



NEWS@ST PAUL'S

Term 3, Week 10, 2023

From the Principal - Mrs Valencia

5 Reasons Why It Is More Important Than Ever to Teach Creativity

Research shows that creativity isn't just great to have but rather is an essential human skill — perhaps even an educational imperative in our world. St Paul's is a strong advocate of creativity. Here are five reasons to encourage teachers to bring more creativity into the classroom:

1. Creativity motivates kids to learn.

Decades of research link creativity with the intrinsic drive to learn. When students are focused on a creative goal, they become more absorbed in their learning and more driven to acquire the skills they need to accomplish it. We see this at St Paul's through our inquiry learning time – and watch it come to life at our Learning Expo. Students are most motivated to learn when they're able to tie their learning to their personal interests, they have a sense of autonomy and control over their task, and they feel competent in the work they're doing. Creative school projects can easily meet all three conditions.

2. Creativity lights up the brain.

Teachers who frequently assign classwork involving creativity are more likely to observe higher-order cognitive skills — problem solving, critical thinking, making connections between subjects — in their students, and when teachers combine creativity with transformative technology use, they see even better outcomes. Creative work helps students connect new information to their prior knowledge.

3. Creativity spurs emotional development.

The creative process involves a lot of trial and error. Productive struggle — a gentler term for failure — builds resilience, teaching students to push through difficulty to reach success. That's fertile soil for emotional growth. Creativity gives students the freedom to explore and learn new things from each other. As they overcome challenges and bring their creative ideas to fruition, students begin to see that they have limitless boundaries.

4. Creativity can ignite those hard-to-reach students.

Many educators have at least one story about a student who was struggling until the teacher assigned a creative project. When academically disinclined students are permitted to unleash their creativity or explore a topic of personal interest, the transformation can be startling. As we know, some students don't do well on tests but they're incredibly creative. Diversity in learning is vital to allow for increased creativity and engagement.

5. Creativity is an essential job skill of the future.

According to a recent Adobe study, 85% of college-educated professionals say creative thinking is critical for problem solving in their careers, and an analysis of LinkedIn data found that creativity is the second most in-demand job skill, topping the list of soft skills that companies need most. As automation continues to swallow up routine jobs, those who rely on soft skills like creativity will continue to see the most growth.

So these school holidays, I challenge you to be creative with your holiday activities. Build the cubby houses, pull out the Lego box, leave a pile of sheets and towels around, and let the creative juices flow. Perhaps your child can create a stop motion video with Lego or playdough, or maybe they can paint a beautiful picture. My own children used to paint landscapes on the faces of old pavers lying around our backyard. May your holidays be relaxing, beautiful and creative.

Mrs Valencia



Psalm 127:3-5

*Children are a gift from the LORD; they are a reward from him.
Children born to a young man are like arrows in a warrior's hands.
How joyful is the man whose quiver is full of them!*

As we head into school holidays, sometimes I can anticipate the worst of what the next two weeks could look like.... Am I going to have two whole weeks of kids fighting, hearing the repetitive sounds of, "I'm bored", while also struggling to keep the washing at bay with the extra towels and clothes that holidays bring.

Sometimes I can lose focus on the fact that kids are God's gift to us. Kids give us the opportunity to play, to take a break from the seriousness and embrace the joy. Kids help us to understand that mess is ok. In fact, when I think of the fruits of the Spirit (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self control kids help us experience and grow in all these areas!

One way I have learnt to intentionally experience fun with my kids, is to have an empty jar, and some scrap pieces of paper. The kids write on the paper, fun ideas they would like to do with us and put it in the jar. We have no idea what's on them, and we randomly pull one out on a Friday night and schedule in the activity over the weekend. Kids are so creative in the way they experience fun. So far, we have done hide and seek in the dark, eating ice cream in the back of the Ute at Mt Mee, camp out in the backyard, camp in in my bedroom, movie night, Switch night and the list goes on....

So my encouragement to you as we head into school holidays, is to embrace the fun that your kids have to offer. I know there will be some not-so-great parts of holidays, but remember our kids are a gift from God, so let's experience that gift for all it has to offer!

Have a blessed and safe holiday.

Chappy Teneille



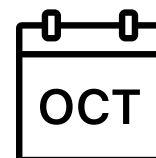
What's coming up?



- 14 - Year 4A Visit to PCYC - Bike Education
- 15 - Last Day of Term 3 - Jeans 4 Genes Day

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

18/09 to 02/10



- 02 - King's Birthday Public Holiday
- 03 - October - First Day of Term 4

