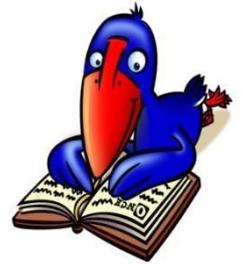




CUST SCHOOL NEWSLETTER
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School's bank account number is 03 1592 0074218 00



Friday, 16 March, 2018 - Week Seven —Term 1

“TIME FOR A CHANGE”

“Effort and Attitude Determines My Abilities”

Instead of:

I just can't do Math (Fixed Mindset)

Try Thinking:

I'm going to train my brain in Math (Growth Mindset)

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

This week I want to expand on the above growth mindset statements.

I often hear the statement from children, or from a parent, “I was never any good at Maths at school” – which seems to legitimize the child's lack of attainment.

It is my belief: TEACHING FOR MASTERY REJECTS THE IDEA THAT CHILDREN “JUST CAN'T DO MATHS!”

At the beginning of this year there was an article stating:

ERO urges action on alarming maths decline

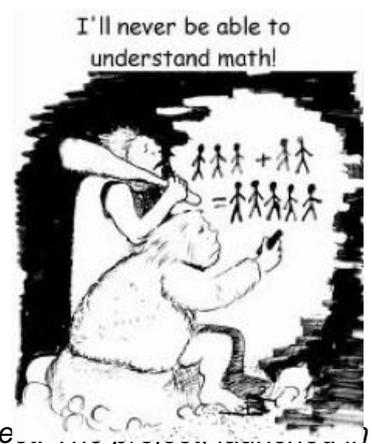
Teachers must do more to stop children's confidence and performance in Math's falling as they advance through primary school, the Education Review Office says.

Some of the blame goes to a specific teaching change called the Numeracy Project, a 2000, trained primary teachers to give students "a range of different ways to solve problems" and is said to have reduced emphasis on basic knowledge such as the times tables.

*It is said that teachers loved it because they didn't have to **know** the math's, they only had to know the strategies.*

Given this, I believe

- Children need to know basic arithmetic before they start problem solving.
- Children have to do lots and lots of practice to build up familiarity and confidence.
- Highly debatable whether we are teaching young children in the best and most effective way.
- Trying to teach children broad concepts too early when, in fact, the best way to learn is the complete opposite.
- Really important that children learn how to multiply and add, to the point where they are certain they will get the right answer if they do the steps right. Then, and not before, they start to see more aspects of the structure. It is a slow process built on understanding each step.
- We have abandoned perfectly functional math's methods built up over thousands of years.
- Strategies are so complex that parents struggle to help children
- A lot of time spent showing children various strategies to work out numbers in their heads but... a lot of these strategies involve multiple steps. It is confusing children!
- Teaching mental strategies at the expense of teaching algorithms is really unfair on the ones who are struggling
- Let's return to straightforward math's where children are encouraged to write their workings down. Use columns - don't reinvent the wheel.



Most of the functional maths we teach at primary school can be based around the basic facts. Throughout the year, we get the senior school to do some basic fact tests, which sees if they have “instant recall” of them. The beginning of the year results were not as good as I would like!

SO...HOW MANY DO YOU NEED TO LEARN? ONLY 36 FACTS



Basic Facts – only 36 facts to learn

x	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
2	4	6	8	10	12	14	16	18
3		9	12	15	18	21	24	27
4			16	20	24	28	32	36
5				25	30	35	40	45
6					36	42	48	54
7						49	56	63
8							64	72
9								81



Here is my recommended order for teaching the facts.

- The 0's and 1's (simple)
- The 2's (doubles)
- The 5's (always end in a 0 or 5)
- The 10's (just add a 0)
- The 9's (two digits always add to 9 e.g. $9 \times 7 = 63$ $6+3=9$)
- The 4's
- The 3's
- The 6's
- The 7's
- The 8's

WHY?

