to request a survey to be posted to you, please email Aditi Lohan (aditi.lohan@uqconnect.edu.au) or phone Amy Mitchell (07 3365 7305) at the Parenting and Family Support Centre in the School of Psychology at the University of Queensland, St Lucia QLD 4072 (Fax: 07 3365 6724).