Newsletter No. 12

Sanson’s Slate

Denison State School Review
During Week 4 this term we had three principals visit our school to review the school’s performance. I am pleased to say that our great reputation for the educational service that we provide was duly noted by the reviewers. As was our excellence in the teaching and learning of mathematics. I look forward to sharing the complete report with you once it arrives. Thank you to all of our wonderful parents, staff and students who participated in the review.

NAPLAN
You will have now received your child’s NAPLAN Report if you had a child in Year 3 or Year 5. We are pleased with the great amount of improvement (gain) that our children are making from Year 3 to Year 5 in each of the strands. Our improvement agendas around improving reading and numeracy have yielded great gains from Year 3 to Year 5. I will speak further about our NAPLAN data at the next P&C Meeting.

2017 Enrolments (including Prep)
We are currently taking enrolments for Prep, and other year levels in 2017 and have a number of enrolments so far. If you have not done so and you intend to enrol your child, do this as soon as possible please. Early enrolments allow us to better consider how many classes we will have next year, and then organise staffing the teachers we will require. If you have children joining us here next year, or you have friends coming to town or looking for school options, enrolment forms are available through our office.

Prep Transition Programs
This week we hosted visits from all the local Kindy Programs, and we will host more activities in Term 4. Watch this space for details of our transition program! Our Term 4 induction process for Prep will begin with a transition morning for all future Prep students. To be eligible the student must be enrolled at Denison SS for next year. Pre-prep students will attend Prep with an existing class (in small numbers of about five) for the morning session as part of transitioning from Pre-prep to commencing full time school. This will assist teachers in getting an idea of students’ abilities before they come to school and also in assisting our admin team in forming classes that cater for perceived needs of students using the assessments from the morning observations. If you know of friends who are intending to enrol for the first time please pass this information on to them.

School Opinion Surveys
Thank you to the parents who completed the school opinion survey this year. Students and teachers also completed this survey. The information provided by participants gives feedback on how our school is travelling and informs us in future planning. Even though this was an easier system than previous years the take up of survey completion by parents was very low at just over 17%. This means our school is being guided by a very small group of opinions which may not be representative of your feelings. This is an annual task so please ensure you have your say next year!

Multicultural Festival
The Multicultural Festival is on Saturday 27th August from 5-10pm. This is a community event that provides a wonderful opportunity for the students in our choirs to perform to a broader audience and for families to share an evening enjoying international food and a wide range of performances. This is also one of the last big events that the P&C is involved in for the year with their running of the International Beer tent.

It only takes an hour of your time as a volunteer to ensure that this activity runs smoothly so if you are able to help out it would be very much appreciated. Hope to see you there.

I hope that you have a splendid week!

Troy Sanson
Principal

From the Deputy Principal
Following our parent numeracy sessions of last fortnight we have had some great feedback around the issues that families face when supporting their students with homework and learning in maths. Mums and Dads often know how to do homework activities however the way we explain at home and school is different. Even teachers who have been in the education system for some time notice the change in terminology. Over the next few newsletters I will include information on some of these elements however I am very keen to hear from families around what information is causing confusion. Please let your class teacher know or send us an email so that we can respond to your needs. Just as in class maths activities, all questions are valuable. If you don’t understand something then it is important for your student that we help out.

Amanda Mobbs
Deputy Principal

Date Claimers
17th Aug Year 3 Geography Excursion
17th - 19th Aug Year 4 Camp
26th Aug Book Week Parade
27 Aug Multicultural Festival Dance Performance
6th - 8th Sept Eisteddfod
Prep

Hi everyone. This week sees us half way through term 3 and the Prep students have been as busy as ever. We are currently at the beginning of the assessment phase for this term so just a quick reminder that every day your child attends school counts and a day of school missed is not only a missed learning opportunity but also lost chances for social, emotional and independence development.

We also have our Denison Parent and Teacher Interviews coming up towards the end of this term so please be aware that notes will be coming home in student’s homework folders either requesting an interview with you or for you to request an interview with your child’s teacher if you have any concerns. Please be aware that the interview times are 15 minutes per interview so we ask that if you require an interview you note on the interview request form the issues that you wish to discuss so teachers are able to fully address the issues with you in the allotted time frame.

