

Rāpare tekau o Haratua : Thursday 10 May 2018

<https://www.facebook.com/levin.northschool>

<http://www.levinnorth.school.nz>

### Why do I need a teacher when I've got google?

I recently had the privilege of attending the **World Educational Leaders Conference** in Sydney and it was a mind blowing experience. The conference organisers had brought together eight of the world's top education thinkers to share their ideas about **what would need to change in education NOW** to meet the needs of the adults of 2025 - which is not so far away!

As is always the case at these sorts of things, I came away with more questions than I went with and lots of further reading and thinking to do.



*Education for the future - learning to code robotics with Bobbi the robot (Alyssa, Annaka and Room 6)*

The statement (re google in blue) above was the opening slide from the first speaker and the point behind this was that **if the answer can be found by the click of a button we need to change the question**. His (Ian Gilbert's) point was that we need to hear kids say **"My brain hurts"** but this rarely happens in schools. In his view **90% of what kids are expected to learn is mind numbingly boring** - rather than take offence, we need to think about this.

### Some of the big questions and ideas that I came back with were:

- What are we as educators doing to keep kid's minds open as opposed to shutting them down by asking them to produce one answer...
- The more right you are - the more stupid you become because you never take risks to explore possibilities
- One answer is a dead end - keep the possibilities open - are we saying "is that your only answer or your best"?
- Learning is state dependent - how do we create effective neurochemistry in our school...
- **What do we value?** We need to celebrate mistakes - take risks and be exposed... this is not what happens enough. There is a prevailing ethic that we have to get it right the first time... however this is NOT good leadership or modelling of learning behaviour
- A zero risk environment is a zero learning environment
- There's a new song for every child just not yet written
- We have taught kids to be compliant not creative...
  - Not 'how smart you are' but rather 'how are you smart'
- If we don't assess what we value, we end up valuing what we assess

And to finish I have shared the MOST amazing youtube clip... **'The Lost Generation'**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z92HQkRmhlc&t=8s>

