

Russell Lea
PUBLIC SCHOOL



Newsletter

Term 3, Week 6 Friday 28 August 2020

Important Dates

Please refer to our website
calendar for a full list of 2020
school dates

September 25

Last day of Term 3

October 12

First day of Term 4

December 16

Last day of Term 4

Kindness To Everything Big and Small

At RLPS we use a positive psychology model to help students identify with and understand a wide variety of values and strengths. Students learn about these strengths as part of weekly learning, often through reading stories which describe a particular strength. Kindness is a strength which RLPS students have good knowledge of and are able to apply in their daily lives. We often talk of being kind to each other but students also extend kindness to the animals which use our playground as their habitat. It was pleasing to see students show care and compassion for one of our playground's smallest inhabitants. Students were concerned about the wellbeing of a bee they found on the ground and requested assistance to return it to safety. Students noted bees are in decline around the world and felt it important we show care for this particular bee.

Not only do our students have great knowledge about world bee populations they are also very thoughtful and kind.



Dan Sprange
Principal

COVID Safe Recorder

Mrs G does not let COVID stop her from teaching students recorder. Instead of giving up Mrs G decided to innovate and teach students how to play the recorder without blowing. Once COVID restrictions ease we hope to hear the great results of this technique.



Knitting Club

Our students have been finding novel ways to enjoy their playtime. They invent games and use spaces in creative and intriguing ways. We are very pleased to see that Casper has introduced finger knitting to our playground and is encouraging other students to do the same. Well done Casper.



Spring Is Coming

Spring is just around the corner and Mrs G and Mr McGuire have been helping students plant a spring crop of vegetables. Each stage has an area they are tending. We look forward to some healthy and fresh eating in a few months.



Teaching For Tomorrow

Michael McQueen is a well-regarded futurist who has written widely about the future of education and work across the world. Sometimes it is hard to imagine why we need a future focused curriculum and Michael does a very good job of explaining why. This review of his latest book provides an excellent summary and justification for change.

<https://www.futurefocusedtl.com/blog/book-review-teaching-for-tomorrow-by-michael-mcqueen>

"If we teach today's students as we taught yesterdays, we rob them of tomorrow." John Dewey.

Michael McQueen is an Australian futurist and trend forecaster, that advises all kinds of industries all around the world on how to future-proof their businesses. His book, 'Teaching for Tomorrow', focuses on the education industry, and what it needs to do in order to ensure that students are effectively prepared for the future, and contains some excellent insights that we, as teachers, can take onboard.

The key skills that McQueen identifies as being essential for future success are:

- **Self-direction:** an increasing percentage of the workforce will be self-employed or in freelance roles in the future. Furthermore, employers will be looking for employees that don't have to be 'managed' - rather they want people who are life-long learners, who take risks, challenge themselves and grow in order to stay relevant in an age of fast-paced change. Current obstacles to attaining self-direction however, includes apathy, too much praise and protection from failure or hardship, and a fixed mindset.
- **Tenacity:** otherwise known as grit, resilience, optimism or determination. In order to cope with an ever-changing world and the multitude of problems that await them, students will need to be able to adapt and persevere during times of adversity. However various 'enemies' of tenacity that exist in today's world include lack of sleep, unrealistic expectations, entitlement, and a general unwillingness to make sacrifices or go through hardship in order to achieve a goal.
- **Originality:** the ability to be creative and construct new ideas is a uniquely human skill that cannot be replaced by AI, so these skills will be very valuable in the future. The enemies of originality include the traditional education system that suppresses imagination, too much distraction and not enough boredom.
- **Acuity:** being able to discern between reliable and unreliable sources of information to get to the 'truth', and being able to acquire deep knowledge, will be a critical skill. This is currently being held back by 'lazy learning' and short attention spans (due to high speed media)

In order to ensure that students are able to develop these skills at school, McQueen believes 4 big shifts need to happen within the education system.

