

# *St. Mary's International School*

## *Grade Five Newsletter*

**Fourth Quarter, 2011**

The school year is fast coming to an end. While it will be forever etched in the memory of the boys as the year the earthquake shook their classroom, many vital lessons, not necessarily taught in the classroom, came from that experience. The magnificent efforts by every one of the boys in raising money as well as bringing in toys, clothes and essential items for the people in need in the Tohoku area should rate highly in their “always remember” list. Also, it is sad that some students have not returned as yet. Saying ‘farewell’ has been denied, unfortunately.

A fourth term highlight was the “Fiesta”. The boys ate food from Latin America; watched a video related to the topic; and listened to music and played games as part of the class parties celebrating the achievement of knowledge about Latin America. *5 G class enjoying some food and drink at their “Fiesta”.*

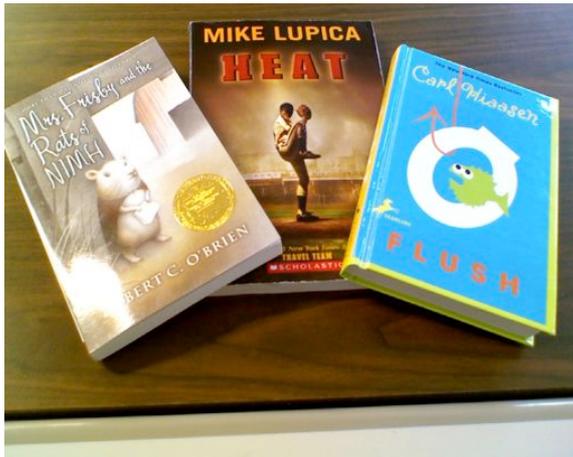


*Baziel, Tenyu, Jeong Wook (5W) who made a cactus sculpture from plastic bottles.*

## Language Arts

Students continue to use Storytown, covering:

- Comprehension strategies (Making Inferences, Main Idea and Supporting Details)
- Spelling and Vocabulary (Prefixes and Suffixes, Synonyms and Antonyms)
- Extended writing (focusing on narrative fiction, realistic fiction and research)
- Grammar (Adjectives and Pronouns)
- Writing Traits focus (Word Choice, the need for many drafts before a final editing)
- Oral Fluency (It is important that practice occurs regularly at home to supplement the oral reading in the classroom)
- Novels



*These stories have provided the boys with very entertaining stories as examples of realistic fiction. In studying the texts, the boys have had good experience in how to use dialogue effectively. They will learn and hopefully imitate sentence construction with the correct use of quotation marks (“ and ”).*

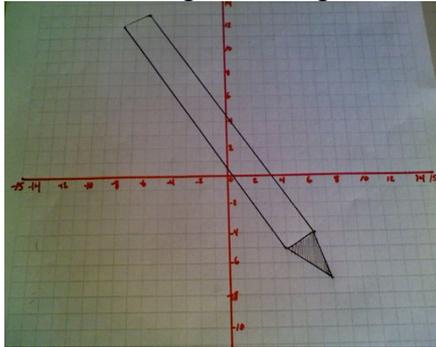
*5N have decorated their lockers with their illustrations related to “Flush”.*



# Math

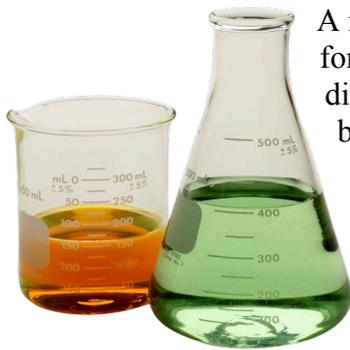
## Units 10, 11 and 12

### Unit 10- Using Data; Algebra Concepts and Skills



The solving of equations is introduced using a pan-balance. Relationships are expressed as algebraic expressions. Input and output tables are generated. Data is presented as corresponding points on coordinate grids.

### Unit 11-Volume



A review of 3D shapes moves on to developing formulas for finding the volume of pyramids and cones. Using the displacement method, volumes of irregular objects can be measured. Surface area is also calculated.

### Unit 12- Probability, Ratio and Rates

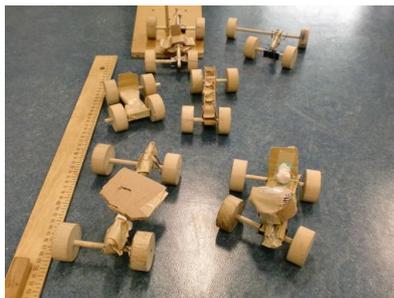
Factor trees are used to find factorizations, greatest common factors and least common multiples of two numbers. Next comes the writing of ratios and number models for ratio number stories. Calculating heart and cardiac output is a feature of the work on rates.

# Social Studies

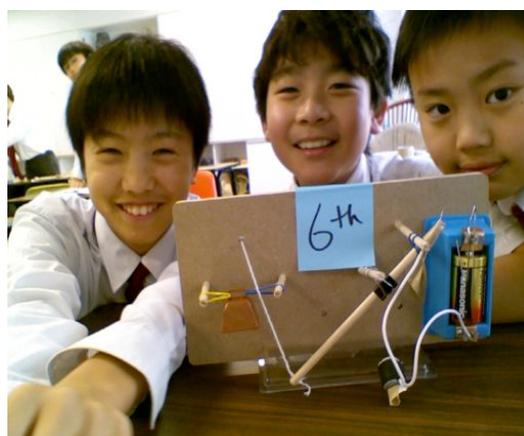


The topic of “Water” covers a wide range of issues including just how little of the global supply of water is actually available for drinking. It will raise an awareness of water scarcity in many countries and how this affects so many aspects of the lives of other children. By investigating and reporting on a specific country, the students will appreciate how fortunate they are to live in Japan. Carrying out surveys, reading and viewing material about water usage and conservation, as well as compiling facts and figures about relevant data will enhance their knowledge about water awareness in the global environment.

## Science



Has your son come home talking about ‘black boxes’, ‘drought stoppers’, or even ‘humdingers’? If so, they are involved in their Science topic called “Models and Designs”. This hands-on unit expects these future engineers to design, to make prototypes, to use trial and error techniques, and to collaborate with others to create go-carts that are self-propelled as well as do ‘tricks’.



*Phil and Kazuki (5R) work on their go-cart. A humdinger made by 5W boys- Ryutarō, Sho, Edward*

### Upcoming events

School Carnival - Saturday, 14<sup>th</sup> May

School Sports Day – Friday, 20<sup>th</sup> May.

Talent Show – Thursday, 26<sup>th</sup> May

Year 5 trip To Disney Sea- Wednesday, 1<sup>st</sup> June