

St Nicholas of Myra School

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Term 3 Week 1



Friday 26 July

Grandparent's Day
9:30am Mass in
St Nicholas
Church followed by
Morning Tea in the
School Hall

Monday 29 July to Wednesday 31 July

Stage 3 Camp to
Canberra

Tuesday 30 July

Stage 2 Soccer
Gala Day

Friday 2 August

'Dress Like A Dad'
Mufti Day
Gold Coin
Donation

Bunnings Note Due

12:10pm Parish
Mass Stage 2

Monday 5 August

9:10am Parent
Group Meeting

Tuesday 6 August

2pm Musica Viva
Performance

Thursday 8 August

St Mary of the
Cross Liturgy

Staff Development
Days

SEE NOTE UNDER
GENERAL NEWS

Dear St Nicholas of Myra Families,

What a great first week back - school photos and Grandparent's Day tomorrow!

Italians have a cherished proverb that says, "If nothing is going well, call your grandmother." The following story might give an insight as to why this proverb is cherished. An educational psychologist was on her way from Perth to Adelaide to conduct a series of seminars and workshops for parents who were experiencing difficulties with their children. Sitting next to her on the flight was an eighty-year-old woman who was prone to short outbursts of conversation. During one such occasion she declared, "I've had a wonderful life. I have six children, thirteen grandchildren and eighteen great grandchildren." As she was completing her statement, she cast an eye over the papers and notes in front of the psychologist and said, "That all looks very important. What do you do?"

The psychologist thought, "Oh no! If I tell her what I do, I'll be saddled with three generations of problems for the remainder of the flight!" However, she decided to tell the old lady what she did and what she was about to do. As the old lady settled back into her seat, her response was, "Now, isn't that interesting. If you want to know anything, just ask."

Grandparents have the experience and knowledge that come from surviving a great many years of life's battles and hopefully, they have the wisdom to know when to share this experience and knowledge with their grandchildren. Jimmy Carter once observed that, "Because grandparents are free to love, guide and befriend young people without having to take daily responsibility for them, they can often reach out beyond pride and fear of failure and close the gap between generations."

Besides being the keepers of family traditions and history, grandparents provide grandchildren with examples of hard work and family loyalty. Grandparents' stories contribute to family identity by sharing knowledge about relatives, important events, family traditions, the grandparent's childhood and the childhood of the grandchild's parent. As these stories are passed on, the grandchild can gain a positive image of their place within the family and a positive image of ageing.

When we become parents, we automatically give our parents a new position in life, that of being grandparents. At the same time, we give our child the added security of belonging to an extended family. The relationship between grandchild and grandparent can be very life-enhancing: a grandchild can bring love, energy, optimism, laughter, youthfulness and sometimes purpose to the life of their grandparent. At the same time, a grandparent can provide maturity, knowledge, stability, a wise ear and unconditional love to a grandchild.

Nowadays, being a grandparent might not be as simple as you would like due to divorce, remarriage or geographic distance. However, whether you are a grandparent, step-grandparent or even a grandparent raising a grandchild, you are THE most important person in your grandchild's life and, as you well know, it's not only Italians who ring their grandmother when things aren't going so well. I love this day with our families. Unfortunately, all of my grandparents have passed. I use this day to remember the times I had with them and give thanks for time and gift of family.

"God, Father of us all, we are thankful for our life and for the privilege to be parents and grandparents. We pray for patience, guidance and wisdom to use our life's role, for our own benefit and the benefit and enjoyment of our extended family. Amen."

Peace and Joy
Anita Knezevic
Principal

Catholic Culture

Mission Team - Social Justice

St Vinnies Return and Earn

The NSW State Government launched the Return and Earn Container Deposit Scheme (CDS) in late 2017 in an effort to address drink container litter, which makes up 44% of the volume of all litter in the state. Vinnies participation in the scheme expands on its ethos and ongoing commitment to recycling, and is an extension of their retail store philosophy of reuse – helping to divert waste from landfill and supporting those in need at the same time.

The program provides Vinnies with an additional revenue stream to help fund its Good Works within communities across NSW, receiving a handling fee for every container processed. As part of our ongoing commitment to social justice and sustainability we will be supporting the return and earn scheme through Vinnies. Two bins will be established in our school for the collection of containers. Containers can be brought in from home as one bin will be placed near the school gates. The other bin will be on the playground for staff and students to place appropriate containers. All proceeds will be going directly to Vinnies.

