Why is learning to be a word investigator more important than learning to be a good speller?

Often students are given set lists of words to learn across the week and then tested at the end. We are sure that this was the same as when you went to school and that some of you are good spellers and some of you are not. Chances are if you get 100% on a spelling test, it means that you are a good memoriser, not necessarily a good speller. So with this approach, teachers often comment that down the track students misspell these previously learnt words in their future writing. So why is this?

**Learning to spell is a tricky process**

The English language is full of different spelling patterns and even as adults we can read many more words than we can probably spell correctly, and no one can possibly know how to spell all words correctly. You probably remember being told the rule of, ‘i before e except after c.’ However this ‘rule’ doesn’t actually work for many words in the English language. Check out these quite common words that do not fit this ‘rule’ – weird, seize, neigh, vein, height, protein, caffeine, foreign and neither.

**Students may not know the purpose for learning to be a good speller**

Ask your child “why do you need to be a good speller?” and chances are they may not know why. The main reason for being able to spell is to communicate our message through writing. If we cannot spell in conventional ways people will not be able to read our writing.

We need to make sure that students get this connection, and that they want to explore how to spell new and interesting words. Students also need to know that the words they are learning to spell are ones that they will use in their writing in the near future.

**Being a good speller means being a good problem solver**

Students need to be able to have a go at spelling an unknown word but then encouraged to think about which parts “look right” and which parts may not be right and to have a go again. They are also involved in exploring letter, sound and spelling pattern investigations to help them in knowing how to try to spell words in different ways. Good spellers take risks with their spelling.

**Some students do not use the strategy of “does the word LOOK right?”**

Expert spellers visualise words. They have an image of what the word looks like, they visualise it in their mind’s eye. Most poor spellers cannot do that. When asked to spell an unfamiliar word, a poor speller spells it like it sounds.

Good spellers often try to spell unfamiliar words several ways and then rely on their visual knowledge to choose which one looks the best.

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If students are not encouraged to do this then they get into the habit of trying a word one way and not attempting to problem solve and try different spellings for themselves. As an adult you probably use this yourself – if you need to write a word that you are not sure about, you may write it down a couple of times and then visually you are able to tell which one “looks right”.

A few of our Junior Primary Teachers have recently been trained in ‘Words Their Way,’ a spelling program that incorporates problem solving, using word sorts to discover sound and spelling patterns and using this knowledge when trying to spell new and unfamiliar words. We look forward to seeing how this approach helps to build spelling ‘persistence’ and risk taking in some of our youngest students.

Useful tips to help with spelling at home
- When your child is unsure of how he/she has spelt a particular word, ask them “does it look right?”, seek other possibilities and then choose the best one.
- Encourage your child to split words into syllables or phonemes, eg en/joy/ment (A phoneme is a sound segment of words or syllables).
- Look for words within words, eg What words can you see in the word tomorrow?
- Encourage them to check their spelling and self-correct.
- Group words together that contain the same pattern and investigate words that are “exceptions to the rule”.
- Encourage the use of a good spelling dictionary.
- Look out for changes in spelling (eg when words that end in y turn into plurals, baby-babies).

Please speak with your child’s teacher if you have any questions about their spelling.

Sally Slattery & Melissa Thiele
Deputy Principal & Reading Support Teacher

SCHOOL DRESS CODE
The Dress Code shop is phasing out grey and maroon pants or bottoms and yellow shirts and hats.

When purchasing new uniform items for your child parents/caregivers should choose maroon hats and tops and black pants/shorts/skirts, as this will be the uniform from 2015.

A reminder that the Dress Code Shop will be open at the normal times as from next week (26/5).

Monday & Tuesday  9:00-9:30am
Thursday        2:45-3:15pm

Dress Code Committee

SWIMMING AT NOARLUNGA LEISURE CENTRE
Students in Reception to Yr 5 will participate in water safety lessons at the Noarlunga Leisure Centre from Monday 2/6 to Friday 6/6 (Week 6, Term 2). This program is part of the education curriculum and all students are expected to attend.

Notes have been sent out with information on times and cost. If you did not receive a note please speak with your child’s teacher. All consent notes, medical forms and money need to be returned by Friday 23 May 2014.

Lunch orders will be available from the Canteen for students attending swimming, with lunch orders being organised around the swimming timetable.

Reconciliation Week Celebrations

All around Australia, from 27/5 to 3/6, National Reconciliation Week is acknowledged. It’s a time to celebrate diversity, bring people together and get to know each other better. Framed by two significant anniversaries that saw major changes in our Constitution for Aboriginal people – the 1967 referendum and the Mabo decision. Reconciliation Week reminds us that great achievements take courage and persistence.