Teachers are starting to put together class portfolios that will display our students amazing works from over this last term. If you have not returned your child’s portfolio we ask that you return it to your class teacher so we can begin to fill them with your child’s amazing work for them to discuss with you at the end of this term.

Regards, Mrs Katelyn Poole & Mrs Sam Patterson

Year 1

In Health this semester we are learning about the ‘Healthy Food Pyramid’. We will be looking at our lunch boxes to sort healthy foods and ‘sometimes’ foods. Parents are reminded that learning starts at 8:50am. Arriving after this time means your child is missing valuable learning time. Students should arrive at 8:45am to get themselves organised and ready for learning. Parent interviews are happening in week 9 this term.

You should have already received a note to request your interview time. If you have returned your request for an interview, you will be given a confirmation note regarding the time and date of your interview.

Regards, Miss Simone Bourne & Mrs Lauren Laws

Year 2

Already passed the half way mark, we are flying through the term! The atmosphere in our classrooms over the last week, has been nothing short of liveliness; with experiments, birthdays and our much anticipated excursion! We have been continuing to learn about living things and the necessities plants and animals need to grow. We have also been working very hard in English, to write, create and present our very own multimodal procedural text posters. In Math, we have had to keep our minds focused as we’ve learnt all about writing clues for secret numbers using different strategies. Some of our strategies have included drawing the word shape of the number, representing the number with materials and marking where our number would go on a number line. Our Technology assessment is coming up very soon, and we are starting to brainstorm design ideas for dioramas that effectively demonstrate the different life stages of a plants and animals. Don’t forget that you have any resources such as shoe boxes, tissue paper or cardboard boxes that you would like to donate, to bring them into your class teacher! Have a fantastic week 6!

Regards, Miss Amanda Poolman, Miss Rachael Williamson and Miss Rachael Tulloch

Year 3

GEOGRAPHY EXCURSION IS THIS WEDNESDAY! We are all very excited to walk to the Emerald Botanical Gardens to record information for our geography assessment. Please remember:
- Arrive promptly to school as we will be leaving first thing in the morning
- Hat
- Water bottle
- Brain break in a named paper or plastic bag
- Sunscreen is on before arriving to school

Any parent helpers would be greatly appreciated. Please see your child’s teacher.

Next week students will be designing and creating their water bottle cooler in Technology. Each child will need to bring in a named plastic water bottle, with a lid that can hold approximately 600mL. Other materials that can act as insulation for the project would also be appreciated: fabric, bubble wrap, paper towel, wrapping paper, alfoil, cling wrap etc. It will be interesting to see whose insulation will keep their water the coldest.

All classes have started learning about time in Maths. This is a very tricky concept to grasp as we move into a digital age. At home time can be communicated in various ways eg. 7:50 is the same as ten to eight. An analogue clock at home helps to visualise time when placed close to a digital clock eg. The microwave clock and an analogue clock in the kitchen. As a family talk about time and record: What time did you wake up? What was the time when you started brushing your teeth and what was the time when you finished? How long did it take Dad to cook the sausages on the BBQ? How many minutes does it take to get to school? What time will the cake come out of the oven if the recipe says 35 minutes to cook? These conversations will give your child a real world perspective to time.

Regards, Mr Joel Davis, Mrs Elyse de Wever, Miss Nikita Maiden

Week 6 is a very busy and exciting week in Year Four. First we are looking forward to Tuesday’s activities for Science week, and then we get to go on CAMP on Wednesday to Friday. The camp at the Fairbairn Dam provides great learning opportunities and the students will enjoy the team building activities organised and the experience of their first ‘real’ school camp. However, expect some worn out campers by Friday 3pm.

A packing list for camp has been sent home. Please remember that students who require medication for camp are to fill in the medical form that can be obtained from the office. Students can bring the form to school early if they want, so we can begin to fill out the register. Medication is to be brought on the morning of camp.

We would like all campers to be at the front gate at school at 8am on Wednesday 17th August.

Parent/teacher meetings will begin towards the end of the term and notes about this will be going home after camp. We all enjoy meeting with parents again and letting them know the progress their children have been making since the last time we had a parent/teacher meeting back at the end of Term 1.