In my experience (30+ years) children who do not put some direct effort into memorising their times tables never learn them, and it really holds them back.

- They are slow at multiplying, even slower at dividing and grind at a halt at fractions.
- It is actually possible for children to memorise basic facts and understand them.
- Rote = memorising by repetition. Does repetition mean mindless recall? NO.....
- Memorisation (retention) + Repetition (practice) = understanding
- Facts are not opposed to understanding: they enable understanding. Basic facts committed to our long term memory allow us to 'cheat' limitations of working memory.

HOW CAN YOU HELP:

Engage with your child(ren) on a personal level through:

- **Numbers – practise counting and practise instant recall of basic facts**
- **Place Value - meaning of digits (talk about ones, tens, hundreds...)**
- **Whole Number Operations – look at how you did these and practise so they are learned with fluency and structure**
- **Fractions and Decimals- what are fractions and decimals? How do they work together?**
- **Problem Solving - applying the above in real life situations**

LIFE EDUCATION TRUST PARENT EVENING
Years 5-8
Health and Physical Education - Pubertal Change
Tuesday 10 April
7pm Multi-Purpose Room

During the last week of this term (Monday 9 April – Wednesday 11 April) we have the Life Education Trust caravan at school, covering a variety of health topics, for all children.

A requirement in New Zealand schools, as part of the Health and PE curriculum, is that we must cover Health and Sexuality Education – the focus being on:

- Developing knowledge about, and adjusting to pubertal change and
- Managing pubertal change

More information regarding the classroom programme will be sent home.

We invite parents and children (Years 5-8) to this evening.

Wainui Camp:

Next week, Monday through to Wednesday, Miriam, AnnMaree and I are taking the Year 7 /8 children for their annual camp. This year it is at Wainui, which allows the children to experience a few activities that will put them out of their comfort zone. We hope for good weather as I know we will get wet!

Swimming:

Last Thursday we had a team of approximately 25 compete at the Rakahuri Swimming Champs. We had some outstanding results and the children all did extremely well. Those children who qualified are able to compete at the North Canterbury and Canterbury Championships (Top 2 placings only attend).

Thanks to all the parents who came and supported the team.

Results:

These children are representing the school at North Canterbury and Canterbury Swimming Championships.

Year 6 Relay	1 st	Hannah Lawler, Harper McDonald, James Gartery & Sam Goddard
Year 7 Freestyle	2 nd	Lucia Croft
Year 8 Freestyle	1 st	Archie Prain
Year 6 Breaststroke	1 st	Billie McLachlan
Year 7 Breaststroke	2 nd	Emma Stephenson
Year 8 Breaststroke	2 nd	Libby Thompson
Year 6 Backstroke	2 nd	Hannah Lawler

(Top 3 Placings)

<i>Year 6 Freestyle</i>	<i>3rd</i>	<i>Sam Goddard</i>
<i>Year 5 Breaststroke</i>	<i>3rd</i>	<i>Lucy Stephenson</i>
<i>Year 6 Breaststroke</i>	<i>3rd</i>	<i>Oli Taylor</i>
	<i>3rd</i>	<i>Harper McDonald</i>
<i>Open Butterfly</i>	<i>3rd</i>	<i>Libby Thompson</i>

Regards
Robert

Paid Union Meetings:

Currently there are a lot of news articles about teacher shortages, teacher pay and teacher recruitment and retention. The NZEI (Primary Teachers Union) are having paid union meetings on Thursday 22 March. School will still be open, as we have arranged staff to cover classes while staff have the opportunity to attend these meetings.

I have included a letter from the NZEI.

Thanks for your co-operation in this important matter.

You may be aware of the nationwide crisis in recruiting and retaining teachers.

Children need teachers with enough time to teach so they can give each child the attention they deserve, and children need talented and inspiring people to be attracted to teaching.

Children are missing out on some opportunities to learn because teachers are bogged down in administration or are struggling to get enough support for children with additional learning needs.

