

Downsview Times

SPRING ISSUE

THE READING VENDING MACHINE

Downsview has a new vending machine, and I hope you're hungry - hungry for books that is! Yes, you read that right; our school now has its very own Book Vending Machine! But how did the idea come about?

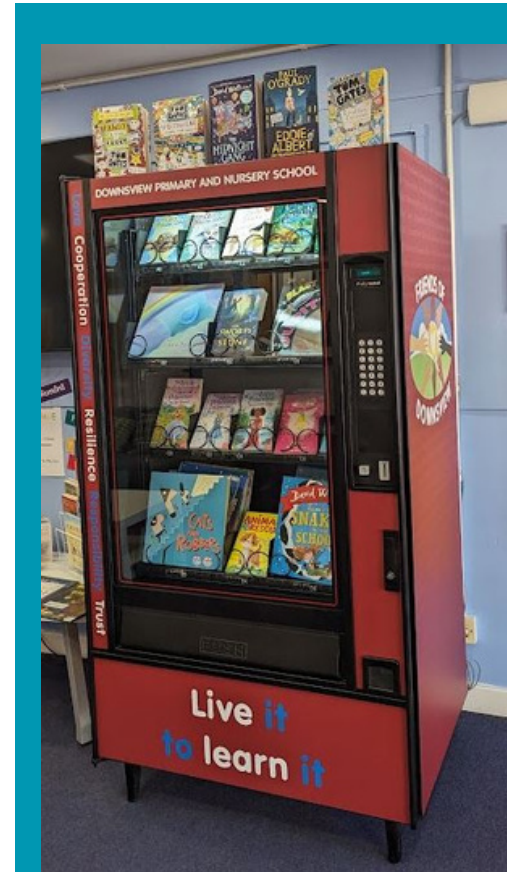
The Friends of Downsview were thinking of what they could do next that would benefit the school. They know that good readers make better writers and books cost money, so maybe kids would like to earn a golden coin to exchange for a book! This would make getting the book exciting and wanting to read it more interesting.

How does it work you ask? Each week during celebration assembly, one child in each year group is chosen to get a special gold coin that only works

for the vending machine. This is a reward for their continuous effort in reading and writing that week. They then get to go meet Mrs Gray and have a chance to choose one of the books from the vending machine!

But what benefits would this bring to the children? They get free books to share with their families, which will enhance their pleasure for reading. There are different genres of books available and Mrs Gray stated, "There are fiction and non-fiction, chapter books and picture books so there is lots of choice!"

Many children helped to choose authors and there are ones like Liz Pichon, David Walliams and Anthony Horowitz. But how do we buy the books? Books can be



Then new vending machine is in the reception area, come check it out!

pricey! Mrs. Gray stated, "You need to enter the school lottery; parents have to buy the tickets and the school gets 20% back and then that helps buy the books for the machine!" So get entered into the school lotto parents! We love our books!

-JOSH

Year 5 Trip : Whitgift

Hello, my name is Arianwen I am in Year 4 Kenny, this is my second article, so I hope you enjoy it. I have interviewed Jasmine about the Year 5 trip to Whitgift School. This school invites children from Downsview to come for the week and they teach us lots of incredible things! I first asked her if she was nervous, Jasmine replied, "A little bit nervous, but mainly excited."

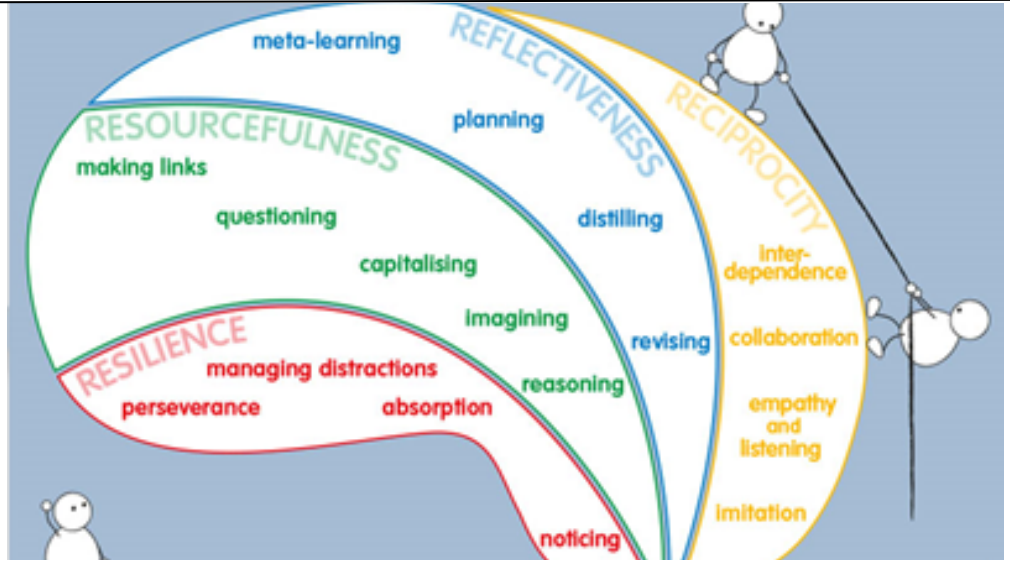
Then I asked her if she enjoyed the experience? She said, "Yes, I had a really good time and learnt lots of new things."

