

Primary entry #62: Edgeworth Heights Public School



# THE CUTTING EDGE



Australian students are fortunate to not fear attending school.  
Picture: Abby Kennedy-Swan and Ramaneet Kaur Atwal

## Kidnapping children's education

By YEAR 5 GIRLS  
ENRICHMENT GROUP

IT'S been 17 months since the kidnapping of Nigerian school girls by one of the world's worst terrorist groups – Boko Haram, which translates to Western Education is Forbidden – which resulted in most Nigerian students fearing school.

In western civilisations we have free education and safer working places compared to those of Nigeria where the 276 school girls were kidnapped. Fifty-seven girls escaped, however 219 remain missing. In Australian it is mandatory for children aged from 6 to 17 to attend school and the NSW rules relating to days off school have recently changed, however students continue to be absent and undervalue their education, where as in Nigeria students risk their lives just by attending school.

Countries across the world are coming together to find the girls and stop Boko Haram. The Nigerian government launched a military operation with international backing to locate the girls who are still held captive. No negotiations with Boko Haram have been instigated.

Many Nigerian children and parents are too scared to attend school because of such attacks. This is impacting on their right to a good education and future employment.

## Dictator vs democracy

By YEAR 6 BOYS  
ENRICHMENT GROUP

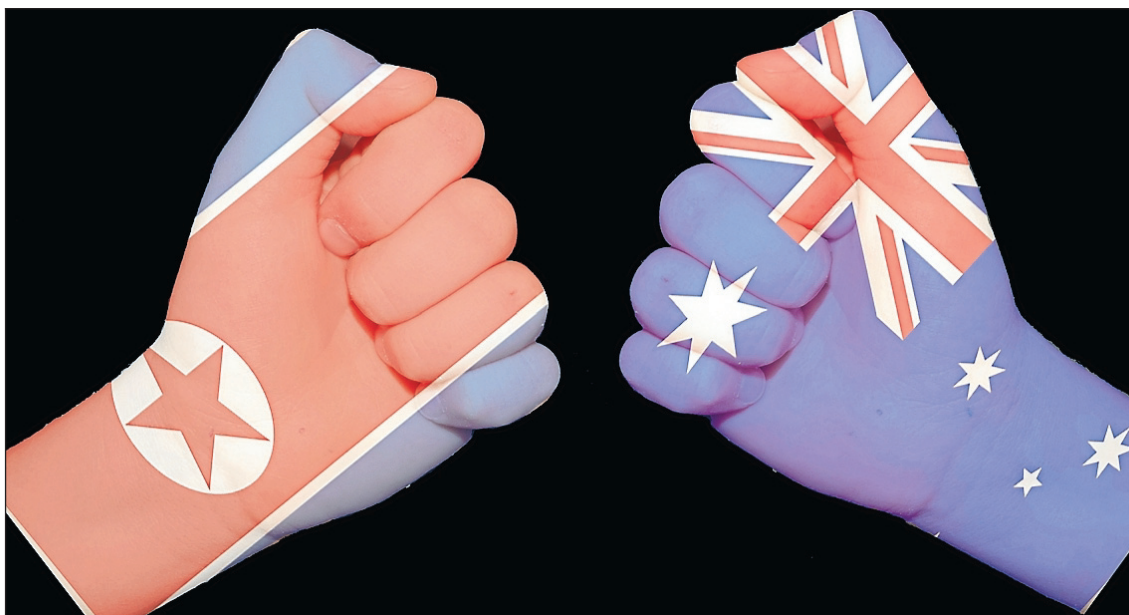
MANY Australians disliked former Prime Minister Tony Abbott, however compared to North Korea's totalitarian ruler and dictator, Kim Jong-un, Mr Abbott was a reasonable and effective leader.

Kim Jong-un has drawn global attention for his totalitarian leadership, obsession with nuclear weapons and public executions.

Recently his defence minister was executed for talking back at Kim Jong-un and falling asleep at a ceremony. Officials completed his sentence with a ZPU-4 anti-aircraft cannon in front of hundreds of North Korean observers.

Some North Korean citizens attempt to defect from their country due to starvation, poverty, lack of electricity and economic reasons. Yeonmi Park was one of those citizens who defected in 2007 with the help of people smugglers. She trekked across mountains and frozen rivers to escape to China with her mother, witnessing awful events including the bodies of North Koreans who didn't make it across the border, floating down the river.

Comparatively, former Prime Minister Tony Abbott was generally disliked by Australian citizens due to his inability to answer simple questions and for his



Even with multiple leadership challenges, Australia's democracy is still intact compared to North Korea's totalitarian government.  
Picture: Year 6 Boys Enrichment Group; Mrs McGowan

policies which were out of touch with the Australian population.

Fortunately Australians, unlike North Koreans, are able to express opinions about our government and laws. North Koreans are deprived of these basic rights as indicated by the many prison camps and 2000 government prisoners. All TVs and radios are pre-

set to receive only government frequencies, ensuring citizens are subject to government propaganda.

Due to poor treatment of its citizens, North Korea has violated many United Nations (UN) freedom laws. There is little hope for North Korean citizens, because Kim Jong-un is a totalitarian ruler with an iron fist.

Comparatively, Australian leaders are democratically elected by the public who will hold the government accountable for their actions at the polling booth or by their own party in a leadership challenge. North Korean citizens lack the luxury of voting Kim Jong-un out of power and so are helpless against his insane antics.



Students Ayden and Nyah learn each day with iPads.  
Picture: Sam Turley

## iPad learning for digital natives

By YEAR 5 BOYS  
ENRICHMENT GROUP

THIS year Edgeworth Heights Public School integrated 45 iPads to increase student engagement and improve learning with the assistance of educational apps.

Research highlights the effectiveness of iPads in education, finding they motivate and engage stu-

dents. Schools utilising iPads have proven to outperform schools without iPads.

Teacher Lauren Maxted discovered student reading has increased since the integration of iPads, "Students use [iPads] particularly in reading groups to practise strategies that improve their reading fluency".

iPads cover over 50,000 subjects across all grades, playing a key role in remov-

ing barriers for special needs children. At EHPS, visually impaired student, Lily-May uses the camera function to enlarge items on the screen "I zoom in on my work so I can see it". Connor, a student with motor skills difficulties, uses an iPad to "improve his finger dexterity and primary motor skills," said Ruth Fleming his school learning support officer.

Funding applications close  
16 October 2015



Noah Quinn (Technical Aid to the Disabled)

## Need funding for a Community Project?

Each year, Newcastle Permanent Charitable Foundation provides more than \$1.5 million in grants to eligible not-for-profit organisations in communities across regional NSW, including the Hunter. The Foundation offers grants for projects and initiatives which address disadvantage in the areas of health, social wellbeing and marginalised or vulnerable young people.

To date, the Foundation has provided over \$14 million in grants for more than 350 important community projects. Applications for this round of funding close 16 October with grants announced in February 2016.

To apply for a grant or for more information  
visit [charitablefoundation.com.au](http://charitablefoundation.com.au)  
or call 13 19 87.

NEWCASTLE PERMANENT  
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