Racing Readers Newton

Final Report – 2018/2019

By ---- and ----

SFU Surrey TD Community Engagement Center

# Abstract

The report provides insight into the operations of the Racing Readers Program at Newton Elementary from October 2018 to June 2019.

Introduction

Racing Readers is a free afterschool program in which university students serve as volunteer leaders to support elementary school students. The volunteer leaders at both sites are responsible for supporting the growth of student’s problem solving, numeracy, literacy, and critical thinking skills as well as participating in various games and activities. The program starts at 2:30pm and ends at 4:30pm every Wednesday. Sessions usually begin with a group discussion centered around the word of the day before students move into journal writing. Following journals writing, students line up and head to either outside or to gym for physical activity, after which they have snacks and move into either a numeracy or literacy activity. The program originally began at Newton Elementary in 2014 and expanded in 2016 to include Betty Huff Elementary. During this time the program also took on a numeracy component. Apart from running on weekly basis at these two school, Racing Readers has run as a part of the Burnaby Festival of Learning for the last two years. The program runs in partnership with the Surrey school district partnership department. Activities at Racing Readers are both team-based and individual and aim at helping elementary students in various literacy, numeracy, fitness, and social activities.

Benefits

Racing Readers has been running at Newton Elementary for almost five years and the impact on the school community is evident in the conversations with current and past students. Racing Readers has given students an opportunity to work on social skills and create friendships that extend past the Wednesday sessions. Students are happy to attend sessions, see their teams, and tell their volunteer leaders about the highs and lows of their day. The guidance and support that students have received has helped many of them improve their writing, reading, and communication skills.

Students at Newton are often curious about the students from SFU and take interest in our studies. Children at Newton ask questions about what we (SFU students) do, what our classes look like, and our future career goals. Having a partnership with Newton Elementary and SFU is beneficial because children take interest in SFU and create positive connections with the university at a young age.

Racing Readers has been a wonderful experience for everyone involved. For the SFU community, this program has been a way for leaders and volunteers to make meaningful connections to members of the community and their peers. Being a part of Racing Readers has allowed SFU students to grow professionally, as well as develop a skillset to motivate, encourage, and view things in a more empathetic way. As the onsite lead my role has allowed me to further develop my patience, confidence and assertiveness – all skills that are applicable to a future career in education. As someone who went to Newton Elementary, Racing Readers has given me the chance to reconnect with the school and work in the community that I grew up in.

