**WEEKLY MEMO # 2**

**Unit of Inquiry ‘Energy’** - This week has been amazing as my observations about the children in my class proved very interesting indeed. They were able to grasp the understanding of the 8 key concepts. This was clear when the children informed me that they had seen it in the classroom displays but they did not understand the meaning of these terms. While this was being explained to them, the children realised that the questions could be categorised under the 8 key concepts. They learned quickly as each question that had been asked by the children were put under the relevant Key concept. Independently, the children then put all the questions asked under the corresponding Key concepts. Since the questions designed by the children had their names on it, they formed groups of 4 according to their own sense of curiosity and interest. I was once again impressed with the way the children talked and discussed ways of collecting information to their burning questions. As I walked around the class, the excited murmur of children was clearly heard as they designated duties to each other and took over their learning. Since the field trips would take long and as they did not want to waste time, they immediately turned to the resource books on the topic, ‘Energy’. One group of children went one step further, they asked if they could use my computer to go on-line to collect the information needed. Once again, it was so thrilling to see the children pour into the books and read. The next step I will take is to just guide them by sitting and talking to the groups of children to find out how far they have reached. They will be presenting their findings to the whole class thus displaying their communication skills.

**Reading Workshop** - After having watched the teacher demonstration of the strategy, ‘synthesising’ the children were able to apply this while they read a book of their own. Another book was read, namely, ‘**The Librarian of Basra’**, by Jeannette Winter, where the importance of ***Thinking*** was emphasised. The children were asked to draw up two columns, namely,’ *What this Story makes me Think About’* and another ‘*What is this Story About’*. The children once again noted their thinking as the book was being read to them. After completing this column, together with the teacher, the children listed down the main events in the story. These events were then written down as a summary of the story. The children helped towards thinking of ***only one sentence*** to write the summary. Once again the column in which the children had listed their thinking truly was very informative and reflected the children’s thoughts as they thought of bigger issues within the book which was read. Now I have to make sure that children will apply these strategies while they read both in class and at home. This will further enhance their comprehension skills. This week we will concentrate on learning how to infer the traits of a character.

**Writing Workshop** - I will continue with revision this week as well where I will give children several examples of ***revision*** and ***how it is done***. The children will see several pieces of writing and will be clearly shown how the piece of writing is revised. It will be done ***step-by-step*** showing the different stages used while revising. Children also will be exposed to an audience. This will give them the motivation to write the real stories of their lives. Once this is done, the children will do what has been planned for this week. I simply can’t wait to teach the children the ***structure*** of fiction stories. First of all, they will ***analyse*** the structure in a story and plot out the elements using a graphic organiser. Using this, they will then go on to plan their own fiction stories, using what they have learnt in the first few weeks in the Writing Workshop, about generating ideas for personal narratives. It will be a real challenge for the children but I am confident they will be able to apply and to put into practice what they will be learning in the coming week. ***I wish to inform all 5L parents that the books read to the children are literature books written by well-known children authors and some of them are award winning books.***

**Maths Workshop** - Children have started learning about the concept of Fractions. The children first had a discussion about the definition of a fraction and after several examples they learnt that a fraction is a part of a whole. Children then watched a video on fractions and learnt the basics of fractions that is the meaning of the numerator and the denominator and they also saw the ***what, how and why*** they need to learn this concept. They then drew diagrams representing the equal sharing of a bar of chocolate. Following this they wrote down the fractions representing these diagrams. They are still in the stage of constructing meaning of the concept fractions. This week they will consolidate understanding of place value in stations. There will be 6 stations where children will be involved in learning about both Place Value and fractions.