CLASS MEETING THURSDAY 12TH SEPTEMBER, 2013

CHAIRPERSON: Gabriel

AGENDA ITEMS:

1. Solar System:

* It’s been around for millions of years and is very big
* Lucas brought a book by Buzz Aldrin (Apollo 11 Mission to the Moon): the book is about Buzz’s life. He loved Sir Isaac Newton. Alex asked what happens to the parts of the rocket that break off on lift-off – Lucas explained that there is zero gravity in space, so the ‘space junk’ floats around in space. Paolo asked why these parts break off the rocket – Lucas explained that certain parts are no longer needed. Keily asked how long it took them to get to the moon – Lucas found this information in his book – 16th July til the 24th July. Paolo asked at what speed the rocket takes off – Lucas couldn’t find this in the book. Paolo asked if anyone has travelled to Mars. Talia asked how far away the moon is from the Earth – Roslind had a look at our posters in the classroom and Lucas looked it up in the book – we couldn’t find it, but if we can find out the distance, we can divide that by the 8 days travel time, to calculate the speed at which the rocket travelled. Alex asked why a meteor or asteroid heats up when it enters the Earth’s atmosphere – Lucas thinks it’s because of the speed at which it travels. Paolo asked what the biggest asteroid is that his earth – he wasn’t sure, but Gabriel suggested it might have been the one that hit the dinosaurs.
* Paolo: found out that you need 100,000,000 tonnes of dynamite exploding to match the sun’s energy. Alex asked what the energy of the sun is – Paolo thinks its over 100,000,000 degrees Farenheit.
* Alex: there is a gigantic black hole at the end of a galaxy. Mariam asked WHY there is a gigantic black hole at the end of the galaxy – but he isn’t sure. He explained that black holes are invisible and can only be seen with a special telescope. Luke asked if they have energy to suck in planets – Alex explained that stars can get sucked in there, but not planets, because of our atmosphere. Paolo asked how a black hole forms: Gabriel shared that when a star collapses, a black hole forms.
* Thomas: every planet is named after a Roman God
* Josh: asked why the solar system rotates around the sun – Paolo suggested it was because of the gravity, but there is more to it than this. Josh shared some more information about how Sir Isaac Newton discovered and calculated gravity, that’s when he started figuring out how the solar system began.

1. The Federal Election:

* We had our election on Saturday and now have a new PM, Tony Abbot.
* Luke thinks that electing Tony Abbot was the right choice because everyone has voted for Labour in the past and stuff has happened to our country. When Liberal wins, good things happen to the country. Luke thinks he is a good leader of the country.
* Lucas explained that Abbot said he would cut the Carbon Tax, but that he will probably introduce a new tax.
* Talia said her mum doesn’t like Kevin Rudd, so the things on the commercial that put down Tony Abbot aren’t true.
* Paolo agrees that Tony Abbot wont do that, and that we shouldn’t have Kevin Rudd because he has had two turns, and it will be fair for others to have a chance.
* Luke shared that politicians have to try and win our votes, so all the stuff they say on the commercials aren’t necessarily true. Sometimes they lie to get your attention, and then they never deliver.
* Hayden explained that the government keep persuading people to vote for them.
* Claudia thinks that people just want a change, because we’ve had Rudd and Gillard for a while, and people want to see if something different will happen.
* Josh said that Abbot has promised things, but he is going to take away people’s rights and lower their pay.
* Matt asked why we have the carbon tax and what it does for our country. Luke thinks it’s a way for the government to gain more money to make changes to our country, like our railways. Paolo thinks the government gets this money and they make things better, like schools. Lucas thinks it’s related to the pollution we have been creating, and the tax money allows people to clean up our country.
* Alex said the government aren’t allowing him to work on Sundays. Julia and Luke asked WHY they wont let him work – it seems silly and unfair.
* Lucas explained what income tax is – if his dad earns $10,000 a week, he would have to pay $4,000 in tax to the government, and he would only get to keep $6,000.
* Thomas said that Abbot would cause people to lose their homes.
* Paolo asked his mum who she voted for and why. She voted for the person with better tax policies.
* Luke asked his mum the same question and she had the same reason as Paolo’s mum.
* Lucas shared an article about past Prime Ministers, and his nonna told him that Robert Menzies was the best Prime Minister when she was a kid, because he was well respected. Luke asked why we don’t have good people like Menzies NOW.
* Paolo said America likes Barack Obama and Abraham Lincoln, and he wonders if we will ever have a PM like that, who encourages people to come to Australia
* Hayden asked what the government acutally does for the country. Lucas explained that they set the laws and keep the country running.
* Julia asked what the difference is between a President and a Prime Minister. Paolo explained that it is because Australia is ruled by the Queen and America isn’t.
* Luke thinks that in conclusion, our government is right at the moment because all the people he knows, think that our government will be stronger and more efficient.
* Josh explained the reason why we don’t have PMs like Menzies NOW, because taxes wouldn’t have been so high back then, but because we’ve grown a lot since back then, we need more fire stations and schools and everything to support living, and so the government need taxes to pay for these services, moreso than back then.
* Paolo thinks Kevin Rudd was doing bad things and wonders why he did these things.
* Lucas has read his newspaper article and shared that Labour and Liberal Parties are popular.