Next, I asked if she had met any Whitgift students or teachers? She said, "Yes, they had one teacher who taught us all week and two teachers who taught us Chinese."

I asked her how many children came on the trip?" Jasmine said, "Thirty children, taken from across the 3 classes in Year Five." My last question was to find out why she got to go to Whitgift?" Jasmine explained, "I am not sure why I got to go but I am glad I did! I know there are other things that I havent got to do so maybe it was just my turn."

Thank you for reading.

-ARIANWEN



BLP Has Come to Downsview

We all know about BLP, the subject that took our school by storm, but what exactly are the specifics? First of all, BLP stands for - Behaviour Learning Power and it is taught as standalone lessons but also the skills are being weaved into all of our lessons at Downsview.

Today, we interviewed the teacher who introduced and is now implementing it at our school, Ms. O'Connor. First, let's find out why she brought it in.

"Because BLP enables children to be more connected with themselves as learners," she replied. "They become more independent."

I was curious whether she was the one who invented BLP. "No, a man named Guy Claxton did, I can't take the credit" she joked. I remembered his name

because it was like Guy Fawkes!

When asked if she enjoyed teaching BLP to children she replied, "Yes, because I love watching children become more resilient."

There are four main skills taught in BLP- Resilience, Resourcefulness, Reflectiveness and Reciprocity.

But which is Ms O'Connor's favourite value in BLP?

"Making links, because it brings together all experiences a child goes through!"

Like I'm making links with these questions. Get it? *crickets chirping*

One final question, isn't it annoying to carry around all those BLP figures? "Well, no, because they live on my wall."

Well, that's BLP explained!

-UMBERTO

Young Voices

This has been my first year in the Downsview Choir, and we have done amazing things so far. I want to tell you about our super trip to the O2 as a part of the Young Voices choir. And who better to interview than Miss Higgins, head of KS1 singing, and Mrs Gray, head of KS2 choir. First, I asked Mrs Gray if she enjoyed it. She said, "I always enjoy it, even if I'm tired."

Then I wanted to know about the emotions she was feeling?" She replied, "One, anxious; two, excited; three, buzzing; and four, exhausted."

That sums up how I felt for the day as well.

Next, I wanted to know what song they enjoyed most?" They both agreed it was the Matilda Melody. I also liked it because everyone joined in, and it sounded really good.

I was curious as to how they got all those children to the O2. They walked to the bus stop, then to Crystal Palace, took a train to Canada Water, and tube to Greenwich. It took a while to get there, but it was fun to travel together.

Finally, I wanted to know how many children were there in the whole arena? Can you believe that there were ten thousand children and ten thousand adults, filling the whole arena. There was even a stage with dancers and a live orchestra, which added to the entertainment and performance of the magical night. It is one of the largest school choirs in the world. It was a great experience, and I was lucky to be there, and I am looking forward to going again next year. Make sure to search "MC Grammars" and "Young Voices 2024" on YouTube.

-ZARA

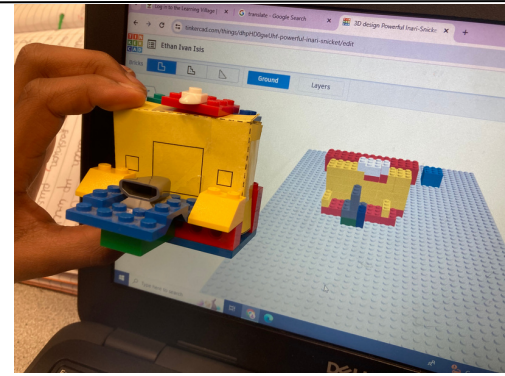
Online Safety and Computing

If you were able to come out to the STEM Week Gala and see all the brilliant work the children had done, you would know that computing has been an amazing subject at our school this year. But when children are online so often, how can we make sure they are always safe?

We interviewed Mrs McKenna, our computing lead, to find out more. What has Downsview done for E-Safety this year?

"We have E-Safety lessons once every half term, utilising a new scheme called Project Evolve."

But why is E-Safety so important you ask?



"Because it teaches children how to stay safe online, and they spend a lot of time online nowadays."

I wanted to find out what year we start learning about keeping safe online.

"We teach it from Nursery all the way up to Year 6."

I wanted to know about the new products we bought for computing this year?

"We have purchased 60 new micro-bits and 30 Crumble kits, as well as various software and apps." Mrs McKenna informed us.

Is there anything exciting and changing with computing this year?

"We're transitioning all laptops to Chromebooks for children from Year 1 to Year 6, each having their own Google logins."

-REBECCA

Teacher Spotlight: A Trip Down Memory Lane with Mrs MacLeod

Downsview has a lot of history, especially about teachers. In September 2016, a teacher named Ms. MacLeod joined our school. Let's hear about her childhood and adulthood.

