Spelling not as you know it.

For some time now, we’ve been reviewing the way we teach spelling. We’ve analysed NAPLAN data, school data and observations of student ability to transfer spelling skills to written work. And we feel we can do it better!

I’m sure you’ve all heard the old adage “If you do what you’ve always done, you’ll get what you’ve always got”. With this in mind, we are taking a new approach to teaching spelling in 2013 by implementing a direct instruction program for students in Years 1-6, that uses specific strategies to encourage students to “think their way through spelling’ rather than simply memorise weekly spelling lists. Spelling Mastery has proven to be effective with average, advanced and academically challenged learners because it develops students’ spelling skills through interwoven strategies (phonemic, morphemic, whole-word) that work together to ensure that all students make progress toward spelling proficiency.

In traditional spelling programs, a spelling pattern, rule or word group is usually taught within a unit that lasts a week. In contrast, Spelling Mastery teaches new spelling in tracks. Each lesson includes several tracks and includes practice on more than one skill, pattern or rule. Less is taught of each skill within a single lesson than with a traditional spelling program but, as the tracks are taught over a period of several weeks, students are provided with time to master and acquire spelling skills. This approach allows students to learn skills gradually; initially receiving a great deal of teacher assistance and guidance in learning the skill. As the students progress through the tracks, teacher assistance lessens, until students can apply the skills independently.

In Spelling Mastery, regular review is undertaken. Within review tracks, every skill, pattern or rule taught on that level is systematically reviewed throughout the remainder of that level. This ensures long-term retention of skills and increases the probability that spelling skills will transfer to writing.

Don’t be concerned if your child’s homework looks different this year. Don’t be concerned if your child comes home with strange tales about what’s happening in spelling. We haven’t taken leave of our senses and abandoned the teaching of spelling. It’s simply that we are using a different, more effective approach to achieve better outcomes.

Margaret Porter
Principal

SCHOOL CALENDAR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WEEK 4</th>
<th>WEEK 5</th>
<th>Coming Events</th>
<th>WEEKLY</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wed 20</td>
<td>Wed 27</td>
<td>Kids Connexions – year 6 students – a relationships program run through Interrelate - 13 and 20 March</td>
<td>Tues</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Cyber Safety with Straun Presgrave - 6pm</td>
<td>• School photos</td>
<td>Harmony Day – 21 March</td>
<td>• Piano Tuition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thurs 21</td>
<td>Fri 1</td>
<td>School Cross Country – 28 March</td>
<td>Wed</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Parent information evening at 5pm</td>
<td>• Year 2-6 swimming</td>
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<td>• Library</td>
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<td>• P &amp; C barbeque</td>
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<td>• Student Banking</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 22</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Instrument Tuition</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Year 2-6 swimming</td>
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<td>• Sport</td>
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</tbody>
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We are an accredited Waste Wise Ways School
Music tuition

Thank you to the parents who have forwarded payment for instrument hire and Term 1 music tuition. Please be aware that tuition and hire costs need to be paid for in advance each term.

Fees for this term are as follows:

- Instrument Hire per semester: $50.00
- Piano Tuition per term: $90.00
- All other tuition per term: $85.00

Assembly

It was lovely to see so many parents and families at our first assembly last week.

The year 6 buddies proudly introduced all of our new kindergarten students; and Rosie and Adam were inducted as school captains for 2013 and presented with their badges.

Congratulations to the following students who were recipients of awards:

K/1 Alysha, Robert and Rohan
1/2 Kaitlyn, James and Taylah
2/3 Lawson, Mawgan and Wil
4/5 Connor, Jamie-Leigh and Linder
6 Brock, Liam and Lulani

The Citizenship award went to Mawgan Watson for making an amazing effort at the swimming carnival despite being sick for the previous three days.

Literacy Helpers

Thank you to those who have volunteered to help at school but extra helpers are needed.

The literacy helper program will be simple to operate and training will be provided by Mrs Margaret Simpson on Friday 22nd February and Monday 25th February at 2:00pm. Attendance at one session only is required.

Please contact the Admin office or speak to a teacher if you can help out.

Text Books

This year as part of the curriculum, students will be using a maths text book (K-6); a spelling workbook (1-6); and have access to the online Mathletics program (K-6).

A note regarding costs to parents will be sent home next week.

