Dear Parents

This is the second update for parents regarding changes in education which will come into effect over the next 3 years.

Last week we began to examine the 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 all schools. At Bangalow PS we need to be proactive and position ourselves for change.* Most importantly we need to allow for a planned and incremental change.**

***This week we continue to examine the global influence of 21st century learning.***

In a 21st century education system, technology must be used comprehensively and purposefully to support students in mastering the full range of ***what*** they need to learn—core subjects, 21st century themes and 21st century skills.

**\* Learning is not just about having access to technology it must also be based on the 4 Cs of 21stC learning-:**  **creativity, critical thinking, communication and collaboration.**

Learning will further address individual needs but allowing students to work in teams to collaborate and use creative/critical thinking skills is essential. The 4Cs will need to be explicitly taught so our students can be successful learners, confident and creative individuals and active informed citizens in this new century.

***In the 21st century, Australian schools are to be places*** that support learners, both to develop their capabilities for their short-term student lives and to support them to become lifelong learners.

Thus over the next few years our schools are required to foster technologies-enabled teaching and learning to inspire students to become intellectual risk-takers and creative problem-solvers.

We realise that a 21st-century learning environment isn’t just about the technology; it is about establishing learning outcomes, and then giving the teachers the technology they need to get there.

Those learning outcomes are illustrated in the graphic below. The arches of the rainbow represent 21st-century student outcomes, and the pools at the bottom represent support systems. Technology is just one of the tools we use to help students learn the 4 Cs—critical thinking, collaboration, communication, and creativity—along with core subjects, life skills, and information and technology skills.



**What are we doing at Bangalow PS to prepare for 21st century learning?**

***As a teaching staff we are positioning ourselves to gradually take on the changes needed before the introduction of the Australian Curriculum in 2014.***

• All staff see the benefits of and are keen to include appropriate technologies in teaching and learning.

• The staff are motivated to take on whole school and individual professional learning to increase the purposeful and relevant use of technology into teaching and learning within our classrooms.

• Over the next few years as we engage further with technology our goal is to ensure the teaching and learning conducted with technologies will meet the needs of students and be consistent with local, state and national goals.

Our school Situational Analysis ensures that all stakeholders have a genuine voice as we write our vision and directions (School Plan) for the next 3 years.

• At Bangalow PS there is a strong and mutually supportive relationship amongst the staff, parents and students.

**Thanks so much to the support of our P & C Association** the school has just received **a class set of 15 DEC laptops** which will allow all students within the class to access technology for collaboration, creativity, communication and critical thinking. We are currently looking for grants to increase this to a full class set of 30 DEC laptops.

***Next week I shall provide information on the 2nd Influence- the introduction of the Australian Curriculum which has 21st century learning embedded into each core area of learning.***

Kind regards

Susie Boyle

Principal