This amazing teacher was the Head of Junior Governors, but now she is taking over Religious Education until Ms. Gangat-Baig comes back from her maternity leave.

Lots of teachers wanted to be something else when they were little, unlike Ms. MacLeod, who always wanted to be a teacher from a young age. She had a passion for teaching and learning; often, she would gather all her teddies and register them. Her favourite teddy was a giraffe called Sam. I guess Sam was well-behaved.

Ms. MacLeod's favourite subject was PE as a child, but as an adult, her favourite subjects to teach are Maths, PE, and Science. Did you know Mr. B's sister was Ms. MacLeod's PE teacher at school and inspired her to continue playing netball?



Many teachers had jobs before becoming a teacher. Ms. MacLeod had a few jobs: working in camera shops, bars, sports coaching, and in a café. Well, that's a lot of jobs. Ms. MacLeod wanted to be a PE coach, but in the end she became a Primary teacher.

Like all children, Ms. MacLeod went to school. She went to a school called Woodcote High School. It is a super school, apparently.

Ms. MacLeod knows about Downsview's history too which Mrs. Turner told her. Lots of the layout has vastly changed and the Year 6 building is the newest addition.

Did you know that Mrs MacLeod taught Year 1, Year 3, and Year 4? She's taught Year 1 for many years in another school too. That's it for the DVPS news.

-SAFIYA

Swimming Gala

Back in January, a group of Year 5 and 6's travelled to South Norwood Swimming Pool to compete in the swimming gala.

The fantastic group of athletes came third in the event. In total, there were around 14 schools competing, with all the Year 5s and 6s totalling 28 children participating. Everyone had a great experience and a fantastic time, and some of us can't wait to come back next year, even though it was very tiring. Most of the schools that competed were private schools, so everyone was very impressed that we came in third. Every single person tried very hard. Congratulations to all of us who participated.

-JASMINE

Year 2: All Fired Up for the Great Fire of London Day!

In February, Year 2 had their Great Fire of London day. It was full of really fun events like baking tea biscuits, painting pictures of a smoky, fiery London skyline and building a miniature model of London that they later burned with the supervision of Mr. Cook, Mr. Brown, and of course, Ms Pugh was there for the excitement.

I got to interview Mrs Perryman, Head of Year 2, all about this day.

My first question was if any of the houses that the children built survived Mr. Cook's fire. Her reply was, "Yes! At first, they were all catching fire, but then some of the children suggested we pull a few apart and make a gap just like they did to stop the real Great Fire of London. This meant that a few of the houses on the end did get saved."

They made the houses out of recycled materials to be eco-friendly.

The children even made tea biscuits, luckily their bakery didn't catch fire like Thomas Farriner in 1666 . Unlike the real Great Fire of London, our fire lasted for only 5 minutes, not 3 days.



I asked Mrs Perryman what the best part was and she replied "I think it has to be when we burnt our mini London, it's pretty cool knowing that you are making some lasting memories for your students...I also think it is really fun and look forward to it every year!"

The kids were super happy with the whole day.

-SAIMA



In case you missed it: STEM WEEK AT DOWNSVIEW

In an exciting week of innovation and creativity, Downsview Primary School celebrated STEM Week with enthusiasm. From Nursery to Year 6, students showcased their skills and ingenuity in various projects aimed at exploring the realms of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM).

Reception took on the challenge of programming Bee Bots to navigate through intricate mazes. Their inventive designs showcased not only their technological prowess but also their problem-solving skills as they guided their robotic companions through the twists and turns.

Year 1 students kicked off the week by delving into the challenge of creating windmills. Their colourful and imaginative windmills not only captivated the eyes but also demonstrated their understanding of wind power and sustainability.

In Year 2, budding engineers embarked on a journey to construct miniature Ferris wheels. With meticulous planning and teamwork, they transformed everyday materials into captivating structures that spun with delight. The Ferris wheels stood tall as a testament to their creativity and engineering ability.



Year 3 students ventured into the realm of history and architecture as they constructed magnificent castles. Using their knowledge of medieval structures, they crafted intricate details and fortified walls, bringing history to life through their imaginative designs.

Meanwhile, Year 4 students embraced the challenge of designing and building pavilions. Their structures provided both shelter and aesthetic appeal, showcasing their understanding of architectural principles and design aesthetics.

Year 5 delved into the world of coding and electronics, programming Microbits to perform a variety of tasks. With determination and perseverance, they wrote code to control lights, sensors and displays,

demonstrating their mastery of technology and programming concepts.

Lastly, Year 6 students showcased their entrepreneurial spirit in a Dragons Den-style event. Parents were invited to act as dragons as students pitched their smart product ideas. This exercise not only fostered creativity and innovation but also provided invaluable lessons in presentation and persuasion.

STEM Week at Downsview Primary School was a resounding success, thanks to the dedication and creativity of teacher's and students across the school. From Dragon's Den to Ferris wheels, each project showcased the students' talents and passion for STEM subjects. As the week came to a close, the school buzzed with excitement and anticipation for future endeavours in the world of Design and Technology.

-Mrs Perryman & Mr Karim