The Palace in Mathematical Overload

Last week, I visited both Ms Spokes and Ms Hutcheon’s classes during Mathematics. Although the classes were focussing on different topics I noticed the common thread being around communication and problem solving. Ms Spoke’s students were exploring estimation using multiplication and division operations that were embedded in solving problems quickly. Ms Spokes provided a simple scenario where four students found a fifty dollar note at school. Using their mental capabilities, the students worked out how they would share the money if no one owned it. The question focusses on –which operation did you use to solve the problem. Students then worked in groups where they designed their own problem and then sharing it with their peers.

In Ms Hutcheon’s class, the students were focussing on algebra without symbols. The students needed to describe a pattern in words, and then create a pattern for their peers. It was pleasing to see students using different types of patterns where they had to interpret a given pattern, develop and share strategies in how they solve a given pattern. Now that is the spirit of learning! – Mr A-J