How We Organise Ourselves

Students will explore the concept, the purpose and the future of marketplaces

Transdisciplinary Theme:
An inquiry into the interconnectedness of human-made systems and communities; the structure and function of organizations; societal decision-making; economic activities and their impact on humankind and the environment.

Central Idea:
Marketplaces depend on the exchange of goods and services.

Lines of Inquiry:
- Roles of marketplaces (Form)
- Supply and Demand has an impact on goods and services (Connection)
- The effect of the consumer choice (Function/Causation)

Concepts:
- Function (How does it work?)
- Causation (Why is it like it is?)
- Form (What is it like?)
- Connection (How is it connected to other things?)

Habits of Mind:
- Thinking Interdepedently
- Managing Impulsivity

Transdisciplinary Skills:
- Communication: non-verbal
- Presenting
- Informed choices
- Group decision making
- Viewing (graphs and charts)

PYP Attitudes:
- Confidence - having confidence to make informed choices and to take risks
- Creativity - being creative in their approach to solving problems, dilemmas and decisions
- Curiosity - being curious about the worldly knowledge needed to function effectively in market place

Mathematical Focus:
- Number and Place Value (Computation of Whole Number Algorithms inc. Addition and Subtraction)
- Location and Transformation (Symmetry, Transformations)
- Units of Measurement (Area and Volume)
- Location and Transformation (Navigational Language)

Literacy Focus:
- Text type – Documentaries
- Reading – Questioning and Summarising
UNIT REFLECTION: HOW THE WORLD WORKS

Throughout the Unit of Inquiry, ‘How the World Works’ students developed their understanding of the PYP key concepts of Function, Causation and Responsibility by conducting scientific investigations and recording their results, while developing their understanding of human ingenuity.

During the finding out phase of the inquiry, students explored the nature of physical and chemical transformation. In our new science room the students conducted experiments which demonstrated the difference between reversible and irreversible change, and compounds and mixtures. Students made astute observations and wrote procedural texts using the scientific method for their experiments.

Students developed their understanding of variables and controls by conducting and reflecting on experiments which had independent and dependent variables. These included creating paper planes with the same shape, but different sizes of paper; and attempting to grow bean sprouts using a variety of liquids to care for them.

Finally, students researched how humans use their ingenuity and understanding of transformation to solve problems in our daily lives. This led students to explore how technology has made our lives easier and to think creatively and originally to solve a problem.

Student Reflections

Nick K
‘The best part of our Unit of Inquiry was when we got to do experiments in the science lab with our friends and explore their different reactions. I also enjoyed learning about Albert Einstein’s past and history’.

Giovanna Z
‘I liked learning about how different inventions have developed over time, and what is still being made. The ingenuity of it all was amazing and mind blowing. Seeing timelines of how things have industrialised looks almost impossible and just... wow’.

Angelina A
‘I liked learning about the different ways that people can think, creating original things that we can use a lot’.

Students created a lava lamp and then wrote a procedural text using the scientific method