Ideas for celebrating National Literacy and Numeracy Week

National Literacy and Numeracy Week provides a unique 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.

As well as participating in the national literacy and numeracy activities (register online at www.literacyandnumeracy.gov.au), there are many low cost ways that you can celebrate the week at your school. Some ideas follow:

**Celebrating literacy**

- 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.
- Hold a book writing/illustrating or playwriting competition.
- Hold 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!)
- Create a ‘Reading Galaxy’ (in individual classrooms or a whole school galaxy in a communal space), where a star is added to the galaxy to represent each book read by the children during this week.
- Hold drama workshops where students can act out favourite books.
- 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 31 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 fairy tale and identify which elements are the same or different.
- Compare and contrast different alphabets, cursive and printed fonts, signs, 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 hand written, invitations and table settings and entertainment.
- Have a Mad Hatter’s Tea Party or replicate other feasts from favourite books.
- Explore literacy through cooking; get 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.
- Arrange for a local author to visit your school and give a talk and/or reading of one of their books (many authors will do this for free if they live locally).

There is also a great array of literacy activity ideas on the national NLNW website www.literacyandnumeracy.gov.au/national-celebration-literacy/more-activities

**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 tuckshop/canteen and catching the bus (understanding bus timetables).
- 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 3 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.

There is also a great array of numeracy activity ideas on the national NLNW website www.literacyandnumeracy.gov.au/more-activities