

Rāpare rua tekau ma iwa o Poutū-te-rangi : Thursday 29 March 2018

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So what is learning... Why do I need a teacher when I've got google ...?

Last week as part of my ongoing professional learning as a principal, I attended the World EduLead Conference in Sydney. I had the privilege (and it truly was a privilege) of hearing eight of the most prominent education thinkers in the world today, speak about where education needs to go if we are to meet the need of our kids moving forward. It was an outstanding two days and I managed to write over 20 pages of notes but I thought this week I would share with you some of the key points...



The first speaker (Ian Gilbert – Independent Thinking) set the scene by asking us what we thought our roles were and he suggested that teachers these days are neural architects who build (or should build) brains on an hourly basis, however most of what schools do for kids is mind numbingly boring (you can imagine how that challenged many of us!) for the children that we are now seeing as they are a totally different generation – they have google.



He cited real world examples of what primary school kids are capable of achieving and challenged us every day to make children's brains hurt. He gave several examples (images in this section) and this type of work is fast becoming the norm in education around the world. One is using technology (complex problem solving, science, maths and technology), another is Nate's Science show. This is an eight-year-old boy who broadcasts his own science podcast – his reason he just loves science and wants the world to love it as much as he does! Another example he gave of thinking that matters was from his book of Thunks. These are philosophical challenges based on the work of Socrates and really gets people thinking eg If you are doing nothing, are you still doing something?

We were asked to define 'learning' and it was interesting to see what people wrote. Most of us included things such as preparing our kids for the world to come, developing good citizens, having fun, being able to learn for yourself etc. We also talked about the skills needed for the world to come (incidentally this is changing so fast that no one can really predict what it will be like) and this started with various YouTube clips.

The most needed skills by our kids for the future are not reading, writing and maths but the ability to solve (real) complex problems, think critically and be creative; the latter is not art or music per se but the ability to think outside the box! Basically IF the task can be done by a computer, why are we doing it!

So I have returned with lots to think about for little old Levin – where are we going, how are WE doing our bit, are we teaching certainty and if so, we are doing kids a big disservice because there isn't an answer in a book and there isn't even a book!

Keeping Ourselves Safe

Keeping Ourselves Safe enables children and young people to learn and apply a range of safety skills that they can use when interacting with others. Students recognise the differences between healthy and unhealthy relationships, and those who have been or are being abused are encouraged to seek help. The NZ Police provides a programme for teachers to introduce into the classroom. Constable Fiona will be supporting teachers to introduce this programme. **A parent meeting has been arranged for today, Thursday 29 March, at 3.30 pm in Room 3. Please come along. Childcare will be available.**

<http://www.police.govt.nz/sites/default/files/publications/kos-parents-pamphlet.pdf>

Fundfinders Easter Raffle

- 1st Prize – Ron Evans
- 2nd Prize – Amy Montgomery
- 3rd Prize – Rod Agar
- 4th Prize – P Comyn

Thanks everyone for selling the raffle tickets – we appreciate your support!

SENSATIONAL SPORTS WORD

Term 1, Week 9, 2018

KIDS! Keep thinking about what sports-based learning you can add to our Sports Word. You may have a great sports picture, story, poem, report, graph or even a funny sports joke. Try to think of a great name for this part in the Sports Word and let me know. I am sure you can think of something original!

Y0-3 SPORTS DAY

Sports Day will now take place next Wednesday 4 April, beginning at 11:15 am and will finish once all the children have rotated through the events. A FUN WHĀNAU RACE and shared lunch on the decks with your superstars will finish the day! We look forward to seeing those of you who can make it. Fingers crossed that Mother Nature plays nicely!

SUPERSTAR CRICKET ACADEMY

On Monday our Y3-4 and Y5-6 cricket academy teams played their final games in the competition. Having spectated and had a chance to chat to some families, there has been a real improvement with the children's skills and teamwork. Well done to Sam, Riley, Cooper, Acacia, JP, Cullen, Tuita, Makere, Logan, Fergus, Brendan, Thomas, Bailey, Tangikina, Alivia, Monty, Casius, James, Messiah and Liam.

I would like to say a HUGE thank you to **Meredith Knight** who has volunteered her own time to coming in every Monday for play and lunch times to coach these teams. Not only has she been the coach but also the manager of both teams. Meredith's dedication to these children has been unwavering and I want to thank her for her incredible support this season.

COMMUNITY SPORT OPPORTUNITIES

RUGBY

Levin College Old Boys are having a pre-season muster/training run for all junior rugby players. Come to Playford Park, Field 5 (by the Scout Hall off Parker Ave) on Wednesday 18 April from 5.30 pm until 6.30 pm.

If you haven't already registered your child, you will be able to register on the night. Alternatively, you can register online at www.sporty.co.nz/lcbrfc

Levin College Old Boys has a **zero fees** policy for all junior rugby registrations.

Levin North School is a positive, caring community, which promotes lifelong learning, celebrates individuality and encourages participation and success for all.

WHĀNAU SUPPORT IN SPORT

I respect and appreciate that people are busy, but please realise that I am unable to enter teams if there is little support from the school community. Coaching, managing and umpiring are roles we need, but you are not expected to be perfect at them. Please don't assume that 'someone else will do it'. Often that is not the case and it is the same people coming forward despite their own commitments.

You may feel nervous or anxious at first, but many of you have experiences or passion behind you which the children love to learn from. I can offer you support and can help with organisation.

If you are able, please offer what YOU can do so that I can offer sports to the children. At the end of the day, it is all about them being part of a team, learning new skills and seeing families positively engage in a healthy lifestyle.

And finally...

DATES FOR THE DIARY

YEAR 0-3 SPORTS DAY: Wednesday 4 April, Week 10

- Postponement date: **Wednesday 11 April, Week 11**

INTERSCHOOL ATHLETICS: Friday 6 March, Week 10

- Proposed postponement date, **Tuesday 10 April, Week 11**

*"KEEP CALM. Teamwork makes the dream work"
~ Unknown ~*

Ngā mihi nui

Anna Cooper (Sports Coordinator) anna@levinnorth.school.nz



Mobile Dental Unit

Dear Parents/Caregivers,

We have a Mobile Dental Unit available to visit Levin North School from Tuesday 27th March to examine and provide preventative treatment (cleaning, fissure sealants, x-rays and fluoride treatment) at the time of their examination for patients due for their annual dental check.

Once examined, students requiring further treatment, (fillings and extractions) will be sent an information pamphlet, medical history update form and consent form. These will need to be signed and returned to either the Mobile or the school office before any treatment can be undertaken.

If parents have any concerns or wish to be present at their child's dental appointment please contact us on either of the numbers below.

Regards from the Dental Team
Telephone 027 457 2097 or 0800 825 583

School Holiday Programme – Primary and Intermediate Aged Children

The Hope Centre in Levin is running a holiday programme in the April School Holidays 9-3.30 pm (\$20) and 9-5.30 pm (\$30). Fun activities; games, crafts, movies, Bible stories, excursions and more ...

Contact Karen 06 367 3171 between 9 am – 2pm Mon-Fri. Email: info@hopelevin.org.nz.

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