This year’s theme is “Let’s Walk the Talk”. During Reconciliation Week at Hackham East, some classes will be attending the Reconciliation Expo on Wednesday 28/5 at Ramsay Place, Noarlunga Centre.

Students from all classes will be involved in learning some traditional games from different Aboriginal groups in their lesson time and there will be lunchtime activities such as Face Painting, Crazy Loom bands, Marbles and Football on Tuesday 27/5 and Thursday 29/5. The Crazy Loom bands activity will be on the Thursday and will cost $0.50.

Looking forward to a positive Reconciliation Week.

Melissa Thiele (Aboriginal Education Teacher)
Jae Gillett (Aboriginal Community Education Officer)
CHICKEN POX
Chicken Pox has been reported in the Castle, Holly and Stillwell Units. Chicken Pox is spread by airborne droplets produced by coughing or sneezing or with fluid from the blisters.

The incubation period (time between becoming infected and developing symptoms) is 2-3 weeks but may be longer. The infectious period is from 2 days before the rash appears until at least 5 days after the rash first appears and all blisters have crusted over. Students are to be excluded from school until all blisters have dried (usually 5 days).

People at high risk of complications from Chicken Pox include pregnant women, young babies, people with an immune deficiency or people with leukaemia. Symptoms to watch out for are: slight fever and cold-like symptoms, followed by a rash. The rash is more noticeable on the trunk than on the limbs and may affect the scalp, inside of the mouth, nose and throat. The rash is usually itchy.

YEAR 7/8 TRANSITION FOR 2015
Parents of Year 7 students have received an Enrolment in Secondary School for 2015 pack, with brochures, an ED176 form and Registration of Interest for the Australian Science and Mathematics School. When you have decided on the choice of school for your child please complete the ED176 and return with all relevant forms to Lee Clements at the Front Office before Friday 23 May, 2014, Term 2, Week 4, to process. Please note:

- Sibling Rights Rule - A photocopy of the ID card is required of the student/sibling currently attending the out of zone school
- Students applying for enrolment in out of zone schools will need to pay particular attention to page 3 of the “Starting Secondary School” brochure-out of zone enrolments. Parents are asked to complete the form enclosed in the Enrolment package stating why they have chosen that particular out of zone school (see Criterion for Allocation of Points in the package) and attach this to your ED176 and return to Lee.

Thank you
Lee Clements

SCHOOL BANKING DAY & COMPETITION
Remember that WEDNESDAY is School Banking day when students can bring in their weekly deposit.

The Dollarmites have found sunken treasure in the Lost City of Savings. For your chance to win a share of exciting prizes, simply make three or more deposits at school during Term 2 and you will be automatically entered in the competition.


2014 SCHOOL CARD APPLICATIONS:
School card applications must be filled out and submitted EVERY year. Spare applications are available at the Front Office and need to be handed in to our Finance Officer, Tracy Rowley as soon as possible.

HEAD LICE
Please check your child’s hair regularly for head lice. If you detect head lice (live lice or eggs) treat the hair immediately. School Card families can see staff at the Front Office for shampoo.

Remove the eggs - don’t assume all the eggs are dead. Removing them with a fine toothed comb and, if necessary, by hand, confirms your child’s hair is egg free.

ALL eggs need to be removed from the hair before your child can return to school. Please advise office staff if you have treated your child’s hair for head lice.

LOST PROPERTY
Please regularly check lost property containers in Castle, Holly, Stillwell Unit and OSHC for jumpers, hats and other items that may belong to your child.

Please ensure that all items of clothing are clearly labelled with your child’s name as we can then return items to your child. Please check regularly to make sure the name is still clearly visible and readable.

JULIA OSBORN - I HAVE MOVED
Please drop in for a chat or a coffee/tea. I am in Easton Unit, second door on the left each Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 8:30am to 3:00pm. If I am not there for any reason please leave your contact details with Lee Clements at the Front Office and I will call you.

Julia Osborn, CPSW

HALLETT COVE R-12 SCHOOL INFORMATION
Parent tour available on Thursday 22/5 at 9:00am with Mr Andrew Gohl and Mrs Julie Lambert for students enrolling for Yr 8 in 2015.

If you require more information please contact Julie Lambert, Head of Middle School on 83921020 - Option 3.

FOUND
Item of jewellery still in box with receipt. Please see Lee at the Front Office with a thorough description of the item to

Student Free Days
Thursday 19 June 2014
Friday 20 June 2014
Staff will be participating in Professional Development on the above days.
OSHC is available, please contact Jacky Smith to organise care for your child/children.
• Southern Cross Cultural Exchange Volunteer host families for international high school students from Spain are needed. Students arrive in July 2014 for 11 weeks. Ph Jenny 85562208 or email jchl313@bigpond.net.au for more information.

