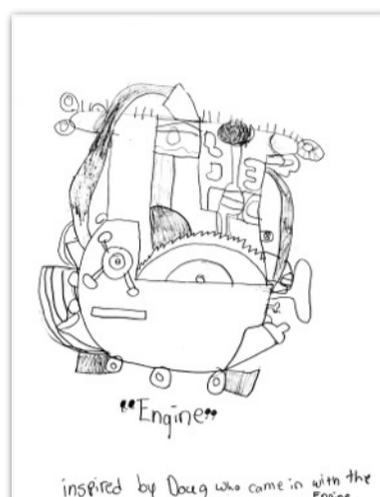


Our inquiry: *How do professionals use math in their jobs?*

Our class had the exciting opportunity to speak with two professionals about how they use math in their everyday work. We hosted a conversation with Doug-the-mechanic and FF Karen.



Taking a closer look and creating graphic representations of the engine.



The Practical Applications of Math

It was a unique learning experience for our children to recognize the connections between what is talked about in math class and what is used in real life application. FF Karen took pictures of all the gages and meters on her equipment and explained how understanding fractions helps her get ready for a fire. She explained to our children:

"At first I couldn't think of the math I use in my job, but then I realized it's because I use math so often to keep my co-workers and me safe, it just feels natural to be thinking about fractions and numbers all day."

Doug-the-mechanic commented that precision and problem solving are critical to his work with vehicles. He explained that mechanics often use math when they measure fluids, pressure, and balance in car engines. The students were intrigued by the many parts that made up the whole motor.

"The engine is like lots of little Lego pieces that make something bigger when it's finished" -Adrian

"Are there instructions that come with the engine when you take it apart? How do you know how to put it back together" -James

It was inspiring to see our students excited and intrigued by our two guest visits. It's heartening to see their curiosities spilling into many different contexts. Jade shared, *"I'm not sure how my Mom uses math at her job, but I know she does. I'll ask her because math is everywhere!"*

As teachers, we are always trying to think of ways to cultivate an atmosphere that includes learning, inquiry, and excitement (especially when it comes to academic subjects that can be perceived as very challenging). By diversifying classroom experiences, we hope to offer many opportunities for our students to make positive connections to the mathematical world.

