4.34 Comparing calendars

Topic: Measurement
Subtopic: Time
Activity type / skill: Using time expressions
Literacy focus: Vocabulary

Objective
- Become familiar with using a New Zealand calendar.
- Practise talking about dates and times.
- Recognise and value prior knowledge and experience.

What you need
- Student worksheet (see next page)
- A New Zealand calendar

What to do
1. Find a New Zealand calendar and talk about what is on it. Check and note the relative position of the names of the months, names of the days. Are they abbreviated? How does the layout cope with different month lengths? Does it start on Sunday or Monday? What other information is included: festivals? holidays? school holidays? moon phases?

2. Point to random dates on the calendar and ask individual students to say dates as quickly as possible using a given form. Practise using both these forms:
   - Monday, October the first
   - Monday the first of October.

3. Talk about the names of the days and months. What do they mean? Find out together through the school library.

4. Talk about the calendar. How are years numbered? How many months, weeks, days in a year?

5. Discuss other ways calendars can be presented: digitally, sideways presentation and so on.

6. Have the students copy the calendar for the current month on the first page of the student worksheet. Have them draw a New Zealand scene in the picture space at the top. Suggest they draw something they think their friends overseas might like to see.

7. Talk about calendars in the students' home countries. Go through the information above. Is it included? What else is included? Talk about the names of days and months – what do they mean? Are the weeks, months and years the same length as the months of the western Gregorian calendar? Do they have special names? Is it a lunar calendar? Is there a different calendar for religious holidays and festivals? If there is, ask them to tell you about it.

8. On the second page of the student worksheet, have the students create a calendar page for the current month as if it were a calendar in their own country. (They may have to do it on paper if the layout is very different.) Ask them to draw a picture of something from their country, which would interest New Zealanders, in the box at the top. Discuss the differences between the two calendars. Talk about any festivals included. Get them to tell you when other festivals occur and write their names and dates on the board. Are they different from the festivals on the New Zealand calendar? Proofread the pages as a group and staple them together to make a class calendar.

Extending the activity
- Look at library books and the internet for more information about times and dates.

Activity thirty-four

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