

Prospect Lake Professional Book Club  
Year End Report Submitted by Kristen Sinats

Our professional book club consisted of teachers K-5 and our teacher librarian and admin. We studied the book *Building Thinking Classrooms in Mathematics* by Peter Liljedahl.

We met as a group to try several of the lessons from the books and to discuss what we would try and implement in our classroom. We had fun solving 2-3 of the problems from the book which we did on vertical surfaces.

A few members of the book club attended additional professional development with the author of the book at the Tapestry conference and several others will be attending the Math conference at Whistler in the fall where Peter Liljedahl will be presenting. A few teachers joined Facebook groups where teachers share lessons and ideas. We created a shared folder of 'thinking tasks'.

After our meeting, several of the teachers tried incorporating some of the thinking classroom practices into their classrooms and we had informal discussions about what we had tried.

What worked:

- Increased engagement among students when they are given the opportunity to stand and work together on vertical surfaces
- Increased awareness of the types of questions that students ask; proximity questions, stop thinking questions, keep thinking questions
- Using the tasks as a warm up

Concerns or reasons why teachers would not use this approach:

- Not connected to curriculum
- Not enough practice
- Lack of vertical surfaces in classroom

Overall teachers felt they would supplement their math lessons with thinking classroom tasks but not use it as a stand alone math program. The lack of differentiation for the tasks make it difficult for all students to participate and there is not enough practice of the skills required in the curriculum.