

## Practicum Reflection

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Today was the final day of the first semester of practicum. I was expecting it to be a more relaxed day. We didn't have to write a lesson plan or teach any bigger formal lesson so my expectations were that we would just be assisting Sheila. But no, it was a very busy day. For our send off, Sheila had us baking cookies with the grade 3's! We had to help them with a math sheet that asked them hypotheticals, like if  $x$  ingredients made this many cookies, then how many cookies would  $2x$  ingredients make? After the math we were running back and forth from the kitchen putting in cookies, setting up timers, and taking cookies out. It just so happens, on that particular day, another class was having a lesson on cooking as well. We had to share the small kitchen and the logistics of that may have caused some headaches. In the end, the students loved it, and it was a great way to end the practicum on a positive note. Plus, the students surprised us with a flip book that they all drew and wrote a fun memory they had from our time there. Some students gave us hugs and told us they'll miss us as they left, it was surprising how attached you get to them even if you only see them once a week!

Things I learned over the past few months.

- 1) Teachers are expected to provide a lot for their classrooms. I knew that teachers get one or two hundred dollars to pay for items in their classroom, but I was shocked that all the books and games in a classroom come from the teacher's own collection.
- 2) Teachers spend a lot of time outside of class and weekends preparing their classrooms for the following week.

3) Setting up a field trip is long, takes a lot of preparation, and requires help from the parents. It makes sense, but I had it in my head from when I was a kid that it was just a signed paper from the student's parents and then off we went. It turns out getting those forms back, collecting the money for the trip, getting parent helpers to assist and help drive students down there, and preparing with the destination area and the school administration for things like bus drivers all take substantial time and energy from the teacher.

This has reinforced the idea that being a teacher is very rewarding and it seems like a profession where you can really see the fruits of your labour bloom, but it can also be very taxing.