Planning a maths week

Mathsweek

The First Steps

- Decide on the format of your week. Will all classes be involved? Will it take place inside school (how many classes)? After School? The “Maths week” may run over a series of individual Maths Days spread over a term, a year or it could be a true “Maths week”.
- You may decide to have a theme to provide a clear focus and will need to take into account your colleagues strengths and interests. E.g. of themes – history, art, the environment.
- Draw up a list of possible activities by discussing the idea with your staff.
- Have your maths week coincide with world maths day or national maths week http://www.mathsweek.ie/

Aims

The aims of your maths week may include –
- To develop the students’ knowledge and enjoyment of mathematics
- For the students to enjoy maths together
- To develop the students’ awareness of links between maths and other subject areas
- To have a chance to try new things and see numeracy from a different perspective
- To develop thinking skills
- To improve numeracy

Preparation for Maths Week

- Think up a maths logo or a character to represent maths in your school (Art/English Class)
- Think up a slogan to introduce a special maths assembly at the end of the week.
- Design Maths Posters
- Designing a word, shape etc maths problem (Classes Design for each other, TY could organise the week)

Competitions

Hold a competition for children, teachers and parents to get involved in, just for fun. e.g Multiplication Bee, competition in each year by class – top 3 in each class entered into the final in front of whole year. (Ideally have questions on Data Projector for all to see)
- Maths Relay – see PE
- Maths Problem of the Day (on Screen/Notice Boards or over the Intercom)
- Newsletter of Maths Problems home to Parents, completed problems in draw at the end of the week
Maths Eyes: Photographic Competition (Pictures from locality/school with maths in them)

Maths Trails
This is a great way to involve the children in their learning, and the adults in school, or visiting school, will enjoy it too.
A good maths trail needs some questions that can be answered immediately and some that involve collecting materials to take back to the class for follow up work.
Questions can cover time, number, calculating, shape, data etc and obviously must link to your school building and grounds.
The maths trails will need timetabling and will need extra adults to be available.

English

English: Reading fiction books/articles with a maths themes or charts
Number poetry, write about numbers
Newspaper study; what is the most common number of words in a row of print? What is the most common number of words in a headline? How many times is a number written in your newspaper? (Represent)
Work out Maths Code breakers with parallel class

ICT: Maths games on Websites

Geography
Maths Trail; go round as whole class, answer in groups then discuss the answers?
Maps and simple coordinates. (In yard, games (battleships))
Geography as a spatial science

Art
Draw a picture based on circles/square/triangles; using stencils as a basis
Create a design using tessellation and display
Create a border/tile design using translation
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Mathematical study of a work of art, e.g. shapes used, proportion of colour used, describe position/size of objects. One partnership describes the work of art to another who can’t see it, for them to draw.
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Music
Maths/Numeracy based songs and rhymes
Make up a maths rap

SPHE
Types of food study; sandwiches in the classroom, count how many sandwiches, packets of crisps, apples, yoghurts etc and graph and display them.
PE
Maths Relay: Teams of 2/4/6. Divide in two and send to opposite ends of relay track. To start running the team with the baton, the team at either end must solve a maths problem. Have Transition Years available to with number solutions and to referee. Measure how far you can jump. Mini competitions; count how many jumps/hops/skips you can do and how many ‘seconds’ it takes you to run the length of the track.

History
Timelines
Research famous mathematicians; using encyclopedias/ICT research, link with drama e.g. hot seating (present and take questions)
Mathematician of the Day

Science /Materials Technology Wood
Make a scale model of the solar system

Visits and visitors
Visitors will introduce fresh thinking and ideas to the students and can reinforce links between school and community.

You could invite “ordinary” people into school to talk about how they use numeracy in their jobs. E.g. the librarian, the school cook, a shop owner etc or past pupils

Alternatively, you may wish to bring a maths performer into school.

You may wish to organize an outing to take place during the week.

Evaluate the week
Did the week improve attitudes /perceptions of maths
What would you do differently and why next year?