PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

21st CENTURY LEARNING

It seems a little odd to be discussing the concept of 21st Century learning for the first time in School Matters given that this century is already 15 years old. All current high school students commenced their formal education after the year 2000, so that by literal definition they are already 21st Century learners. Such an interpretation is shallow because it fails to recognise that 21st Century learning is more than just fashionable teacher jargon, it is actually a well-articulated concept with clearly defined characteristics.

Parents struggle to understand all that 21st Century learning entails, which is not surprising when some schools are also unenlightened. 21st Century learning differs from past approaches to education, but in an evolutionary rather than revolutionary way. It is a refinement, taking in account modern research and the demands of a rapidly changing world.

Central to the concept are the attributes students need to develop in order to succeed in the information age. There are four key skills - critical thinking, creativity, collaborating and communicating. To hold information age jobs, learn ever-changing technologies, and deal with a flood of information, students need to think deeply about issues, solve problems creatively, work in teams and communicate clearly through many forms of media. These skills, known collectively as the 4Cs, don't necessarily change what students need to learn. Parents would be pleased to know that literacy and numeracy, traditionally known as the 3Rs, remain fundamental to education in this new model.

In addition to the 4Cs, students need life skills. The workforce of the future requires employees, not just entrepreneurs and employers, who are flexible, take the initiative and lead when necessary, and are able to produce something new and useful.

The biggest misconception is that 21st Century learning is only about technology. The role of technology in education remains a point of contention. The Program for International Students Assessment (PISA) gives mixed messages in its 2015 report Computers, Students and Learning. PISA results show no appreciable improvement in student achievement in reading, mathematics and science in countries that invested heavily in the use of technology for education. Technology now plays an integral part in learning at Batemans Bay High School, but in many respects it is a tool or a means to an end.

Teachers do not use technology for technology’s sake. It is embedded in every day practice and used in ways that enhance learning, not detract from it. Productive use of technology is seen in the use of interactive boards, video conferencing, portable devices, online learning, and parent communication on a daily basis.

This is supported by PISA’s statement that “as long as computers and the Internet continue to have a central role in our personal and professional lives, students who have not acquired the basic skills of reading, writing and navigating through a digital landscape will find themselves unable to participate fully in the economic, social and cultural life around them”.

Parents should not assume their children technologically literate because they can use iPads or download videos from the Internet. They should be more concerned about whether their children can demonstrate the skills of critical thinking, creativity, collaborating and communicating.

Furthermore, if Batemans Bay is to be the best high school in the Eurobodalla, it needs to move into the third millennium where students become makers and creators of technology, not just users. This is where 21st Century skills are most valuable.

Mr Greg McDonald
Relieving Principal
Claire Turnbull Year 9

Claire is a self-motivated student who consistently produces work of a high standard in all subjects. She deserves recognition for her efforts in academic, cultural and sporting endeavours and for always following “The Bay Way”.

Year 7 SWIM SCHOOL (Sport)
Thursday, 3 December
Time: 11 - 12.40pm
Venue: Batemans Bay Swimming Pool
Transport: Bus
Cost: $7 per week (pool entry and bus)

UNIFORM SHOP
will be closed on Tuesday, 1 December and will be open again on Thursday, 3 Dec.

What’s On Term 4

Week 9
Mon-Wed
30 Nov - 2 Dec Year 10 Sports Leadership Camp
Mon 30 Nov Evaluation & Planning Evening 7pm school library
Thur 3 Dec Orientation Day
Thur 3 Dec Possum Skin Cloak
Thur 3 Dec Year 7 Swim School
Fri 4 Dec Peer Support Training Year 9

Week 10
Mon-Fri
7 - 11 Dec Aust Volleyball School Cup - Melbourne
Tue 8 Dec Student Achievement Program Assembly and Movie Day
Wed 9 Dec Bay Day Out 11am
Fri 11 Dec Jamberoo Excursion Year 7 and 8 Departs 7.30am
It’s finally done. Year 12 has really said farewell to study at Batemans Bay High School. Their exams, all over, really don’t mark the end of school like the celebration of the Formal. It’s the big bang that says ‘Yeah! We’ve made it, let’s party’

As you can see from the photos, everyone looked incredible. Teachers always half-jokingly say you won’t recognise the students all dressed up. This was truly the case this year with everyone out of their (approximations) of uniform and into exquisite finery (boys included). Lining up to be introduced individually to all the guests, each student was able to showcase how mature he or she is. Every round of applause was absolutely genuine. All together you produced a commendable sight.

