March 10, 2019

Dear Parents,

The unit on Art forms has now come to an end and we would like to give you some feedback about it.

UNIT: We started the unit with a fieldtrip to Helene De Senneville Art Gallery which turned out to be a fascinating discovery for the children. Indeed, this field trip aroused their inquisitive minds and hooked them on unit. During this visit, they had the opportunity to explore how artists, through their art, expressed their beliefs, ideas of experiences.

The second field trip to Musée de la Photographie and the Blue Penny enabled them to discover other art forms. At the Musée de la Photographie, Mr Tritan de Breville share his passion about photography with the children. At the Blue Penny Museum, they were enthused by the numerous paintings of Kaya, the famous seggae singer who unfortunately is no more with us.

Again, in line with our attempt to expose students to as many local artists as possible, we invited numerous artists from different fields to come to school. We called his experience “An Encounter with Artists”. To make this a fruitful experience for the children we also enlisted the support of a few colleagues and Mr Hamer. The art forms that children looked at on that day were: drama, origami, painting, music, photography and martial arts. Not only did the artists share their passion with the children, but they also involved them in hands on activities. Children signed up to be with two artists based on their predilection.

Despite the many days off because of bad weather and public holidays, students were able to grasp most of the enduring understandings:

* There exist different types of art forms.
* Artists use a variety of media to express different feelings.
* Mauritian arts reflect our cultural diversity.
* Art can be performed in different ways.
* Art forms reflect a wide range of moods

Students’ understanding was demonstrated in the summative assessment. Students, with varying degrees of confidence, presented their art projects orally to their classmates.

LANGUAGE: In writing, the children have been looking at poetry. They have been analysing poetry to identify the theme as well as the stylistic devices used (imagery, alliteration, personification) to make the poems more meaningful. The children now understand that these figures of speech are important for readers to visualize and comprehend what they are reading. They have also been looking at how to write a recount as well as a fairy tale. We have noticed that one struggle many of the learners had was finding the right word. Indeed, vocabulary is something the children need to develop further. Unfortunately, many of the Year 6 children do not read regularly or do not have a bank of words they can refer to when writing. We are therefore encouraging the children to read for at least 30 minutes every day and keep a personal dictionary. Furthermore, children need to read a wide variety texts from a wide range of genres.

MATHS: Children have been looking at place value in numbers up to 100000 and beyond. They now can identify the place value as well as partition or expand the numbers. They used different methods to solve real life problems involving the four rules. They are now learning about factors, multiples and exponents. Incidentally, they are also looking at different strategies they can use to learn their multiplication facts. Children need to practise their multiplication tables regularly at home every day.

Above all, we are encouraging the children to be independent learners who can voice out their views and face an audience confidently. Emphasis is being laid on oral presentation skills as they crucial to the overall development of the learner.

We have noticed that some children do not hand in their reading journals as well as the home learning logs regularly. We have now updated the website. Please use it to access resources that we have uploaded.

**Please spend quality time with your child.**

Reading online:

<http://www.magickeys.com/books/>

<https://www.storylineonline.net/>

Maths online:

<http://www.math-exercises-for-kids.com/>

<https://www.khanacademy.org/math/cc-fifth-grade-math>

Writing online:

<http://www.funenglishgames.com/writinggames.html>

<https://learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org/ar/writing-practice>