Weekly Session Layout

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| **Fall 2018** | Activities | Materials | Theme/Word of the Day | Number of Volunteers | Number of students |
| October 10 | **Discussion:** For discussion we welcomed the group to the program and made sure everyone checked in with their leaders. Teams started by coming up with handshakes and then showing other teams. We went over the word of the day (shapes) and the kids started working on their journals.  **Journals:**   * What is your favorite shape? Why? * What is the most welcoming shape? Why? * Who shapes the person you are today?   **Physical activity:**   * Warm up - we played Zap * Main activity – we played a few rounds of Hungry Caterpillar.   **Snack**  **Literacy Activity:** after snack we did the City Building with shapes activity.  During dismissal students played silent ball.  **Clean up and check out:**   * Students play silent ball while they wait to get dismissed. Before they get dismissed students have to check out with ----.   **Volunteer Debrief** | * Journals * Snacks * Poster paper * Markers * Pencil crayons * Volunteer nametags * Labels for students * Attendance list | Welcome/Shapes | 4 | 10 |
| October 17 | **Discussion:** students reviewed the handshakes they came up with last week and taught any new members their team handshake. They also played the telephone game.  **Journals** - students had to answer the following questions:   * Why is it important to communicate? * Why is it important to listen? * Who are three people you feel supported by and why?   **Raffles**  **Physical activity:**   * Warm up - students did laps and stretched. * Main activity - teams competed/played the Floor is Lava using the mats available in the gym.   **Snack:** At snack one of the leaders read the group a book.  **Numeracy Activity:**  For numeracy activity the group was split into two groups – one group with grade 2’s and 3 and the other with 4’s and 5’s. The grade 2’s and 3’s worked on the following activity:  <http://vapournation.co/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/free-ordinal-numbers-worksheets-for-grade-2-ordinals-number-names-kindergarten-worksheet-lesson.jpg>  The grade 4’s and 5’s worked on a different activity. Students played silent ball while being dismissed. | * Pattern board game * Paper clips * Snacks * Crayons * Scissors * Numeracy worksheets * Attendance list * Raffle prizes | Team-building/Order | 2 | 13 |
| October 24 | **Journals:** Interview someone you do not know and write about them. Ask questions like   * What is your name? * What’s your favorite colour? * Do you play any sports? * Do you have any allergies? * What’s the last book you read? * What is an interesting fact about you?   **Hobbies Bingo Activity**   * Find someone in your group that plays basketball, writes down their name   **Physical activity**  Warm up: Kids do laps and I call out for them to do high knees, sumo squats, bum kicks, etc.  Main activity: Capture the Flag  **Snack:** One of the volunteers reads a book off the shelf  **Literacy activity**: Students silent read in their groups and follow with a literacy worksheet.  **Clean up and check out:**   * Students play silent ball while they wait to get dismissed. Before they get dismissed students have to check out with ----.   **Volunteer Debrief** | * Bingo worksheets * Books for literacy activity * Worksheets for literacy activity * Attendance list | Team-building/Interview | 3 | 12 |
| October 31 | **Discussion:** How did Halloween come to be/how did it begin?  [History of Halloween](https://www.history.com/topics/halloween/history-of-halloween)   * Halloween’s origins date back to the ancient Celtic festival of Samhain (pronounced sow-in). The Celts, who lived 2,000 years ago in the area that is now Ireland, the United Kingdom and northern France, celebrated their new year on November 1. * This day marked the end of summer and the harvest and the beginning of the dark, cold winter. * On the night of October 31, they celebrated Samhain, when it was believed that the ghosts of the dead returned to earth. The Celts had a big party. It was all about scaring away the ghosts and spirits. * Borrowing from Irish and English traditions, Americans began to dress up in costumes and go house to house asking for food or money around the 19thcentury, a practice that eventually became today’s “trick-or-treat” tradition.   **Journal:**   * What is something you’re scared of? * What is something you look forward to on Halloween? * What’s your favorite treat and what’s your favorite trick?   **Raffles**  **Physical Activity**  Warm up: Simon says  Main activity: Museum  Snack: Password  **Literacy activity:** Come up with a scary story in your group - leaders be ready to read stories out loud. (Musical Chairs Writing)  **Clean up and check out:**   * Students play silent ball while they wait to get dismissed. Before they get dismissed students have to check out with ----.   **Volunteer Debrief** | * Music * Blank paper * Attendance list * Raffle prizes | Reflection / Halloween | 6 | 13 |
