

The children in the Primary school will have studied the novel *Fog a Dox!* Its an amazing story of difference – what the possibilities are and what is needed to reconcile it.

A beautiful story!

Links to interviews with Bruce Pascoe:

<http://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/breakfast/dark-emu-challenges-of-early-aboriginal-history/5361210>

www.abc.net.au/local/audio/2014/03/17/3965103.htm?site=kimberley

<http://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/busstelegraph/rethinking->



OPAL Cards for 2017

Most students or parents/guardians won't need to apply for the School Opal card if they currently hold a 2016 School Travel Pass. The School Opal card will be sent to a student's school automatically at the beginning of the new school year in 2017.

However, a new application is required if:

- the student is just starting school or has not had a pass for travel before.
- the student is progressing from Year 2 to 3, or Year 6 to 7.

You will also need to reapply if the student needs to be able to travel to multiple home addresses, if your details have changed, for example changing schools (other than moving from Years 2 to 3 or Years 6 to 7), your address or your name, then complete this [application form](https://apps.transport.nsw.gov.au/ssts/howToApply) to update your details. <https://apps.transport.nsw.gov.au/ssts/howToApply>

Tomanelli Inc are seeking young people from ages 7–15 to audition for "The Water Babies -a Folk Opera "for an upcoming performance of this original new work by the Australian composer/librettist Freddie Hill at Kindlehill Performance Space.

For further information please contact Jo Truman or Freddie Hill
Ph: 0413 638 737 tomanelli.inc@gmail.com



Newsletter: 7th November 2016

BRUCE PASCOE is visiting our school! Hard to believe but completely true! Friday 11th November

Here's a quick bio on him:

Bruce Pascoe is an award-winning Australian writer, editor and anthologist. His books include *Shark*, *Ruby-eyed Coucal*, *Ocean*, *Earth* and *Nightjar*. Bruce has also written a number of non-fiction works, the latest includes *Dark Emu 2014*, *Convincing Ground*, a Wathaurong language dictionary and *The Little Red, Yellow, Black Book*. His novel, *Bloke*, was published in 2009. The children's novel, *The Chainsaw File*, was published by Oxford in 2011. *Fog, a dox* was published in 2012 by Magabala and won the Prime Minister's award for Young Adult Literature in 2013. *Dark Emu* was published by Magabala in Feb 2014 and won the NSW Premier's Book of the Year in 2016. *Seahorse* (YA) was published in 2015 by Magabala and Mrs Whitlam (YA) in 2016. He attended the ANZ literary festival in London and the Dublin Literary Festival in 2014 and travelled to Ireland, Edinburgh, Mongolia, India, Washington and New York to talk about *Dark Emu* at Writers' Festivals, Universities and Indigenous communities in 2015



On a more personal note Bruce Pascoe has been one of those authors and figures whom has inspired much conversation, much thinking and reflecting and ultimately been an important influence on how we educate our children at this school...

It's a huge honour for us that he is coming. We're hoping that for him that its an affirmation that his beautiful words are striking at peoples hearts, that we are listening and responding to his message; that we are all in our way working towards a more peaceful and reconciled Australia and that when we look to our children we can see the hope and strength of our future..

Calendar Term 4 2016: Monday 10/10 – Fri 9/12

- Week 5: National Recycling Week
 Week 6: Class 1-2 camp to Newnes
 Wed 16/11 Career expo at Grammar for 9/10
 Fri 18/11 Romeo and Juliet Performance; class 7-8
- Week 7: Class 3-4 camp to Colo River
 Class 5-6 instrumental concerts
 Geography on the road 2 weeks 7-8 (18/11 – 21/11)
- Week 8: Class 3-4 instrumental concerts
 Week 9: Thur 8/12 class 3-4 play
 Fri 9/12 Kindy farewell and graduation to 1st class
 Sat 10/12 Human Rights Day
 Sat 10/12 End of year whole school working bee and social
 Sun 11/12 year 10 Graduation

Bruce Pascoe will be sharing a fire, a cuppa tea and some damper at our school.

FRIDAY 11th NOVEMBER 3pm-4.30pm

Down at the circle of fire (weather permitting)

It's a relaxed affair. A yarn by the fire!

Please come and share.

In order to help us with the damper and tea catering, Could you please RSVP to the office by WEDNESDAY 9th.

Children in the Primary School will need to be at school 3pm to sing his welcome song.

With Spring the nits have Sprung - time for a Spring Clean

I'm not sure if lice are very nice.

They check in with their nits, like your head is the Ritz.

They come by the dozens and bring all their cousins.

It is time to Spring clean.... it is not that mean! (anon)

The Healthy Imagination - Television and Computer games

This then, is why the teachers endeavour to make the school environment "a television/computer game free zone". We encourage the children to play games from their own imaginations. Generally speaking, children who watch television play out the ideas, images, and plots they see on television.

Children who are not influenced by television play out of their own inner forces of imagination. Television and video/computer games are saturated with junk food for the soul – violence, aggression, greed and competitiveness. Children who are exposed to these things, 'play' them out in their social lives. If we surround children with kindness, with the wonders of nature, we give them the gift of imaginative freedom. Freedom to imagine a world that is peaceful, kind and joy filled.

