Dear All

This is a copy of Parent Information sheet I am placing in Principal column of school newsletter. I wanted you to have a copy before the parents.

I shall be continuing to provide material re the changes we are facing in education over the rest of this term. It will be great to have our parents informed so we are all on the same page.

Thanks so much for all your great work. Love working with you all. Love seeing the kids happy faces as they enjoy school. Quote of the week from one K-2 boy yesterday “ Mrs Boyle, I just love school at the moment I am learning so much. It’s great!”

**21st Century Learning and Generational Change Part 1**

As we look at education from 2012-2014 there are 4 main influences facing primary education.

1. Globally – **21st century learning/ generational change**-

2. National level- **The Australian Curriculum**

3. State Level- **Local Schools, Local Decisions; Every Student, Every School**

4. School Level- new planning cycle- **Strategic Directions 2012-2014** - **School Plan 2012-2014**

***These 4 areas demand change is undertaken within schools. At Bangalow PS we need to be proactive and position ourselves for change.*** We need to allow for a planned and incremental change.

Step 1 in this process is our whole school Situational Analysis. This will ensure we have positive change with a clear vision and future directions. It is a genuine collaboration which includes all stakeholders. Conducting a full Situational Analysis is not a quick process. It needs to be thorough and transparent as it sets our school direction for the next 3 years. **The whole school working together in a mutually respectful and supportive relationship is essential if we are to provide the best education possible for our students/ your children.**

**21st Century learning will have the** greatest impact on current education and provides our greatest challenge. It demands changes in teaching/learning throughout the world and has been embedded into our new Australian Curriculum.

**Influence 1- 21st century learning and Generational change**

***Our students are/will be operating in a global world. To be successful as adults our students need to develop the skills and fluencies that will enable them to become active and informed citizens of the 21st century.***

Australia has a high performing education system that fares well on international comparisons; however, the rest of the world is not standing still.

The *Melbourne Declaration on Educational Goals for Young Australians* makes clear that Australia aspires not to be among the best in the world, but to be the best.

It acknowledges the challenges and opportunities of the 21st century, and provides two simple, but powerful goals to guide Australian education:

**Goal 1:** Australian schooling promotes equity and excellence.

**Goal 2:** All young Australians become:

**>** successful learners

**>** confident and creative individuals

**>** active and informed citizens.

**The 4 Cs**

Today we have an obligation to equip our students with the skills and knowledge they need as 21st century successful learners, which is why we now talk about the importance of the 4Cs, as well as the 3Rs - **creativity, critical thinking, communication and collaboration.**

This demands that teaching across the globe takes on ‘new rules of engagement so we are truly teaching for this generation and the world into which they will move as adults. It is **based-on understanding generational aspirations, culture and way of learning.**

**Our K-6 students are Gen Z.** Their world is a different world to that in which we encountered. What do we know about this generation? According to Michael McQueen who is a leading Australian specialist in demographic shifts, generational change and business trends and a familiar face on international conference circuits (the whole staff attended Michael McQueen’s presentation on our Term 2 Staff Development Day), Gen Z students are:

*SWITCHED ON*

*PLUGGED IN*

*GROWN UP*

*PAMPERED*

*EMPOWERED*

*RISK AVERSE*

***These are your children. If you would like to know more about Gen Z I have included a link to an article written by Michael McQueen on our school website; “Ready or not... Here come Gen Z”***

Next week I shall continue discussing the impact of 21st century learning.

Kind regards

Susie Boyle

Principal