Thank you to the students on the Mission Team who have helped to get this initiative up and running in our school.



Wear Your Favourite Jersey Day - Fundraiser for Catholic Care

Thank you to all our students who participated in this fundraiser for Catholic Care. The school has raised \$207.70 for this worthwhile cause.



Winter Sleep out Money Due

Thank you to all those families who have already handed in their Winter Sleep out Sponsorship money. All money and cards are due back by next Friday 2 August 2019.

Learning

We are so excited to be sharing the great feedback we received from our local peer schools regarding our 2019 action plans. Our annual goals are always based on the student data we regularly gather. From here as a staff we define and set our goals and actions. Each term we then share our actions with other Catholic school Leaders and gain feedback. Please take the time to see the development from 2019 Term 1 ES1 - S3 (K-6) until Term 2 ES1 - S3 (K-6).

Religion

Goal: For Students to deepen their understanding of Jesus by making connections to the spiritual sense through scripture.

All stages have been working hard to develop their understanding of Jesus. Using the Senses of Scripture we are able to delve deeper into the stories from the Bible and understand our faith. Look at some of the work samples below showing our learning.

Early Stage 1 (Kindergarten)



Jesus had a donkey and was walking on clothes from all the people on the side of the road going to Jerusalem. Jesus was going to have a special meal.

Stage 1



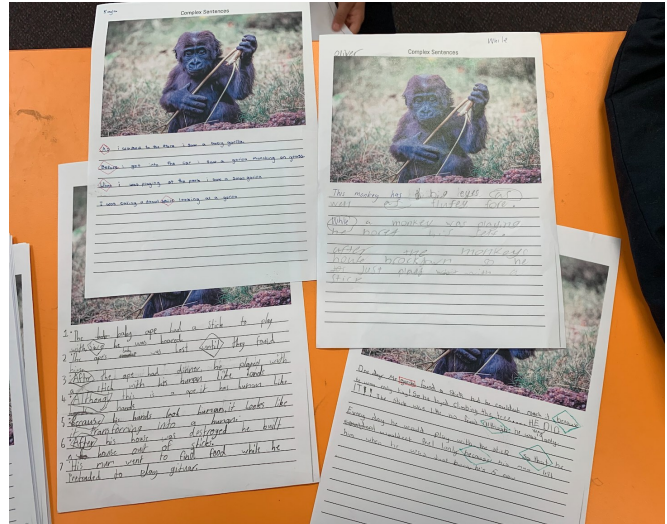
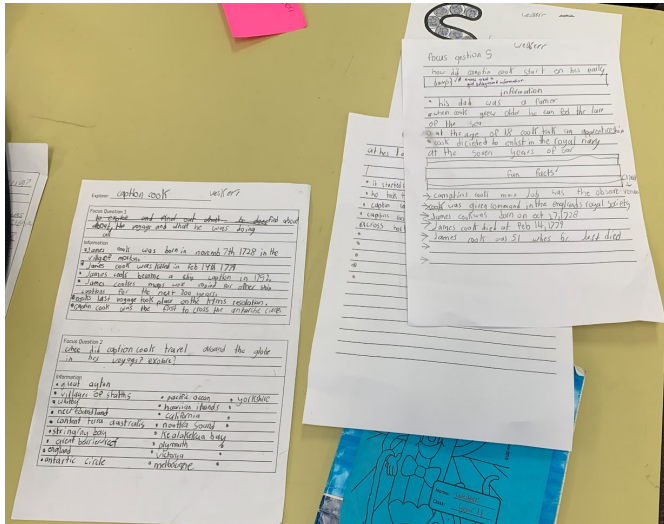
Stage 2



Learning (cont.)

