



COOMERA
ANGLICAN
COLLEGE

NATIONAL LITERACY AND NUMERACY WEEK 2017

This week, Monday 4 September – Sunday 10 September 2017, we are celebrating National Literacy and Numeracy Week (NLNW). For more information visit the NLNW website at <http://www.literacyandnumeracy.gov.au>

WHAT IS NATIONAL LITERACY AND NUMERACY WEEK?

During this week parents, teachers and communities are working together to develop the literacy and numeracy skills of Australia's young people. NLNW promotes the importance of literacy and numeracy as fundamental life skills and highlights effective literacy and numeracy practices on a national scale. This week provides schools with the opportunity to participate in a range of activities and to recognise locally the achievements of students and the work of teachers, parents and members of the community who support young people to develop stronger literacy and numeracy skills. This week highlights the importance of Literacy and Numeracy and celebrates what we do at Coomera Anglican College. Please see the parent tips for assisting your child below:

MATHEMATICS

The Australian Curriculum states “learning mathematics creates opportunities for and enriches the lives of all Australians. The Australian Curriculum: Mathematics provides students with essential mathematical skills and knowledge in *Number and Algebra*, *Measurement and Geometry*, and *Statistics and Probability*. It develops the numeracy capabilities that all students need in their personal, work and civic life, and provides the fundamentals on which mathematical specialties and professional applications of mathematics are built.” Suggestions for parent support:

NUMBER AND ALGEBRA

- **Count everything!** Count toys, kitchen utensils and items of clothing as they come out of the dryer. Count forwards and backwards from different starting points. Use household items to practise adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing.
- **Practise ‘skip counting’.** Together, count by 2’s, 5’s and 10’s. Roll two dice, one to determine a starting number and the other to determine the counting interval. Ask your child to try counting backwards from 10, 20, or even 100.
- **Make up games using dice and playing cards.** Try rolling dice and adding or multiplying the numbers that come up. Add up the totals until you reach a target number, like 100. Play the game backwards to practise subtraction.
- **Allow your child to handle money.** Get them to pay for things, count change and budget their pocket money.
- **Practise, practise, practise** quick recall of basic facts such as numbers that add and subtract to and from 10 and 20. Older students – practice times tables to build multiplication skills.
- **Look for patterns in storybooks and songs.** Many children’s books and songs repeat lines or passages in predictable ways, allowing children to recognise and predict patterns.
- **Hunt for patterns around your house and neighbourhood.** Your child will find patterns in clothing, wallpaper, wrapping paper, tiles, toys and also in the garden. Encourage your child to describe the patterns found. Try to identify the features of the pattern that are repeated.
- **Explore patterns created by numbers.** Write the numbers from 1 to 100 in rows of 10. Note the patterns that you see when you look up, down, across and diagonally. Pick out all the numbers that contain a 2 or a 7.
- **Challenges.** Create problems that involved a range of mathematical calculations to solve. Websites such as: http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/websites/4_11/site/numeracy.shtml and <http://www.primarygames.com/math.php> are useful to gain access to a variety of prepared problems.

MEASUREMENT AND GEOMETRY

- **Include your child in activities that involve measurement.** Have your child measure the ingredients in a recipe, or the length of a bookshelf you plan to build.
- **Talk about time.** Ask your child to check the time on the clock when he or she goes to school, eats meals, and goes to bed. Together, look up the time of a television programme your child wants to watch. Help your child keep their own personal calendar.
- **Play “I spy”** looking for different shapes.
- **Ask your child to draw a map of their room, house or neighbourhood.** Discuss these with them using directional words.
- **Go on a ‘shape hunt’.** Have your child look for as many circles, triangles, etc. as he or she can find. Do the same with 3D shapes.
- **Use terminology.** Use terminology such as perimeter, area, length and breadth. Give your child a range of shapes and objects and work together to calculate the perimeter, area and/or volume.

STATISTICS AND PROBABILITY

- **Sort household items.** As your child tidies up toys or clothing, discuss which items should go together and why. Show your child how to organise food items in the fridge or pantry.
- **Make a weather graph.** Have your child draw pictures on a calendar to record each day’s weather. At the end of the month, make a picture graph showing how many cloudy days, sunny days, etc. there were in that month.
- **Talk about the likelihood of events.** Have your child predict the likelihood of things happening – is it likely to rain today? Talk about the chance of eating an ice-cream or having a shower or flying to the moon.

