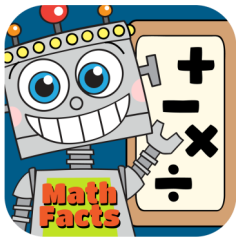
KEY FACTOR 2 - Big Ideas

School mathematics involves interaction and negotiation of the 'big ideas'. Contemporary approaches include: extended investigations, rich tasks, open-ended questions, games, discussion of solution strategies, mental computation, and visualisation. At Mt Eliza PS teachers are not only focussed on developing student understanding of the key concepts, skills and strategies that underpin primary mathematics, but they are making links between these ideas and how these are best taught and learnt at each level. The 6 'Big Ideas' are as follows:



Foundation - Trusting the Count

Developing flexible mental objects for the numbers 0 - 10.

Years 1 & 2 - Place Value

The importance of moving beyond counting by ones.

Years 3 & 4 - Multiplicative Thinking

The key to understanding rational number and developing efficient mental and written computation strategies.

Years 5 & 6 - Partitioning

The missing link in building common fraction and decimal knowledge and student confidence with maths.

Years 7 & 8 - Proportional Reasoning

Extending what is known about multiplication and Division beyond rule-based procedures to solve problems involving fractions, decimals, percent, ratio, rate and proportion.

Years 9 & 10 - Generalising, skills and strategies to support equivalence

Recognition of number properties and patterns and the use of algebraic text.