All our classes have settled into their routines and are working hard. I am very impressed with the quality of learning that I have been seeing in all classes.

**Start-of-Year Assessment**
At the moment we are doing lots of start-of-year assessment. Each child will complete a reading test, Maths test and spelling test. We use these start-of-year tests to help us find students' strengths and weaknesses and plan for the year.

As a new challenge, this year we are trialling doing a lot of our testing on computers. You may be aware that Year 3, 5, 7 and 9 students sit nation-wide NAPLAN tests each year (NAPLAN stands for National Assessment Program - Literacy and Numeracy). From 2019 NAPLAN tests will be done online, so we have started moving some of our school assessment on-line to help develop the skills we will need for 2019.

Most test results will be sent home. Parents are invited to call or drop in to discuss their child’s assessment.

**Parents, Grandparents, Aunties and Uncles welcome**
In the past we have been very lucky to have parents come in and do sport, craft, gardening and nature activities with children during lunch breaks. Many of our older students still talk about Nanny Carol’s knitting classes.

Is there anyone out there with a skill they would like to share with our students? Knitting or crochet? Netball or cricket? Dancing or drawing?

Please get in touch if you have a skill, a talent or a passion that you would like to share.

**AFL on Fridays**
The AFL skills development crew will be visiting us on Friday mornings, starting (hopefully, weather permitting) from next week.

Shoes and hats please!
Marble Run!

How far can we make a marble travel? The Juniors enjoyed a recent Maths Investigation where they were asked to plan and design a marble run that would travel 2 metres or more. It needed to include twists and turns, all with a creative flair. The students set about solving ways to use the recyclable equipment we had on hand to construct a marble run that would allow a marble to travel a fair distance along sloped, curved and straight surfaces. Finally, we combined all the parts the children created to make one mighty marble run, and the best part was dropping the marble in to test it! Success!!

Yummo Food Day!

The Juniors have been writing about some of the things they enjoy about Yummo Food Day, along with some thoughts about how to make it better. Here are some of their ideas:

“I like running to the tuckshop and the smell of the food while we talk.”
“I like all the deserts, especially the ice-cream.”
“I like everything and it’s warm.”
“I like all of the food and the savouries.”
“I would like it if it was a restaurant and a person brings out the food and takes it away. We could have our number on the table or floor.”
Senior Class

Better than Best’

Homework

I am so impressed with those students who brought their homework back this week. Congratulations this is a great start to the school year! A great effort Willow, Zayade and Jimmy. You are organised!

I will mark the homework but feel free to sit with your child or check the work that they have done. Congratulate them on their effort or their organisation and then work through one or two corrections with them. Don’t overwhelm them by discussing too many issues unless they are happy for you to do so.

Number Talks

One great way that I have just learnt about doing Maths with kids is by doing Number Talks.

There is a great video that fully discusses it at the following web address, however I can give you a very brief outline.

Choose a simple number sentence and ask your child how they could work it out in their head (without writing it down). For example 17 + 6 = . Then as the most important part of the process, discuss with them how they got their answer. Then talk about other ways that you could work it out. See the examples that follow:

7 + 6 + 10
17 + 3 + 3
17 count on 6 etc

If you can try to draw ways to represent the different processes.

The idea is that children are able to play with numbers and see that they can be split up in different ways to make it easier to complete an operation. Being able to explain how they come up with an answer is also a core part of mathematics.

Effort

Share a story with your child about a time that you put in lots of effort and it was really rewarding. Maybe you also have another story where you didn’t really try and were disappointed with the results.

In the Senior Class we have been focusing on putting a really solid effort into our work. I explained to the students that the more they put into anything the more they will get out of it.

Getting the same message from home is non-confrontational way will help sell this message and the students will be reap the benefits.
To start the year off we have focused on organisation. In BOOST! we focused on the following as being crucial for organisation:

- Follow the instructions of adults
- Take care of things
- Put things way
- Plan to do your best work
- Use your time carefully

Do you have any others that are crucial to how your household is organised?

The beginning of the school year is such a great time to set routines and expectations. It is a crucial part of the school year and can also be for home as well. It does take quite a huge effort to get children organised but when children know the routines and what is expected life is so much easier and helping them become independent.

Tips for setting up Routines:
1. Show your child exactly what you want them to do first.
2. Ask your child to demonstrate what they have to do.
3. Make it the same time or in the same order every day.
4. Give them lots of praise when each step of the way when starting out. This could include a rewards system initially to establish the routine.

Art Electives have started!
Art electives take place on Wednesday afternoons. This term children could choose from printing, dance, digital design and personal art.

Photos: above, left: these people showed resilience on the BOOST bushwalk. Above: Elke and Lozan needed to be organised to cook pizza. Left: Digital Design is a popular choice for art electives. Below: but printing is messier fun!