Principal Matters

Wednesday 25th May 2016

Transition:
This morning the Year 5&6 students along with the Year 6s from Dunolly travelled to Maryborough Education Centre for a transition experience activity.

The program included Science, Mathematics and English classes. Science was ‘hands-on’ with liquids changing colour, soap in a microwave, bank notes under a microscope and UV light, water that didn’t come out of an upside-down bottle and a strange balancing act with a pencil. Mathematics got everyone thinking as the class estimated and then calculated the volume of three cylinders of different dimensions. The English session was an introduction to story writing at secondary level with an outline of the key components: character/s, setting, plot and theme.

It was a worthwhile experience and I thank MEC for their efforts in providing the transport and teachers for the day.

4-6 Classroom:
We have continued to dig deeper into The Sapphires this week through analysing how the film introduces and develops each of the key characters. Students also had the opportunity to practise their public speaking skills as they each presented a verse of a poem in performance mode.

In mathematics we have been looking at different ways to solve problems and puzzles with a special emphasis on attempting to draw the problem in a symbolic way. This week we have focused on our 4 times tables and next week is fives. Parents are asked to test these tables regularly at home to assist in embedding this knowledge.

F-3 Classroom:
This week we have been looking at Migration and what it means, what it looked like and how people felt when moving. The Grade 2s and 3s have been writing short stories about how they would feel as a migrant, and we have begun writing a timeline of the history of migration in Australia. This role-playing is enabling the students to consider how others feel in our country, and how they can be friendlier towards migrants. We have had another visitor for our Artist in School program, Khaled, who is an Egyptian who works in Inglewood. His experiences in Egypt were of interest to the students, and they had many well thought out questions to ask him about his migration and life in Australia.

We just need to thank parents for reading with their students each night, as this is helping their language development, and their vocabulary growth. Preps have their alphabet handwriting to practice, and the Grade Ones have words sent home occasionally. Grade 2s and 3s have their weekly homework, and this week they are practicing their reading comprehension and multiplication. We ask that parents remind students that their homework is important for their learning, and thank you to those parents who are on top of this.
Artists in Schools Program:

Our Pupwizardtry project is well underway. So far we have had two guest speakers, Mark from Sri Lanka and Aida from Lebanon. We will be having Kar from Egypt today, who will be talking about what it was like to emigrate to Australia and about the country, family and friends they left behind. We are still hoping to have an excursion to the Chinese Museum to make up our background research for the theme ‘You & Me’.

The children have so far experienced a number of textural application in the making of finger puppets, paper bag puppets, human size cut-outs and plaster cast masks. (Which I am very impressed with, as every child participated.)

Our next stage is setting out the production process and making the puppets whether they be shadow, glove, rod or marionette. It just depends on the year and whether it will be acted out in song, poem narration or play.

The concert, at this stage, will be held on Thursday 4th August. If all goes well. So please keep that date free.

Over the next month I am appealing to parents from each family to come up with an international finger food recipe, either sweet or savory, that they will be willing to make on the night of the concert. I would like a copy of that recipe so that we can print it off for people to take if they so desire.

I will keep you informed as things progress.

Mary-Ann Scull