Teachers at our school are joining an NZEI Te Riu Roa campaign, called Kua Tae Te Wā – It's Time to address these issues.

Our goal is to free teachers to teach, and principals to lead, by getting the additional support and staff that schools need. And we'll attract more people to teaching by respecting and paying them as the professionals they are.

NZEI Te Riu Roa members at our school have been invited to paid union meetings in March so that we can plan and discuss the campaign and their upcoming collective agreement negotiations.

The meeting schedule has been planned so that teachers and principals across the country can work out the best meetings for them to attend, including the option of groups of teachers attending meetings at different times. This is to help reduce disruption to teaching programmes, children and parents.

Our children deserve the best education in the world, and New Zealand can afford to provide it. It's just a matter of priorities.

Easter Holiday:

Friday 30 March, Monday 2 April and Tuesday 3 April are school holidays.

Easter Tuesday

The Tuesday following Easter Monday is a school holiday (not a statutory holiday), meaning schools must not be open.

Since the advent of the 4 term year in 1996, the terms and holidays are usually set so that Easter occurs during the first term break and the Easter Tuesday school holiday goes unnoticed. However, in some years Easter falls much earlier than usual such as in 1997, 2005, 2008, 2013 and 2016.

To have the first 2-week break at Easter in those years would shorten the first term to only 8-9 weeks, instead of around 12 weeks, and mean that at least one of the other 3 terms would have to be correspondingly longer. As the Minister aims to set 4 terms of reasonably uniform length, in years when Easter falls particularly early, all or some of the Easter break will be during the first term.

ROOM ONE

We welcome Phoebe Woodbury who began her pre-school visits this week.

We have completed a couple of pieces of art work related to our 'All About Me' unit. You are welcome to come in and have a look. In Maths we have been playing a game around number recognition to sharpen up our skills. You might like to ask your child if they have been the 'Maths Champion' this week.

Have a great weekend,
Kennys

ROOMS TWO AND FOUR

Kia Ora,

We have had another busy week in the Y3-5 collaborative learning space, with lots of great writing and some noticeable effort being put into basic facts and tables. As everyone always reminds us – practice makes perfect so keep up the hard work and the results will speak for themselves.

In the Room 2 reading space with Mrs String, students have completed a variety of associated activities on our class story 'Charlotte's Web' including story cubes, a reader's theatre group and tables providing information on caring for pets. Our next class story is the 'Magic Finger' and we will be completing a short novel study as part of our daily reading time.

In the breakout space the children in Mrs Falconer's reading groups are showing good progress in the fluency, phrasing and expression. Comprehension strategies using key words is strengthening and some groups are extending that understanding into their bookwork. Super effort and attitudes are evident. Well done everyone!!

In Mr Foskett's 'Man Cave' the boys writing group has been really excited this week using 'beyblades' as their motivation. They have written an explanation on how 'beyblades' work and have published these.

On Thursdays while some students attend kapahaka, Mrs Falconer and Mrs Winson have been taking a creative writing group using a video about the adventures of a little boat as a starting idea. There are a variety of different stories underway. The children are being encouraged to extend their ideas and use descriptive words to make their stories even more interesting. They have been highly motivated to write and some of their work will be published over the next few weeks. Watch this space!!

For fitness this week, the emphasis has been on starting to get fit with Sergeant Major Foskett. With winter sports, basketball and cross country either looming or under way, we felt it was an ideal time to build skills, and positive attitudes to keeping healthy and this will lead nicely into our next unit study on health and well-being, and the Commonwealth Games.

Kia pai tō mutunga wiki
(Have a great weekend)
Eddie, Linda & Ros

ROOM THREE

Kia ora

The students have been working hard this week in Number and Reading, they are all applying themselves in everything that is asked of them which is great to see. The Caterpillars are looking big and healthy so thank you to those of you who provided some caterpillar tucker.

Have a fantastic weekend.

