

24th June, 2021

Term 2 Issue 9



Diary Dates

2021

JUNE

25 Final Day of Term 2
2:30pm finish

JULY

12 First Day of Term 3
15 SRC Incursion

Principal's Report

End of Term 2

It is the end of another great term at Coatesville. I am sure that like me, you are in disbelief that we are about to hit the mid-way mark of 2021. After a tumultuous 2020, we all hoped for a more normal year in 2021, but we have been greeted with continued uncertainty around COVID-19 and the reality that this may be the new normal, that we need to learn to live with. Another lockdown and venture into Remote Learning has shown us that we are adaptable and flexible, but I am sure we were all relieved when it was over after 2 weeks and we could send the kids back to school. Students have transitioned well back to school and have really taken it in their stride. We are now back in the cycle of restrictions lifting in a staged and deliberate way and at Coatesville we are hoping that we will be able to move back to different settings next term which allows for more parent involvement.

OSHC provider

At School Council on Tuesday night, as per normal, we reviewed reports from the various subcommittees, but the major focus for the meeting was the Out of School Hours Care (OSHC) tender process that is underway. At Coatesville, we use an outside provider (currently Camp Australia) to deliver our OSHC program and their contract ends this year, so we are undertaking an expression of interest process whereby companies get to pitch to take on the OSHC service at Coatesville. School Council are rating the companies on criteria such as value for money for parents, quality of the service, staff stability and qualifications, NQS adherence and overall capacity to deliver an engaging and enjoyable program. Once the process is complete, we will sign a new contract with a provider to deliver OSHC at Coatesville for the next 3 years. We will notify the community once the process is complete.

Principal's Report cont'd

2022 NAPLAN

As of 2022 all Victorian schools will be doing NAPLAN online. Coatesville will be undertaking a trial of the online platform early next term which comprises of a simulated test that will analyse our network capability to run the NAPLAN online testing platform. Once the whole nation is undertaking NAPLAN online, it is hoped that results will be returned in a much quicker timeframe.

I hope that everyone has a safe and enjoyable break and we look forward to seeing you back on Monday 12th June.

Michael Jones
Principal

2021 School Captains

We would like to acknowledge and thank School Captain, Amit K who will be moving back to Israel with her family over the school holidays.

Congratulations to Alexis P who will be taking on the role of School Captain for 2021 and to Elizabeth Lazarow who will begin as Vice School Captain from Term 3.

Around the Grounds

While you have been offsite we have been upgrading our outdoor spaces. The most recent addition being these fantastic post covers. We will also be updating the nets on both the basketball and netball rings ready for next term. During the holidays we have a big project happening with a new sports shed being constructed to accommodate the ever growing needs of sporting equipment in the school.

It has been fantastic to see the oval and running track being used everyday by all year levels.



House Athletics Carnival - Rescheduled

We are really excited to confirm that the House Athletics Carnival for Grade 4, 5 & 6 students has been postponed to Tuesday, 27th July at G.R Bricker Reserve (Moorabbin Little Athletics Centre).

We will be sending more information home closer to the event.

Building Numeracy Skills at Home

Part 1: Foundation to Grade 2

Developing Numeracy skills early gives children a great foundation for their future learning. It prepares them not just for academic endeavours, but also daily life. **Maths** includes noticing numbers, shapes, patterns, size, time and measurement. Incorporating maths into everyday experiences is easy and fun! We want children to recognise that maths is everywhere - in the playground, at the shops, in sports and at home. Children need lots of practise in making, counting, drawing and talking about numbers.

Below are some ways that you can support your child's Numeracy skills develop. Remember these are meant to be fun. We want to instil in our children a love of learning, not make it another task they have to do.

