

MILGATE PRIMARY: MATHS ACTIVE

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As part of MAV's Maths Active Schools initiative, Milgate Primary School hosted a school visit to showcase its ongoing commitment to high-quality mathematics teaching and learning. Assistant Principal, Jayde Williams, warmly welcomed MAV into the school and led us through classrooms from Foundation to Year 6.

Across the school, several consistent themes were evident. Each learning space was well resourced with a broad range of manipulative materials, with additional and larger resources accessible through the library. Technology was purposefully integrated alongside physical materials to support students' mathematical thinking and task completion. Commercially produced and teacher (or student) made posters were visible in every classroom, outlining key mathematical ideas, learning expectations, and summaries of previous learning. Student work samples and learning reflections were also displayed, contributing to a strong sense of student voice and agency.

Learning intentions and success criteria were clearly displayed, alongside descriptions of the main task and extension tasks. Teachers and students referred to this information throughout lessons to clarify purpose, support decision-making, and guide reflection.

Students were unfazed by the presence of visitors and confidently engaged with their learning. Across all year levels, students articulated their thinking clearly and described the strategies they were using. Opportunities for students to explain and refine their thinking were intentionally embedded within classroom routines and clearly valued.

Teachers used pre-planned, purposeful questioning to assess understanding and monitor progress using checklists and anecdotal notes. Students responded to tasks in a variety of ways, recording their thinking in forms that made sense to them and showing interest in their peers' approaches. Teachers leveraged these moments to probe understanding and provide targeted feedback.

A highlight of the visit was observing Mathematics Learning Specialist, Sian Katsineris, at the conclusion of a lesson

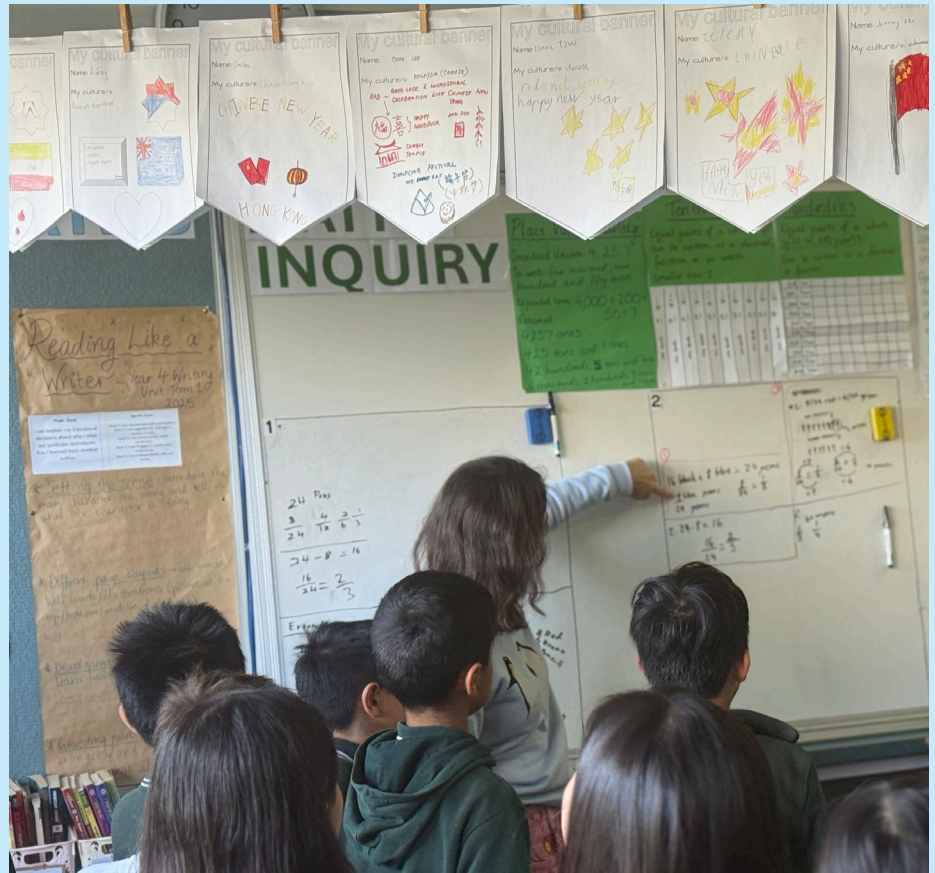


Figure 1. Sian Katsineris summarising students thinking and bringing together the learning intention for the lesson.

focused on fractions and problem solving based on Peter Liljedahl's, *Thinking Classrooms*. Students had worked collaboratively to record their thinking on large posters using drawings and numerical representations. Sian drew on these artefacts to explore the range of strategies present, facilitating rich whole-class discussion through skilful questioning and explicit reference to the learning intention and task. Students confidently advocated for their group's thinking, demonstrating curiosity, ownership, and the use of accountable mathematical language within a supportive learning environment.

Jayde shared the school's future priorities and its commitment to continuous improvement grounded in research-informed practice. A strong focus on student wellbeing, both academic and social, was evident. One identified area for further development is strengthening teacher confidence and trust in formative assessment to respond to student learning in the moment. The continued use of extension prompts to ensure appropriate challenge is maintained for all learners,

particularly those working above the expected standard, remains an important focus.

Milgate Primary School's dedication to placing mathematics at the forefront of school improvement is commendable. The school's use of evidence-informed teaching approaches have been thoughtfully trialled and refined to suit their context. The visit provided valuable insight into how the Assistant Principal (Curriculum) and Numeracy Leader work collaboratively to ensure the school's vision for mathematics continues to build towards a strong and sustainable future. Milgate Primary is a great example of a Mathematics Active School.

BECOME RECOGNISED AS A MATHS ACTIVE SCHOOL

Get recognised for your schools' effective learning and teaching practices in mathematics. Contact Renee Ladner, rladner@mavvic.edu.au to discuss how to get Maths Active accreditation.