Helping Your Child Learn Math

Everyone struggles with math, whether learning the multiplication tables or trying to figure out how to stretch the monthly income to pay bills. Some find mathematics easier than others, just as some find spelling easier. Everyone, though, uses mathematics daily, and limited math proficiency leads to limited success with the daily challenges of our society.

How can parents help?

Research shows that the level of parent involvement in a child’s education is strongly related to the degree of success in school. Families play a vital role in educating children. What families do is more important to student success than whether they are rich or poor, whether parents have finished high school or not, or whether children are in primary, high school, or college.

Set the example

One of the most important ways parents can help a child in math is by exhibiting attitudes and values supportive of learning. Following are some suggestions parents can employ:

Accept the struggle as a normal part of doing math, just as you accept the struggle to become better in sports. Help uncover difficulties, and offer suggestions for overcoming them.

Encourage mastery. Just as it is important to repeat fundamentals again and again in sports until performed automatically, it is important to see practice in mathematics as developing mastery, not a chore or form of punishment.

Look beyond the grade. Math grades are often calculated on correct answers but they may not reflect understanding that has developed over the course of a grading period. Help focus on understanding and being able to identify specific difficulties.

Discover the textbook. Help your child learn how to "read" the math textbook, see the underlying structure, and learn from the examples provided.

Help children see the math around them

Help children recognize the use of math around them in daily life, and engage them in games and activities that foster familiarity with numbers and mathematical thinking. A guide, "Helping Your Child Learn Math," is available online at http://www.ed.gov/pubs/parents/Math/index.html Here are some ideas that the guide offers:

Wrong answers can help! Be patient, incorrect answers tell you that you need to look further, ask questions, and figure out what you do not understand.

Sometimes a wrong answer is the result of misunderstanding the question. Ask your child to explain how they solved a problem; responses may clarify whether help is needed with a procedure, the "facts" are wrong, or a crucial concept is not understood.

Help your children become risk takers. Help them examine wrong answers, and assure them that right answers come with understanding.

Problems can be solved in different ways. Though a problem may have only one correct solution, there are often many ways to get the right answer.

Doing math in your head is important. Increased use of calculators and computers makes it increasingly important that people be able to determine whether an answer is reasonable.

God Bless

Allan Clark

Principal’s Report

Term 1, Issue 3, 26 February 2015

St Patrick’s News
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Launch of “Don’t Drop the Ball”

The school song, “Don’t Drop the Ball” was created with St Patrick’s School Student’s last year and is 1 of 16 Music Video’s celebrating the vibrant Schools and Communities in the Maranoa District as part of the ‘Roma Cluster - Small Town Culture’ project.

The song is part of the ‘Roma Cluster’ iTunes Album to be launched at the 2015 Easter in the Country Festival in Roma.

Proudly supported by The University of Southern Queensland, Maranoa Regional Council RADF and Ed QLD RREAP Funding. “Don’t Drop the Ball” will be launched at Assembly this week. Please join us for this exciting event to watch the world premiere.

Where: Assembly
When: Friday, 27th February at 2.30 p.m.

School fees

School fees for Term 1 were sent home with the last newsletter. Each family is asked to make a contribution to support their child’s education. For payment solutions please feel free to contact me.

Small regular payments can sometimes be the easiest way to pay. Others include:
- Centrepay (forms are available at school if needed)
- Instalpay plan through your bank
- Cash or cheque paid to the school office

I will be contacting families with large outstanding balances to discuss the matter. All conversations regarding school fees are confidential. Looking forward to working with you for the betterment of our school.

Swimming

Remember swimming lessons for Prep, Years 1 to 3 will be held Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday this week. The children are really enjoying the lessons and making some very good progress.

Music forms

Miss Rikki Bensley handed out forms for the 2015 music program to interested music students. Please return these completed forms and money this week.

School Photos

Our school photo day is next Monday, 2nd March 2015. Photo envelopes for families to place orders and enclose money were sent home last week.

Thank you to families who have returned envelopes already. Please return envelopes and money to school if you are ordering by Monday, 2nd March.

Orders can be placed and paid for up until 16th March. If photos are ordered after that date there will be a $10-00 late fee per family. The photos remain on the photo companies system for quite a few years as well. So parents can still order later in the year if they would like to.

Please contact MSP Photos (Phone no 02 67723519) if you would like to take up this option. I hope this may be of assistance to any family who needs a little extra time to make these payments.

Tuckshop

Tuckshop operates each Wednesday. Thank you to everyone who has offered to assist. The children and staff are certainly enjoying the delicious food. Please contact the school if you are able to work occasionally in a relief capacity. If you have any new ideas for tuckshop please let us know. One of our groups is keen to make milkshakes on their day next term probably chocolate and strawberry flavours.

