WEEK 8

Middle – Notes from Teachers
Senior – Notes from Speakers/ Teachers

Learning Goals - at the end of this week your child should have:

- An understanding of how they gather knowledge through all of their senses and an enhanced capability to recognise messages being sent through body language, verbal cues and voice tones.
- A self awareness of when they are and when they are not in the learning zone.
- A proactive attitude to use the weekly Habits of Mind and Thinking Tools to strive, thrive and flourish in their living, learning and thinking.

Value for Life – Responsibility

Identify three positive behaviours which show Responsibility at home, then at school and then in the community.

Wellbeing Focus

Cultivating conscious habits in our students to adapt how they learn and think for differing situations will build their positive growth mindsets to even greater heights. They gather information through all of their senses but may not have the self awareness to realise that they are. It is important to explicitly teach students how to be in the learning zone and adopt “active and questioning” approaches in class; being mindful of what is happening moment by moment. Very few students will naturally pick up these valuable lifelong learning dispositions along the way.

Building students’ capacity to listen with their eyes, their ears and their hearts will enable them to absorb and question the main messages and how they connect with what they already know. This in turn provides them with opportunities to extend their current reality and pursue areas of interest.

Activities focused on students learning how to read body language, listening for verbal cues and changes in voice tones to emphasise certain points, build students’ mindfulness to be in the moment; they are learning how to learn.

Encouraging students to explore and follow their natural curiosity will nurture ‘can do’ and ‘want to’ dispositions in them.

Asking themselves questions such as the following ones builds their connections with the subject material, “How does this connect with what I already know?”, “How can I use this knowledge?” “How can I apply it to new situations?” “How can I make predictions based on this knowledge?”

Arriving at class, sitting quietly and hoping that the brain will somehow absorb knowledge is non-productive and disengaging for students. Encouraging students to participate and contribute enthusiastically in class will yield increased understanding, better comprehension and a more enjoyable learning experience all round.

According to Yoram Harpaz, a noted Israeli educator, to prepare 21st century learners for a life of learning, we must move away from the 20th century classroom belief that learning is listening, teaching is telling and knowledge is an object to be transferred. Our classrooms need to become places of adventure, experimentation and exploration that arouse our students’ curiosity to flourish.

“Learning is not the filling of the bucket, but the lighting of the fire.”  Saying