Monday 11 May 2015

2015 REPORTS – AN EXPLANATION

Dear Parents

This term reports are being sent home for each student. This year we have updated our report format to align with the new English and Mathematics Curriculum, & hopefully to give parents a better picture of how their child is achieving in class. Our reports must adhere to departmental guidelines in many respects. We were advised by the department that we had to assess on English using the new objectives and outcomes and report by giving an overall achievement in English. To assist parents, we have broken down English and Mathematics into the new modes or aspects and for each of these, will indicate whether you child is Working Towards (further practice & consolidation needed); Achieving (concepts are being grasped and they are on track); or Working Beyond (has a high level of understanding and skill and can apply this to other areas).

One of the main focuses for our staff is to ensure consistency with our assessing and reporting. Our teachers have spent many sessions working together to analyse student work samples and evaluating the levels of achievement. To do this we are using both a Literacy and Numeracy continuum as well as the new English and Mathematics syllabus outcomes. These identify what the expected outcomes are for students by the end of this semester. Teachers can then determine the level of achievement for every student.

• OVERALL LEVEL OF ACHIEVEMENT

Kindergarten reports:

With our Kindergarten reports, students will be identified in each area by either WT, A or WB. WT refers to Working Towards. This means that whilst your child is progressing, further support is needed to ensure they continue to progress. They have not yet reached the expected level of achievement at this point in time. A means Achieved. This means that your child is working at the expected level at this point in time and is progressing at a rate which will ensure continued growth. WB means Working Beyond. This refers to children working and achieving at a higher level than expected.

Year 1 – Year 6 reports:

The Department of Education and Communities (DEC) mandates that all student reports for grades 1-6 are to use a standard achievement rating scale. Below is our interpretation and how we will report to our families:
Outstanding Achievement

For a student to attain Outstanding they would have an extensive knowledge and understanding of the content and readily be able to apply this to other areas. They would be working on an individualised or adjusted learning program and be achieving well beyond stage level (ie if in Year 2 they would be working at and achieving at Year 4 or higher).

High Achievement

For a student to attain High they would have a thorough knowledge and understanding of content. The student would be working at and achieving above grade level (ie if in Year 2 they would be working at and achieving at Year 3 level).

Sound Achievement

Students achieving Sound are working at achieving at their appropriate grade level (ie if in Year 2 they are working at and achieving at Year 2 level). It is the expected level of achievement according to the child's grade.

Basic Achievement

For a student to receive Basic they would have a basic knowledge of the content and be working at and achieving below grade level. (ie if in Year 2 they would be working at and achieving at Year 1 level).

Limited Achievement

For a student to receive Limited they would have a very limited knowledge of content covered and be working at and achieving well below grade level, even at an earlier stage (ie if in Year 4 they would be working at and achieving at Year 2 or lower).

Parents should note that a C grade is a good grade! It means that your child is working where they should be at this point in time.

- EFFORT

All students will also receive an effort rating for each area. Effort reflects how well a student has tried, the persistence and determination to achieve at the best level of which they are capable. Effort will be rated as:

E – Excellent       S – Satisfactory       or       N – Needs to improve

As well as an overall General Comment, we have added Learning Goals for both English and Mathematics. This will be to identify those areas of focus in Term 3 for each student.

A sample copy of what our reports will look like is attached (please note this is a Year 3 sample). I trust that this has provided you with some explanation of what to expect when sharing reports with your children.

Any parents wishing for further clarification are most welcome to contact me.

Regards

Kay Thurston

Principal