On 30th of March, Wed, 2011- term 1 week 10, we had cross country in the school sportsground. Junior years were running in the morning. I had year 7 at period 3. We had room change because Year 12 exams in common 6 for the two weeks. When I got to the classroom in common 3, some students turned up a bit after me with red faces and looked a bit tired. They all asked me “Miss, do we have to do hard work? We are really tired!” I could see how tired they were. When I waited till almost everyone turned up, I decided to change the plan a bit. I have planned to start data and graphs. One of things we need to teach them is another term for average – mean. What I did was to ask students to tell me their running time in the cross country. A girl (Martina) offered to write the times down on the board for me. Everyone was so keen to tell me their time. We had about 8 times. I then asked them to work out the average of their running time, obviously some of them didn’t know how to do it. By asking them open questions, a few of them worked out that adding all the time and dividing the answer by 8 should give us the answer. I then instruct them to use the ‘DMS’ key on the calculator to put the times in. We only just did the time topic and it is part of the revision that they need to know how to calculate time using calculator. Anyway, a new student in the class actually worked it quicker than using the calculator. We got the answer very quickly and I took the opportunity to introduce the new kid as well. I then asked them what is another term for average, some of them remembered from the NAPLAN practice ‘mean’ means average. I told them a joke that if you’ve been nasty to someone and they say to you ‘you are mean’, then you just tell them that ‘yea, I’m average.’ They thought it was funny. Hopefully they will remember it.

After this, I thought we’d do some puzzles. Again, some kids offer to read the puzzles out loud for me. I had three kids taking turn to read three puzzles, they all loved that. And then the bell rang. We had a very good lesson after all. In a fun way (unprepared) I got the message (average) across to them. I was happy and kids were happy as well.