From the Principal’s Desk....

Once again our school continues to demonstrate what a great place of learning we are and it makes me very proud to be part of such a great school.

Innovation

As promised iPads have gone into all classes across the school and I am eagerly waiting to see what the teachers and students can do with these fantastic learning devices. I have also written an article about iPads in this newsletter so that you can see why I believe it is so important that we invest in this type of learning tool for our students. Underpinning all of the opportunities that iPads provide, is the simple fact that students and young people today learn differently from when you and I went to school.

Being the Best

Last week many of our students went to the District Sports Carnival over at Blacktown Athletics Centre. It was truly humbling to watch both teachers and students go off to represent our school in such difficult conditions. District carnivals are often a day where students can sit around in the sun, having fun with their friends while they wait to participate in their sporting events. However as you know the weather was not so kind this year. There was plenty of rain around on both days and the grounds were pretty wet. It would have been very easy for both the teachers and the students to get upset and not want to go due to the weather.

When I spoke to students after the carnival they talked about the fun they had sitting up in the grandstands where they are not normally allowed to sit. They spoke about how funny it was to watch people running around in

School Security – please call 1300 88 00 21
puddles, splashing their friends and getting a little wet and they talked about getting hot food from the canteen how it tastes so much better when it is cold and wet. When I listened to them, I thought about the fun I had as a kid and that kids can often find the best in situations when perhaps adults can only see problems. I want to thank those students who represented our school with great pride but I would also like to thank them for teaching me a lesson about finding the silver lining even on a rainy day.

Mr Stephen Bingon - Principal

Planning for the Future

For the first time in my career the department has given schools a planning model that really empowers teachers, students, families and communities to think big about what they would like their school to look like in the future. Eric Jamison from the high performance team has encouraged Principals to spend time talking to everyone who contributes to the well-being of students.

We have had one community meeting in the library a few weeks ago so that families could share their thoughts about the strengths and weaknesses of the school. I am now going to ask Year 6 leaders to conduct surveys with families when they drop their kids off in the morning. I am doing this so that I can hear from more families as well as give everyone the opportunity to have a say into the future dreams and aspirations of our school. If you could give our year 6 students a few minutes to answer a few questions about our school it would be much appreciated.

K-2 ASSEMBLY AWARDS

KP - Joshua Sheppeard, Robert Kitchener
KS - Kiara Hoad, Saja Akl
1C - Cherysh Tarawa Tavae, Darius Brandy
1H - Gabrielle Jones, Josiah Baker
1R - Zachary Caruana, Ashlea Seabrook
2B - Phoebe Hickson, Kiah Graham
2F - Carlito Da Rosa, Sarena Jones
K/2A - Jesse Robertson, Steven Drivas
CRUNCH & SIP
4 Reasons to send snow peas for Crunch&Sip
1. Kids love their crunchy texture and sweet flavour
2. They are a source of iron, protein and potassium
3. They don’t bruise easily
4. They make an exciting change for Cruch&Sip

CANTEEN NEWS
Meal deals from 8th – 19th September, 2014
$4.50
Meal Deal 1
Salad Wrap
Small bottle of water

Meal Deal 2
Hot Cheese Roll
Juice Popper
Frozen Juice Cup
Wendy - Canteen

School Hours:
Just a reminder that the school hours are from 8.30am – 3.30pm. Please be aware that students arriving before 8.30am are not being supervised in the playground.

MATHS FUN DAY
Parents and carers are invited to join us on Tuesday, 9th September from 11.25 am – 1.10 pm for a session of Maths Fun! (The Preschool and Kindergarten session will begin at 12.00 pm). Classes will be moving from room to room, engaging in a variety of fun, hands-on maths activities. We hope you can join us!
Catherine Binning for the Maths Team

Enrol Now for Preschool 2015

We are now offering places at our preschool for next year so act quickly to make sure there is a place for your child in 2015. To find out more please ask at the office or visit the preschool.
iPads at Lethbridge Park

Tools like the iPad are revolutionising not only the way we communicate, but also the way we learn.

