

Literacy...

In Reading this past fortnight, the Grade 3 and 4 students have been focusing on the comprehension strategies of *visualising* and *making connections*. The children are taught that good readers visualise as they read. They make mental pictures in their mind, which helps them to understand what's being read. Good readers also make connections as they read. As they read, they connect the ideas to their own personal experience, other stories and characters and to the wider world.

Every day for Reading, after a whole class lesson, students undertake Independent Reading. During this time, students are expected to read a book, that they choose themselves, while thinking about an individual goal, usually a specific comprehension strategy. At this stage of the year, students are now setting goals with their teachers and settling on "just right" books.

The students are writing narratives during Writing time. We encourage a certain narrative structure at Dorset, so consistency can be taught throughout the school. The structure is: Title, Beginning, Middle, Problem, Resolution & Ending. Grade 3/4 have been working on writing good interesting titles and beginnings to their stories.

Maths...

In Maths, we have started Blast Off! Blast Off is a program we use to help students in their recall of multiplication or times tables. It is a 7 minute, timed activity, where the students work their way up to harder and harder questions over the year. It begins with *Beginner* on 2 times tables, which many may be able to pass in a few days but students need to learn all their tables up to 12 to continue through all the levels. Then they go on to double and triple digit multiplication. The children really enjoy the challenge and reward of passing through the levels (while learning their times tables!).

Also in Maths, we've been learning how to:

- determine the area of shape by counting the squares within it.
- understand how shapes can be combined or split to make other shapes; and
- solve multiplication equations using arrays.

Coming Up...

Family Movie Night	16 th March
School Photos	20 th March
Disco	29 th March
Life Ed (Term 2)	27 th April – 1 th May

Notes to Return...

- Family Movie Night
- School Photo Form
- Life Education

World of Maths

Last week, we had the World of Maths incursion. During the visit, a variety of mathematical problem solving stations were set up. The students, in groups, went around to each station, read the instructions and together solved, or attempted to solve, each problem. Each station had a different tactile problem that the students could manipulate. The students were superbly behaved.