Everyone had heaps of fun on the night. The lolly table was demolished within five minutes; it looked so pretty on arrival but not surprisingly, soon stood with empty jars. There was a continuous line up for the photo booth which I think was the biggest hit of the night.

Our special thanks go to Matt Brown who saved us at the last moment. The person who had been booked pulled out for technical reasons literally at the last moment and Matt provided his photo booth within an hour of being contacted.

The photographer did a sterling job at the T wharf before the formal and throughout the evening. Her skills have shown everyone off to their best advantage. Some brilliant memories have been preserved in these photos. (BTW, year 12 students can come to school to download the photos from a lap top which has been set up in the front office. Just bring a thumb drive to download them).

All done and dusted now. Farewell to a fantastic group – the brilliant 2015 HSC cohort.

*Mrs Cathy Simpson*
CIT MUSIC WORKSHOP AND PERFORMANCE

On Thursday, 19 November music students from the CIT (Canberra Institute of Technology) visited Batemans Bay High School. They ran an interactive workshop for our senior music students, followed by a fantastic lunch time performance in the upper quad.

CIT offers a range of music courses including performance, sound production, music business, technical production and DJ skills. A highlight of the performance was when some of our music students performed with CIT. The performance was greatly appreciated by the students and staff and we hope they will return again next year.

Story & photos by Abbey Duncan & Alexandra Stewart
Above: *Savanna Ong, Leon Katsanis* and *Joshua Brown* rock along with the band.

Above: *Alice Knight* and *Drew-Ellyn Cooke* joined in on guitar.
MONIQUE INSPIRES SCIENCE STUDENTS

The Media Group recently interviewed Monique Kornman about her recent award for Science. Monique won the Victor Chang Award which was for the top achievers in Science across the public schools of NSW.

She earned this award because she is a high achiever and has studied two or more Science subjects and feels this will open up more choices for her in university. Monique received a certificate and has been given the opportunity to tour the Victor Chang Cardio Research Centre in Sydney.

Reported by Alexandra Stewart and Abbey Duncan
CONFIDENTIAL DISCRETE SUPPORT FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Life hits young people with challenging issues. You don’t have to face these challenges alone

- Resisting negative peer pressure
- Body image
- Bullying and cyberbullying
- Career ambitions
- Influence of social media
- Physical and mental health
- Relationship breakdowns
- Time management
- Self-esteem
- Perfectionism
- Assertiveness
- Major life transitions
- Academic and sporting achievement
- Unrealistic and negative beliefs
- Stress
- ...and Much more.

As a Youth Life Coach and Mentor I will be:

- A genuine and trusted professional support person to talk to about your concerns
- Encouraging and believing in you to achieve your personal goals
- Someone to talk to in the privacy of your home or outdoors and be unseen such as via Skype or phone
- There for you to talk to at crucial times when areas of concern arise and require immediate support

Who will be your Youth Life Coach and Mentor?

I am Emma Weldon. My passion to be a positive influence on the lives of young people grew from my own personal experiences and challenges as a young person.

I believe in the potential of all young people. When young people have access to supportive, inspiring and encouraging trusted role models such a youth Life Coach or Mentor they will be provided with a positive and empowering environment to flourish.

If you believe in my long standing passion and the benefits you will receive from my services please give me a call or send me an email. I would love to talk with you and be a positive influence in your life.

Please contact Emma Weldon

GOAL SETTING • PERSONAL ACHIEVEMENT • LIFE DIRECTION
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