Snippets of Learning...

Oral Language
A lot of literacy learning (writing, reading) has its foundations in oral language - how we speak the language we speak. Children hearing correct language and sentence structure and being encouraged and prompted to speak correctly certainly impacts their reading and writing learning.

We do a lot of work in class developing oral language skills and encourage all parents and carers to do so at home as well. It is in the home environment where natural conversations occur and children can therefore naturally pick up the nuances of our language. Encouraging the use of correct, full sentences when speaking (not just “yeah, nah, maybe, huh?”) and a growing, rich vocabulary (not just calling everything “stuff” or “awesome”!) should be a constant, natural occurrence. Correct language frequently and gently, explaining why and giving your children the chance to repeat back the correct language to you.

On the following page are some speaking reflections/prompts that you may find useful...
What do good speakers do?

Did I speak in full sentences?
I would like to tell you all about shells!

Did I look at the people I was talking to?

Did I speak in a voice that people could hear and understand?

Did I use thoughtful, interesting and descriptive words?
What's cooking?
We've been cooking up a storm in the school kitchen! It's been a combination of fun and learning all rolled into one exciting educational recipe! If that last sentence made you sick, don't worry - these great recipes won't! They're easy to make and give you a great opportunity to further reading, maths and creating skills at home with your children. What a great activity to also help your kids practise their oral language skills whilst having a load of family fun!

Check out the J Pod Blog (http://gwpsjpod.global2.vic.edu.au/) for some kitchen pics and leave a comment about how your home cooking experience turned out! Buon Appetito!

Basic Biscuits
Do you like easy-to-make, freshly made biscuits? Then you'll love making these scrumptious basic biscuit treats!

**INGREDIENTS**
- 125g butter
- 185g (1 cup) brown sugar
- 135g (1 cup) plain flour
- 125g (1 cup) self-raising flour
- 1 egg
- 1 tsp vanilla essence

**Optional (choose one from below)**
- *1 packet of Smarties
- *1 cup of choc chips
- *1 tbsp cocoa, 1 cup white choc chips
- *½ cup cranberries, ½ cup dark chocolate chips
- *½ cup chopped macadamias, ¼ cup white choc chips
- *1 cup sultanas, 1 tbspn honey & ¼ cup yoghurt
  (add a little extra flour if too sticky)

**METHOD**
1. Turn oven on to 180 Celsius
2. Cream butter and sugar, add egg and essence
3. Add flours and other ingredients and mix well.
4. Roll into balls then flatten slightly
5. Place on tray
6. Bake in Moderate oven (180) for about 10-15 minutes

**CHECK**
Makes about 15-20 delicious biscuits.

Science Week Celebrations
Science Week Celebrations are coming up and it's going to be a huge week of great learning and fun! The students are already getting excited, but many parents are as well as everyone gets to join in the Science fun. Week 10 will include the ominous Volcano Eruptions, the must-be-seen Cosmodome, the infamously named StarBQ, the Learning Expo and don't forget the Rocket Competition. How can so much learning excitement fit into one week you ask? Why, it's Science, of course - anything is possible!
Homework
The year is moving on quickly but don’t forget to encourage and help your children to continue to practise their reading, counting goals and spelling. Mathletics Live 1 (on the Mathletics website) is an exciting learning tool to sharpen foundational number knowledge whilst challenging other students around the world and Reading Eggs is also great value.

Term Dates
- Fathers Day Breakfast: Week 8, Friday 5th September
- Level 1/2 Activity evening: Week 9, Thursday 11th September (in MiPod)
- Science Week Celebrations: Week 10 (including Volcano Eruptions/Cosmodome/Learning Expo/Rocket Competition)
- End of Term: Friday 19th September, including Final Assembly and Footy Day
- Spring Fair - Twilight Fair 4-8pm, Friday 24th October 2014. Please contact Jenny or add your name to a ‘Fair Help Roster’ (in class/at the office) as help is always needed and very much appreciated!