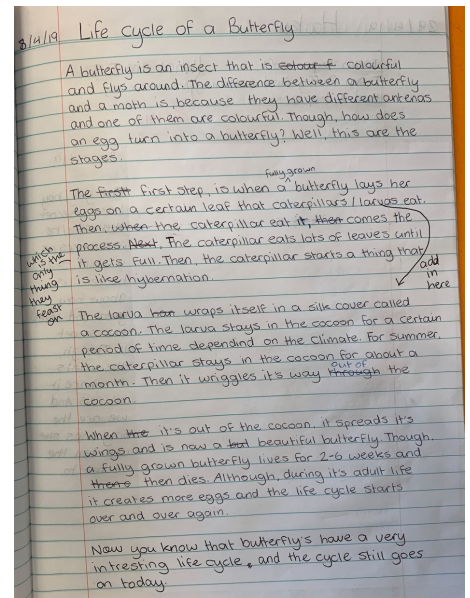
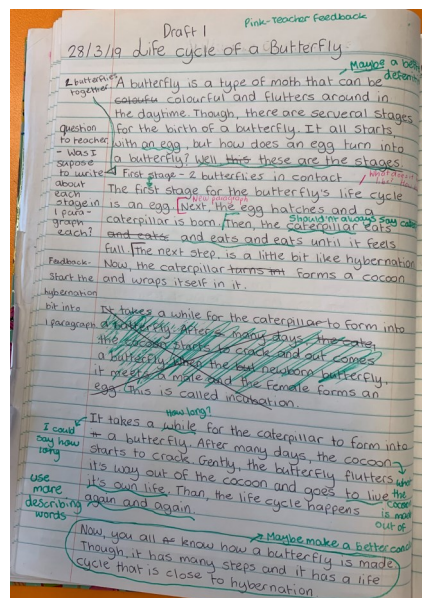
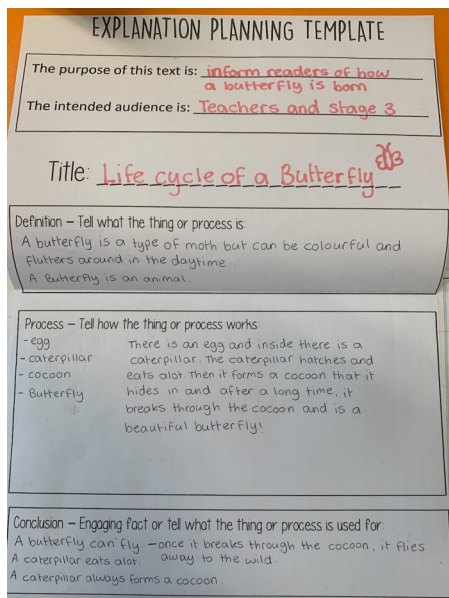
Stage 2

Writing in Project Based Learning (PBL). The students here are developing the thinking on the page to convey the purpose and audience in an informative manner. Here they are analysing their writing by identifying the grammatical features of time connectives. The other student sample is analysing their writing to see if the sentences used are simple, compound or complex sentences.



Stage 3

This writing is also based in another Key Learning Area of Science. This student sample demonstrates the writing process, the importance of ongoing student and teacher feedback and the impact of that feedback in this piece of writing.



Learning (cont.)

Mathematics

Goal: For all students to know and transfer their multiplicative thinking and reasoning skills to solve problems efficiently.

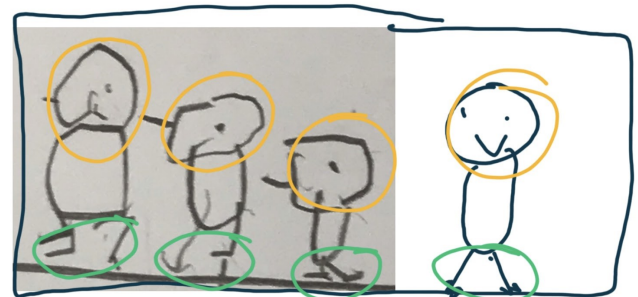
All stages have been working on applying their multiplicative thinking skills and strategies to solve a range of problems more efficiently. Students have also been leading class reflections and sharing their skills and strategies with their peers.

Early Stage 1 (Kindergarten)



Students turning and talking to share their strategies.

Early Stage 1 showing 'times as many'.