| November 7 | **Discussion**: Talk about what a bucket list and things on the students bucket lists.  **Journals:**   * What do you want to do in 100 days? * What’s on you bucket list?   **Physical activity:**   * Warm up – Mingle * Main activity – Circuit stations.   **Snack:** During snack one of the volunteers reads a book to the students.  **Numeracy activity:**   * Roll to 100 worksheets * Jelly bean guessing game – when they take a guess students have to reflect and give us 6 reasons why   **Clean up and check out:**   * Students play silent ball while they wait to get dismissed. Before they get dismissed students have to check out with ----.   **Volunteer Debrief** | * Jar with jelly beans * Roll to 100 worksheets * Dice * Number flashcards | Reflection/100 | 4 | 19 |
| November 14 | **Word of the day and discussion:**  Friendship cards: For this week’s discussion students were given cue cards and wrote something positive for everyone in their group.  **Journals:**   * Did you connect more to your group members after you shared positivity? * How did it make you feel?   **Raffles**  **Physical Activity:**  Warmup   * Octopus * Human Knot Game   Main Activity **–** No Hands Cup Stacking Challenge   * Each team got 6 cups, 1 rubber band, and a string per person. Using nothing but the tools provided to them, teams had to stack the cups without actually touching the cups.   **Snack:** a volunteer read a book while the students had their snack.  **Literacy Activity:**   * In the gym students read books and then wrote about what they read on the worksheets provided. Volunteers sat and read with struggling students and made sure they were actually reading. Volunteers asked students questions about the book to make sure they weren’t pretending to read.   **Clean up and check out:**   * Students play silent ball while they wait to get dismissed. Before they get dismissed students have to check out with ----.   **Volunteer Debrief** | * Cue cards * 6 cups, string, and 1 rubber band (per team) + extras * Attendance list * Raffle prizes | Connection/Friendship | 4 | 19 |
| November 21 | **Discussion and Journals:**   * For this week we did the discussion and journals together. I reviewed the basics of geometry (shapes, types of triangles, angles, lines) and had students make notes in their journals.   **Physical Activity:**   * Warmup – Lines * Main Activity – Blob tag   **Snack**  **Numeracy Activity: Geometric City**  **Clean up and check out:**   * Students play silent ball while they wait to get dismissed. Before they get dismissed students have to check out with ----.   **Volunteer Debrief** | * Large sheet of paper * Pencil Crayons * Post-it notes * Attendance list | Connection/Geometry | 5 | 17 |
| November 28 | **Discussion:**   * For this week’s discussion we brainstormed what the words “aspire” and “positivity” meant to us.   **Journals:**   * What do you aspire to be? * How can you spread positivity? * Share a time someone showed you positivity. What happened?   **Raffles**  **Physical Activity:**  Warmup   * Run Rabbit Run: Students who are it and called foxes and the rest of the student are called rabbits. Rabbits stand on the black line in the middle of the gym and the foxes are at the end of the gym. When the foxes say "Run Rabbit Run!" rabbits to the other end of the gym (safe zone). Any of the tagged rabbits become foxes.   Main Activity **–** Chuck the Chicken  **Snack:** a volunteer read a book while the students had their snack.  **Literacy Activity:**   * For literacy we moved back to the gym and played the blindfold game. This is a game that is meant to develop the student’s communication skills. Students worked with their team – one member was blindfolded while others guided them to find an object. Students had to show sportsmanship and cheer on their teammates throughout the activity!   **Clean up and check out:**   * Students play silent ball while they wait to get dismissed. Before they get dismissed students have to check out with ----.   **Volunteer Debrief** | * Rubber chicken * 6 blindfolds * Certificates * Attendance list * Raffle prizes | Aspirations/Positivity | 7 | 18 |

