Reading – making it a passion and not a chore

In 2012 a team of Junior School staff undertook a review of the Homework guidelines and expectations in the Junior School. There was a shared belief that reading, for both practice and enjoyment, should always be a part of a student’s homework routine. We recommend that all children should read, or be read to, for at least 10 minutes every night. Not only does practising reading improve a child’s skill with which they can gain knowledge in all subject disciplines but it can also provide hours of enjoyment in their recreation time. If children can develop a love of reading at an early age it sets them up for learning in all areas of the curriculum.

Below is a set of suggestions to parents of how they can promote, encourage and improve their child’s love of reading and reading ability. These suggestions, along with other valuable information for parents can be found on the NSW Board of Studies website. I encourage everyone to take time to have a look at this website.


You can help your child in reading when you:
* show your child that you value reading by reading whenever you can.
* provide a variety of texts for your child to read to you, e.g. stories, comics, poems, plays, cartoons, reference books, magazines and children's recipe books.
* point out words on street signs, packets and labels.
* encourage your child to predict what a book is about from the cover and illustrations.
* reread favourite books.
* talk about the different purposes for reading a picture book, a novel, a TV guide, a newspaper, a telephone directory, a recipe book and an encyclopaedia.

* point out the different size and shape of words.
* point out the first sound of a word and encourage your child to think of other words that begin with the same sound.
* encourage your child to read books for enjoyment as well as for information.
* praise your child when they are reading, e.g. ‘well done - that was a difficult word’.
* encourage a positive attitude to books.
* encourage your child to talk about characters and events in texts.
* encourage your child to make sound effects for the characters and events.
* ask your child to think of possible beginnings and endings for stories read and heard.
* praise your child when they are reading.
* ‘sound out’ difficult words and/or give clues to the meaning of difficult words.
* encourage your child to have a go at reading words that are unfamiliar.
* ask your child to read on past the unknown word to gain clues from the rest of the sentence.
* show your child how to find the meanings of unfamiliar words in dictionaries.
* encourage your child to watch films and videos of books they have read.
* talk about the ways in which a film version of a book compares with the print version.
* encourage your child to borrow books from the library.

Mr Christopher Jackman
(Head of Junior School)