• Southern Women’s - Women’s & Children’s Health Network Southern Women provides a range of services to assist women with their emotional, physical, cultural health and wellbeing. For more information Ph 83849555.

• Parent Information Program PIP is an information and referral service connecting parents and pregnant mothers under the age of 25 to services in the southern region for support with education, training, employment, personal & social development, life skills development, accessing accommodation, personal health, relationships, community linkages and opportunities. Ph 81870700 for more information.

• Live Well with Asthma If you have asthma or care for someone with asthma join us for a FREE information session held on 20/6 at Asthma Foundation SA, 300 South Rd, Hilton from 10:00-11:30am.

• Live Well with Eczema A FREE information session to help people with eczema and their carers to learn how to live well with eczema. Held on 6/6 at Asthma Foundation SA from 9:00-11:00am.

• Live Well with Allergy & Anaphylaxis If you or you care for someone with allergies or anaphylaxis join us for an information session on 17/6 from 10:00am-12:00 noon at Asthma Foundation SA.

• Cooking Classes Three weeks of fun, information and interactive cooking classes held at Seaford Community Centre, Hastings St, Seaford on Wednesday 21/5-4/6 from 10:00am-12:00pm. Cost $30. Ph 83863319 to make a booking or for more information.

• Community Civic Awards Nominations are now open for the City of Onkaparinga Community Civic Awards. These annual awards are to recognise the outstanding achievements and contributions made by members within our community. For more information visit www.onkaparingacity.com.

• Bedwetting A DVD based program, Bedwetting Cured, has been developed by Dr Mark Condon, and Physiotherapist, Margaret O’Donovan. It outlines a successful program for parents to implement at home with their children. Phone 1300135796 or Visit www.bedwettinginstitute.com.au for more information.

• Games! Games! Games! At Noarlunga Library Chess, Twister, Hedbanz, Connect 4, Uno, Jenga, Wii and lots of other games for you and your friends to play. Parental supervision required. Held each Wednesday 3:30-5:30pm for 12-25yr olds. Free. Ph 83875577 for more information.

• Does Your Child Have a Problem with Sleep? Somnia have a team of psychologists who can provide treatment for difficulty falling asleep, waking in the night, trouble waking up or getting out of bed in the morning, often sleeping in parent’s bed/room and more. Ph 0415977784 or visit www.somnia.com.au for more info.

• Active Community Cup A 2km & 4km run/walk along the foreshore, starting at Christies Beach Surf Life Saving Club every Wednesday. Enter online www.sa.lifebeinit.org or Ph 83622150 for more information.

• The Organised Family, No More Chaos Would you like to avoid chaos and organise your family? Are you running a busy family schedule? FREE information session held on Thursday 22/5 from 9:30-11:30am at Woodcroft Morphett Vale Neighbourhood Centre, Bains Rd, Morphett Vale. Ph Jodie on 83923170 to book.

• National Families Week FREE event held at Aldinga Community Centre, Stuart Ave, Aldinga Beach on Friday 23/5 from 3:00-5:00pm. Soup, Storytime, Music, Animal Capers, Dress-up Booth, Spinning & Weaving. Ph 85565940 for more information.

• Southern Reconciliation Event Joining Hands & Minds Task Group on Wednesday 28/5 at Ramsay Place, Noarlunga Centre. Stalls, live music and performances for the whole family.

• Centacare Catholic Family Services Expo An expo of services and programs on Wednesday 28/5, Westpac Centre (Crows Shed) at AAMI Stadium from 1:00-3:00pm. Ph Bernie Victory 82108200 for more information.

• Motives Level 1 & 2 Training Cosmetics & Skincare training held on Saturday 31/5 and Level 2 Training to be held on Sunday 1/6 from 9:00am-5:00pm at 95 Hackney Rd, Hackney. Cost $50.00 per session. Ph Danea on 0404448012 for more information.

• Drumbeat Come along to our FREE 4 weeks after school Drumbeat workshops. The program combines the benefits of the group drumming process with cognitive behaviour therapy increasing social skills, emotional control and self esteem. Build resilience through rhythm. Held on Thursday from 5/6-3/7 from 4:00-5:00pm at Onkaparinga Youth Services Reynella, 10 Main South Rd, Reynella. For 8-18yr olds. Ph 83875577 for more information.

For further information relating to the above events there is a folder in the Front Office with flyers.