Mrs Smoother’s Update

The Snow Gums Learning Network, Maths Challenge. The challenge is designed for students Years 3 to 6 to work collaboratively in an online learning community. The challenge is mapped to outcomes from the NSW Board of Studies Mathematics K-10 Syllabus vol 1.

The students log in using Edmodo to access the problem, solve the problem and then post a reply to the other students in their group that explains how they went about solving the problem. At the same time the students are using video conferencing, and last Friday they were joined by Mr Frank Potter, Executive Director who was visiting Chandler Public School so he could see the challenge in action.

Teaching and Learning. In English the theme for the students has been Relationships. The students in Years 3 – 6 have studied the books Fox by Margaret Wild, Why I love Australia by Bronwyn Bancroft and the poem Andy’s gone with cattle by Henry Lawson. The students wrote a narrative in the present tense to continue the story of Fox, they used the illustrator’s technique of vivid colours for Fox and writing the text left handed (or right handed if the student is usually left handed). After reading Why I love Australia the students were required to write about a part of Australia they love and then illustrate their work. We had lots of discussion about the choice of colours Bronwyn Bancroft used in her traditional artwork.

The students in Kinder and Year 1 have been studying Where is the Green Sheep? by Mem Fox, Our Granny by Margaret Wild, and Grandpa’s Surprise by Rosalind Beardshaw. The students had to locate the green sheep that was lost in the school grounds, write about a trip the green sheep went on and watch a short film of the green sheep trying to find Mem Fox. Margaret Wild wrote about lots of things the gran in the story can do and what she looks like so the students have written about what their own grannies can do and what they look like.

In Science our units for this term are, Growing Well (Kinder and Year 1) and Beneath Our Feet (Years 3 – 5) they are units of work from Primary Connections. The Primary Connections teaching and learning approach embeds inquiry-based learning into a modified 5Es instructional model, with five phases of Engage, Explore, Explain, Elaborate and Evaluate. The Growing well unit is from the Biological Sciences and Beneath our feet is from the Earth and space sciences strand.

In HSIE the unit of work is Products and Services. The outcomes for this unit are as follows.

- ES1 students recognise own and other’s needs, roles, rights and responsibilities at school and at home.
- S1 students examine how goods and services used by families are purchased to meet needs and wants.
- S2 students identify the range of resources, including managing money to purchase goods and services, used to meet people’s needs and wants.
- S3 students understand the consequences of financial decisions and management on personal and family finances, inclusive of some consumer and producer rights and responsibilities in own and global contexts.

School Calendar

**T4 Week 5**

- Thursday, 6th November 2014 – School Banking
- Thursday, 6th November 2014 – P&C Meeting - 5pm
- Friday, 7th November 2014 – Library
- Friday, 7th November 2014 – School Assembly – 2.30pm

**T4 Week 6**

- Monday, 10th to Friday 14th November – School Swimming
- Thursday, 13th November 2014 – School Banking
- Friday, 14th November 2014 – Library

**T4 Week 7**

- Monday, 17th to Friday 21st November – School Swimming
- Thursday, 20th November 2014 – School Banking
- Friday, 21st November 2014 – Library

**T4 Week 8**

- Thursday, 27th November 2014 – School Banking
- Friday, 28th October 2014 – Library
- Friday, 28th October 2014 – Transition

**T4 Week 9**

- Thursday, 4th December 2014 – School Banking
- Thursday, 4th December 2014 – Hockey Gala Day
- Friday, 5th December 2014 – Library

**T4 Week 10**

- Thursday, 11th December 2014 – School Banking
- Thursday, 11th December 2014 – End of Year School Assembly
- Friday, 12th December 2014 – Library
- Friday, 12th December 2014 – Transition
- Friday, 12th December 2014 – Student Reports Home

End of Year Presentation Afternoon – 11/12/2014
Swimming. Again this year we will be combining with Black Mountain Public School for our School Swimming and Water Safety program. Swimming will commence on Monday 10 November and run through until Friday 14 November. Transition will not operate on Friday 14 November due to swimming. Students will have an early lunch and then head into the pool.

Hockey Gala Day. On Thursday 4 December the students will combine with Bald Blair Public School students to attend a Hockey Gala day to be held in Armidale at the hockey fields at UNE. The day will be conducted by Blair Chalmers who is the NSW Hockey Development Officer for New England.