Parents can support each other and the school in creating and maintaining an environment where there is respect, kindness, and well being for all, by nurturing and protecting their own children's precious imaginations. As part of this, we request that parents consciously monitor and review, their children's access to computer and television. Class teachers can provide guidance in this regard and a number of articles are available, that discuss the effects of television and computer use on children.

Television prematurely awakens the adolescent desire nature. In healthy children this remains 'sleeping' until they are ready and equipped to meet it. If there is one thing that can be done now to smooth the troubled waters of adolescence it is to place clear boundaries around the use of screen technology and social media while your child is young.

Being clear with Parents – easy around food but perhaps not so with technology.

Impact on relationship between adult and child – the fight about technology. As agreed, the strategies which involved making the ethos of the school more visible or more loud, as well as whether we need a more explicit policy has been set on the college agenda for the next month. I'll report back on that later in the term.

So I guess to sum it up ...

We hope so far that we have laid down a foundation from where parents can more comfortably engage in a conversation with each other and your children about technology and how we can be healthier and happier around it. Its not a conversation that has concluded and we will look forward to more discussion.

With warmth, Erica

The Healthy Imagination - Television and Computer games

The imagination, so vivid and wonderful in the play of the child, is a precious resource. In time, this capacity for imagination, which arises so naturally in every child, can be transformed into creative and flexible thinking, far-sighted vision, and the 'aha' of discovery and invention. It can become the artist's eye for transformation and the musician's skill for improvisation. It can be transformed into joyful, purposeful relationships with others, with the environment and the world at large. A most precious resource, this imagination! Water is life to the physical body. Imagination is life to the soul.

Let's protect it, nurture it, and nourish it with all good things. Let's keep it active and engaged, well nourished, well exercised – a recipe for health.

Technology And Trends In Education

This is a very interesting article that explores the impact technology is having on student achievement with salient comments from renowned Finland education expert, Dr Pasi Sahlberg.

<http://www.smh.com.au/national/-gsbnuy.html>

Romeo And Juliet Friday 18TH November 7pm

CLASS 7/8 warmly invites you to their PERFORMANCE of Romeo and Juliet like you haven't seen it before! Original music to support themes. We thoroughly encourage families to come and see this lovely production, expertly directed by Georgia and Rowley.

Peace Prize

Congratulations to Sofia and Nissa S for being prize winners in the Regional Art Peace Prize for high school students. The paintings of class 7/8, all constructed around the students' individual messages of peace, are exhibited on the wall of the high school classroom and parents are welcome to view before or after school over the next 2 weeks.

Vanuatu Film

Year 9/10 recently presented their reflections on the Vanuatu trip. One of the short films has been posted on our facebook site and we invite you to view. We take pleasure in sharing the beauty and meaningfulness of this adventure with you. Lynn

<https://www.facebook.com/KindlehillSchool/>

At this time each year, the **Kindy Garden** is visited by the beautiful green female Bowerbirds who come to delight on the few strawberries in our garden. This year we have decided to invite Bluey Bowerbird to visit our garden as well.

Last week, Kindy created a giant bower that we decorated with everything blue...ribbon, flowers, felt and pegs, but he remained hidden. The next day we all dressed in blue and made blueberry muffins, still no sign! Finally, we visited the lake and surrounding bush and sung out "Cooey...Bluey!" While searching for signs of a bower. We later enjoyed the sweet music of Bronwyn and her magical Shakuhachi. Such a beautiful blue bower day.



Technology Meeting Wednesday 2nd November 2016

Thank you to everyone who attended last weeks meeting about **TECHNOLOGY** and our children. It was a great turn out and a really interesting discussion. As agreed here are the minutes or notes from that meeting.

We began with a revisit of the schools ethos as set out in the handbook and its included here again for you to read.

We discussed our **HOPES** and **EXPECTATIONS** of the meeting. We identified and fleshed out a bit what the **ISSUES** were (and are) for us as parents and carers and finally we sought to come up with some **STRATEGIES** to manage the issues:

Hopes And Expectations:

Wanting some guidance and discussion about what acceptable ranges of time spent on screen would be for children at different ages.

Wanting information about the technology and to learn.

Finding out some ways to navigate differing opinions between families especially around sleepover and play dates.

Ways around having the conversations comfortably about managing expectations of the 'play date'.

How can parents support each other.

More information and exposure to ideas such as **TECHNOLOGY PAGE** in the Highschool Happenings. Links in newsletters to interesting articles for parents.

Some Strategies for supervision –

assist host parent to know what your child enjoys doing so as to sustain the play date make it more enjoyably and not default to movies etc.

Keep to set arrangements to prevent going overtime and parents having to default to screens

Explicit policy about access to screens beyond the handbook.

Removing the device from child or home.

Continuing the conversation at a class level especially around content

Appreciating the benefits of technology

Issues:

The school has some expectations of parents when they enrol their child and we ought to support ways that enable parents to honour those expectations.

Technology becomes the currency among the children. This means that children with differing levels of access to technology are on different power bases to each other. Things like choosing friends according to their level of access to technology, affects the type of play children are involved in.

Content of materials—movies and devices

Supervision—all technology should be supervised?

Is having good access to Technology an important component of their preparation for their future.

The issue of Consent from parents

Loss of creativity – children zoning out.

Social media and curfews.