If there are still some Portfolios at home we would like them back at class now so we can begin to fill them for parent/teacher meetings and the end of term.

Regards, Mrs Diane Waine-Barclay, Mrs Lisa McHugh and Mrs Brooke Raine and Mrs Jane McColl

studentabsence@denisonss.eq.edu.au
**Classroom Bulletin**

**Year 5**

Only 4 weeks to go until our long awaited camp! Please look out for a note coming home about what the children need to bring to camp.

We are well into the core of our learning this term and are working on and have started to complete a few assessment pieces. Attendance at school is most important during this time.

Parent Teacher Interview notes have been handed out. Please return these to school with your preferred times as promptly as possible. It is important that we work in partnership with our parents to ensure our children get the best learning outcomes.

In Maths over the next week we are looking at Measurement. You can reinforce these concepts and language at home by participating together in simple activities. When cooking – talk about the weight or volume of ingredients for the recipe. How would you double that recipe to cater for visitors?

When outside – talk about the area or length of your yard. How many metres high is your roof? When on a drive – what is the distance to your destination? Would you measure it metres or kilometres? When shopping – is it better value to buy the 1L, 2L or 3L milk? Is the 2 for $6 special better value than just buying a single item? Enjoy!!

*Regards, Mrs Leigh Robinson, Miss Rachael Wedmaier and Mr Wade Thompson*

**Year 6**

Students in year 6 have been working very hard to complete assessment over the last 2 weeks. It has been great to see the effort they have given to ensure they are doing the best they can. A reminder for all students going on camp that all forms need to be completed and returned and payments finalised by the end of next week (week 7). In week 7, there will be numeracy information sessions for parents of upper school students. The aim of these sessions is to provide information for parents that can assist them with encouraging, understand and helping their children with maths. Parent Teacher Interviews will be held during week 7 and 8. Please ensure you return forms and book a time if you wish to meet with your child’s teacher. Please return signed personal development permission forms to the office as soon as possible. The health nurse will visit on the 1st September 2016.

*Regards, Miss Pauline Dunn and Mrs Tegan Ryan*

**Library News**

Last week was the first of our three week celebratory journey of our Bookweek Theme: “Australia! Story Country”. During our library lessons last week each class read an Australian text. Many of these were from the Children’s Book Council of Australia Notables and Shortlisted titles of 2016. This week our celebration of great stories continues as we read a selection of the Shortlisted Titles and try to predict the winners. Next week each class will be completing an art activity based on the shortlisted title that they have read in class this week. During Bookweek our library will continue to be a hub of activity as students engage in a range of different art activities and storytelling activities at first lunch on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. Our culminating activity will be our Book Character Parade on Friday 26th August. At this parade we will also be announcing the winners of the Bookweek colouring competition (entries close on Wednesday 17 August).

We are very much looking forward to our Bookweek Celebrations.

*Happy Reading*

Maree Heslin and Jean Self

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**Performing Arts News**

This term is flying with events all over the place! The Sunday Funday was great for the Eisteddfod Choirs to have their first performance for this term. Well done! The Grade 2-6 Choir students and Band students also had a great time last week at the Festival of Band’s 3 sessions of workshops and then a big concert on Saturday night at Emerald Town Hall to showcase all of their hard work. What a wonderful concert!

The Multicultural Festival on the 27th of August is also getting closer and all students who received an ‘A’ during their dance unit with me in Term 1 will receive an invitation to perform. Rehearsals will start next week and notes will also come home next week.

Finally, Eisteddfod on the 6th-8th of September is also creeping closer and students doing solos and duets have been starting to perform for their classes. Please keep up your child’s practice at home. Eisteddfod Program will be available to you at the office for $2 from the 8th of August so you can see when your child is performing.

I hope you’re all enjoying the beloved melodies from the Recorder.

*Upcoming Parade Performance dates…..*

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*Yours in the Performing Arts and DSS talent, Monique Podolak*

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**INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC UPDATE**

Central Highlands Festival of bands

Congratulations to the students who participated in the Central Highlands Festival of bands and choirs last week. The students participated in a three day workshop with guest conductor Katrina Mothershaw and vocal group In the Mood Four, before performing in a concert on Saturday night. All groups performed extremely well and should be proud of their efforts.