Nga mihi
James

ROOM FIVE

In math's, Mr Schuyt has grouped the children into different groups based on their needs and the class have been working really hard on learning to solve equations using standard form (either addition, subtraction or multiplication). Just as we have been learning during our mindset lessons, it is all about practise, practise, practise.

This week for mindset we have learned about neurons and how amazing our brains are. Did you know... The brain is like a muscle. Your brain gets stronger when you embrace challenges! We have spent some time writing lists about what types of things we can do well because we have strong neurall connections from practising lots- things we have mastered that were once challenging! Also, things that we still find challenging because our neural connections aren't strong...YET.

Have a great weekend!
Hannah

ROOMS SIX AND SEVEN

Tena koutou,

Marvellous music is being created by our students this week. First groups were formed, co-operatively the children wrote poems in class about an emotion. Discussion as a class included looking at and listening to samples of others work for inspiration. Encouragement was given to include metaphors, similies, alliteration, onomatopoeia; all carefully placed together to create a mood through their well chosen words.

The next step was to meet with Mrs Watson our music teacher, we identified the meaning of pitch, dynamics, timbre, beat, melody, tempo and form. Listening and watching how the theme music from the movie 'E.T' demonstrated this. Groups are now working through the process of adding these elements effectively to their poems; linking them for dynamic effect. We are learning that words tell the story, music can show; it makes us feel the emotion. All working toward performing these to an audience!! Vaea also really impressed us with his cool electric guitar playing skills!!

Number strategies are our focus in maths. Individuals working at their own pace, initially revising skills that were identified by the whole number test as needing to be refreshed/taught. Some students have chosen to make flash cards as the best way of learning their basic facts to support this. Instant recall of these is vital at this stage of learning. As pupils learn to manipulate more complex numbers/ strategies the foundations must be secure.

We learned how to write a biography in reading. Mrs Bell modelled what should be included and why, the class working through the steps using our class novel 'Number the Stars' by Lois Lowry to write co-operatively. These workshops are an integral part of our programme. Encouragement and support is then given for students to use their new knowledge and apply their learning to another novel of their own choice.

Enjoy your weekend....next week is camp.
Miriam Bell and Annmaree Schuyt.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday 19 – Wednesday 21 March – Year 7/8 Wainui Camp
Thursday 22 March – Teachers Paid Union Meeting (to be confirmed)
Thursday 22 March – North Canterbury Swimming Competition
Monday 26 March – Canterbury Duathlon
Friday 30 March / Monday 2 April / Tuesday 3 April – Easter Holiday
Thursday 5 April – Canterbury Primary Schools Swimming Competition
Monday 9 April – Life Education
Friday 13 April – Term One ends
Monday, 30 April – Term Two commences

CERTIFICATES

- Room One: Great work awarded to Kate for her help teaching others to sing songs.
Great work awarded to Leo for his determination to learn his words and sounds.
- Room Two: Student of the Week awarded to Ruari for great improvement in his writing. A noticeable lift in quality.
- Room Three: Excellence awarded to Angus for outstanding focus in reading and amazing handwriting. Well done Angus.
Excellence awarded to Casey for excellent focus in class and for being a great class helper.
- Room Four: Excellence awarded to Shakira for improvement in her spelling and presentation of her work.
- Room Five: Star Student presented to Ashlee for having a good attitude during Maths.
Star Student presented to Tasi for being a great Room 5 role model. You always work hard – the result is quality work.
Star Student presented to Lexi for always being kind and caring. This was shown when you helped a junior on the bus when they were upset.
Star Student presented to Caitlin for always putting lots of effort into your work producing quality reading activities.
- Room Six: Great work awarded to Caitlyn for demonstrating fabulous leadership skills and producing great reading work.
Great work awarded to Olivia for being a wonderful playground presence and demonstrating a super work ethic.
- Room Seven: Student of the Week awarded to Blake K. for great focus and organisation skills. Congratulations.
Student of the Week awarded to Connor L. for excellent contributions to class discussions – displaying maturity and depth of thought.

