

National Literacy and Numeracy Week 2009 Project Report

Project title: Linking School and Home
Project description: To develop parent understanding of how we currently teach mathematics at school.
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<p>Number of students, teachers, parents, other community members directly involved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whole school focus with maths day – parents invited to classrooms to work on measurement problems with their children. Very good attendance, particularly in ES1 and S1 classes. • All parents invited to Maths night – 25 attended. • Parents of students enrolled in 2010 are attending a session on assisting children with numeracy at home in Term 4 as part of our school orientation program in early term 4. Our intake for Kindergarten 2010 is currently 40. • Pre-school talk on supporting students at home in the area of numeracy will take place early term 4.
<p>Intended literacy and/or numeracy outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents are more aware of how we currently teach mathematics • Parents are supported to assist students at home • Parents participate in maths day to learn about current teaching methods alongside students. • Homework to be more hands on in approach so that students are working at home in a way that closely matches classroom teaching strategies. • Link homework more closely to excellent teaching programs currently operating in classrooms. • Pre-school parents informed about how to support children in maths learning prior to school commencement at Kindergarten Orientation session • Smooth transition from pre-school to school .
<p>Evidence of achievement of intended literacy and/or numeracy outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents who attended the workshop evaluated it very positively saying that they now have a better understanding of our current maths syllabus and how it is taught. The number strand was the focus. They participated in a range of activities which supported them in understanding the working mathematically strand of the syllabus. They also felt that they had a better understanding of the developmental process that we follow, and how they could support their children at home. The majority if the parents stated that they now understand that there is a range of ways that students might arrive at solutions rather than just one way which was their own experience at school. • Parents attending our maths day enjoyed working alongside the students on various aspects of measurement, and were surprised at the range of experiences offered to the students and the ways in which students were able to explain what they were doing. Parents of ES1 and S1 students remarked on the “real world” aspects of measurement that their children demonstrated, commenting that they now have a better understanding of how to support

their children's developing understanding of measurement concepts at home through everyday tasks such as cooking, shopping and gardening.

- Teachers have developed homework which is in line with the whole school focus on measurement. This has meant that homework is now more connected to class programs and work that students are undertaking in particular areas of measurement at school. Students are completing homework at a better rate than previously and are reporting that they find homework more interesting.
- Outcomes focusing on transition to school from pre-school will be achieved in term 4. We believe that providing parents with information about numeracy prior to their child commencing supports a smooth transition to school from prior-to-school services. The links between home and school are developed so that partnerships between home and school are established before the child commences school. This process also reinforces the importance of parents as their child's first teachers and ways in which we can collaboratively develop student knowledge, skills and understandings.

Feedback about making grants available for such projects:

The NLNW assisted my school to focus on sharing information with parents about teaching mathematics. The parents appreciated the opportunity to learn about current teaching methods. By providing release time for teachers to develop the maths day activities, the school was able to showcase its work to support further development of parent understanding of ways to support children at home with mathematical concepts.

The development of an application assisted us to clarify what we wanted to achieve. Whilst the plan altered in that we did not create a DVD due to technical difficulties, the planning assisted us to see where we need to build teacher capacity to share information effectively with our school community.