Valley View

In today’s Valley View I would like to discuss the value of highly effective communication. Children communicate with others from birth. Effective communication doesn’t always need words. And it’s much more than being able to talk, read and write. For example babies use gestures and sounds to communicate. They smile, cry and touch to tell you they are contented, distressed or curious. They understand much more than they can say in words.

Toddlers and older children might communicate with you through behaviour – hitting and biting are often ways of communicating frustration. Children can also use art, music, dance and dressing up to communicate how they feel, what they think and who they are.

So how can you help your child to be an effective communicator?

As children get older they will develop the skills to write simple texts to convey ideas, messages, feelings and information. As they grow they can typically link ideas in a variety of ways and plan art works that communicate ideas, concepts, observations, feelings and experiences.

1. Model effective communication yourself; especially a willingness to talk with your child and to listen to what they say. Having two-way conversations with your child teaches them the importance of listening and responding. Try to ask questions that don’t require just a yes/no response. Do this often.

2. Read books with your child and play games with the words and sounds.

3. If your child is interested in letters and written words, create posters, signs and simple books (using a computer or by hand). Ask your child to tell you what to write in a text message, letter or email. Help them type their name. Play games by finding letters on the keyboard.

4. Read books, magazines, street signs, advertisements and pictures with your child. Help them identify letters and words and to understand how pictures can tell a story. Talk about what you see and what the words and pictures mean.

5. Tell your child stories and encourage them to tell you stories. These can be told in your home language as well as (or in place of) English.

6. Give your child different opportunities and materials to express their ideas and interests through drawing, painting, building and making music. These are all ways of communicating.

7. Give your child dress ups to encourage role playing. This encourages talking, listening, imagination and thinking skills as they act out a new role.

8. If you are concerned about any aspect of your child’s communication, speak to your child’s maternal and child health nurse, early childhood professional or doctor.

Have a quick win. Next time that your child arrives home from school at the end of the day, instead of asking ‘How was your day’? , try; these to gems...

What was a really good question that you asked at school today darling?

OR

What was some really good feedback you got from school today sweetheart?

Your child’s educational success depends on their ability to connect with other learners, teachers, and members of the community; and of course you as the parent. Communication counts.

Enjoy your learning

Andrew Jones
**LN1 News**

"Hola!" The Fiestas de Espanas is coming! This week our students have begun a school wide enrichment topic on Spain. From next year Spanish will be taught at BVPS, as it is a requirement from the Department of Education that all schools teach a Language Other Than English (LOTE). During the week LN1 students have enjoyed watching videos that show Spanish festivals, a rich part of the Spanish culture, and were fortunate enough to view Flamenco dancing from a Nella who visited the school on Wednesday. They also enjoyed munching some traditional sweet treats donated from Spanish Doughnuts – The Original Churros company. What a wonderful way to start a new learning journey, and the journey is headed towards a whole school Spanish Festival to be held early next term. "The Fiestas De Espanas" will be planned for and organised by the students with students working in six groups chosen by them this week; either dancing, music, entertainment, food, costumes or decorations. We would LOVE some parent support with this and the times the groups are working are Mondays and Tuesdays from 2:30pm to 3:20pm, and Fridays from 12:40pm to 1:30pm. If you are able to help in anyway please see either Jodie or your child’s teacher. Jodie, Marija, Daniel, Amy, Paula, Jamielee, Wendy & Laura.

Learning Neighbourhood 2

Fiesta De Espana is definitely coming to BVPS.

We would like to send out a massive thank you to the wonderful people at Spanish Doughnuts, who generously gave us 300 churros to kick off our Spanish unit. Every student who was at school on Wednesday had the opportunity to enjoy one of their delicious churros. If you are ever at the station in the city at Flinders or Southern Cross, take the time to visit them and purchase yourselves a true task of Spain.

We also enjoyed the performance in the multi of some truly special flamenco dancing. Students spent the whole lunch on Wednesday tapping away and playing imaginary castanets.

Even our learning in Literacy and Numeracy has taken a Spanish twist. 3/4S has a massive pressure challenge this week in maths with Miss O‘Meara, they had to create a 2 tapas dishes for every student in the neighbourhood to taste in writing. They used their knowledge of measurement, shape and fractions to create two tasty treats for everyone to enjoy. We are writing reviews in writing and are looking forward to critiquing the tapas served by 3/4S. Above is Melat and Ton enjoying some mini empanadas, which have been described as delicious & crispy.

As the fiesta gets a little closer at BVPS, there is no siesta for LN2 & LN3 students who have combined for the next 6 weeks of enrichment. Students, from both neighbourhoods, will be working together to investigate a particular part of Spain. Ask your child about which group they have joined and ask lots of
questions. The three key areas of investigation are going to be around; food, the arts and culture. There is so much for our students to discover about Spain and everyone is super excited about sharing their learning in week 3 of next term.

Learning Neighbourhood 3

Week 8 is almost over, two weeks to go!

Wow, what a week of hard, wonderful learning in LN3 this week! The Father’s day breakfast was a blast and also was the Father’s Day Store! I am sure their will be many happy fathers from Broadmeadows Valley this week. LN2 and LN3 are joining together to talk about all things Spain. We got to see a flamenco dancer and also got to eat some churros. It was delicious! During Term 4, the whole school will be putting a big Spanish festival. The dates will come real soon!!

Reading has had some very tough learning this week, as our grade 5/6 students push themselves to the limit, as they get challenged by signal and descriptive words. We have been learning about text features and now have a better understanding of what Compare and Contrast, Problem and Solution and Cause and Effect mean and help us identify the type of text we are reading.

In Writing, we are trying to finish our Prezi presentation for the student-led conferences for next week. We needed to work hard and concentrate as we had to make videos explaining our understanding and pictures to provide evidence of our learning. We are all working so hard on them at the moment so we can make our parents proud!

Once a week the girls are working with Brigette and Michelle for a program called MPower. It has been fun! MPower is all about celebrating the fact that we are awesome girls and that girls have the ability to anything and the right to do anything. The boys have been involved in a program called Rock N Water. The program is about boys making smart choices and how to act in difficult situations. We just think they play games though!

Have a great weekend! Only two weeks left of term til holidays. We are getting very tired from all of our learning, so we are looking forward to our break!

Bye for now
From Tele and Tinei

Three Way Conferences

Wednesday September 10th is Three Way Conference Day at Broadmeadows Valley Primary School. Students will be sharing their learning in a conference with family members and their Homegroup teacher.

A letter confirming appointment times was sent home today. If you have not yet returned your request for an appointment please do so as soon as possible. Many time slots are already filled!

If you have misplaced your form please see your child’s home group teacher or our friendly office staff.

PLEASE NOTE: Wednesday September 10th will be a normal school day.

Students will attend the Three Way Conference appointment with their family in order to participate in this important conversation.

Calendar

Term 3

Hume Cup
Date: Thursday 18th, 2014
Times: From 9.15am - 3.00pm

CAMP
Coonawarra Camp deposit & payments are now being taken

A Big Thank You to The Original Churros company for donating 300 Spanish doughnuts

Birthdays
Latrell M
Isabella E
Shanae H
Renee J
Preshon L
Mani M
Linda K
Broadmeadows Valley Primary School

Father’s Day Breakfast

A wonderful thank you to everyone who attended our first BVPS Father's Day Breakfast. It was a great success and so lovely to see our community come out and join in. It was also brilliant to see many of our dads in the learning spaces afterward.

A special show of gratitude for our amazing Parent Ambassadors for organising this great event. They were incredibly dedicated and generous with their time and energy and your work is appreciated by everyone at BVPS.