Parents and Friends

The AGM of the St Patrick’s School P & F Association will be held on Monday, 16th March at 5.30 p.m. Everyone is welcome to come along and support your children.

We are looking for expressions of interest for parents who want to come along and be a part of our P&F committee! The P&F is a vital part of our school community! The major role of the P&F includes running the tuckshop once a week for the students of St Patrick’s and fundraising throughout the year to make purchases to enhance your children’s education. Please leave your name at the office if you would like to support our students in this area!

Consent and Update Family Details Forms

Please complete and return forms as soon as possible. It is vital to have all student and family details up to date. Thank you to all families who have already returned their forms.
Birthdays

Byron will be turning 9yrs old on 2nd March.

Jazara will be turning 6yrs old on 2nd March.

APRE News

The theme for Project Compassion 2015 is “Food for Life”.

Food is essential for all life, yet many of the world’s poorest people do not have access to reliable food sources. That means that they live from day-to-day, uncertain of how they’ll afford or find their next meal. Without food, the rest of life is impossible to contemplate: how can you plan for the future or educate your children when you fear you will be hungry?

Project Compassion 2015 throws a spotlight on global food issues, focusing on the ways in which Caritas Australia is empowering the World’s poorest people to establish sustainable food sources for life that relieve them of the fear of hunger and allow them to develop new, improved income streams for a better future.

Students, families and the wider community of St. Patrick’s are invited to take part in our quest to help those less fortunate by raising awareness of this cause and also by donating any loose change you may have. Donation boxes are situated on the prayer table of both the Prep – 3 classroom and the Year 4-6 classroom.

We will keep you updated of our funds raised and how this has helped people all over the world.

“I invite you to make space in your heart… respecting the God-given rights of everyone to have access to adequate food.” Pope Francis, 2013.

World Day Of Prayer

St Columba’s Catholic Parish, Alice Street, Mitchell will host the World Day of Prayer on Friday, 6 March, 2015 commencing at 10.00am to be followed by morning tea. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Classroom Makeover

The Toowoomba Chronicle is offering a school a chance to win a $5000-00 classroom makeover. Simply collect tokens appearing in the Chronicle until 16th March and send in to school. There is also a collection box at the Mitchell Newsagency.

Library News

Welcome back to 2015. The library is processing a large backlog of resources and keeping general circulation up to date. We have just finished processing the remainder of the Springboard levelled readers, which students use to gain reading strategies to become independent readers. We ask that all students have a library bag, these may include a pillow case, plastic bag, enviro-bag or any other bag, for borrowing.

The older students have been learning how to become independent searchers of the school library catalogue, which can be accessed online, from home at: http://stpm.twbceo.cmeweb.libcode.com.au/. All the students have been introduced to a free website called the International
Children’s Digital Library, where they can access a number of books in different languages from around the world, at: http://en.childrenslibrary.org/. The P/1 students read the book “The Library Lion” and identified library rules that will soon be listed in the library for all students to follow.

Please come in and see Miss Karen and Miss Sarah (Thursdays) if you have any concerns or issues about your child/ren’s reading resources, or if you would like to visit the school library to see what is happening you would be most welcome to do so.

Remember reading is fun and leads to life-long learning!

Miss Sarah.

Term One at a Glance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>24 to 27 Feb</td>
<td>Swimming Prep, 1-3</td>
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<tr>
<td>27 Feb</td>
<td>Assembly 2.30 p.m. launch of school song and video “Don’t Drop the Ball”</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 March</td>
<td>School Photos</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 March</td>
<td>Mass at St Columba’s at 2.00 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 March</td>
<td>Board Meeting at 4.30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>6 March</td>
<td>World Day of Prayer at St Columba’s at 10.00 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>14 March</td>
<td>Mass at St Columba’s at 6.00 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>16 March</td>
<td>AGM P &amp; F Association 5.30 p.m.</td>
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<td>17 March</td>
<td>St Patrick’s Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>21 Mar</td>
<td>ROMA &amp; DISTRICT SCHOOL FOOTBALL &amp; NETBALL season opener &amp; March past</td>
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<td>2 April</td>
<td>School Closed – Teacher Travel Day</td>
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<td>3 April</td>
<td>Good Friday</td>
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<tr>
<td>4 April</td>
<td>Easter in the Country Street Parade &amp; Josh Arnold Concert—all students invited to participate</td>
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Forms to be Returned ASAP:

Parent Authority and Consent Forms
Update Family Contact Details Forms
Absentee Note if required