When I went to primary, the school did not own a single computer and when I got to high school there were three, one in the principal’s office and two in the front office. Sometimes we would sneak into the office area just so we could see what a computer looked like. Most people were scared of them, only one person knew how they worked and no-body was allowed to touch them.

Change comes quickly in the world of technology. Three years ago the average adult would not have even heard about a tablet computer; they were still coming to grips with smartphones. Before smartphones, it was the interconnectedness of social media (facebook). Before that they were trying to wrap their heads around portable MP3 players; and before that it was the internet. Keeping up with technology in the 21st Century is downright exhausting.

This is why it blows my mind when I see a four year old in our preschool pick up an iPad or tablet and use them with complete ease. They begin to use touch screens like using it had somehow been hard wired into their genetic make-up. Children don’t find new technology exhausting or intimidating; for them it is simply a fact of life, something they have always known. That is why it makes sense that this technology is used in their educational lives, too.

5 reasons the iPad is great for Lethbridge Park

1. Provides immediate feedback – From collaborative apps that feed teachers information to games and quizzes that reveal results straight away to students, everyone is getting feedback on their learning and performance immediately.

2. Students can learn at their own pace – Take maths, for example where traditionally, teachers begin a lesson by demonstrating strategies on a blackboard. Many students are unsure and maybe unable to follow along, this causes some to be left behind. With an iPad and the right apps, students can follow at their own speed, accessing questions that are right for them.

3. Games make learning fun and engaging – What’s the best way to encourage children to learn? To make them do so without even realising it! With iPad technology learning can be presented in so many different ways and through thousands of different games that students are happy to do extra literacy and numeracy lessons.

4. 21st Century Learning – Students learn differently to the way we did when we were at school and the skills you need for today’s jobs are different as well. Technology has changed the way we work and students must be taught these new skills if they are going to be successful in their future.

5. It fosters creativity – We have all enjoyed playing with paper, pencils and crayons to make art when we were at school. For our students they can still do all this but they can now do so much more. Students can create movies, comic books, art, picture books and play music and then share their creations with anybody in real time.

Mr Stephen Bingon - Principal
SETTING PARENTAL CONTROLS

Protect your children from online dangers by setting restrictions on the iPad

Step by Step Enable restrictions on the iPad

01 Open Restrictions
   On the iPad, the traditional name 'Parental Controls' does not exist. However, you can achieve much the same settings in the Restrictions menu. To begin setting up restrictions for the iPad, head to Settings > General > Restrictions.

02 Enter your passcode
   Now tap Enable Restrictions. Enter a passcode, then confirm it by entering it again. You’ll need to enter this to access Restrictions at any time. Don’t pick something too obvious, such as 0-0-0-0, 1-2-3-4, or even a birthday, you’ll be surprised how resourceful children can be.

03 Toggle on and off
   Once you’ve set your passcode, choose your restricted-access settings. Toggle Safari off to prevent internet browsing; toggle Installing Apps to prevent purchasing apps without your authorisation. You can disallow Camera, FaceTime, iTunes, Siri, and more.

04 Set content restrictions
   Scroll down the Restrictions menu and you’ll find a section called Allowed Content for customising restrictions a little further. For example, tap Ratings For to select a country and get appropriate regional ratings, or tap Movies to disallow explicit content from the App Store.

05 Privacy settings
   Scroll down still further for the Privacy settings. Here you can prevent apps from using Location Services, which uses GPS and cell tower locations to determine your approximate location. You can also change privacy settings for apps like Facebook, Twitter and more.

06 There’s still more
   Allow Changes prevents children from adding, removing or modifying accounts in Mail, Contacts and Calendars; or for Game Center, you can toggle off Multiplayer Games or Adding Friends, you can even decide whether Volume Limit can be changed.