1. 'From content delivery to capability building' (focusing on student output rather than input). Strategies for doing this include:
 - Teacher as facilitator with more student led learning
 - Cultivate critical thinking by asking the right questions
 - Use techniques such as flipped learning and project based learning
 - Assess knowledge construction rather than knowledge acquisition
2. 'From authoritarian to authoritative teaching':
 - teachers can no longer rely on enforcement or authority to get compliance, rather teachers need to connect and relate with students in order to develop rapport.
 - Maintain high standards, develop growth mindsets, be authentic and consistent in order to win respect and trust of students over time.
 - Treat students as individuals rather than a generic group of students, by allowing opportunities for them to pursue their unique interests and talents.
3. 'From expounding to experiencing learning'
 - Involve students as active learners
 - Connect learning to real-world experiences and contemporary issues.
 - Make learning tangible, real and practical.
4. 'From self-esteem to self-efficacy'
 - Help students to form deeply held belief that 'I can do this', by giving intentional and intelligent affirmation (praise effort, not ability'.
 - Be careful of labelling students or promoting fixed mindsets
 - Create safe learning environments that are low threat but high challenge.
 - Teacher should model how to embrace failure as a learning opportunity.

[continued]

McQueen recognises that there are various obstacles to creating these changes, including the conservative nature of education systems, pressure from parents, and competing agendas (such as lack of time, standardised testing, bureaucracy, etc). He poses the following strategies to overcome these obstacles:

- Clear out any traditions/ practices/ routines that are not serving us (such as report writing, red tape, and standardised testing).
- Embrace and incentivise risk taking in order to encourage more innovation within the industry.
- Stimulate more creativity by asking the right questions, encouraging diversity and dissent, and asking for more input from front-line team members (including teaching and even students).
- Leverage collective wisdom by creating the conditions that will allow for more collaboration, mentoring and peer input in professional development.

Overall, this book is very thought-provoking and contains some great ideas and strategies that teachers can use in the classroom to ensure that their students are effectively prepared for the future.



SASS Appreciation Week

This week is SASS Appreciation Week and we take the opportunity to acknowledge the incredible work of our office, cleaning, maintenance and teaching support staff. We are lucky to have a very talented team who care about our school and how well we serve our community. Ms Keast does an outstanding job leading and building the administration team. Ms Stewart demonstrates great dedication to the school every day and we are very reliant on the attention to detail and experience she brings. Ms Wai and Ms Wood ensure our students and community are always welcomed and assisted efficiently. Ms Parisi and Ms Vij Mahendru help our teachers bring out the best in students and Mr McGuire takes great pride in keeping our school looking good.

Race Walk Success



SCHOOL HOLIDAY WORKSHOPS!

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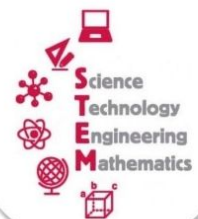
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2020

After School Term 4 classes

Starting Monday 12th October
through Friday 16th

Saturday Morning classes

Starting 17th October

All classes 1 hour per week for 10 weeks

Max 7 per group **Cost \$180** incl.GST

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0408 169 543**

jeffviskovich@gmail.com

2020

Spring Holiday Camps

Camp 1 September 28th to
October 2nd

Camp 2 October 5th to 9th

All camps (Monday to Friday) 9am - 1pm

\$200 per child (\$40 per Day) Incl.GST

• **Private lessons available**

\$40 - 1/2 hr, \$80 - 1 hr

For Children and Adults,
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Court hire \$22/hr, \$24 with lights

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TENNIS COACHING ENROLMENT FORM

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Child's name: _____ Age: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Address: _____ Postcode: _____

Phone: Home _____ Work/Mobile _____ Email address _____

Parent's Name: _____ School attending: _____

Ability level (approx): ☐ Beginner ☐ Advanced Beginner ☐ Intermediate ☐ Advanced

Preferred days and times: _____