The Foundation students have been learning about adding, including writing addition number sentences about healthy vegetables. Below they share some of their understandings of addition.

Imagine you had 3 and you added 2 more you would have 5. Liam 00A
I know if you put 2 and 2 together it makes 4. Kaan 00C
I know 5 and 5 equals 10. Sophia 00A
4 plus 4 is 8. Jessica 00A

Foundation students have also recently been learning how to sort items in different ways according to their attributes.

I sorted these animals into those that eat meat and those that don’t eat meat. Agatha 00B
These are the teddies and these ones are not teddies. John 00B

We provide a dynamic learning environment that engages and inspires students to achieve their personal best in an atmosphere of mutual respect and cooperation.
NAPLAN

Last week students in years three and five undertook NAPLAN testing in literacy and numeracy. All students sat the test under strict conditions in line with government protocols. The assessments took place over three days with Literacy (Language Conventions and Writing) on May 12, Literacy (Reading) on May 13 and Numeracy on May 14th. NAPLAN results will arrive at the school in August before being forwarded to parents. While teachers find the information beneficial for year three and five students, NAPLAN is one form of assessment only. Throughout the year, each classroom teacher employs a variety of assessment tools before providing a grading for each student which is included in each semester progress report. An assessment schedule has been developed for use across the school to ensure all staff members administer uniform assessment tools before grading students.

Student Reports

All staff members are currently preparing for end of semester student reports. Reports will be sent home on Friday 19th June. Parent teacher interviews will be held on Tuesday June 23 and Wednesday June 24. I encourage all families to take the opportunity to meet with your child’s classroom teacher to share academic, social and emotional development. Once again the online booking system will be available from Tuesday June 9th.

Staff Leave

Towards the end of term, some staff members will take personal leave. Mr Carota plans to return to Canada during the last week of term two, returning in the second week of term three. Mr Golden will visit family members in the United Kingdom after his marriage over the Easter break. Miss Heseltine plans to take long service leave for the final four weeks of term two. Before staff take leave, a thorough induction process is followed to ensure a seamless transition for relief staff and students. Please visit your child’s classroom to introduce yourself to your child’s replacement teacher thereby supporting the home/school partnership.

Julie’s leave

During the week prior to the Queen’s Birthday long weekend, I will also take one week’s leave to prepare for my daughter’s wedding. Catherine, my older daughter is to be married at St Peter’s Eastern Hill, on the long weekend. As well as my role of mother of the bride, I have also been assigned the task of baking the wedding cake. With many sceptical family members, the result left them suitably impressed. I’ll let you be the judge! Fresh white flowers still to be added around the base to complete the decorations. During my absence, Sarah Bracey, Acting Assistant Principal, will manage Toorak Primary School.

Julie Manallack
Principal
**Message From Our Vice Principal**

Teachers are currently in the process of writing student reports. Many assessment tools and a rigorous whole school assessment schedule contribute towards accurately placing students against the Australian Curriculum standards.

Last week teachers gathered to moderate student writing samples. By using a common assessment checklist and dialogue with teachers in higher or lower year levels the teaching team are able to make accurate judgments.

Towards the end of this term each child will receive a Semester 1 2015 Report. Schools have recently been given greater flexibility and are able to customize some elements of the report card. A difference you will notice this semester is the inclusion of not only attendance and absent days but also the number of late arrival days for your child.

International research demonstrates a strong correlation between students’ learning, longer-term life outcomes, attendance at school and appropriate participation in education programs.

It is crucial that children and students develop habits of regular attendance at an early age; even from the time they are enrolled in a pre-school setting.

Poor patterns of attendance place students at risk of not achieving their educational, social and psychological potential and are disadvantaged in the quality of choices they are able to make in later life situations.

(Source: Department of Education and Early Childhood Development)

This statement is also particularly relevant to late arrivals. The first fifteen minutes of a school day are crucial in terms of setting, classroom organisation and introduction of concepts to be addressed for the day (Refer to article on following page).

Sarah Bracey
Acting Assistant Principal

**Collection of Disability Data**

**Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability**

‘Collection Notice’

All schools in Australia, including Independent and Catholic schools, will participate in the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability this year.

The Data Collection is an annual count of the number of students with disability receiving educational adjustments to support their participation in education on the same basis as students without disability.

All education agencies are now required under the Australian Education Regulation 2013 to provide information on a student’s level of education, disability and level of adjustment to the Australian Government Department of Education and Training.*

Data will continue to be de-identified prior to its transfer to the Australian Government Department of Education and Training. No student’s identity will be provided to the Australian Government Department of Education and Training.

The collection of this information from states and territories will inform future policy and program planning in relation to students with disability.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Julie Manallack on (03) 9827 2959 or the Victorian Department of Education and Training Data Collection Hotline on (03) 9651 3621. For questions after 7 August 2015, please call the Australian Government Department of Education and Training on 1300 566 046.