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| **Spring 2019** | Activities | Materials | Theme/Word of the Day | Number of Volunteers | Number of students |
| January 16 | **Discussion:**   * For discussion volunteers introduced themselves to their team and together, came up with a team contract. This is a list of rules that their team promises to follow throughout the term.   **Journals:**   * You’re stuck on an island for 100 days, what do you take with you? * If you had $100 what would you get?   **Physical Activity:**  Warm up - Zap  Main activity - Octopus  **Snack**  **Literacy activity:**   * In their teams’ students came up with ways they could help their communities. They wrote their ideas on sticky notes and posted the notes on the board.   **Clean up and check out:**   * Students play silent ball while they wait to get dismissed. Before they get dismissed students have to check out with ----.   **Volunteer Debrief** | * Journals * Pens * Markers * Post-it notes * Attendance list | Welcome / 100 | 3 | 17 |
| January 23 | **Discussion:**   * This week’s discussion was all about food. As a group, we talked about different kinds of foods from different cultures and how they vary.   **Journals:**   * What is your favourite food? * How does food bring people together? * What occasions do we eat together?   **Raffles**  **Physical Activity:**  Warm up   * Students ran laps and I called out for them to do different exercises while doing so – high knees, sumo squats, bum kicks, etc.   Main Activity: Bean Bag Dash  **Snack:** during snack Marie told students the story of the constellation of Leo – this story will segue the next activity  **Literacy Activity**   * Each team gets to make a constellation together and will come up with a story for it.   **Clean up and check out:**   * Students play silent ball while they wait to get dismissed. Before they get dismissed students have to check out with ----.   **Volunteer Debrief** | * Mini marshmallows- 6 per group * Hot glue guns * Glue gun sticks * Black paper * Attendance list * Raffle prizes | Teamwork / Food | 5 | 20 |
| January 30 | **Discussion:**   * As a group we brainstormed some tools/things we might be able to use to measure.   **Journals:**   * Find creative ways to measure yourselves – example: how tall are you if you measure using a book; a marker; a crayon * Guess the measurement of your height with the item before you actually use it and write it down – example: I think I am as tall as ten books because… * Write what they found to measure themselves and how “tall” they are – example: I thought I thought I was as tall as ten books, but I am actually as tall as five books   **Physical Activity:**  Warm up   * Laps + stretches   Main Activity: The Floor is Lava   * Use matts to get your team to the other side of the gym * Teams cannot throw the matt a great distance away * The matt has to be one-foot size away from the other matt \*\*don’t touch the floor when measuring\*\*   **Snack: Riddles**   * While students were having their snack, I was asking students the following the riddles – * What has many keys but can’t open any doors? -Piano * What has hands but cannot clap? -A clock * What has to be broken before it can be used? -Egg * What becomes smaller when you turn it upside down? -The number nine * What can you catch but never throw? -A cold   **Numeracy Activity**   * Teams compete to see who can make the tallest tower with straws (measure it)   **Clean up and check out:**   * Students play silent ball while they wait to get dismissed. Before they get dismissed students have to check out with ----.   **Volunteer Debrief** | * 7 cups per team (5 teams) * One pack of straws per team * Tape * Attendance list | Teamwork / Measure | 5 |  |
| February 6 | **Discussion:** I asked the group the following questions and wrote their answers on the board   * What is your favourite book or story? * What makes it special? / Why do you like it?     **Journals:** for journals this week students came up with a story. The story had to follow these rules:   * Had to use once upon a time (or another intro, ex. one day, sometime ago) * Had to include a mythical creature * Had to have a happy problem-solving ending * Involved a group of people     **Raffles**  **Physical Activity:**  Warm up   * Run Rabbit Run   Main Activity: Indoor Bowling   * I split everyone up into three groups * Leaders set 6 cones ahead of their group (like bowling) * Volunteers set up a hula-hoop full of different kinds of throwing balls in front of the first person (soccer ball, basketball, beanbag, etc). * Everyone on the team lined up and got a chance to pick up the ball that they thought would hit the majority of the cones down     **Snack:**  **Mindful Meditation**   * During snack I led students through a breathing activity to promote mindfulness     **Literacy Activity: Scavenger Hunt**   * Teams got clues for a scavenger hunt – using the clues teams had to problem solve to find a missing stuffed animal.   **Clean up and check out:**   * Students play silent ball while they wait to get dismissed. Before they get dismissed students have to check out with ----.   **Volunteer Debrief** | * Story for scavenger hunt * Teddy bear * Attendance list * Raffle prizes | Problem Solving / Story | 5 | 18 |
| February 13 | **Session was cancelled because of snow** |  | Dialogue / Hero |  |  |
| February 20 | **Discussion:**   * We went over what fractions are and gave students some examples on the board.     **Journals:**   * What fraction are you out of your family? * I’ll draw a pizza on the board and students will answer how many pieces are in half of the pizza. * What fraction are you of your team? * What fraction are you of Racing Readers?     **Physical Activity:**  Warmup – Laps + Stretch Circle  Main Activity: Cat and Mouse -   * One student is the cat and another is the mouse (we can add more cats and mice as we go along) * The cat(s) must try to tag the mouse/mice while everyone else sits in pairs spread around the gym * To avoid being tagged, the mouse/mice have to sit beside another pair and the person on the other end will become the mouse and has to run     **Snack:** a volunteer read a book while the students had their snack.    **Numeracy Activity: Fraction Kits**   * Students made fraction kits that they took home   **Clean up and check out:**   * Students play silent ball while they wait to get dismissed. Before they get dismissed students have to check out with ----.   **Volunteer Debrief** | * Masking tape for numeracy activity for grade ⅔ * Worksheets for grade ⅘ * Worksheets for discussion in groups * Blank piece of paper for comic strip (journals) * Scissors * Attendance list | Problem Solving/Fractions | 8 | 21 |
| February 27 | **Discussion:**   * Each group got a sheet with a dialogue on it. Students took turns reading passages aloud and together answered the accompanying questions.     **Journals:**   * For journals students made a comic strip based on a real-life interaction.   **Physical Activity:**   * Warmup – Lines * Main Activity: Line tag   **Snack:** a volunteer read a book while the students had their snack.    **Literacy Activity:**   * Students picked and read books in the gym and filled out worksheets based on what they read.   **Clean up and check out:**   * Students play silent ball while they wait to get dismissed. Before they get dismissed students have to check out with ----.   **Volunteer Debrief** | * Attendance list * Dialogue worksheet * Blank paper * Books for literacy * Literacy activity worksheets | Dialogue / Lines | 7 | 22 |
| March 6 | **Discussion:**   * Together we defined the words “challenge” and “goal”. We also brainstormed strategies that can be used when faced with a challenge or obstacle.   + Challenge: a situation that one is facing that requires great mental or physical effort to succeed.   + Goal: the object of a person’s ambition or effort; an aim or desired result   + Brainstorm strategies that can be used when faced with a challenge or obstacle.   **Journals:**   * What is a goal you want to reach? * What are the challenges that come with it? * How you can solve these challenges?   **Raffles**  **Physical Activity:**   * Warmup – Zap * Main Activity – Capture the flag   **Snack:** a volunteer read a book while the students had their snack.  **Literacy Activity – Sticky Note Project**  **Clean up and check out:**   * Students play silent ball while they wait to get dismissed. Before they get dismissed students have to check out with ----.   **Volunteer Debrief** | * Attendance list * Post-it notes * Raffle prizes | Challenges / Goals | 6 | 22 |