**Instrumental Music**

There are limited places still available in the schools instrumental music program. If your child is in years 4-6 and would like to learn an instrument please contact the schools office for an Instrumental Music questionnaire.

*Leanne Hilder*

IM Teacher

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**Deno Readers**

- Possum: Lachlan B
- Sunflower: Henry W
- Red Claw: Kelsey L
- Paperbark Tree: Yishan G
- Wattle: Jada B
- Governor William Denison: Isabella W

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**Library News**

- Prep B: Isabella C
- 1B: Lachlan B
- 2B: Jada B
- 3B: Henry W
- 5B: Isabella C
- 6 Choir: Isabella C

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**Library News**

- Prep B: Isabella C
- 1B: Lachlan B
- 2B: Jada B
- 3B: Henry W
DENISON STATE SCHOOL

Casual & Relief Teacher Aides

For relief and casual teacher aides to be contacted for when staff is absent

Position Information packages can be obtained from the school office or by phoning 49807 333

Applicants must address the Selection Criteria to be considered for the position.

ALL applications will remain current for twelve (12) months.

Applications close at 4pm on Friday, August 19th, 2016

The Commission for Children & Young People Act 2000 requires the preferred applicant to be subject to a Working with Children Check.

Education Queensland actively supports and encourages workforce diversity and equity.

SCHOOL BANKING PROGRAM

Don’t forget you can earn Dollarmite tokens through the School Banking program and redeem these tokens for a fantastic reward item and a Certificate.

If you haven’t already, please complete your reward card coupon and return it, along with your 10 tokens, on the next School Banking day and the item will be ordered for you.

DENISON STATE SCHOOL
16 Gray Street
P.O. Box 1475
EMERALD Qld 4720
Phone: 49807 333 Fax: 49876 058
Website: www.denisonss.qld.edu.au

PE & Sport News

JUMP ROPE FOR HEART

Denison State School is going to be a part of this fantastic program in 2016 and Miss Lawrence will be organising the Jump off event on Wednesday the 31st August during school time. The Yr 4-6 students will be performing from 9-11am and the P-3’s between 11:45am-1:20pm.

Sponsorship forms have been given out to encourage students to raise funds online or in person for the Heart Foundation/School for their participation. Thank you in advance for supporting the Heart Foundation and the fight against cardiovascular disease. JRHF is a great way to reinforce to our students the importance of a lifelong healthy active lifestyle. On the JUMP OFF day come to the school and see how terrific the students at Denison can jump rope! Thanking you, and happy fundraising!

CH TRACK AND FIELD ATHLETES

Congratulations to Nat M, Noah C, Tayne V, Trinity S, Jaidyn C and Tiarrie-Lee F. They have been selected to represent the CH Track and Field team. All students have been training in preparation for their travel to Rockhampton in week 7 for a chance to make the CAP Athletics team! GOOD LUCK!

WESTERN 7’S RUGBY UNION

Students turning 10, 11 and 12 interested in participating in this competition can give their names to Miss L On Tuesday 16th August at first lunch there will be a practice for U10’s only. The competition is being held on 14-16th October next term. More info coming later.

Yours in Sport, Miss L

A MESSAGE FROM OUR GUIDANCE COUNCILLOR

Hello everyone,

Over the next few weeks, I will be including some information on how to develop resilience in children from a parenting perspective. This advice comes from Andrew Fuller, a clinical psychologist, working with many schools and communities in Australia and internationally, specialising in the wellbeing of young people and their families. He is a Fellow of the Department of Psychiatry and the Department of Learning and Educational Development at the University of Melbourne (http://andrewfuller.com.au/).

His first two tips are:

No. 1 Promote Belonging

The sense of belonging we have is the strongest antidote we know of for self-harm, depression and drug abuse and it’s built on our sense of belonging.

Children are most resilient when they have three types of belonging:
1. A sense of being part of a family
2. Having different friendships to belong to
3. Having an adult outside their family who connects with them.

