



## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

### PACK SPARE CLOTHES EVERY DAY AT LECS!

It's been a rainy week but we have continued to send children outside as much as possible. At LECS, children spend much of their time learning in the outdoors. This happens despite the weather.

Early childhood research has changed our attitude about children and outdoor play, particularly in less-than-ideal weather. Learning outside the classroom emphasizes direct experience, self-directed inquiry, teamwork, and self-reliance.

In Scandinavia's 'all-weather' schools, children spend time outdoors every day, in every type of weather. They report fewer colds and less flu than children who spend their days in closed classrooms. And the education results? Scores in maths, science and reading have consistently been at or near the top.

Evidence supporting nature-based, place-based education or experiential learning (as this approach is variously called) has been building for decades.

Is there really such a thing as bad weather? Maybe not at LECS!

Please remember to pack a set of spare clothes in your child's bag each day. Children will run in puddles, play in the mud and enjoy water play. That's all part of learning in our school.

*"There's no such thing as bad weather,  
only bad clothes"*

Principal Mary

## REMINDERS

**Tuesday 28 March**

**School Photos**

**Wednesday 29 March**

**School Photos**

**Multicultural Playgroup at Ulverstone @ 9.30am**

**Healthy Food Feast and**

**K-2 Sustainability & Music Festival of Learning @ 2.00 – 3.30pm**

**Thursday 30 March**

**School Photos**

**Cooinda Kindergarten Festival of Learning @ 8.30 – 9am**

## HEALTHY FOOD FEAST

**Wednesday 29 March @ 2pm in our P-2 Outdoor Area**

Families are welcome to come and join the whole school (Birth to 8) at this term's Healthy Food Feast. Children will be preparing healthy and delicious soup and bread for everyone to enjoy and there will be singing and celebration! (Karobean 2 children are welcome to attend as long as they are supervised by an adult).

If you have any excess produce from your garden such as pumpkins or potatoes or any other healthy food items you would like to donate, please bring them in before the Feast as we are making a collection. LECS will be donating these to Woden Community Service on the day to give out to the wider community. Thanks in advance for your support.

Lisa Donaldson from FeedInc will be joining us. She will be available to talk to parents/carers about nutrition and healthy food choices.

See you there!



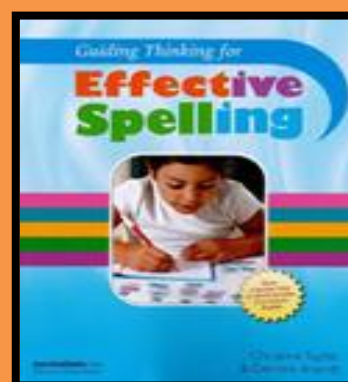
## STRATEGIES FOR EFFECTIVE SPELLING AND BUILDING WORD CONSCIOUSNESS

During the holidays, LECS teachers worked with Christine Topfer, a literacy consultant, who wrote the book *'Guided Thinking for Effective Spelling.'*

Teachers explored core understandings of how the English language works and the range of strategies that children require to become effective spellers. A key understanding gained was that words don't function on their own. For children to develop effective use of strategies, they need to learn to spell in a way that supports the context of the word and its use. Across this year, teachers will be working together to use this information to develop a consistent approach to spelling across the school.

### Spelling Strategies

- 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



These strategies form a repertoire that children use to spell. One strategy alone is not enough to become an effective speller.

### Building Word Consciousness

Children's brains are not cameras, rather their minds work by making connections and seeking patterns. Word consciousness is about noticing patterns and connections within and between words. It is noticing that 'one', 'alone' and 'only' have similar spelling patterns based on meaning. It is noticing that some spelling patterns sound the same but are spelt differently. It is noticing how words function in the context of writing. At LECS, we will be providing opportunities for children to become pattern seekers and discuss the patterns children notice in words.

### How can you support your child with spelling at home?

The following strategies provide a starting point for supporting your child with spelling at home:

- Write regularly with your child for a purpose and talk through the words they are trying to write. Focus on the sounds, spelling patterns. Show them connections to other words and discuss the meaning of the word. Discussing words that your child is writing supports them to understand word function and meaning.
- Support your child's development of 'word consciousness' by discussing interesting words found in books and print in the environment. Talk to your child about how the words are spelt and why they are spelt that way.

We will further explore our school's approach to spelling in upcoming newsletters.

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