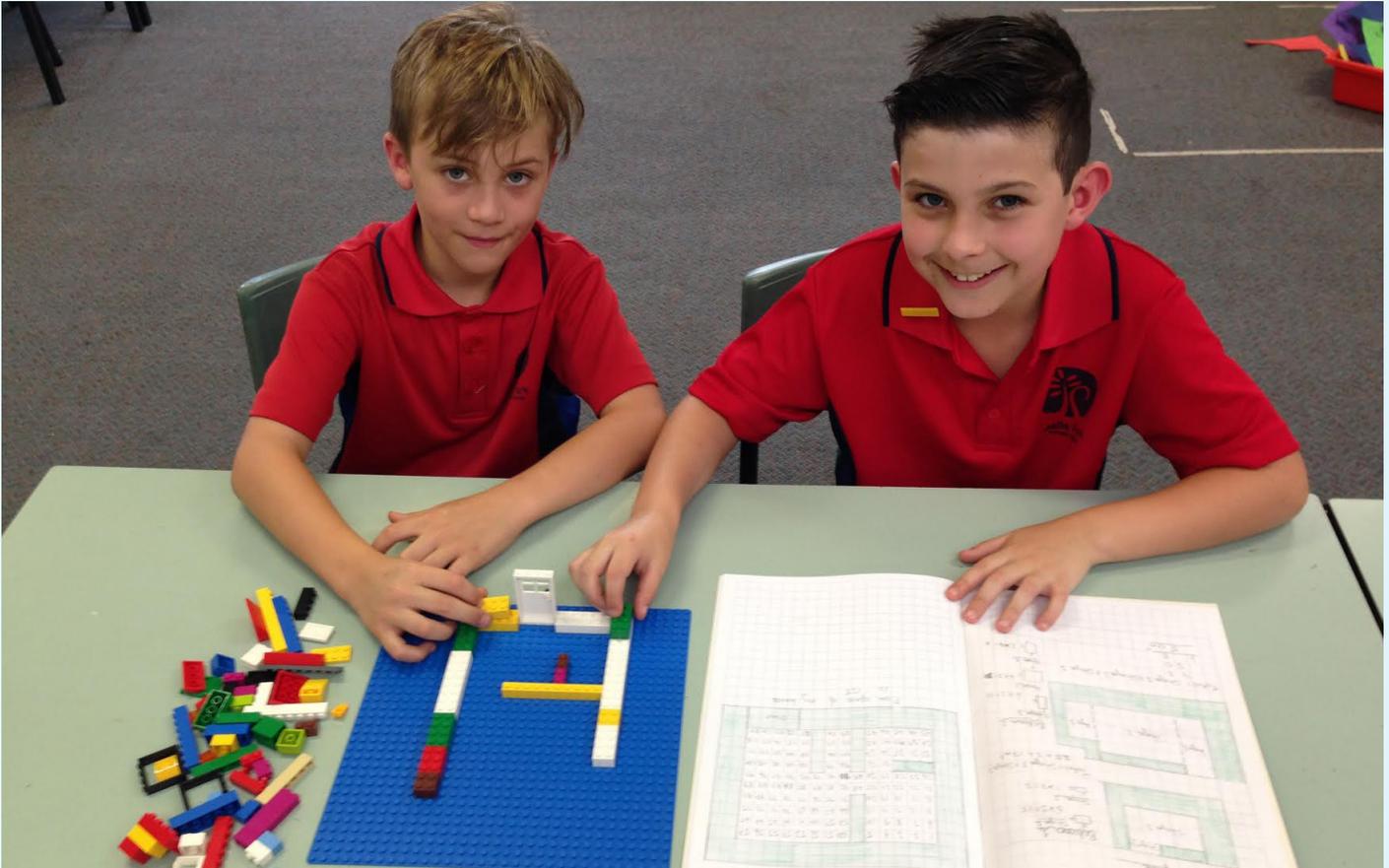


LEGO FUN

Andrew Noordhoff - Year 3 teacher, Jells Park Primary School



Last year we were invited to the Maths Active School exclusive PD at Inside The Brick (www.insidethebrick.com). The focus was to look at how we could use Lego in the classroom to enhance our Maths program. We loved the PD and soon purchased some Lego kits for the school.

Last year at the MTQ judging I saw a Year 3 project on Lego houses. I loved the project and after the Lego PD at Inside The Brick we wondered if we could devise a project for students to do. From this the *My Lego House* project was born.

We wrote the project on planning day at the end of Term 3 ready to roll it out in Term 4. We would be exploring a range of maths concepts including area, perimeter, counting, money, graphing and interpreting data. The students were extremely excited to start the project once it was introduced. We started the project by having a guest speaker in, my brother who is doing a drafting course. Dave showed us through some of his design sketches and then the students began designing their houses.

There was lots to think about, how many bedrooms would you have? Where would you put them? How big does a room need to be?

The students did a great job with their designs and once they were approved by a teacher they began building their houses according to their design sketch. We had the students build a base layer (one brick high) so that alterations could be made before the walls were built six bricks high. Most of the students found this challenging but with some further instructions the houses began to take shape which was extremely exciting.

In the following lessons we explored many of the other maths concepts and the students loved being able to refer back to their models each time to connect what they saw on paper and what they could visually see. The project stretched on for nearly three weeks and the students walked away with a much greater understanding of the concepts covered which was extremely pleasing from a teaching perspective.

We will be running this project every two years from now on in the Year 3 and 4 classes with our Potato Pentathlon project running in the opposite year which was a huge success two years ago.

Having projects in the classroom has been a fun way to connect multiple competencies for students and the real life connections show how these skills are used in everyday life and in particular occupations.

Jell's Park Primary School is an MAV accredited Mathematics Active School.

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