No. 2 Have some mooch time

We live in a world that suffers from attention deficit disorder. We rush children from activity to activity, from lesson to lesson and from one organised event to another. Then we wonder why, when there is a lull that they say “I’m bored”. Be a counter-revolutionary. Find some time each week just to be at home without anything structured happening. Quiet times allow children to develop creativity and ingenuity.

Marietta Sedgwick
Guidance Officer
Denison, Tieri, Anakie, Alpha and Emerald State Schools
Base school phone 07 49807333
Email msedg1@eq.edu.au

PREP ENROLMENTS

2017 Prep Enrolments are now being taken.

Please collect your information pack from the school office.
DENISON MATHS CHALLENGE Week 6 & 7

Now that our school community is becoming much more confident in thinking in mathematically we are introducing a challenge every newsletter for families to work on with their children at home. We have a Junior and Senior challenge with a trophy for each. Complete your answers below and send into the office. The class with the most correct responses from Prep to 2 and year 3 to year 6 will hold the trophy for the week. Teachers are not allowed to give you the answer and often there may not be just one answer. Thank you to Mrs de Wever for contributing our first round of challenge questions.

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**JUNIOR CHALLENGE Prep – Year 2**
Which is longer? Explain your answer.

Name
Class

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**SENIOR CHALLENGE Year 3 – Year 6**
I went with Mum to buy some items from Big W. She spent $24.50. One item was exactly half the price of another and another item was much more expensive than all the others. She had 6 items in her basket. What did she buy and how much was each item?

Name
Class
Prep A  Phoenix T  His manners. Phoenix is always polite when talking to members of our school community.

Prep B  Joshua D  The amazing effort and focus you show during EVERY learning task. You are a Prep Super Hero!

Prep/1C  Jennavieve  Her effort to improve her writing. She works hard to hear the sounds in words.

1A  Sophie I  Your interesting adjectives in your sentences. Your writing is very entertaining!

1B  Xander V  Your effort in making good behaviour choices all the time. You are a super star learner.

2A  Brayden C  Brayden’s helpfulness during Maths lessons. He has been a positive and supportive peer.

2B  Lilly M  Your absolutely fantastic effort in completing your English assessment task independently and to your best effort! Well Done!

2C  Gabriella P  A well thought out procedure for Georges’s grandma. Your method was clear and easy to follow. Well done!

3A  Jazmika T  Her growing ability to follow directions quickly, begin a task and then ask questions if she needs to. Keep up the good work.

3B  Ella O  Ella’s speediness to answer basic addition and subtraction facts. You keep getting more efficient each time you practice.

3C  Cody B  Working very hard to catch up on missed activities after being away. Awesome effort!

4A  Riley T  Your continued keenness to learn every day. You try your best at everything you do.

4B  Lucas Y  His improvement in Mathematics. He has been working quietly and enthusiastically on most tasks. Keep up the great work!

4C  Haylee S  You are always organised and ready for learning, and this enables you to show great understanding during lessons.

5A  Jessica C  Great work with your writing. Keep up the good work!

5B  Dominic D  Listening well in class and completing your work independently.

5C  Macen S  His hard work, engagement and in depth justifications in science!

6A  Hayden S  Your demonstrated maturity when correcting a misunderstanding and recognising that a fellow student had beaten you in a game. Well Done!

6B  Jason L  The effort Jason has put into completing his art assessment this week. Jason has carefully considered which toning effects will complement each other in his artwork.

Prep A  Mason W  His stupendous effort in writing. Mason has worked extremely hard to produce outstanding sentences! Well done Mason!

Prep B  Resha W  An improved, ‘have a go’ attitude to all learning tasks. You are a Prep Superhero!! Well done Resha!

Prep/1C  Connor F  His hard work in reading groups.

1A  Martin N  Your enthusiasm towards learning and your contributions towards our class discussions.

1B  Kaitlynn K  Your excellent effort during your English Assessment! Well done!

2A  Madeline C  Madeline’s persistence when non-standard partitioning 3-digit numbers. She never gave up and has achieved success.

2B  Noah J  Your always positive attitude, continually giving your best effort in all your class tasks! Keep up the fantastic work Noah!

2C  Jessika E  The challenging Mathematical questions you posed when designing your board game. Those questions will sure make your classmates think!