Absences

Please remember that all student absences from school need to be explained by a written note to your child’s teacher before the absence (if known in advance) or as soon as the child returns to school (in the case of unforeseen absences). After five school days, unexplained absences are recorded as unjustified absences.

If there is a change to routine...

We need to know if you change the routine for your child’s departure from school. Our duty-of-care responsibilities mean that we are unable to allow children to travel home with others, attend COOSH, be picked up by extended family members, friends etc, unless we have advice from parents. Simply telling your child or other agencies is not enough. In the absence of such advice, we are obliged to send children home from school in the normal fashion.

P & C News

The P & C will be running a BBQ next Thursday 21st February in conjunction with the school’s information sessions for parents. From 5pm, sausage sizzle, drinks and cakes will be available at the canteen. If you could bake a cake or muffins to support the P&C please bring it to the canteen on the night. Canteen helpers will be greatly appreciated!

P & C Team

Uniform Contact Person

Sharon Howard is our uniform co-ordinator and she can be contacted on sharonhoward321@yahoo.co.uk

Contact Details Update

It would greatly assist us if everyone could complete this even if there is no change as it is essential our data base is accurate in case of emergency.

This form is now available on the website.
**COOSH News**

There is no exciting news yet of the arrival of Katie’s baby, so she won’t have a Valentine’s Day child after all! The children have made some lovely cards for her this week and we are still collecting for a gift if anyone would like to contribute.

We are also appealing for any toys or games which your children may have lost interest in or out grown, that we could play with and love again at COOSH. In particular we are on the lookout for ‘Snakes and Ladders’, dress-ups and jigsaws.

**Do you have a green thumb?**

Do you want to be involved with the school vegetable garden but don’t know how? We require a parent helper each Monday (1.20 – 2pm) to supervise a group of the school kids in the garden and help them with weeding, watering, harvesting and planting out our very own vegie patch. You can commit to a whole year, just a term or even just a day here or there if you would prefer. The overall plan is to bring together teachers, parents and students by giving them the opportunity to become involved in the garden and hopefully get the children excited about science, maths and nutrition due to these gardening experiences.

We aim to start the canteen off on a path to self-sufficiency by using produce from the garden to put onto the canteen menu. Down the track, once the garden is fully established and properly maintained through this roster system we hope there will be an opportunity for teachers to incorporate it more fully into the curriculum and classroom learning.

To register your interest or find out more about how you can be involved contact Melinda on 0428117924 or melindaturneround@hotmail.com.

If you or your kids have any suggestions about what to grow in the garden and see in the canteen, we would love to hear from you too.

_Sacha Cole_

**Get set for a night of rock’n roll.**

The Clunes Hall Fundraising Committee is proudly bringing Rock n Roll and all things 50’s to the Hall on 23rd March 2013 at 6.30pm.

Tickets are available at the Clunes Auto Centre.

The $50 ticket price includes nibbles and a 2 course dinner, plus live music from the 1950’s era by Victims of Geography.

There will be prizes throughout the night. The event is being staged to raise funds to help maintain and preserve the historic Hall as a community asset.

So let’s Rock n Roll, get dressed 1950’s theme and have your photo taken by Rod Gibson for a small fee Don’t forget to BYO drinks.

Enquiries or dietary concerns please contact Rhonda Taylor 66291097 or Julie Casey 66291751.

**Girl Guides meet in your area!**

Laughter, learning, friendship and fun... come along to find out what Guiding is all about!

When: 5.30 to 7.30pm Tuesdays during school term

Where: Clunes Coronation Hall

Contact: Helen Hargreaves tel. 6689 5294

**Due dates for notes**

Contact Details Update - due as soon as possible
Photo Envelopes Wednesday 27 Feb
Moving into Year 7 (Yr 6 only) Friday 22 March

**Clunes Netball Club**

We still have spots available in teams for the 2013 season. Our club members come from all over the district and our teams range from junior through to senior level. We welcome both new and past players as well as prospective coaches and umpires. If you are interested in getting involved in netball this year we want to hear from you.

For more information phone Kathryn Hofmeyer on 0427394698.

**Clunes Tennis**

Amanda Mead is back and ready to take on budding Wimbledon stars.

Before-school-lessons are available on Wednesday mornings from 7.45-8.45am.

If your child is interested please contact Amanda on 0424970367

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