

works and the difference between compound and simple interest. We also investigated the differences between credit cards and debit cards. The major project of Grand Designs is to create a house for a specific client. We had a budget to follow and a design brief that we had to follow to please the client. To do this we created a 2D and 3D floor plan and model, which showed our client what we were going to build and how we were going to build it. This showed students the essential components of architecture and interior designing. One of the hardest things that we did during this Focus Week was how to consistently follow a scale to the millimetre. This had to be done perfectly since this is what would happen in the real world. Overall this week was a fun and enjoyable experience and I learnt plenty of things about architecture that I never understood. – *Billy Tzimos*



ACTIVE KIDS

Year 2 students, together with Year 9 students, participated in the Active Kids program. Year 9s spent a full week preparing fundamental motor skills activities such as dodge ball, bounce and catching, all to become a teacher for a day. At first the Year 9s had to go through theory and practical work to see what they had to teach the students when it came to the day. The students went through Open and Closed Skills laboratories, Fine and Gross Motor Skills, Discrete, Serial and Continuous movements and set examples for benefiting future learning. After this came the planning; nametags and group formation was done, class lists were organised, colours for the groups were decided. By the end of the day, we were organised and ready to teach.

On the day, the Year 2s were taken through a full set of fundamental motor skills. They were: catch, ball bounce, punt, dodge, run and leaping, with the Year 9 students creating a whole lot of exciting yet challenging activities for them to complete. Overall, the Year 2s had an amazing day learning fundamental skills for their future learning, while the Year 9s came out of the day with new skills and knowledge about teaching.

– *Natalie Mpadogiannis and Amanda Lis*



ECOSYSTEMS FOCUS

The Ecosystems Focus Week group were engaged in an in-depth study of Victoria's grassland ecosystem. Each day students got the opportunity to discover new aspects of the ecosystem that many native animals call home, through the two excursions to Mt Rothwell and Taylors Creek. We learned about how to sustain, identify and manage the plants and animals that live in grasslands. We ended the week with completing a five minute documentary that wrapped up all we had investigated through the five days of hard work and hot weather. Although challenging we loved every minute.

– *Oscar Gauci and Nicholas Collett*



WRITERS' WORKSHOP

Writers' Workshop is a Focus Week activity involving understanding and creating picture storybooks. The group is required to plan, write and illustrate a picture book for their selected Junior School buddy's hobbies and interests. There are certain steps and criteria necessary to produce the book. The steps that need to be taken in order to produce a great book are: gaining an understanding of the types of picture story books; learning the structure and how to write an interesting book; planning; meeting your buddy and interviewing them to gain knowledge about them; and finally, making an engaging book for your buddy. The workshop has many challenges, but seeing a smile on your buddy's face once they see the front cover makes all the hard work totally worth it.

I'm sure that everyone who undertakes the workshop will have a great time, take away some new skills, and enjoy the challenge. – *Lachlan Coyne*