

Stage 3 Learning Expo

Dear Parents and Carers,

Soon Stage 3 students will be starting something very exciting in our classrooms "Learning Expo" is an inquiry-based learning program, based on decades of research into this particular type of learning. The inquiry approach allows students to work on a project or idea they are passionate about in class time. Learning Expo encourages and fosters the students' sense of curiosity, ownership and empowerment over their learning, both in and out of the classroom.

Learning Expo will take place within a certain time frame each week. The students will identify a topic or problem they are passionate about, then develop a deep, open-ended inquiry question (with the guidance of the teacher) to answer or solve. The students then work through a structured inquiry process, one step at a time, in order to find an answer or create a solution to their question. Students will then present or create a final product to present their findings. This may take one of many forms such as writing a book, making a movie, presenting a speech, cooking, building or performing a community service. Stage 3 students will present their findings at an "expo" style afternoon/evening held on the **Tuesday 29th October** where parents, staff, students and community members will be invited to come and see their work.

Learning Expo can be implemented seamlessly in the context of the current curriculum, meeting objectives and outcomes across a variety of learning areas.

4/5U, 5C and 5/6Q students will be looking at the concept "Factors that effect change".
6J and 6H students will be looking at the concept "How we organise ourselves".

Through the Learning Expo process, the students will learn to:

- link their ideas and research to express feelings and opinions
- create texts, presentations and/or products for familiar and unfamiliar audiences
- contribute ideas and opinions to class discussions
- engage in processes of collaborative learning e.g. brainstorming, negotiating, problem-solving, taking action, task completion and evaluation
- investigate successful solutions to problems
- take responsibility by initiating interactions with others.

As a parent or carer, you can help your child with their Learning Expo projects! As the students develop their initial ideas, they will need to refine these and shape them into an open-ended inquiry question. While we will be working on this in class, discussing these ideas at home may help your child be more successful in completing their topic.

Remember, you are also an invaluable resource and a wealth of information! If you have a particular area of interest or expertise, we would love for you to offer your guidance and knowledge (should a student in our class base their Learning Expo project on this topic).

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us directly.

Kind regards,

Stage 3 Teachers