

HEADS UP!

A Weekly Update from Lyons Early Childhood School



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

EMERGENCY EVACUATION DRILL

Yesterday, we practised our emergency evacuation procedures. The children were very responsible and showed us how they are able to exit the building with their teachers quickly and safely. Following every evacuation drill teachers debrief with the children to ensure they understand the process and are aware that at this time it is just a practice.

SPELLING INSTRUCTION AT LECS

In last week's Heads Up, Aimee and I talked about the complexities of the English language and the approach our school takes to phonics instruction. These complexities in the English language mean that children require a range of strategies for spelling. At LECS we explicitly teach 5 strategies from Christine Topfer's work, *'Guided Thinking for Effective Spelling'*. The 5 strategies are...

-  **Sound** – focusing on the sounds in words
-  **Visual** – focusing on the way words look
-  **Meaning** – thinking about word meaning
-  **Connecting** – making connections with other words
-  **Checking** – using live, print or electronic resources

At the end of Heads Up I have included a prompt sheet developed by Christine Topfer which was sent to families last year. These prompts are useful for when you are writing with your child at home.

The P&C are working with the school to host a literacy information session on Thursday 6 September at 4.30pm where we will explain these strategies further.

Regards

Mitchell
Acting Principal

REMINDERS

Thursday 6 September

LECS P&C Literacy Information Session in Merindah @ 4.30pm

OUTSTANDING FEES

Families are asked to pay any outstanding Family Contributions, Uniform or Stationery Fees to the school ASAP. If you are unsure as to whether you owe fees or not, please contact Mandy on 6142 0044 for clarification. Thank you 😊

READING MORNING AT LECS

Did you miss the 'Reading Morning at LECS' Information Session?

Please email me Aimee.Hunter@ed.act.edu.au if you would like to know more.

Do you have a spare half an hour a week (or even more) to come in and support our students to become more confident readers?

In Term 3 we will begin running small groups for children across K-2 to continue to build their skills in reading. If you can help, you will be provided with full training and support (and of course, a hot beverage).

Who can help with reading?

Everyone! - Mums, dads, carers, grandparents, aunts, uncles, friends and neighbours! We require you to commit to at least one 30 min time slot a week (and we would love if you can commit to more). This will most likely be at 9am on Monday and Friday.

You will also need to hold a Working with Vulnerable People Card. We will happily assist you with the application process for this card.



KIDS' MARKET

Help needed for the Kids' Market at LECS in Term 3

We are calling for volunteers to contribute to our upcoming Kids' Market.

PLEASE give an hour to help set-up, pack-up, man the very popular cake stall or bake a cake to donate.

We are also looking for 2-3 manly men to run the BBQ between 11am and 1pm otherwise we will have to scrap it. Register at <https://www.volunteersignup.org/DRE9H>

LITERACY INFORMATION SESSION

Come and hear from two of our teachers about how literacy is taught to children at LECS

Date: Thursday 6 September 2018

Time: from 4.30pm – 5.45pm

Where: Merindah (LECS library)

Light snacks will be provided. This is a birth to 8 years event and everyone is welcome.

IT'S RAFFLE TIME!

Kids' Market Raffle

We are running a raffle for the Kids' Market with some **awesome prizes**; movie tickets, craft kit, photo session, gift vouchers, entertainment book, and more. Tickets have been sent home with each child to sell to family and friends.

When selling tickets, please write the buyer's name and phone number on each ticket butt so that we can inform winners.

Thank you for your continued support.

LECS P&C Committee

lecsbandc@gmail.com

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/LECSPandC/>

Spelling Strategies for Home



Sound

- Say the word slowly; listen carefully and write the sounds
- Clap the syllables, listen and write the word syllable by syllable.
- Say the words in parts; write down each part
- Do you know any other words that sound almost the same? How are those words written?
- Write each part of the word as you hear it. Did you include a vowel in each part?



Visual

- Think about how the word looks: try several different patterns.
- What do you often see at the end of words?
- What other letters could you use to write that sound?
- Which two letters often go together?
- Which parts look right?
- Can you see the word in your mind?
- Do you know the shape of the word?



Meaning

- Ask yourself what the word means.
- Think about the meaning. Does that give any clues to the spelling pattern?
- What is the base word?
- Think about the endings of words.
- Do you know any other words that look or sound like this word? Are these words related in meaning?



Connecting

- Does this word remind you of any other word you know?
- Is there any other word that looks or sounds the same? Can you use this information to help you spell the word?
- Try using parts of other words to help you
- Do you know how to spell _____? This word has a part that is the same.



Checking

- Is there print in the environment that can help you to check the spelling of that word?
- Try to locate the word in a dictionary.
- Type the word on the computer or tablet and use the spell check function.