3A  Kiarna N  Always being ready for learning. Kiarna is punctual, follows directions quickly and her desk is always neat and tidy. Keep up your organisational skills.

3B  Leo F  Leo’s ability to efficiently answer addition sums with four 2 digit numbers. Your calculations are accurate 100% of the time.

3C  Brodie K  Writing an awesome retell of The Lorax from the perspective of a Bar-ba-loot. Fantastic work!

4A  Jacob E  Ensuring you are organised and on task each lesson. Keep up the great focus.

4B  Jayden T  His great work in History. Jayden posed a variety of open-ended questions and used sources to write detailed responses. Fantastic effort, Jayden!

4C  Adam F  Your amazing result in the recent fraction assessment. Your impressive improvement so far this term shows you are listening well in lessons.

5A  Kayne S  Your effort to contribute to class discussions. You think carefully about your answer and wait for your turn to speak. Well done Kayne!

5B  Oscar M  Your persistent efforts during maths this week! Well Done!

4C  Lawson W  In recognition of his energy and enthusiasm during science. Lawson offers great reasoning and justification when exploring light.

5C  Meisha G  Your continued application in maths, particularly in your calculations of irregular area and perimeter.

6A  Jaidyn C  The enthusiasm you show when approaching all tasks. You are always willing to have a go and give your best in everything you do. Keep up the good work!
Communication is a key to success at school and for Speech Pathology week (August 7-13, 2016) we are highlighting the importance of communication in creating futures for our children. If we think about the classroom it is a buzz of words, explanations, questions, reading and writing. The ability to use language for thinking and learning is important for school success and creating students' futures.

Children learn to speak by talking with other people. The more children practice talking, the more they will learn. As parents you begin the teaching language from the very first day often with “mum mum mum” or “dad dad dad”. It is important to continue modelling and teaching language by talking with your child. Conversations are an easy way to boost your child’s language and learning. When you have a conversation with your child, you help them to learn new words and different ways of talking about their ideas and opinions. Conversations can take place anytime, anywhere: while playing together, sharing a book, watching TV together, in the park, at the shops or over dinner. Having conversations with your child will help their language grow in readiness for learning to read and write.

Making time for conversation gives your child more opportunities to learn about the world around them. When talking with your child make comments and ask questions about what they are interested in. Take the time to listen to what they say and respond to them and their ideas.

How many years have Speech Language pathologists been working as part of the Educational team in Queensland?
A. 30 year  
B. 40 years  
C. 50 years  
D. 60 years

There is a high correlation between students who have speech sound disorders and difficulty learning phonological awareness skills.

True/False

How many children in an average classroom will have a communication disorder?
A. 1  
B. 3  
C. 6

What percentage of offenders in the youth justice system have a language impairment?
A. 7 %  
B. 11%  
C. 22%  
D. 46%

There is a high correlation between students who had a communication difficulty and poor mental health.

True/False

What percentage of primary and secondary school age children in Australia have a speech and language impairment?
A. 1%  
B. 4 %  
C. 9%  
D. 13%

Children with a language impairment are 6 times more likely to have a reading problem than children without.

True/ False

Which of the following is the best predictor of reading comprehension at the ends of grades 2 and 3?
A. Vocabulary  
B. Reading Fluency  
C. Oral Language

What percentage of 15 year olds have only basic literacy skills?
A. 22%  
B. 14%  
C. 7%  
D. 2%

In order to understand a text a reader needs to understand what percentage of the vocabulary with in the text?
A. 84%  
B. 89%  
C. 92%
MATH BONANZA
Information Session for Parents

Experience new ways to interact with your child through math and walk away with a deeper understanding of the mathematics curriculum. You will be able to engage with various resources and participate in fun math activities that will allow you to support and understand your child’s thinking and reasoning.

An opportunity to learn how to help your child love math...

...and maybe yourself too.

Who: Parents of students in Years 3-6
Where: Denison State School Library
When: Friday 26th of August at 1:30pm OR Monday 29th of August at 6:00pm
What to bring: An open mind
Catering: Delicious nibbles included
RSVP: by Wednesday 24th of August to our Master Teacher, Trish Noyt

Attendees will receive a free folder of helpful math resources and go into a draw to

WIN A MATH RESOURCE PACK