**Parent Teacher Conferences**

In the coming weeks the Parent/Teacher Conference booking system will become available on Compass. It is therefore important you have a Compass username and password. If you do not have a username or password, please contact the TPS office on 9827 2959 or send an email to toorak.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au.

More information on how to book the conferences will be sent home in the next few weeks. The parent-teacher conferences will be held on Tuesday June 23 and Wednesday June 24 2015.
In primary school, some students miss on average 3 weeks of school per year. That's half a year of school by the end of year 6.

Going to school every day is the single most important part of your child’s education. Students learn new things at school every day – missing school puts them behind.

Why it's important
We all want our students to get a great education, and the building blocks for a great education begin with students coming to school each and every day.

If students miss school regularly, they miss out on learning the fundamental skills that will set them up for success in the later years of school.

There is no safe number of days for missing school – each day a student misses puts them behind, and can affect their educational outcomes.

Each missed day is associated with progressively lower achievement in numeracy, writing and reading.

Getting in early
Attendance patterns are established early – a child regularly missing days in kindergarten or in the early years of school will often continue to miss classes in the later years, and receive lower test scores than their classmates. It's vital that students go to school every day – even in the early years of primary school.

What we can do
The main reasons for absence are:
Sickness – There are always times when students need to miss school, such as when they’re ill. It’s vital that they’re only away on the days they are genuinely sick, and setting good sleep patterns, eating well and exercising regularly can make a big difference.

It’s vital that holidays are planned during school holidays where possible, and not during the term if it can be avoided.

“Day off” – Think twice before letting your child have a “day off” as they could fall behind their classmates – every day counts.

Truancy – This is when students choose not to go to school without their parent’s permission. There can be many reasons for truancy. The best way to address this is for schools and parents to work together.

If for any reason your child must miss school, there are things you can do with your school to ensure they don’t fall behind:

- Speak with your classroom teacher and find out what work your child needs to do to keep up.

Remember, every day counts. If your child must miss school, speak with your classroom teacher as early as possible.

Openly communicating with your child’s school about all absences is a good way to prevent attendance issues being escalated to a School Attendance Officer. A School Attendance Officer is a Department of Education and Early Childhood Development Regional Director who has authority to follow up attendance issues. Attendance issues that are escalated can lead to an Infringement Notice.

If you’re having attendance issues with your child, please let your classroom teacher know so we can work together to get your child to school every day.

For more information and resources to help address attendance issues, visit: www.education.vic.gov.au/school/parents/behaviour/Pages/studentattendance.aspx
To emphasize how numeracy impacts our daily lives in a fun and practical way, the simulated economy that is ‘Earn and Learn’ is now up and running across the Senior School!

Earn and Learn is a program developed by Rob Vingerhoets that brings aspects of maths, economics, technology, and financial literacy to life by allowing students a taste of “real life”. The Year 5/6 Classes have transformed into simulated economies where students need to earn a living, pay bills, run businesses, act as consumers, and manage their personal budgets. Students have already written job applications, taken part in job interviews, and have begun setting up their own personal businesses.

Shopping and spending is underway as of Week 5 in the senior rooms, but the market will be growing shortly. In order to develop operational skills and financial literacy in the younger grades, the Year 3’s are also undertaking a scaled-down version of the Earn and Learn program. Year 3 students are being paid wages to attend to their duties as students, and are able to spend their hard-earned money in the senior school shops. In week 6, the shops will be fully operational and open for business. Keep an eye out around the school for advertisements for some of the local businesses!

Yasmine, Vice-President of “Lomasville” in 56A, says “I think Earn and Learn is a great way to learn about the real world. As Vice-President, I’ve helped entrepreneurs apply for and register their businesses and I’ve paid government employees their weekly wages. The skills I’ve learned about dealing with money and paying my taxes will help me in my future job.”

Gus is a Year 5 student and Bank Teller in Lomasville. He says “I sort out all the money and help people with deposits, withdrawals, and loans using a computerized bank system. It’s good for me because I get to learn more about how a bank works, and interest rates.”

The Grade 3’s are also involved in the ‘Earn and Learn’ Program and will be shopping in the Grade 5/6 area very soon. The students have been receiving a weekly wage and calculating how much money will remain in their bank accounts after subtracting superannuation, income tax, rent and food costs.
On Friday 15th May the grade 5/6 went on an excursion to the Shrine of Rememberance and the Melbourne Art Centre. At the Shrine we had a guided tour exploring some of the exhibits and Gallipoli artefacts contained within. Afterwards grade 5/6 went to the Melbourne Art Centre located on the banks of the Yarra River. Here we explored some of our digital literacy skills and learned about video editing. Using the stimulus of either a soldier’s letter or poem we created a video commemorating the Gallipoli campaign. By Ellie Greenwood and Annie Noble
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