4 chicks - 4 heads
8 legs

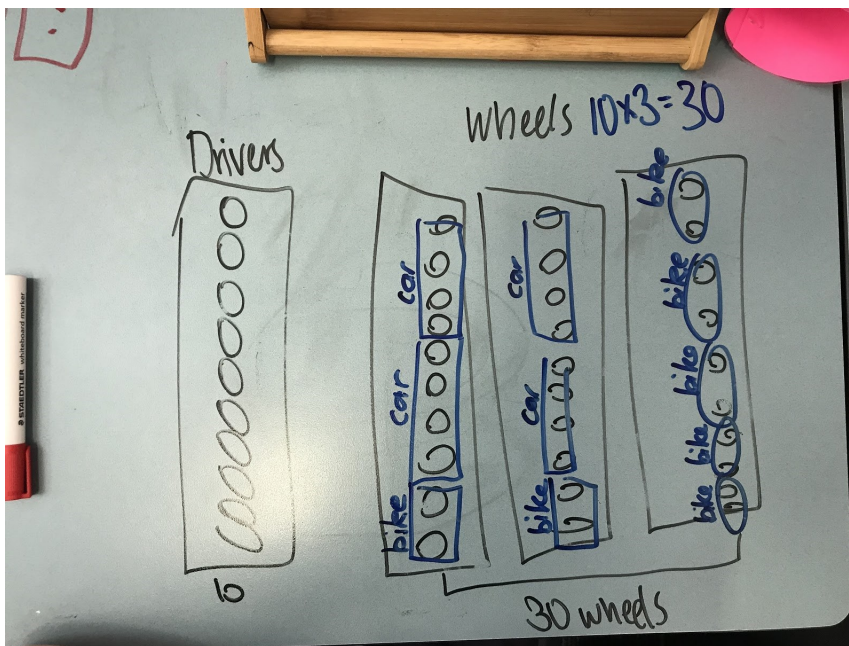
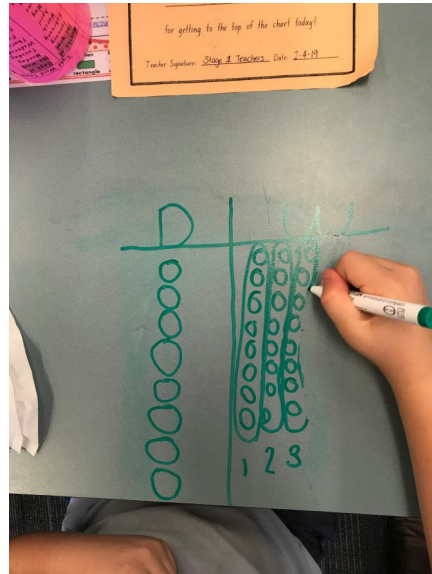
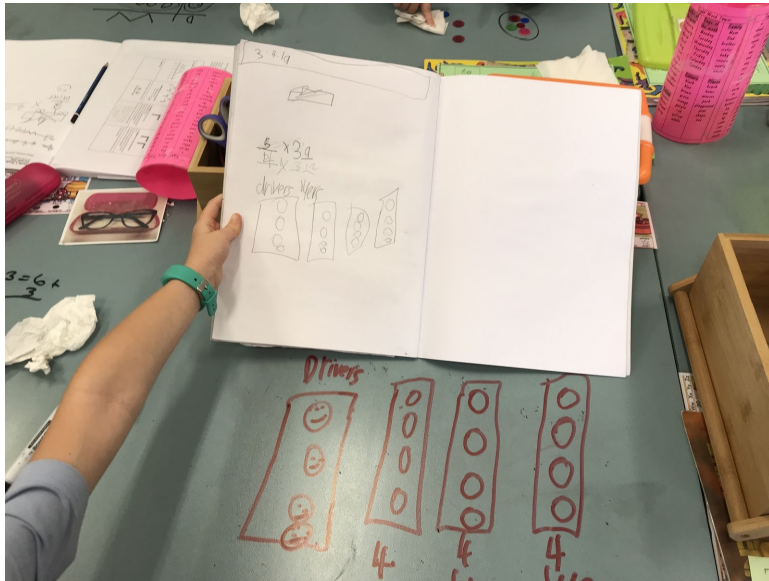
I have 2 times as many legs.



Students grouping numbers to count more efficiently.

Learning (cont.)