ENGLISH

The Australian Curriculum states “the study of English is central to the learning and development of all young Australians. It helps create confident communicators, imaginative thinkers and informed citizens. It is through the study of English that individuals learn to analyse, understand, communicate and build relationships with others and with the world around them. The study of English helps young people develop the knowledge and skills needed for education, training and the workplace. It helps them become ethical, thoughtful, informed and active members of society. In this light it is clear that the Australian Curriculum: English plays an important part in developing the understanding, attitudes and capabilities of those who will take responsibility for Australia’s future.” Some ideas for home are:

Tips for **READING** with your child at home:

- Read daily to your child.
- Ask questions about the story or non-fiction book.
- Encourage more able readers to use their reading skills in everyday activities such as reading recipes when cooking, reading grocery lists and making a ‘things to do’ list – checking it and marking it off.
- Play reading games such as monopoly and scrabble.
- Have your child read the television guide or movie reviews to select what they will watch.
- Adults read aloud more difficult books to children.
- Select reading material of interest to the child.
- For older readers try completing puzzles, crosswords and find a word.
- Extend your child’s vocabulary by using a variety of language and explaining the meaning of complex words.
- Remember: reading is not about what level your child is on, but about how fluency, reading accuracy and quality of comprehension.

*Did you know that when you are looking at a picture, illustrations, television shows, art work or other people you are **READING!** Visual literacy skills are critical for today’s student who engages with technology daily.*

How can I get my child to **WRITE**?

- Encourage your child to keep a diary or journal. This way they will be writing every day.
- Use age appropriate cartoons from the newspaper or internet. Delete the writing and have your child fill in the missing words. Ask your child: does your writing make sense? Does it tell the reader what is happening?
- If your child feels strongly about a social issue such as littering, water conservation encourage them to write a letter to the editor and their local council representative to express their opinion.
- With all writing assist your child to plan, write a first draft, check it and edit it, have another person proof read the writing and publish it.
- ‘Six Word Stories’ are a great way for students to discover just how much can be understood with only a few words. The challenge is to write a six word story about an Australian environment and find an image to represent that story. Discuss with your child: What is a story? Why do people tell stories? Which is your favourite story and why? What kinds of stories do our class like the most? Introduce the idea of the challenge: to write a six word story. Read some six word stories to your child (there are many examples available online – try to choose

a selection with relevance to the year level of your child. <http://www.thebookchook.com/2013/09/create-six-word-memoirs-with-kids.html>. Now it's time to 'have a go' – please bring your six word story into share with your teacher.

- Encourage imagination and inspire students to write a poem using the poetry workshops below (or your own method) as inspiration. Keep a 'Poem in your Pocket' and share with family and friends during National Literacy and Numeracy Week.

SPEAKING and LISTENING skills are essential for achieving success. Help your child to develop listening skills by encouraging them to explain in detail what happened in their favourite television show. At the dinner table ask your child questions and involve them in conversations so that they are listening and responding to you.

SPELLING: Encourage your child to sound out words they do not know. Ask your child to identify the beginning, middle and end sounds in words. Help your child identify blends: sounds two or more letters make together. Ask your child to identify spelling rules used within words that they read. Build vocabulary by using a wide variety of language and explicitly explaining the meaning of more difficult words.

HANDWRITING: Encourage your child to hold their pencil correctly (pointer finger on top, thumb at side and three fingers underneath.) This is very important to help with the flow of writing as children progress through the years. Research has found a strong connection between handwriting and retention and comprehension. Learners are able to retain a staggering amount more when handwriting notes, research, maths and science calculations or stories. Handwriting remains a very important skill for children to learn.

DIGITAL LITERACY: Digital literacy involves knowing how to use a range of technologies to find information, solve problems or complete tasks. Digital literacy is also about knowing how to act safely and respectfully online. It is important that all children and young people in Australia learn to become 'digitally literate' in a safe and supportive environment, by engaging with the materials, data, systems, tools and equipment that are available in their schools and communities.

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (2012). "National Literacy and Numeracy Week 2017." Website online. Available: <http://www.literacyandnumeracy.gov.au/overview.htm> {2012, August 21}.

Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (2012). "Australian Curriculum – Mathematics & English" Website online. Available: <http://www.australiancurriculum.edu.au> {2012, August 21}.
<http://english.unitechnology.ac.nz/writers/read.html>

MRS WELLHAM'S RECOMMENDED AUTHORS

LOWER PRIMARY	UPPER PRIMARY
Mo Willems	Roald Dahl
Mem Fox	Andy Griffiths
Bob Graham	Michael Gerald Bauer
Graeme Base	David Walliams
Jackie French	J K Rowling
Julia Donaldson	R J Palacio
Alison Lester	Jackie French
Anh Do	Michael Morpurgo
Emily Gravett	Liz Pichon
Lauren Child	Morris Gleitzman
Giles Andreas	Kate DiCamillo
Sally Rippin	Jacqueline Wilson
Margaret Wild	Emily Rodda
Aaron Blabey	
Jane O'Connor	

MRS WELLHAM'S MOST POPULAR LIBRARY BOOKS IN 2017

BOOK	AUTHOR
Weirdo series	Anh Do
Dragonet Prophecy series	Tui Sutherland
The Treehouse books	Andy Griffiths
You Choose	George Ivanoff
Sister's Series	Raina Telgemeier
The Bad Guys Series	Aaron Blabey
Elephant and Piggie	Mo Willems
Tom Gates	Liz Pichon
Netball Gems	B Hellard and L Gibbs
Diary of a Wimpy Kid	Jeff Kinney
Tiny Timmy	Tim Cahill