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| **April-May 2019** | Activities | Materials | Theme/Word of the Day | Number of Volunteers | Number of students |
| April 10 | **Discussion, and Journals:**   * We had a discussion on sign language (ASL) and learnt sign language as a group * Each student got a sheet with the ASL alphabet. Camille taught the group how to sign the word of the day, which was Sign Language. * Once we reviewed the ASL alphabet as a group, students spelled the following terms in their teams:   + Name (student)   + Volunteer's name   + The program and volunteer leaders’ name   + Name of the school   **Physical Activity:**   Warmup   * Laps + Stretching    Main Activity   * Everybody’s it tag * Sign Language tag   **Snack:** a volunteer read a book while the students had their snack.  **Literacy Activity:**   * Sign Language Hangman   **Clean up and check out:**   * Students play silent ball while they wait to get dismissed. Before they get dismissed students have to check out with ----.   **Volunteer Debrief** | * Attendance list * ASL alphabet worksheets | Language / Sign Language | 8 | **9** |
| April 17 | **Discussion:**   * Introduced the students to the running program. * Reviewed ASL alphabet and greetings   **Journals:**   * Students wrote letters to students at the other site (Betty Huff). We talked about how to start, what to include, and how to sign off.   **Physical Activity:**  Warmup   * Mingle   Main Activity:   * Simon Says   **Snack:** a volunteer read a book while the students had their snack.  **Painting activity:** using marblesstudents made planets that would be used for the running program.  **Raffles**  **Clean up and check out:**   * Students play silent ball while they wait to get dismissed. Before they get dismissed students have to check out with ----.   **Volunteer Debrief** | * Attendance list * Envelopes * Lined paper with Racing Readers logo * Plates * Marbles * Paint * Black poster paper * Raffle prizes | Welcome / Lines | 11 | **6** |
| April 24 | **Discussion:**   * I will re-introduce the students to the running program.   **Journals:**   * Because most of the group was absent last week, students wrote to pen-pals this week. Students who were present last week added onto their letters.   **Main Activity**  Warmup   * What time is it Mr. Wolf?   **Main activity -- Four Corners: Time**  **Snack:** a volunteer read a book while the students had their snack.  **Numeracy Activity: Time**   * The group was split up into two based on grade – 2/3’s doing one activity and 4/5’s doing another activity.   **Clean up and check out:**   * Students play silent ball while they wait to get dismissed. Before they get dismissed students have to check out with ----.   **Volunteer Debrief** | * Attendance list * Numeracy worksheets – paper watches | Language / Numbers | 11 | **13** |
| May 1 | **Discussion:**   * We brainstormed what “environment” means to the students and answered the following questions -   + Environment is everything that is around us. It can be living or non-living things. It includes physical, chemical and other natural forces. Living things live in their environment. They constantly interact with it and adapt themselves to conditions in their environment.   + What are things that damage or hurt the environment?   + What can we do to protect or help the environment?   **Journals –**   * How can you help the environment? * Write about whatever you want or draw a picture   **Physical Activity:**  Warmup   * Laps + stretches * Octopus   Main activity – Nature walk   * On the nature walk students collected leaves and flowers to use later for the bookmark activity. Students also made notes in their journals about what they saw, smelled, and heard.     **Snack:** a volunteer read a book while the students had their snack.  **Literacy Activity**   * Bookmarks   **Raffles**  **Clean up and check out:**   * Students play silent ball while they wait to get dismissed. Before they get dismissed students have to check out with ----.   **Volunteer Debrief** | * Attendance list * Bookmark template * Crayons * Raffle prizes | Sustainability / Environment | 10 | **11** |
