

Grade 2

April 2017

Curriculum Newsletter



Literacy

The literacy focus this term has been on how authors use language in stories to develop characters and settings. We have been learning to use comprehension skills such as activating prior knowledge, predicting and visualising to understand stories and create movies in our minds. We have been comparing texts and characters, and giving reasons for our preferences using text to self-connections.

Grade 2 had a special visit from Ross Walker a local author. The children were very excited to talk to Ross and listen to his story, discussing how he developed his characters. We were lucky enough to also have a special drawing class with Mr Walker. We had to visualise what we thought George from George's Marvellous Medicine in our class novel, would look like when he is older. Mr Walker shared some great tips and tricks on how to create and draw characters to become life like.

"We have to use big arm movements, and appreciate our skills and all our attempts at drawing – paper is too expensive to throw away"



Above: Our drawing session with Mr Walker.

Top right: Grade 2 sitting respectfully listening to Mr Walker the author.

Below: Our drawing session with Mr



Maths



Understanding and representing number in many ways

Number: During maths, we have been focussing on all the different ways numbers can be represented. We have been learning how understanding place value can help us to understand the value of a number and reading larger numbers into the thousands.

We have had lots of fun exploring number using concrete materials including MAB blocks, bundles and number lines. We have participated in lots of outside learning creating and using number lines. Before we could do this, we needed to develop our ability to read number lines and find patterns in numbers such as counting by 5's, 10's and 2's.

Probability: We have been learning to classify lists of everyday events according to how likely they are to happen, using the language of chance and explaining our reasoning. We described the outcomes as likely or unlikely and identified some events as certain or impossible.

We have celebrated our mathematics learning with a Quizit Game Show. We worked in teams to solve mathematical problems, which reflected our learning this term. We had so much fun!

Integrated Studies

Toybox Past and Present



Religious Education

We enjoyed participating in the St Patrick's Day fun activity afternoon. We were very respectful and enjoyed cheering our team members on. During Lent we focused on the spirit of Jesus and discussed something positive we would individually focus on during Lent to make someone else feel special.

During Catholic Education Week we discussed how privileged we are at St Brigid's, and created a flower garden representing why we appreciate our school.

We have been completing a combined Science and History unit focusing on how toys and technology have changed, how people have played in the past, and the types of materials toys were made of and why. We have been investigating the types of materials used in our playground and comparing these to those from the past and predicting and questioning why they may have changed.

We have discovered that many toys in the past were homemade compared to our toys in the present, which have been made in big factories. A majority of past toys were made from wood and there weren't the electric toys we have now. We also found out that because the toys were not electric, many still had a push pull element without using a remote control. We have been discussing the impact of changing technology and how it has influenced our daily lives. In our classroom we have had a display table of past and present toys, and have shared and presented the toys we have brought in for the class.

We completed a design challenge, *to create a toy with a push or pull movement used by children who lived when electricity was not available*. We have applied our knowledge of the materials of toys from the past, how they were made and the push pull movement they may have had. We annotated our designs and now we have the opportunity with the assistance of two helpers from the community, to construct our designs from wood.

Here are some more photos illustrating the fun Grade 2 have had learning in Term 1



I hope you have a fantastic and relaxing term holiday with your family and friends!