

Sharing Science in MARC's picture books: Completing the JPS 2012 NSWk Project

The Jeparit Primary School 2012 National Science Week project was completed over the last fortnight with the sharing activities with the Juniors last week and the handover of a resource folder this week.

National Science Week

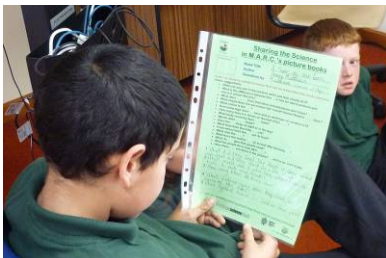
What a fantastic National Science Week (NSWk) event we had on 22 August, when the Seniors shared MARC picture books about farms with the Juniors!



The NSWk event used information

and question sheets that the Seniors had made a couple of weeks earlier in Science, when Mrs Clark came to begin the "Finding Science in MARC's Picture Books" project with them. Miss Henke had continued it, adding more farm and bush books.

The Seniors now had the task of helping the Juniors notice Science about living things in the farm picture books, especially in the illustrations. Many books were also fully read by the Seniors to the Juniors. They then asked the Juniors some of the Science questions on the "green sheets" (written by the Seniors) and noted something 'amazing' in the book.



Each pair of Seniors shared a book with two groups of Juniors, before all came together in a big circle. Then they shared with the whole group, what

the story was about, and the amazing thing that had been learnt or observed.

"It was an inspiring session to be part of. The children in their small groups, filled the room with reading and discussion. They all worked together in pairs and across year levels so beautifully. It was exciting to hear their 'amazing' things, as it reveals what the children notice within the books.



It was as inspiring as it had been two years ago, when we ran a similar event. The books then had been ones written by the children for Science Talent Search," said Mrs Clark.

Handover to MARC Van

On 29 August, Mr Vaughan and the MARC van visited and Mrs Clark returned with survey and question sheets organised into a resource folder that could be shared with all the other MARC van schools. Rory and Kayla, the School Leaders, formally handed the folder over to Mr Vaughan, who was delighted to receive it.



"I was so proud of the Seniors - for the work they had done reviewing 20 books, writing their Science questions, and telling Mr Vaughan their

'amazing' things in these books. I hope this resource will be well-used and added to through MARC's network," Mrs Clark said.

This project is linked to a Wimmera-wide project that Mrs Clark has been running recently – read4Nature in the town libraries. It aims to encourage readers to notice Science in picture books, become more aware and able to care for of Nature through this.

This project has National Science Week funding from the Australian Science Teachers Association