| May 8 | **Discussion:**   * For this week’s discussion we brainstormed what sustainability means and where we can see sustainability * Students came up with definitions for reduce, reuse, and recycle * Students answered for why we have separate bins for our garbage, compost and recycling and we listed things that go in each bin.   **Journals:**   * What is a new way to reduce waste that cannot be reused? * What will you focus on reducing this year and why?   **Main Activity:**  Warmup   * Laps   Main activity   * For main activity kids could choose between playing soccer or free time at the playground. Students got this choice because of the number of laps they did for the running program – unlocked a prize.   **Snack:** a volunteer read a book while the students had their snack.  **Numeracy Activity: Fishing Company**   * We scattered paper fish within a circle signifying a lake. All teams appointed one of their members to go fishing each round   + First round: No one has any restriction and can grab as many fish as they want within 10 seconds; There will be no fish left meaning we aren’t conserving our fish within lakes and they will become extinct.   + Second Round: No one has any restriction and can grab as many fish as they want within 4 seconds; There will be a couple fish left which signifies that fish are nearly extinct in this lake. This shows that some people may be aware of wild life but will still take more than they need   + Third Round: Everyone can only take 4 fish within 10 seconds, this shows that with restrictions and rules within BC concerning fishing, we are able to sustain our fish in our lakes   + If students take more fish within the third round than they need, they will be fined by taking away all their fish   **Clean up and check out:**   * Students play silent ball while they wait to get dismissed. Before they get dismissed students have to check out with ----.   **Volunteer Debrief** | * Attendance list * Paper fish | Sustainability / Reduce | 11 | **14** |
| May 15 | **Discussion:**   * For discussion we reviewed the ASL alphabet.   **Journals:**   * For journals students will got letters back from the Betty Huff students and wrote back.   **Physical Activity**  Warmup   * Laps   Main activity   * Camille led physical activity   **Snack:** a volunteer read a book while the students had their snack.  **Numeracy Activity:**   * Geometry Bingo   **Raffles**  **Clean up and check out:**   * Students play silent ball while they wait to get dismissed. Before they get dismissed students have to check out with ----.   **Volunteer Debrief** | * Attendance list * ASL alphabet worksheets * Envelopes * Lined paper with Racing Readers logo * Geometry Bingo worksheets * Raffle prizes | Community / Surrey - receive pen pal letters | 10 | **15** |
| May 22 | **Discussion:**   * For discussion we talked about Surrey   **Journals**   * Instead of journals this week students will be made marshmallow catapults with their teams. Before they started Camille and I demonstrated how to make a catapult.   **Physical Activity:**  Warmup   * Laps   Main activity   * Tail tag   **Snack:** a volunteer read a book while the students had their snack.  **Literacy Activity:**   * All about Surrey: For this activity groups moved through stations, stopping at each station for about 5 minutes. The stations were: * Spaghetti and marshmallow SkyTrain * Banner for the RCMP * Reader’s theatre * Blackout poetry * Numeracy worksheets about money   **Clean up and check out:**   * Students play silent ball while they wait to get dismissed. Before they get dismissed students have to check out with ----.   **Volunteer Debrief** | * Attendance list * Popsicle sticks * Rubber bands * Marshmallows * Spoons * Spaghetti * Large white poster * Markers * Numeracy worksheets * Poetry blackout worksheets * Readers theatre worksheets | Community / Geometry | 9 | **16** |
| May 29 | **Discussion:**   * Students got to see how many laps they did throughout the iteration * Raffles   **Journals:**   * **Instead of journals we did a compliment activity**   **Raffle**  **Physical Activity:**   * Students got tochoose between three options for physical activity. The options were soccer, free time at the playground, or photo booth. Each station was facilitated by assigned leaders.   **Snack:** a volunteer read a book while the students had their snack.   * After snack I explained the student’s duties and stations. The stations for the appreciation event were: * ASL station * “Thank You Racing Readers” station * Food station * Catapult station * Once Students and volunteers knew their stations they moved to the gym to get ready for the start of the event.   **Certificate ceremony**  **Clean up and check out:**   * Students collected the belongings and checked out.   **Volunteer Debrief** | * Attendance list * Compliment worksheets * Raffle prizes * Banner for Racing Readers sign * ASL alphabet worksheet * Certificates | Conclusion / Celebration | 13 | **20** |

