Education Report – March 2015

Reading for Life - building independent and successful readers

Chris Taylor, Liz Wilson and Gez Balovski attended this professional learning experience. The independent reading summit hosted by Oxford University press focused on:

1. **Beginning the journey to independence** – building readers from birth. Mem Fox, Australia’s most highly regarded picture book author (Possum magic) sees books as the bread and butter of a pre-schooler’s diet. We were spell bound as she read of a couple of her books with so much expression and passion.

2. **Understanding the convergences and divergences of the reading classroom.** The presenter, Ann Bayetto teaches special education at Flinders University with a focus on how to teach students with literacy and numeracy difficulties. Some of her points were that - all students need time to read, comprehension is not a natural outcome of reading, oral language is the essence of becoming literate and to be a reader we have to want to read.

3. **Exploring some of the barriers to boys achievement in literacy.** Gary Wilson, as a consultant has his focus on tracing under achievement of boys from pre school to age 16 and what can be done to prevent it.

4. **Creating texts to engage readers.** Sally Rippin, is a full time author and illustrator based in Melbourne. She shared her journey as an author of books for early readers. She was inspired to write the highly successful ‘Billie B Brown’ series when her son was struggling with his reading.

Parent Sessions – ‘Come and Play’ – English games to play at home

Very well attended sessions gave the parents lots of practical ideas on how to create word games with their kids to enhance their learning.