As seems to be happening all the time, the weeks of this term have flown by. Students have been busy and engaged in learning across all areas of the curriculum. Add aquatics, the Adelaide Cup holiday, Harmony Day, Easter and dance week and we are all ready for a well earned break.

LITERACY
The chosen class text for this term was The Boxcar Children. The Beginning by Patricia MacLachlan. Set in America during the depression, it was the first in the series of books written about four orphan children and their adventures. Students were quite intrigued by the differences in life during the depression and now. We viewed the second book in the series on DVD.
In other reading we have focussed on exposition texts, in particular one about tooth care, something that was familiar to everyone. This tied in with our theme work on aging and how teeth grow and change over the years. Students have since written their own expositions on several topics of interest. Students learned about the vocabulary used to emphasise points and how these texts need an opening statement and conclusion.
Daily spelling, phonogram practice, handwriting and oral language skills continue to form part of our morning literacy block.
Students are also working towards completing the Premier’s Reading Challenge.

MATHS
Number has been the main focus in the classroom so far this term. Older students have worked to improve their rapid recall of basic addition and subtraction facts and extended their understanding of multiples, not so much the rote learning of times tables, but recalling the number bonds that make up these facts. In doing this students are learning that both multiplication and division are the inverse operation of each other. Younger students have extended their recognition of numbers above 10 and practised addition and subtraction. Skills to read times on analogue clocks and collect, represent and use data have also been extended.

OTHER CURRICULUM AREAS
Learning in other curriculum areas has been linked to our theme ‘Growing older’. We have looked at changes, similarities and differences between generations such as differing needs, wants, interests, capabilities, milestones, diet, exercise, social and emotional needs, medical and technological supports. Students have been quite innovative in creating new baby food flavours, designing baby clothing and pram toys, creating health care pamphlets, exercise routines and brain games for elderly people, and examining, then modifying the existing facilities available for all ages in Port Lincoln. Out of this learning came the understanding that age need not stop you from trying to achieve your dreams. Students created timelines of the goals they wanted to achieve in their lifetimes. By beginning the work towards these goals now, hopefully many will reach their dreams.

SPANISH
We have looked at the events and milestones that are celebrated in Spain, in comparison to those in Australia. One common feature of many Spanish celebrations that appealed to us was the piñata, so we decided to make them. We didn’t think much of the birthday tradition of having your ear lobe pulled for every year you had been alive!

VISUAL ARTS
Students have enjoyed using a variety of art materials to create works depicting aging and the skills people have at various life stages. They should be particularly proud of their portraits depicting their faces now and as an elderly person. The collection of each alphabet letter from a person of a different age was also a good insight into the skills that develop with age.

OTHER NEWS
It was disappointing that no families took advantage of the swimming lessons offered during school hours. Living in a coastal town, the ability to swim and understand water safety should be viewed as an essential skill. It would be really beneficial if parents / carers could help their child locate and return their Diary to school on a daily basis. So many notes seem not to make it home. Thanks to those who are adhering to our school’s healthy eating policy and remembering to:
- include a water bottle each day
- send fruit or vegetables as a snack
- provide a healthy recess and lunch with limited pre-packaged sugary and salty foods.

Please remember to return your student’s Learning Profile to school so new work samples can be added next term.

Have a safe and relaxing holiday.

Kath Carter
Room 3 learning in a cooperative and supportive environment