PTA NEWS

CUST SCHOOL PTA EASTER RAFFLE

The PTA are having an Easter Raffle as a fundraiser. Tickets are \$2 each with 3 great Easter Baskets as prizes. These can be viewed in the School Office.
Each school family is asked to sell 20 tickets and these will be coming home with your eldest child on Friday (today).
All sheets (tickets sold or not) are to be returned to the School Office by [Thursday 22 March](#) with the raffle being drawn [on Tuesday 27 March](#).
Thank you for your support and if you need more tickets please contact Sonya Smith [027 295-3306](tel:0272953306)

COOK BOOK

Copies available from the school office.

COMMUNITY NOTICES

CUST TOY LIBRARY

The Cust Toy Library is a fantastic local resource that can be used by families and grandparents alike. It is run by a small group of volunteers (Mums!) and is an awesome local facility with a great range of toys from newborn to 5 years old. Yearly membership is only \$30 (\$10 for Grandparents) and toys can be borrowed for 2 weeks, ranging from Free-\$2 each per rental. We are located alongside the Cust Community Centre at the Jack Graham Reserve; it is open Sat. 10-11:30 and Mon. 9-10:30. New and existing members welcome. Please come along and take a look.



Active Kids Holiday Programmes



Registrations now open for **April School Holidays— book online!**

Week 1 – Mon 16th – Fri 20th *LINCOLN *WESTBURN *PAPANUI

Week 2 – Mon 23rd– Fri 27th *CHCH BOYS HIGH * ROLLESTON

- Join us for a week of action packed fun and adventure
 - Delivered by enthusiastic, fully trained staff
 - OSCAR approved; WINZ subsidies apply
 - 8am starts and single day bookings available

P 03 373 50 60

E activekids@sportcanterbury.org.nz

www.sportcanterbury.org.nz

CLEARVIEW FETE

Sunday, 25 March 2018, Clearview Primary in Rolleston, 20 Broadlands Drive, Rolleston.

Our 1st Fete in 2016 was a huge success with over 100 trade stalls, raffles and food. Again we hope to build on this success this year with over 120 stalls, raffles, food, free entertainment, community groups and more.

The purpose of the fete is to help raise funds towards upgrading the existing library for the children to enjoy using at Clearview Primary; whilst continuing to create a vibrant event that can be enjoyed by the wider community as a fun family day.

As a school, we love supporting people and groups in our community. We have worked really hard to make this event an affordable family day, by subsidising many attractions and providing some free activities.

The event will appeal to children of all ages and we would be extremely grateful if you could help us by sharing the attached flyer with your school families, newsletters and placing on noticeboards. Available from the Cust School Office is a colouring competition - simply colour it in and drop it to the PCG tent on the day and be into win movie tickets!!

Sunday, 25 March 10am—3pm Family Fun / Food & Beverages / Clothing / Jewellery & Accessories / Coffee / Arts & Crafts Babies & Children goodies / Plants & Outdoor Accessories / Kids Activities / Books Raffles / Pony Rides / Bouncy Castles / Health & Beauty / Homewares / Entertainment Free treasure hunt and lots more....

www.clearviewfete.nz Entry is \$5 cash per person, Under 12's are FREE (when accompanied by an adult).

CHRIST'S COLLEGE, CANTERBURY VISIT

In a world full of questions and unknowns, give your son the opportunity to discover the answers.

The Executive Principal, Garth Wynne, invites anyone considering high school options, along with existing members of the College community to a friendly gathering over drinks and canapés.

Hear about the innovative new programmes around positive education and health and wellbeing, and learn about the benefits of a Christ's College education.

Join them at the Fernside Community Visit on Thursday, 15 March, 6-8pm.

Please register at christcollege.com/community-vists

Everyone's welcome.