November 21, 2018

Day 5 in the field

I was super excited for this day because I was getting to teach health on my own for the first time and I was hoping it was going to be a super fun day. I feel as though I definitely have a lot more confidence when walking into the school and standing in front of a classroom of chatty students now compared to the beginning of this experience. Ms. Brentnell has done a fantastic job of growing the plants in her classroom and the lettuce was looking awesome when we arrived. At lunch every student got to go and eat a piece that Ms. Brentnell had picked if they wanted to. They were all super excited about this. They were planning to create a classroom Caesar salad that Friday with their homegrown lettuce.

The day started with math and it was interesting to refresh my memory about multiplying with decimals. It’s funny how we forget simple math skills when we don’t use them regularly. It was interesting to see how different students understand and progress with math work than their peers. There is definitely a lot of variation in levels of competency and students’ strengths shine in certain subjects.

The students then had time to work on assignments that needed completion or were given time to go on Mathletics until recess.

After recess Pascale did her Literacy lesson and it went really well for her. The students really grasped the concept of expanding sentences and actually really seemed to enjoy themselves making and sharing their creative sentences.

After recess the students got to work with Ollie’s. They are these tiny little robot things that you can program with a computer to do different things. The students had to go out in the hallway to do this where they had more space. Some teachers were not impressed at all because the students in our class were obviously very excited and loud as they programmed their Ollie’s to drive all over the school. To end the class, two students had created an obstacle course and each student had a turn to attempt to drive their Ollie through the obstacle course. This was all very exciting and the students absolutely loved it!

After recess I got the students for the last hour of the day. They came in very chatty and revved up. I had the desks all moved to the side of the room so they knew something fun was about to happen. I knew they love making scenes and performing in front of each other so I knew my lesson should incorporate that somehow. We did a quick recap of what they had learned last week about self-esteem with Pascale. They all did a great job of remembering what they had learned and were eager to share their answers. I then explained the assignment of creating advertisements about themselves. They did a great job of thinking of all the things that advertisements need and I wrote them on the board. I also wrote the assignment expectations on the board so they could refer to it. I then split the students up into 6 different groups. All the groups were pretty fair, however there were two of the more stubborn students put in one group and that seemed to cause a lot of issues for them on how to come to a decision about what they should do for their advertisement.

I wrote the order that the groups would be presenting on the board and it was a quick transition from one group to the next. One boy didn’t want to present with his group. I wasn’t sure what the issue was because he seemed to be working with them fine while they were practising but Ms. Brentnell explained that he struggles with social skills and he was just laying on the ground while the rest of his group kept wanting to work and they kind of got mad at him for being weird. Ms. Brentnell said it was good that I didn’t force him to perform with his group and didn’t make a big deal about it. She thinks its good for him to sometimes just witness how his peers interact and learn from that.

After everyone had finished performing, I got the students to put the class back in order. They know the procedure about what they need to do and are all well aware of the expectations for the end of the day.

It was a fun day and I learned a lot being more aware of how some students work better together than others. I also think it’s important though that these students learn how to work with all kinds of different people.