

**Taylors Lakes Primary School**  
**Literacy Links**  
**for Parents and Students**  
**Learning Today For a Better Tomorrow**

## Supporting Your Child

The home school partnership is a very important one in developing children's literacy skills.

At Taylors Lakes Primary School we encourage parent involvement particularly in our literacy programs.

Strong links are made between the learning environment in the classroom and the learning environment at home. Each setting serves to reinforce your child's literacy skills.

### *Some interesting facts about the importance of literacy*

- ◆ 90% of brain growth happens by the age of 5. A child's brain is 2 1/2 times as active as an adults. The brain develops more through use.
- ◆ The earlier parents become involved in their child's literacy practices the better the results and the results will be long lasting.
- ◆ Parents who introduce their child to books give them a head start to developing literacy skills.
- ◆ A child exposed to books at home can have heard thousands more words than a child not exposed to books.
- ◆ The more words children know—the more they understand and the more curious they become.
- ◆ Writing at school is linked to reading at home; so oral language developed from parent/child reading can enhance writing development.
- ◆ Children who are read to regularly and have opportunities to read at home show a better approach to learning.

## Literacy Support Programs

### **BRIDGES LITERACY PROGRAM**

The BRIDGES program is an individual literacy program designed to support students in their literacy skills.

We are very pleased to have this program operating at Taylors Lakes Primary School. A key factor of the *BRIDGES* program is the use of volunteer tutors from our school community. Without volunteers the program cannot be successfully implemented.

***We would like to sincerely thank the volunteers that have been working with the BRIDGES program at our school. Your time and commitment are really appreciated.***

If you are interested in participating in this reading program as a

*Literacy Assistant*

please contact

Helen Ioannou on 9390 3388

### **Buddy Reading Program**

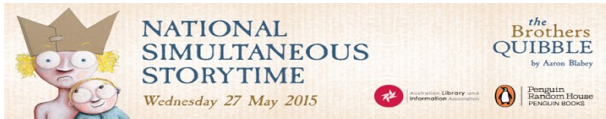
This wonderful reading support program continues at our school. Children from grade 5 are trained as tutors.

Several times a week they visit the F-2 children and listen to some of them read.

This assists the younger children with their reading skills. This program also fosters social and mentoring skills in the older children.



## Literacy Events



**National Simultaneous Storytime** is an annual literacy event that aims to encourage more young Australians to read and enjoy books. This year's book was *The Brothers Quibble* by Aaron Blabey.

*Spalding Quibble ruled the roost.  
He shared it with no other.  
But then his parents introduced  
a brand new baby brother...*

Uh oh..... *A humorous story about sibling rivalry.*



**Aaron Blabey** is the author of many well-loved, award-winning children's picture books including Pearl Barley and Charlie Parsley and the best-selling Pig the Pug.



## Book Week

The theme this year was *Books Light Up Our World*. At our school we celebrated this week by reading and discussing many of the short list books. Other events included depicting our favourite books on light globes. Some were put on display in the library. Classes also decorated their doorway or a space depicting a book theme. The finished products were amazing! Finally we had an open afternoon where we read some of our favourite books with torches.

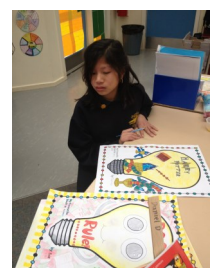
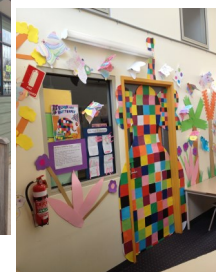
We encourage everyone to walk around the school and view the doorways and Book Week displays in the library.

## Literacy and Numeracy Week

August was also Literacy and Numeracy Week. Its focus is to celebrate the literacy and numeracy skills of young people in schools.

### Book Swap

Children were invited to bring along books they no longer read and participate in a book swap. With other books to take home we hope that our students are excited and ready to read new books. Children were asked to bring a small donation during this event. Money raised was donated to the Indigenous Literacy Fund. \$129.00 was raised.



## Teacher Professional Learning—Reading and Writing

Early in the year staff had two very informative literacy professional learning days. The reading day was run by the presenter Ann Korab. Writing was facilitated by Sheena Cameron and Louise Dempsey. These whole staff learning days reinforce good classroom practices and provide teachers with new ideas and resources to further compliment their class programs.



## Performing Arts—Alpha Theatre

On Monday 24th August the whole school had an opportunity to enjoy a performance from the Alpha Theatre Company. This theatrical musical/pantomime was based on the story of **'Beauty and the Beast'**. The production, with its colourful costumes and sets, was a wonderful opportunity for our children to experience 'live' theatre. Alpha Theatre Company productions include a huge amount of interaction. We look forward to next year's production.



Thank you to Mr Cristiano for organising this event.

## Story Time at Brimbank Library

As part of Book Week celebrations, the Sydenham Library invited Foundation and Grade one students to visit and participate in activities. At the Library the children had a tour, completed computer programs, had a story read to them and listened to an e-book. It was an enriching experience in a very welcoming setting. The children and their teachers also enjoyed a picnic recess at the park.



We are very fortunate to have such a great learning space in our community. Families are encouraged to visit the library and take advantage of the many resources and programs on offer.

Thank you to Mr Colagrande for organising this event.

## Premiers' Reading Challenge

The Premiers' Reading Challenge encourages children to read a set number of books over three terms and record their efforts online. It's a great way to get young people talking about reading with their friends and pushing themselves to read as many books as they can. During October an Online Honour Roll will be published on the PRC website. During November the participating children will be issued with a certificate.

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/events/prc/Pages/honourroll.aspx>

## A special class event

On Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> September Grade 3PM used Skype to set up a Skype Classroom session with a Grade 4 class from St Paul's Primary School in the Perth suburb of Mt Lawley. The children discussed many topics including how each school celebrated Book Week.



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## Writer's Notebook

This semester we have introduced Writer's Notebook. As well as structured writing lessons we are also providing children with the opportunity to write freely and be creative.

In the younger grades the teacher has a modelling book and the children assist with the entries by suggesting pictures-drawings, words, thoughts and sentences. This practice models how a writer's notebook is utilised and it also stimulates language and future writing ideas.

In grades 3-6 the children are developing their own writer's notebook. By the end of Grade 2 children will have begun their own and are starting to collect their 'seeds' (ideas).

### ***How you can assist at home.....***

- ◆ You can encourage your child to bring to school photos, clippings and artefacts.
- ◆ Discuss special or new things that happen and suggest they be used as a 'seed'.
- ◆ Children may be asked by the teacher to provide a particular item – please assist with this if possible.
- ◆ Ask them about the progress of the class notebook or their personal one if they have one.
- ◆ Some classes may encourage the children to take the notebook home – if your child brings their book home – they may wish to share it with you.
- ◆ **Encourage** them to be writers, provide opportunities to write and praise all efforts.

## Fun for Families

### Road trip scavenger hunt

Before you set out on your road trip, write a list of items your passengers need to find while travelling.

You could include items like:

- Stop sign
- Dog
- Licence plate starting with the letter A
- Supermarket
- Train
- Tree
- Red car
- Green traffic light



Your children can mark off the list as they see the items. The first one to mark off all the items on the list is the winner.