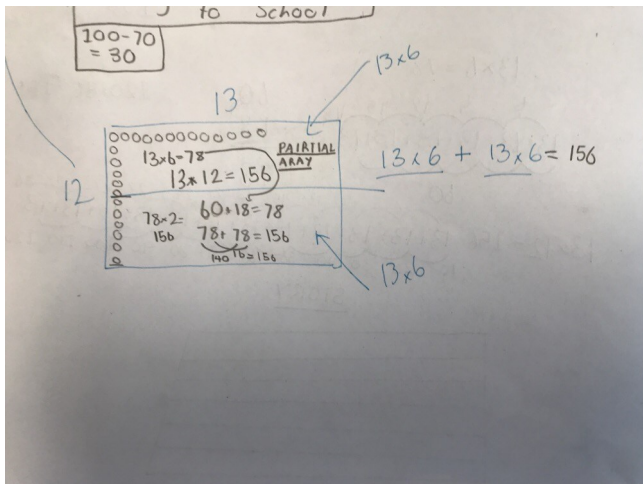
Stage 1



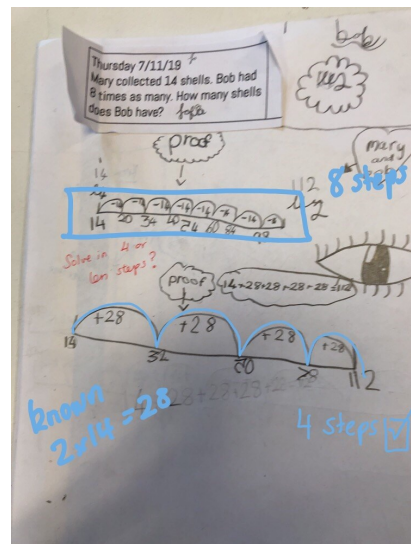
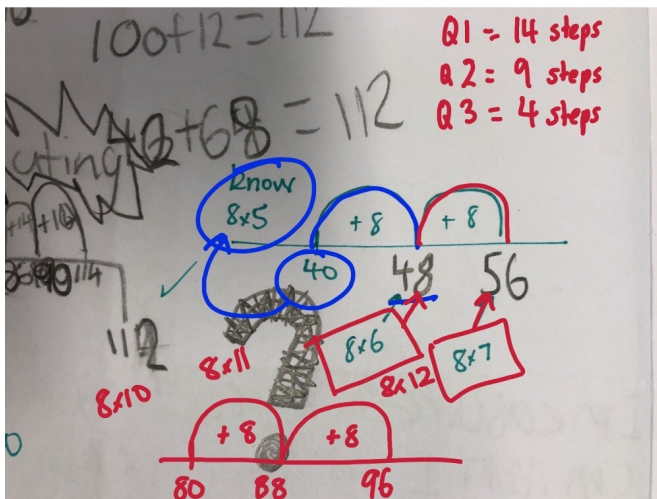
Stage 1 showing times as many using clear diagrams and models. They then focused on recording using a multiplication number sentence.

Learning (cont.)

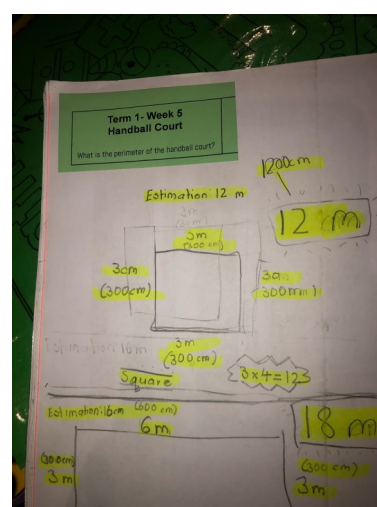
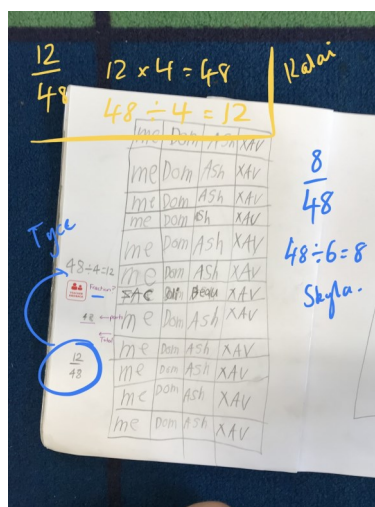
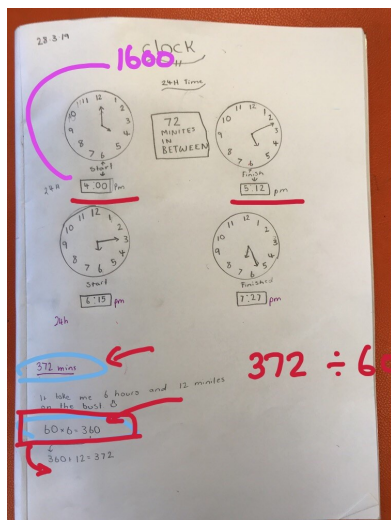
Stage 2



Stage 2 solving larger problems using partial models and recording the matching number sentences.



