Weekly Memo 3#

I am amazed at how much knowledge the children have gained after reading texts on explorations. This week we will look at the biographies of famous explorers and look at the structure and information used in these. Following this, they will read about any one of the famous explorers of their choice and write a biography of their own. They will be given the criteria before they write one, so that they know exactly what is needed from them. Besides, they will map out the route taken by the explorers on a world Map thus developing mapping skills. They will also learn about the tools used by different explorers. I am sure many children will enjoy the activities planned for this week.

The reading workshop is also becoming an interactive place where children are thinking and being provoked into thinking of deeper meanings in texts. Most children are now using ***inferring*** as a strategy while reading, whereas very few, are looking at the literal meaning. The list of provocative questions has been given to each child to refer to while reading. This week the children read a fascinating story ‘***Your name in Gold’***. This is a story of two sisters and the relationship between them. Many children could connect to this story immediately as they had younger siblings, so they could understand what was happening in the story. Some of their responses truly thrilled me as I did not expect such high-level thinking coming from students so young of age. We will continue to ask thought provoking questions this week as well so that the children develop critical thinking skills not only about fiction stories but also non-fiction texts. Concerning non-fiction texts, they will continue to learn signal words and create a chart for each use of the signal word. This will definitely help them while writing these type of texts.

It was indeed very satisfying to see how the children wrote their own dialogues following the one they wrote for the ending of the story ‘Stray’ by Cynthia Rylant. As compared to the one done previously, most children wrote beautifully using the correct punctuation marks and using other words besides ‘said’. With the exception of very few children who need to see how a dialogue can be enacted. So for this week, I will sit with these children and actually do a dialogue as a role-play drawing the children’s attention to actual words said as well as the way in which they are said. I am sure we will have an interesting workshop where children will see the importance of writing.

The Maths Workshop is really working very well as I am now able to sit with small groups and help with the consolidation of concepts. Definitely, all children need to learn their times tables to be able to work accurately. Moreover, they need to practise multiplication of two digits by 2 digits to understand this concept very well. Children are also enjoying the maths workshops as some of them are learning basic things they may have forgotten or have not understood. Most children are now gaining confidence in this subject area. To add on, the stations truly helped in sustaining the children’s interest in this area of the curriculum.