

# National Literacy and Numeracy Week 25-31 August 2014

## Encouraging families and communities: Literacy and Numeracy

The following are ideas and suggestions for encouraging families and communities to participate in Literacy and Numeracy week. Many of the ideas can be done as events during the week or expanded to encompass larger community projects. They are only suggestions and can be adapted to suit the individual educational context.

- **Hold a Community Arts event.** Invite an artist from the community to be involved. Visit local galleries or public art spaces before the event to view how an exhibition is organised. Explore with the students how to publish a catalogue, pricing of the pieces and different options for displaying the work.
- **Hold a global food market.** Research the diversity of your local community and the range of foods that are cooked, eaten or grown. Work with the different community members to create a cook book. Invite the local community to help prepare the food to sell at a market event. You could include different produce, seedlings and seeds for sale.
- **Go green.** Organise a school, home and community audit of your ecological footprint on the environment. Ask the local council to help you do this. Explore your sites energy consumption and the amount of rubbish you produce. Hypothesise different community options for reducing consumption of natural energy. This could be as simple as holding a “walk everywhere” day.
- **Become an urban planner.** If a child was to develop their city or community space what would they include? Ask your group of children to design their ideal community environment. Go on a walk around the community and see how many of their elements / ideas they can find. Invite the council to visit and hear the children’s suggestions for changes to the local environment.
- **Create a video on Numeracy and Literacy.** Share with the community the many different ways you use numeracy and literacy every day.
- **Hold a community book swap.**
- **Create a film about your community.** Include interviews with significant community members. Ask children to film and talk about places in the community that hold meaning to them. Invite older members of the community to share how the community has changed form when they were at school. What are the Aboriginal places of significance and stories for your community?

- **Hold your own story telling session.** You could invite local community members to come, tell or read stories that are significant to them. Hold a bi-lingual session. Explore the opportunity to podcast the session to families who can't attend.
- **Establish your own radio station.** Interview community members and invite members of the school to "ring in" and ask them questions.
- **Create a reading buddy system with older children reading to younger children.** This could be done within your local school or you could connect with a local preschool or childcare centre.
- **Visit your local retirement village.** Share stories with the residents. You could ask the students to record the resident's stories and turn them into a book. Explore what year the person you interview was born. What was happening in that year? What technology existed? What was the fashion of the day?
- **Create a community mosaic.**
- **Begin designing your own kitchen garden.** Visit other schools, preschools or community gardens for ideas and inspirations for design. Survey all of the school community to gain ideas of what could be planted. Display the survey results for all to see. Hold a garden design competition. The school community could vote for their favourite design.
- **Host a fitness challenge over the week.** Invite other schools or preschools to join you. This could include following maps and trails of the local community created by the students. Older students could develop their own dance routine and teach it to a younger child.
- **Create a restaurant for a day.** Each class could create their own menu, design the restaurant and invite a special guest to dine.
- **Design a math trail.** This could be within your site or around the local community.
- **Create a weather station.** Record over the week the changes to the weather. How do your local measurements compare to what has been predicted and reported in the paper or on the news?
- **Invite members of the local community to your site.** Ask them to talk about what they do and how they use numeracy and literacy in their work or daily experiences.
- **What alphabetic system does your community use?** Explore with your community the different alphabetic systems their home language is based on. How are they the same or different?
- **Set up a lunch time games club.**