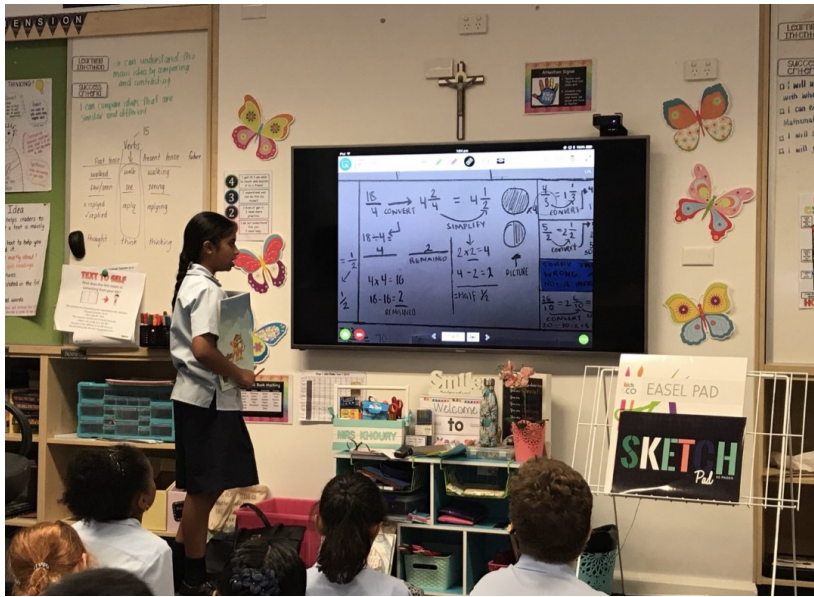
Using known facts to solve problems in less steps. Showing more depth of knowledge by solving the same problem in more efficient ways.



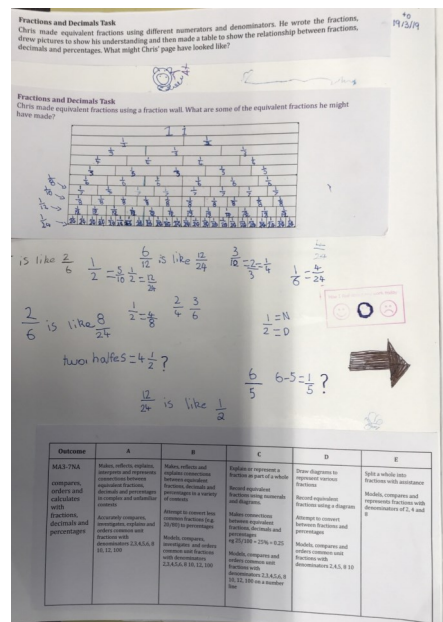
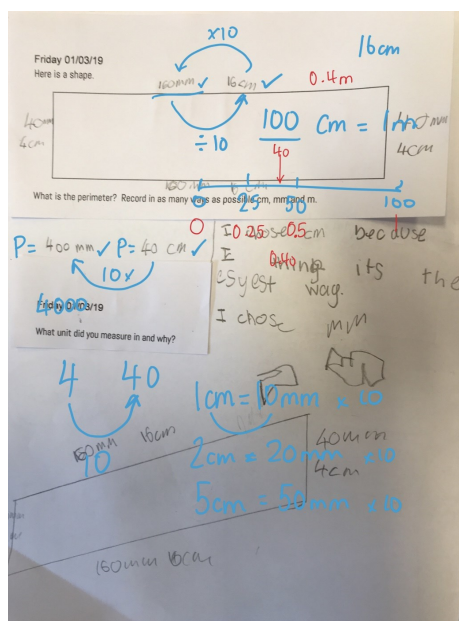
Applying their knowledge of multiplicative thinking to solve other problems involving time, fractions and area.

Learning (cont.)

