EXTENDING MATHEMATICAL UNDERSTANDING

The Extending Mathematical Understanding (EMU) program is an intensive specialised course designed to target specific mathematical learning needs. The EMU program aims to accelerate the student’s mathematical learning so that after 20 weeks, they participate in the classroom program within the average band for their cohort. The EMU program is based on the premise that the capacity of the whole community must be used to maximise each child’s opportunity to learn. Therefore it is important that the intervention teacher, classroom teacher and parents work together to ensure the students get the assistance they need.

Here at St Andrew’s the program is aimed at the children in Year Two. In Term 4 of each year, the Year One children are tested using the Maths Assessment Interview (MAI) and growth points are obtained in the four areas of counting, place value, addition/subtraction and multiplication/division. The growth points and teacher meetings then determine the students selected to participate in the program.

In 2012 there were 11 students selected to be involved in the EMU program which ran all year. The 11 students were split up into three groups and lessons were held four days a week for 30 minutes. At the end of the program the students were tested again to determine the progress that had been made. Below are examples of some children’s progress as a result of being involved in the EMU program.

As children finish the EMU programme, they are reintegrated into the classroom programme. The EMU teacher monitors their progress and liaises with the classroom teacher prior to and following reintegration. In 2013, EMU will be extended and will include children from Years 2 & 3.