Literacy Groups

Literacy Groups are run in every Foundation and Junior School classroom at L.P.S., with further variations such as Literature Circles continued into the middle and senior years.

We run Literacy Groups four times a week (Monday-Thursday) and provide a further reading activity on Fridays. These begin with a short, focused reading strategy session and are followed up with activities designed to support student literacy learning at their own level. Throughout the week, students rotate through activities that range from letter or word activities, sentence activities, comprehension activities and a teacher-led Guided Reading session.

The Guided-Reading session is a focused session in which a small group of students at a similar level work on reading strategies that they will personally benefit from. These sessions allow time for the teacher to hear each child read and to provide individualised guidance to each student.

As many of you know, we welcome Parent Helpers during these sessions. We love having your help to keep these sessions running smoothly and provide activities that may require additional guidance or supervision.

Remember:
Good readers are readers who can use more than one strategy to decipher unknown words.

Differentiating the Curriculum

Literacy Groups is just one way that we differentiate the curriculum to provide for student needs. In the classroom, we differentiate the curriculum by creating focus groups for writing and maths lessons. We give individual verbal feedback daily when correcting and discussing work with our students.

As a team, we design Phonics and Maths activities that are explicitly designed to cater to a range of abilities, delivered in weekly focus sessions. These provide students with support and challenges that suit their individual abilities and further extend upon their knowledge.

We further cater for our students in their fine motor development, with handwriting rotations run four times a week. In these sessions we target letter formation, pencil grip and the strengthening of fine motor muscles. All children rotate through each activity throughout the week.

Nightly Reading

Students bring home a new Little Book every night to practise their reading. This is an opportune time for students to practise the reading strategies that they are learning at school and we strongly encourage you
to make this time part of your afternoon/evening routine. It is integral that during this time, students are encouraged to hold the book, point to the words and utilise reading strategies independently. You may be amazed at what your child can do!

Little Books levels are determined by our regular reading assessment and are selected by the teachers. We send home books that are a ‘good fit’ for your child’s abilities, and will most likely be easy for your child to read. This is because home reading is a great time to practise familiar skills and strategies and for children to experience success as a reader.

Prior to starting the book, you could ask your child to predict what might happen in the story, or to locate any words they already know in the story. Whilst reading the book, you could ask your child to predict what might happen next or to look for clues in the picture that might give them an idea about the next events in the story. You can extend the reading session further by asking a simple question about the story after your child has read the book, or asking them to find familiar, high frequency words within the text.

**Fortnightly Words**

As a team, we individually assess our students’ knowledge of high-frequency words fortnightly. This allows us to provide an individualised list of words for each student to practise on a fortnightly basis. When assessing students’ knowledge of high-frequency words, teachers look for instant recall of each word. Whilst ‘sounding-out’ is a useful and practical skill for early readers, an instant recall of high-frequency words is integral to fluent reading. We thank you for your continued support in your child’s learning.

**Class Dojo**

As you know, we have officially launched our individual Class Dojo pages. We will use these pages to share things that are happening in the classroom and to keep you up-to-date with important information.

A reminder that teachers will not always have the time to check these pages throughout the day, so we encourage communication through the use of diaries, as per normal. If there is something urgent that you need to let the teacher know, please call the school!

**Toilet Use**

As a school we are experiencing some unpleasant behaviour in the Junior School Toilets both during class time and recesses. The Foundation and Junior School teams have been reinforcing positive toilet behaviour at school and ensuring that students spend only the time that they need to at the toilets. We would appreciate you talking with your child about toilet use at school and reinforcing appropriate behaviour.

**Eating Times**

At L.P.S., the official school eating times are 10.30-10.40 for snack and 12.50-1.00 for lunch. As Foundation teachers, we endeavour to provide our students with extra time to eat (usually 5-10mins). We also aim to have at least one ‘Fruit Stop’ throughout the 100 minute session, in which students can eat fresh fruit or vegetables while participating in a discussion-based activity.

**Play Times**

Students are well settled into the yard and are now free to explore a greater area. We always endeavour to make sure children are playing with peers during recess and lunch and often have discussions before and after play times to support them in their social learning. Talking at home about positive ways to initiate play would be a fantastic way to further support your child.

**Indonesian**

At L.P.S we teach Indonesian as an immersive subject, meaning that we incorporate the language into many parts of the day. We are currently working on greetings, introductions and zoo animal names. Children practise using this language in group and individual situations.