Inquiry

Our inquiry question this term is:

Playful Pastimes “How are toys different and the same?”

While studying this unit of work the children will be looking at the historical background of toys and the important part they played in the lives of children in the past. They will also be looking at the differences and similarities of their lives and their parents’ lives. We will also be looking at the impact of changing technology on people’s lives.

Maths

In the final term of 2014 Grades 1 and 2 will be given the opportunity to demonstrate all the knowledge that they have acquired during the year.

We will continue to build on their Mathematical knowledge and we will be teaching the students more strategies for problem solving.

Some of the topics we will be covering are: Fractions including whole, halves, quarters and eighths, Chance and Data, Skip counting, shape and space, locations and re-capping any areas of misconception.

Remember that all children have a Mathletics login which can be accessed from most internet capable devices.

English

Reading
As with the rest of the year we will be continuing to check Reading Logs each week. Please ensure that you read with your child each night and sign their reading log.

In class we will be consolidating the skills learnt throughout the year and building towards transitioning to Grades 2 and 3.

Writing
This term in writing we will be focusing on writing Narratives and Persuasive texts.

The children will be working on writing in the correct format and attempting to tailor their writing to suit the intended audience. We will also be working on developing their the structure of their writing; including using interesting vocabulary, a range of punctuation, writing full complete sentences and beginning to use paragraphs.

Speaking and Listening
To assess and improve the children’s speaking and listening this term we will be providing the children a play script to practice and perform.

The children will continue to be provided with the opportunity to express their thought and opinions verbally during class discussion. They will also be expected to share their written work once a week through the use of the “Authors Chair”. The Grade 2 children will also have an additional speaking and listening task to complete. This will be a 2 minute speech on a topic of their choice. A letter will be sent home soon outlining the details and the due date.
Dear Parents and Caregivers

With the end of the year fast approaching we are looking forward to helping your child to transition to the next grade.

The end of the year is always a busy time and this year is no exception. We will have Swimming Lessons and Footsteps Dance Lessons commencing soon. Please ensure that your child has all the necessary equipment required to participate in these activities. The children who are not participating in these programmes will be provided with another educational activity.

October is also ‘Walk to School Month’. This is an incentive run in conjunction with the Kingston City Council. The program is designed to encourage the children to be more active and help the council design safe routes to school. In the hall there is a map of the area and we would like each student to mark out their route to and identify any areas of concern; for example, dangerous crossing points and potential hazards in the community.

Thank you once again for all your support,

Annie Tayleur and Larry Hay- Grade 1 and 2 teachers

Important Dates

Week beginning
Term 4 commences – 6th of October
Walk to school Month 6-31st of October
Book club due – 17th of October
Walk to school breakfast – 24th of October
Footsteps Lessons - 28th of October, 11th,18th,25th of November, 2nd December
Footsteps Concert – 10th of December 6-7.30pm
Swimming Lessons 11th,12th,18th,19th,25th,26 of November
Rippon Lea House Excursion – 1st of December
Graduation – 15th of December
Last day of term/ Reports home – 19th of December.

How you can help your child transition to the next grade

Moving on to the next grade can be a daunting time for your child. We will be doing our best to help prepare your child for a smooth transition to the next grade.

In class we will be setting time aside to discuss any worries that your child might have and discuss some of the changes that will be taking place. These issues will be discussed through the use of circle time lessons and a class worry box.

At home you can help with your child’s transition by:

Knowing and discussing any age related issues.

Act as a guide when doing homework. Discuss how to approach the task and then let them complete the task independently.

Gradually start to increase your child’s responsibilities at home.

Discuss any issues that your child might be having with their class teacher.

Most of all talk with your child about moving on to a new class and reassure them that there is nothing to worry about and change is a natural part of growing up.

Homework

As with the previous terms some homework will be expected to be completed each week. Please work with your child on the set tasks and ensure that they complete these tasks to the best of their ability. Practise spelling EVERY night for their test on Friday afternoon.

Homework needs to be completed and brought back to school each Friday.