

Cartoon: Gerard Saccasan

Macbook provides macsimum benefit

EDITORIAL

By JAI COXON, SAXON GRUBB and RILEY GINNS

DO you see yourself learning better in the future with technology? Well, St John's Lambton is one of the schools lucky enough to be using the Mac Program within the classroom.

This program is a great because it's easy to use and very helpful to the students. Years 5 and 6 use the Apple Mac Pros (an advanced form of Macbook or laptop); they also use online activities such as Mathletics, Reading Plus and much more. The Mac has four accounts, an administrator, guest and the two students who it use.

Just imagine yourself walking around Newcastle with lots of heavy work, you might lose paper or work, whereas if you had a Mac you can store so much more, and it won't get bigger or heavier. The students who have a love for technology can show their usefulness by helping the teacher.

Google docs is a great program because of the internet use. You can transport saved files, documents, music and more at the click of a button, however there are

negatives to this luxury. There is a cyber safety issue to those who decide to click on pop-ups and try to friend people online that they don't know. But on the other side the Macs are set up so you can't view anything violent and the teacher can see what you are doing.

Kindergarten, years 1, 3 and 4 at St John's Lambton are using iPads to their full potential by using them for educational uses.

The iPads are a great idea but as always, they have a downside. Parents might complain about their child being addicted to screens. Even though it is used for educational purposes, could this be another screen trying to rule their lives?

I believe this problem could be prevented by having a timetable for their screen time. People say that it's because children have their nose two inches away from a screen, they are too antisocial and don't know how to mingle with other real people. Is the Mac and iPad program beneficial for schools, or is this just another time waster?

With the rapid rate of technology changes and upgrades in our society, I think it's important that schools remain up-to-date and enable students to use technology to their full potential.

Water-skiing star has sights on future wins

By GERARD SACCASAN, JOEL O'TOOLE and CALLUM BRAZZILL

ELEVEN-year-old Joel O'Toole is a fantastic water-skier who loves what he does. Joel was five when he started water-skiing. Joel has two older siblings, Sarah and Carly who also go around Australia with him and his father, Neil O'Toole, to compete in water-skiing events.

Joel has made it to the Australian water-skiing nationals seven times. There are three separate events in water-skiing: slalom, trick and jump.

In slalom there are six buoys in the water that you go around on one long and thin water ski. The maximum speed is 55 km/h. In trick you do different movements in and outside the wake such as 360 spins and flips. In jump there are two skiers who go over a ramp at about 40 km/h.

Each year nationals takes place in a different part of Australia. Neil had the opportunity to participate in the world championships in Mexico. Carly and Sarah have been in the Australia/Kiwi tournament for six years in a row and they have also been awarded Australian Champions.

Joel shows a strong talent and can do tricks, such as 360 spins, toe Os and wake back-to-back. "Make sure to keep your knees bent, arms straight and keep on trying no matter what," Joel said.

The trick that Joel is practising



Joel practicing for the upcoming Nationals in Darwin.

and eager to learn is a back flip.

To be a professional water-skier you have to train many times a week.

Joel goes to different places around NSW to train. He trains four

times a week leading up to nationals at Myuna Bay in Wangi Wangi and also Stoney Park in Port Macquarie.

Joel will never stop skiing and will always be amazing at what he does.

St John's helping hands make light work

By MIA CONWAY and CALEY WALLACE

ST John's Primary School Lambton is a small school, with around 200 students and a lot of caring parents to help along the way.

St John's was established in 1883 to educate the children of workers employed in the nearby mine. The mine has closed but St John's is still running better than ever.

Parents are recognised as being the first educators of the children working in close partnership with

professional teachers. Parents at St John's help with many activities including school barbeques, organising raffles, canteen, year 6 parent meeting nights, athletics and swimming carnivals, discos, excursions, Harmony Day activities and many more.

Year 1 grandmother, Robyn Benney and year 5 grandmother Noeline Rosington, help at the school library and the canteen: "We love seeing the kids each day and helping wherever we can. It's such a happy school to be at."

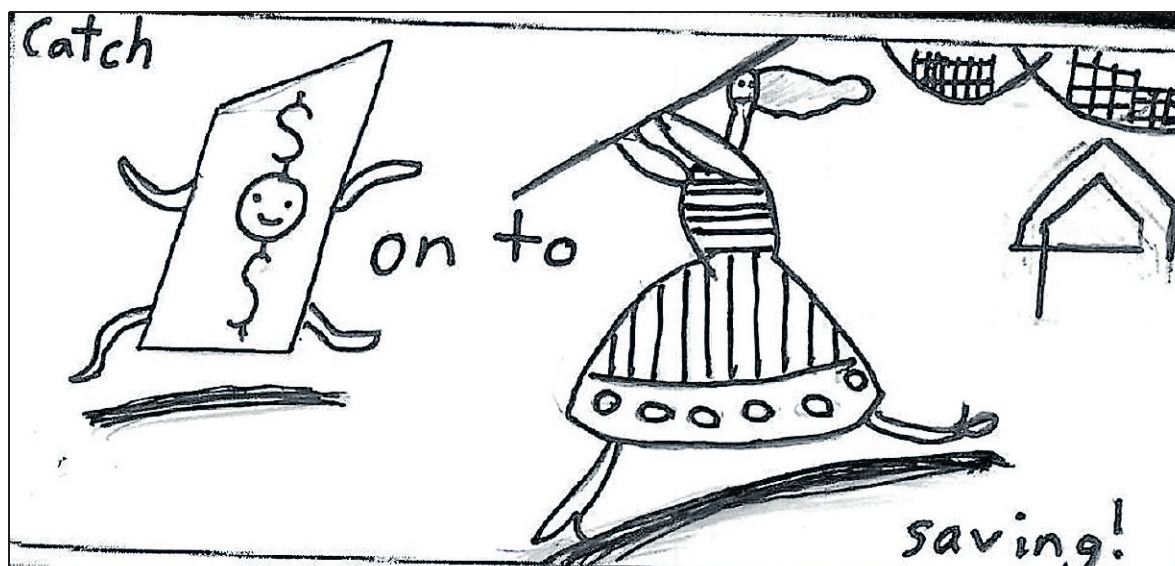


Robyn Benney and Sue Ellis helping in the canteen. Picture: Mia Conway and Caley Wallace

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