Doing maths at home

- **Talking about maths** - Many daily activities support the development of specific language skills related to maths. They provide rich and meaningful context to many mathematical concepts and regular exposure to maths talk provides a support for future learning. Some ideas to support this are:
 - o Use specific terms when asking for items (e.g. get the "one Litre of milk" from the fridge).
 - o Discuss measurements used during cooking (e.g. two teaspoons, four cups of flour etc).
 - o Discuss your movements as you play at the park, go for a walk or bike ride (e.g. as they climb 'over' the log, swing 'under' the monkey bars, go 'between' the two poles).
 - o Sorting activities can support the concept of the same and different (e.g. sorting their washing into light or dark, or sorting the rubbish into recycling, compost or rubbish).
- **Counting together** - Learning to say numbers usually comes before children are able to recognise or identify a numeral. Learning to count can be through their favourite song or repetition. Some ideas to practise counting include:
 - o Listen to the counting sequence in songs and rhymes(e.g. Five Little Ducks, Ten in the bed, Ten green bottles, Five Little Monkeys, 1,2 Buckle My Shoe).
 - o Children can count as they walk up the stair, the buttons on their clothes, their toys etc. As they move on to counting a set objects, they begin to link each object to a number. In the beginning encourage them to touch each object as they say the matching number.
 - o Once confident with counting, use different starting numbers to count on from (e.g. start at 6 or 10). Ask your child to count forwards or backwards, what number comes before, what number comes after a given number.
- **Count every day** - Practise counting every day during daily tasks, such as:
 - o Cutting the fruit into six pieces and ask your child to count the pieces.
 - o Counting the total number of cutlery items on the table at dinner time.
 - o Counting the number of people travelling on the bus or in the car.
 - o Counting the number of houses that you walk past.
 - o Counting how many steps it takes to get from the kitchen to the lounge room.
 - o Counting sheep to get to sleep

Playing games

- **Hunting for numbers** - A fun and engaging activity to do is to do a Number Hunt. Ask your child to find numbers around you (e.g. house numbers, number plates, signs, calendars, newspapers etc).
- **Using playing cards** - Using playing cards for a game is always fun, particularly on rainy days or during the holidays. You can:
 - o Play matching games like 'Snap' or 'Go Fish'
 - o Order the numbers on the cards from smallest to largest, or largest to smallest.
- **Playing shop** - Create a mini shop at home with cardboard boxes, toys, fruit, anything in the house - the sky is the limit!
A few tips and activities:
 - o Label the items with a price
 - o Talk about how we pay for items using coins, notes, cards.
 - o Make paper money or use play money to buy and sell goods from the shop
 - o Collect old receipts or price tags and use them for the shop
 - o Notice the different shapes, animals and people shown on the coins and notes. Discuss the differences. Make coin rubbings with pencils and paper.
 - o Encourage your child to order the items in the shop for height or cost, or categorise them.
 - o Introduce kitchen scales to the mini shop to weigh the food items.
- **Play games** - Games can be a great way to make maths fun for children. Here are some ideas you could try:
 - o Play 'I Spy' with your child, getting them to 'Spy' shapes, numbers or patterns.
 - o Board games! Help your child when rolling dice to count, move and stop after moving the number shown on the dice. When starting to use a dice, your child may count all of the dots on the dice face. However, over time they will begin to recognise the number of dots shown. This is called *subitising*.



- **Playing with Shapes** - Playing with shapes can improve your child's concept of different shapes and to build hand-eye coordination. Some ideas and tips are:
 - o Jigsaw puzzles and shape sorting toys support problem solving and spatial awareness development.
 - o Name and notice the similarities and differences between shapes.
 - o Use cookie cutters to explore different shapes and describe them
 - o Making paper planes involves a variety of mathematics concepts, including halving, angles, shapes and symmetry. You can also bring in measurement by seeing which plane goes the furthest or has the longest hang time.
 - o Use building blocks or Lego to build a tower. Use the same number of blocks and have your child create a different shape.



These are just a few ways that you can support your child's Numeracy skill development at home. We would love to see some of our community 'doing maths' over the holidays, and to share these with others. Please take a photo and send it to Megan.macfarlane@education.vic.gov.au so that we can share all the amazing things happening at home to support Maths. I will also be providing some ideas of how to support Numeracy skill development in Grades 3 – 6 next term. Stay tuned.

Megan Macfarlane
STEAM Leading Teacher

