

Kindergarten Letter

1 July, 2011.

Dear Parents

The Kinders have enjoyed a busy and diverse week of activities and experiences - spiders, Taiko drumming and bangles to name a few!

Each child will be drawing a plan of the spider that they are going to make. The plan involves more than a drawing of a spider as the children have to consider the materials they will use to make their spider, and, in the plan, show how and where the materials will be used. The materials to be used include wire, beads and buttons. When completed, the spiders and the spider web made by the children will be installed in the garden as a sculpture. Be sure to look at the photos (in Book Corner) of the spider web under construction.

The Taiko drumming was a wonderful experience for the children - a magnificent opportunity for the children to see and hear this amazing art. The Taiko drummers will be in the semi-finals of "Australia's Got Talent" (an opportunity for the whole family see, hear and share the experience).

On Wednesday, the children commented on the fact that I was wearing a number of bangles on my right arm. When the bangles were counted there were five. With the jewellery on my left arm there was a total of seven bangles and two bracelets. I shared a story with the children of how one day, another group of Kinders counted the bangles on my arm and there were 17! We discussed how wide/narrow/ heavy/light 17 bangles might be. Mrs Johnston wondered with the children how many bangles did I have at home? The expectant faces of the Wednesday children looked at me - I didn't know how many I had!

"Maybe you could bring them to school and we could count them?"

How many bangles would there be? We worked out that I had at least 24 bangles and decided that each child could make a "guesstimate". These were recorded. The guesstimates ranged between 30 and 2 million!

On Thursday I brought all of my bangles to school(I hadn't counted them!). There were three bags of bangles! The children were given an opportunity to change their guesstimate if they wanted to. Some children increased their number, some children decreased their number. Adelaide got the 100's boards and the bowls of chestnuts as we had decided that for each bangle we would place a chestnut on the 100's board. As the number of chestnuts on the board increased we passed some of the guesstimates(including mine!). Who would have the closest guesstimate? When we had finished counting and then counted on to include the bangle on my arm, there were 103! Adelaide had changed her guesstimate from 91 to 103 before seeing the bangles and before the counting started. Well done Adelaide!

As well as an excellent shared fun and meaningful maths experience the bangles provided an opportunity for the children to describe the attributes of various