Throughout 2014 we have endeavoured to present to the children at St. Peter’s, high quality, effective learning and teaching. Last Friday the Grade 4, 5 and 6 children were involved in their “Makers’ Faire”. For the visiting parents, children and teachers it was a truly memorable event of which we should be very proud and celebrate.

One of the main reasons the children were delighted with their finished products was that they had displayed a great deal of inventive, divergent thinking to achieve a positive outcome. This process involved trialling certain theories, making mistakes and a great deal of research and collaboration. In many ways the children in Grade Prep and One (and Grade Two in 2015), during their Walker Learning Investigations each day, are similarly engaged in their learning. It is imperative for the children to be engaged and excited about their learning. When they have a positive outlook about their learning, it is our shared hope they will become more fluent writers, solve maths problems and become confident, risk takers.

In other curriculum areas such as Visual Arts we also want the children to experiment with their art materials and designs. There is a place for conformity and duplicating one approach to art, however we celebrate the unique talents of each child and welcome individuality and creativity throughout the learning process. Throughout the day there are times for a “stand and deliver” lesson when teaching a specific topic, for example teaching equivalence in fractions. At St. Peter’s this remains a valid and widely used approach, however when half the class, using the above example have proven in their “Pre-Test”, they already get equivalence in fractions...I expect our teachers to push the children who get it, to go further and deeper.

To this end it is comforting for you as parents to know that our children have achieved good results not only this year but in recent years as well. It is also our goal for the children’s result to improve even further over the next few years. Some of the learning spaces may appear to be different from time to time, however the learning atmosphere is designed to be more personalised for each child. Within these learning spaces we endeavour to provide children with designated quiet spaces for independent work, as well as spaces that are designed to encourage collaboration and group work as needed. The learning will also be characterised and enhanced by the meaningful use of technology, to research, create and design material that is contemporary and of high quality. This approach was typified by our Grade 4’s Bring Your Own Device (B.Y.O.D.) which was an amazing success.

As a boy growing up in the 1960’s learning was synonymous with memorisation and recalling events and information. The boys and girls of St. Peter’s don’t live in that world, it is a bygone era, the world has changed and therefore their education must reflect these changes. Rest assured that any changes made to learning and teaching at St Peter’s are not taken lightly, but rather through careful research into contemporary practices and in the spirit of the following quote -

="We need to prepare students for THEIR future not OUR past.”

Ian Jukes, Educator

Kind Regards

Michael McGrath (Principal)