Stage 3



Stage 3 leading the reflection with peers to share their understanding.



Transferring their understanding to solve involving fractions and length.

Creative Arts - Musica Viva Visit

On Tuesday 6 August, Zeeko from Musica Viva in Schools will be performing for the students at St Nicholas of Myra. Zeeko is a trio consisting of three talented and highly sought after musicians. They all perform regularly in a variety of ensembles and styles throughout Australia and internationally. This performance is a key element of the Music program that students will be taking part in during Creative Arts lessons this term. We look forward to welcoming Zeeko to our school!

Project Based Learning

Each year we are fortunate to have a critical friend process in relation to our learning and teaching of Project Based Learning. We were able to gain feedback for Stage 2 and 3 learning. This year it was Michael McDowell, Ed.D. is a national presenter, speaking on instruction, learning, leadership and innovation. He has provided professional development services to large school districts, State Departments of Education, and higher education. In addition, he was a former National Faculty member for the Buck Institute of Education and a key thought leader in the inception of their leadership work in scaling innovation in instructional methodologies. His expertise in design and implementation is complimented by his scholarly approach to leadership, learning, and instruction.

He holds a B.S. in Environmental Science and a M.A. in Curriculum and Instruction from the University of Redlands and an Ed.D. from the University of La Verne. He received departmental honors for his work in Environmental Science and was awarded the Tom Fine Creative Leadership Award for his doctoral work at the University of La Verne. He has also completed certification programs through Harvard University, the California Association of School Business Officials, the American Association of School Personnel Administrators, and Cognition Education. He holds both a California single subject teaching credential and an administrative credential. Dr. McDowell currently serves as the Superintendent of the Ross School District. Most recently, he served as the Associate Superintendent of Instructional and Personnel Services at the Tamalpais Union High School District. During his tenure, the Tamalpais Union High School District was recognized by the Marzano Research Laboratories as one of the top highly reliable organizations in the United States, and schools within the district received recognitions by the US News and World Report, and honored with California Distinguished Schools accolades.

Prior to his role as a central office administrator, Dr. McDowell served as the Principal of North Tahoe High School, a California Distinguished School. Prior to administration, Dr. McDowell was a leadership and instructional coach for the New Tech Network supporting educators in designing, implementing, and enhancing innovative schools across the country. Before engaging in the non profit sector, Dr. McDowell created and implemented an environmental science and biology program at Napa New Technology High School, infusing 1:1 technology, innovative teaching and assessment, and leveraging student voice in the classroom. Additionally, Dr. McDowell, taught middle school math and science in Pacifica, CA.

Project- and Problem-Based Learning is a very popular method of instruction, but PBL is often not designed thoughtfully to address surface, deep, and transfer learning outcomes. McDowell describes three key shifts that need to happen in PBL design to reach students' learning goals, which are clarity, challenge and culture. When these shifts are implemented in PBL design, the result is learners who are both confident and competent. Confident learners have a growth mindset, are assessment capable, and collaborate. Competent learners have the right surface and deep knowledge, and can transfer it to new situations.

Michael Dowell gave overwhelming positive feedback to our staff and more importantly our students for their

- Understanding of the learning process in PBL; PBL calendar, rubric, question,
- The clarity and purpose of the student's learning
- Joint construction of the Success Criteria
- Conversations with the students demonstrated that they
 - knew their groups and what was expected to be a prepared learner
 - could name the learning
 - could make connections to our emergency drills
 - referred to their research in English
 - use visual, words to create a picture of their thinking
- Peer (student to student) feedback named before their plan
- Workshops provided by the teachers were at their point of need
- Different forms of sources - images, text, videos for research and analysis using skimming and scanning skills
- Connections between different sources of energy; how they are the same and yet different

Project Based Learning (cont.)

Our next step in our learning is how do we create more opportunities for students to transfer their learning. This is where the students make their connections between concepts, skills and ideas.



It was great to learn from Mr McDowell and listen to what he had to say about PBL.

Isabella S

Mr McDowell's visit was important as he helped our group to think about new ideas and to think outside of the box.

Mia

When Mr McDowell visited for PBL I learnt that we need to focus on the important information and the little details that can change the whole project. It was important to listen to what he said as he is an expert in PBL.

