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### Reflections from the Head of Education

Are you a Self-Directed Learner; and what is Self-Directed Learning anyway?

The latter part of the question above is something that a huge contingent of OneSchool Global staff spent time considering as we heard inspiring stories from Sir John Jones and gained insights into what could be achieved with one computer connected to the internet and a “Hive Mind” of students learning together collaboratively from the work of Sugata Mitra. It was at the forefront of our minds as we toured the beautiful and happy classrooms of the Auckland Campus and benefitted from the ideas and commitment of the staff at Stonefields Primary School in New Zealand for the Leading Remarkable Learning and SDL Bootcamp in New Zealand.

Self-directed learning is not a new concept. In fact, much has been written about it. Typical, narrow interpretations involve simply giving learners some sort of choice in their learning. For example, allowing learners to select one or more courses from a curriculum, or, in cases of structured on-the-job training, allowing employees to choose what pre-designed modules (e.g., a video tape, workbook, special reading, etc.) to complete. In terms of e-learning, the fact that learners can determine which modules or scenarios to review is also frequently touted as self-directed learning. We were sure that the fact that the learner has a choice and makes a decision to select this or that module or this or that block of time does not constitute true self-directed learning.



## OAKWOOD SCHOOL

### Term Dates 2017

Term 1: 6/2/2017 – 13/4/17

Term 2: 2/5/2017 – 7/7/2017

Term 3: 25/7/17 – 29/9/2017

Term 4: 17/10/17 – 14/12/17

### Important Dates/Upcoming events

#### **March**

#### **Friday 31<sup>st</sup>**

Athletics Carnival in Hobart

#### **April**

#### **Monday 3<sup>rd</sup>**

Hobart Immunisations

#### **Friday 7<sup>th</sup>**

Interim Reports distributed

#### **Thursday 14<sup>th</sup>**

Whole School Photo & Last Day of Term 1

## Reflections cont.

This interpretation is too limited. Self-directed learning is much more. Using the analogy of taking a trip, the narrow interpretation of SDL is equivalent to selecting where to go, i.e., the destination. We feel SDL is broader, more fundamental. It is about the learner deciding not just where to take a trip but how they will go (both the means of transportation as well as route), when they will leave, how they will get there and how long they will stay. That is, the learner takes 1) the initiative to pursue a learning experience, and 2) the responsibility for completing their learning. Self-direction does not mean the learner learns alone or in isolation. While, that may be the case in any given learning situation, the critical factor here, again, is the fact the learner is driving the total learning experience, beginning with recognizing a need to learn. Self-Directed Learners then, need to ask the following questions of themselves:

Where are you going?

Where are you now?

How will you get there?

What will you need to get there?

They then need to find the answers. They can ask their teachers, ask their fellow learners; work at it collaboratively or go it alone. The emphasis is on the learning journey!

Many refined and new initiatives will soon flow from this marvelous opportunity for so many of us to collaborate and to focus on the core business of OneSchool: Learning to Learn.

Just a reminder to all in our community of the fabulous opportunity to all come together and celebrate the skills, teamwork and passion of our young people as they compete at the Oakwood Athletics Carnival in Hobart on Friday 31 March at the Domain Athletics Centre. I look forward to seeing you all there!

Mrs Ann D. Moxham



## WHS Reminders - It's important to inform the School about Student Absences

“Enrolment at the school is voluntary, but once enrolled, attendance is compulsory.”

“Students are required to attend every designated school day for the duration of the daily schedule. This includes sport and excursion days, and compulsory extra curricula activities. Each day, students will be marked as either present or absent on the Roll.”

“If a student is absent unexpectedly, the Campus Administration must be notified no later than school start time. On the day that the student returns to school, a note must be sent to the campus explaining the reason for absence.”

“Latecomers are to report to the Office before going to lessons. Disciplinary action will be taken for those students with a pattern of late arrival.

“Whenever a student needs to leave the campus other than at dismissal time, it is important that the correct procedures are followed:

- A diary note explaining the circumstances and requesting permission must be shown to the campus Administration on arrival.
- The Student must notify the Campus Administration and sign the Day Book both when leaving, and again if they subsequently return the same day (e.g. from an appointment etc.).

This procedure ensures that the campus records accurately show who is present at the campus, which is essential when an evacuation is necessary in order for the Campus Administration to accurately account for all students.”

Excerpted from OneSchool B5 Planner 2017

At the Devonport Site, Community Mums cooked and served an afternoon tea for the visiting delegates attending the IST NAPLAN Online Readiness Presentation on the 15<sup>th</sup> of March. The most common word used by our visitors was 'WOW'! A credit to the ladies and some of our students who helped arrange the tables and connect all the IT - in particular Marcus Ingles set up the laptop, screen and monitor.



Afternoon Tea for  
IST NAPLAN  
Online Readiness  
Presentation  
*hosted at Devonport  
Campus*



There are more pages to this edition, however due to the size it could not be uploaded to the website. Please email [gwendy.smith@oakwood.tas.edu.au](mailto:gwendy.smith@oakwood.tas.edu.au) to receive the full version.