

Ideas for celebrating National Literacy and Numeracy Week

National Literacy and Numeracy Week provides a distinct opportunity for schools to recognise and celebrate 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.

There are many low cost ways that you can celebrate the week at your school:

Celebrating literacy

- Hold drama workshops where students can act out favourite books.
- Have a school dress-up day and/or a book character parade.
- Encourage students and teachers to share their favourite books together.
- Organise a reading buddy system where older students read to younger students.
- Conduct a book writing/illustrating or playwriting competition.
- Organise a students' read-a-thon where students read in rotation in a communal area of the school (- this could be a good school fundraiser too!).
- Invite parents, grandparents and carers to visit classrooms to view displays of students' work and/or to participate in activities including National Reading Day on 29 August.
- Organise a display of students' work at a local supermarket, newsagent, etc.
- Have an unusual book day where students are encouraged to bring along a book with a difference – an old book, a very big or very small book, a book in another language, a book signed by the author, a book with unusual illustrations or some other distinguishing feature.
- Locate all the versions of a particular cartoon or fairy tale and identify which elements are the same or different.
- Compare and contrast different fonts used in websites, signs and advertising.
- Host a morning tea to thank literacy helpers.
- Compile a top 10 list of students' favourite books by holding a simple vote.
- Host a literacy banquet for parents prepared by the students including handwritten invitations and table settings and entertainment.
- Have a Mad Hatter's Tea Party or replicate other feasts/celebrations from favourite books.
- Explore literacy through cooking; ask students to write or type a favourite family recipe and compile into a simple recipe book that could be sold to parents (another potential fundraising idea). This idea could be expanded to include cooking and sampling of some of the recipes and then writing a review.
- Invite a local community Elder to tell stories from his or her culture.
- Arrange for a local author to visit your school and give a talk and/or reading of one of his or her books (- many authors will do this for free if they live locally). Design and conduct interviews with the visitors and make a podcast for your website.



Ideas for celebrating National Literacy and Numeracy Week

Celebrating numeracy

- Design a maths trail which encourages students to focus on maths in their local environment by counting, measuring, finding shapes and patterns and/or estimating distances. Expand on this idea by recording and then analysing the data collected.
- Open a classroom restaurant and explore how mass, measurement, time and cost are all involved in preparing, serving and selling food.
- Have a jellybean guessing competition (or something similar) that uses estimation skills.
- Hold a mini Olympics to highlight numeracy through sport – calculating points earned, average distances jumped, average times run, etc.
- Investigate the importance of numeracy for school related activities, such as ordering from the canteen and catching the bus/train.
- Conduct daily mathematics challenges that involve problem solving both individually and in teams - answers and winners can be published in the school newsletter.
- Construct a three-dimensional object using different materials, such as straw bales, packing boxes, sticks, etc.
- Create art (perhaps a collage or decorative tile) using mathematical shapes, designs and patterns.
- Have a games day and play dice, cards and other games that involve mathematical thinking and concepts.
- Conduct surveys on school related issues and display in graphs.

Measurement

- Measure the perimeter and area of your classroom in two different ways. In what other ways could you measure your classroom? (e.g., in sheets of newspaper made into square metres).
- Can you measure the volume? Or capacity?
- Calculate the cost of covering the floor using different materials. What is the most and least expensive covering? Which would you choose and why?
- What about other costs? Painting? Window coverings?
- How could you measure the height of your classroom? Make an estimate using known height(s), e.g., door jamb. Count elements of a known size, e.g., bricks.
- Use a clinometer and trigonometry.
- What is the volume of your classroom? Its capacity?
- How square is your classroom?
- Explore Pythagoras' Theorem using the 3:4:5 ratio to see if the classroom walls are square to each other or the floor (perhaps using rulers and string).
- Discuss the level of accuracy of the measurements.

Visit the NSW website: <http://www.nlnw.nsw.edu.au>