Richard

Positive Behaviour Support for Learning (PBS4L)

Playground Initiative

Congratulations to Kindergarten who received the most tokens last term for our Playground Initiative. During the last four weeks of term, Kindergarten displayed the expectations of 'safe', 'respectful' and 'learner' during play time. On Monday, the children were rewarded for their behaviour. They developed a list of rewards they would like to have and then voted for their favourite. Painting was the winner! We had a wonderful afternoon of painting and the children came up with some creative artworks.



Learning

Stage 3 Canberra Camp - PACER

Students from our school will soon be undertaking, an education tour of the national capital. Students will be given the opportunity to participate in a variety of educational programs with a focus on Australia's history, culture, heritage and democracy.

The Australian Government recognises the importance of all young Australians being able to visit the national capital as part of their Civics and Citizenship education. To assist families in meeting the cost of the excursion the Australian Government is contributing funding of \$20 per student under the Parliament and Civics Education Rebate program towards those costs. The rebate is paid directly to the school upon completion of the excursion.

We look forward to sharing our experiences with you in the next newsletter and our assembly in Week 4.

General News

Staff Development Days (SDD)

This term we having **two Staff Development Days** which will be focusing on Literacy (Reading and Writing), there will be no supervision on:



**Mark
Your
Calendar**

Staff Development Day 1: Term 3 Week 7 Friday 6 September

» UPCOMING EVENTS

Staff Development Day 2: Term 3 Week 9 Friday 20 September

You may be wondering why we are having two SDD that are two weeks apart?

This will allow time for our teachers to implement strategies from the first day's learning within their classroom in order to gain student samples, observations and feedback. This evidence will then be needed for the second Staff Development Day. We appreciate your understanding and support with this rationale.

Term 3 Fun Food Days

The proposed Fun Food Days for Term 3 are:

- Week 3 Thursday 8 August - Pie and Sausage Roll Day
- Week 6 Thursday 29 August - Hot Dog Day

If any parents are able to assist with this day, please contact the office. If we are unable to find volunteers for this day, these days will be cancelled.

Father's Day Mufti Day

On Friday 2 August 2019 St Nicholas of Myra School will be holding a Mufti Day with the theme 'Dress Like A Dad'. Penalty for this day will be a donation of a GOLD COIN which will go towards our Father's Day Stall.

Bunnings BBQ Fundraiser—Major Fundraiser for Term 3

Each year our school holds a Bunnings BBQ at North Penrith Bunnings. This year it will be held on Saturday 17 August. A note has been sent home seeking your assistance in running this BBQ. We need volunteers to run this day so if you can assist in any way (1—2 hours), please complete the form and return to school by Friday 2 August.

Remember that 'Many hands make light work' for all!



School Fees for Term 3

Term 3 School Fee Statements have been sent home and payments are due by Wednesday 28 August 2019.

Correspondence

- ☺ Father's Day Mufti Day
- ☺ Stage 3 Voice of Youth
- ☺ Father's Day Gathering EOI
- ☺ Bunnings Note
- ☺ Father's Day Order Form

St Nicholas of Myra Parish

326 High St Penrith
4721 2509

Mass Times

Saturday Vigil 6:00pm
Sunday 7:00am, 8:30am, 10:00am &
6:00pm

Weekday Masses:

Monday 9.30am
Tuesday 6:45am, 9.30am
Wednesday 6:45am, 9:30am
Thursday 9:30am
Friday 6:45am, 12:10pm



St Nicholas of Myra Parish, Penrith ***Sacramental Program*** ***Confirmation 2019***

Parents wishing to enrol their children in the program must attend an information session, which will be at St Nicholas of Myra Church on Tuesday 13th August 2019 at 7.00pm. Further information regarding the program will be given at this meeting.

To be eligible for Confirmation, children must be in year 5 or above. They must be baptised and have made their First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion

Ph: 4721 2509

Email: sacramental@stnicholasofmyra.org.au

Check out this Healthy Lunchbox website for some helpful resources from Cancer Council NSW

healthylunchbox.com.au

On the website parents will find snack ideas, sandwich alternatives, recipes, tips and easy healthy swaps for those common lunch box items that are not the best for our kids. Parents can also get their kids involved in choosing lunch box foods they will actually eat and enjoy using the interactive [Healthy Lunch Box builder](http://healthylunchbox.com.au).