What Worked

* Reading at snack
* Riddles at snack
* Sessions ran best when each team had two volunteers per team
* Chime
* When kids got to actively participate in activities
* Raffles
* Volunteer appreciation at SFU on May 31
* Weekly emails
* Assigning volunteer duties + going over session schedule beforehand
* Introducing the word of the day at the start of session and teaching students how to sign it
* Program being free
* Having volunteers facilitate stations
* Splitting the group into two for numeracy activity
* Appreciation event with parents
  + Students running stations
* Giving students leadership roles
* Brainstorming ideas on the board during discussion
* Drawing raffles at the end of session (before silent ball and check out) instead of at the start of session
* Discussions about the following topics:
  + The environment
  + Sustainability
  + Positivity
  + ASL
  + Bucket lists
  + Future goals
  + Upcoming events/holidays → kids loved talking about Halloween and participating in Halloween-themed activities

Games and Activities That Worked

* Simon says
* Geometric City
* Geometry Bingo
* Tail Tag
* Mingle
* Night at the Museum
* Soccer
* Free time at the playground
* Laps - once the running program was introduced
* Zap
* Hungry Caterpillar
* The Floor is Lava
* Telephone Game
* Password
* Sign language hangman
* Musical chairs writing
* Friendship cards
* Silent ball while kids were being dismissed
* Octopus
* What time is it Mr. Wolf?
* Spaghetti and marshmallow towers
* Compliment sheets on the final session
* Literacy stations with the following activities:
  + Blackout Poetry
  + Readers Theatre
  + Brainstorming on a large poster sheet
* What time is Mr. Wolf?
* Writing letters to pen-pals at Betty Huff
* Painting planets
* Learning about constellations
* Numeracy activity about height
* Numeracy activities about time
* Fraction Kits

Concerns and Challenges

* **Concern/Challenge**: Lack of space for prep before sessions
  + **Root Cause:** There is a lack of space to do prep before session begins. Each week we need to mark journals and do prep for numeracy and literacy activities but the only space provided to us was the open area front of the office.
  + **Solution:** It would be helpful is we had an open class or room to do the prep. Doing prep by the office gets overcrowded and busy. There is not enough table space and our spot blocks the counselor’s office.
* **Concern/Challenge**: Lack of picture books to read at snack
  + **Root cause:** Multipurpose room did not have many picture books.
  + **Solution:** Choose picture books from the library beforehand and bring it to site. This gives the onsite lead to go through the book and make sure it’s appropriate.
* **Concern/Challenge:** Children did not like activities in which they had to sit and listen to instruction.
  + **Root cause:** Students did not like activities or lessons where they had to sit and take notes – students did not like the first geometry lesson we did because they were sitting for a while instead of actively participating.
  + **Solution:** Lessons where students have to take notes should be no longer than 10 minutes. Also, lessons should be presented in a manner that kids can actively participate and share their ideas. This participation can be:
    - Brainstorming
    - Mind maps
    - Writing down ideas on sticky notes and putting them on the board
    - Group discussions
    - Games – geometry bingo
* **Concern/Challenge:** Gym was not always available
  + **Root Cause:** We did not know beforehand that he gym would be unavailable. This was especially difficult during the fall iteration when the weather was bad and we could not go outside.
  + **Solution:** Communicate with the school so we know beforehand when the gym is unavailable.
* **Concern/Challenge:** Student registration
  + **Root Cause:** Student registrations were not as high as expected.
  + **Solution:** Push registration early in September and during breaks.

Wishlist

* Having more time for debriefs with volunteers at the end of session
  + Add a section on the debrief form in which volunteers make a note of areas that they want to work on.
* High school volunteers
* Room to do prep before sessions
* Schedule of when the gym is not available prior to session

Lead Volunteer Reflections

Insights from Supervisor

Acknowledgements

Special thanks to everyone who made the 2018-2019 Racing Readers program possible!

**Surrey School District – Community Schools Partnerships**



**Newton Elementary Staff**



**SFU Staff**