School Planning 2015 - 2017. DEC Schools across the state are embarking on processes to determine their strategic directions for the next three to five years. This planning enables schools to look at what they are currently doing and what they could be doing. The planning is based on the work of The Melbourne Declaration on Educational Goals for Young Australians 2008. http://www.curriculum.edu.au/verve/_resources/National_Declaration_on_the_Educational_Goals_for_Young_Australians.pdf this document was signed by all Education Ministers at the time. These goals are:

- Goal 1: Australian schooling promotes equity and excellence

These goals are elaborated to identify what essential skills and abilities successful learners, confident and creative individuals; active and informed citizens have.

Teachers are required to lead the learning of essential skills and abilities for each student:

- In literacy and numeracy
- To be creative and productive users of technology
- To think deeply and logically
- To obtain and evaluate evidence in a disciplined way
- To be creative, innovative and resourceful
- To plan activities independently, collaborate, work in teams and communicate ideas
- To make sense of their world
- To acquire the skills to make informed learning and employment decisions throughout their lives.

Confident and creative individuals, active and informed citizens …

- Have a sense of self-worth, self-awareness and personal identity to manage their emotional, mental, spiritual and physical wellbeing
- Enterprising, show initiative and use their creative abilities
- Develop personal values and attributes such as honesty, resilience, empathy and respect for others
- Confidence and capability to pursue university or post-secondary vocational qualifications
- Relate well to others and form and maintain healthy relationships
- Act with moral and ethical integrity
- Be able to relate to and communicate across cultures
- Are responsible global and local citizens.

These goals will help define the three strategic directions, their purposes and the key improvements for our school. We have already begun our consultation process, and the plan is required to be developed and published during Term 1 2015. If you require further information please contact the school.
**Students Writing...**

**Tommy**  “My Poppy gives me handshakes”

**Ruben**  “Gran lives in Adelaide. She is very kind. She loves in a very big house.”

**Macey**  “My grandma is fun. She has a piano, the piano is in the lounge room.”

**Elsie**  “Some grannies have long noses and glasses and wiggly toes and long teeth.”

**Cody**  “Kangaroo saved the people. People got hurt and drowned in the flood. Kangaroo saved a man and women. They grabbed his tail. He was really big.”

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**Joey’s Conclusion to “Fox” by Margaret Wild & Ron Brooks**

Magpie was truly heartbroken, why would anyone want to make someone feel truly alone? She thought about this for a while, while she was hopping back across the desert, trying to find landmarks she had seen before whilst on Fox’s back.

MEANWHILE Dog had woken up and was having a panic attack trying to find out what had happened to Magpie and Fox.

“Oh no, OH NO OH NOOOOO, I knew something like this would happen” Dog thought to himself whilst he frantically searched for Magpie. He didn’t care about Fox. He had a deep, dark secret he kept inside. He hoped he wouldn’t tell a soul, but as he would soon find out, he would.

Magpie was dying of thirst, hunger and loneliness. “Dog, Dog, Dog, I need you” she would breathe. Magpie was now in the forest desperate to find the stream that ran past the cave. Magpie was so exhausted so was relying on her instincts. Suddenly she heard a familiar howl. It was close. Dog! Dog! Dog!

A voice behind her said “I’m not Dog, you little flightless rat”. Magpie turned around – to her horror Fox was standing about ten metres behind her on a little ridge.

Without a word Fox pounced on her, there was a scuffle, squawking and barking. “Dog” Magpie screamed “I need you”.

In fact Dog wasn’t far away. He heard the scuffle and ran towards it screaming “Magpie I’m coming”. Fox heard this and started to run away. Dog came over the ridge to see Fox with Magpie in his mouth. With Magpie’s life in danger Dog ran fast, faster, much faster than he had ever run before. He caught up to Fox. In a flash Dog jumped on Fox. Fox let go of Magpie as he was jumped on. There was a quick fierce scuffle and then with one last bite to the neck Fox was dead.

“Magpie, there’s something I need to tell you.” “When I was a little pup, Fox’s family attacked my family.” “Mum and Dad fought off the attack killing Fox’s parents.” “Fox has stalked me ever since, he gave me that blind eye” “He tried to kill you, so I killed Fox”.

All Magpie said was “I am your eye and you are my wings”.

Joey Ryan
15 October 2014