

Primary entry #46: Fern Bay Public School



Fern Bay Sandpiper



CONNECTED: Students busy using their iPads.

Technology a benefit in the modern class

By GRACE QUICK and INDICA TINDALL

SINCE Fern Bay Public School decided to add iPad minis to the technology available for students, they have found many children prefer to use the iPad instead of a computer to complete their work.

The iPad minis are very easy to use and can be taken throughout our school. There is no need to sit at a desk when using them as with a computer – you can lie on the carpet and use one – it is also possible to take them out into the school playground as the school wireless network extends to nearly everywhere throughout the school. The signal for the wireless network can even be picked up on the soccer field and on the fixed play equipment.

The iPads are easy to use as they don't have to be plugged into power when being used.

They do have to be charged each afternoon, but that isn't a problem as long as someone remembers to put them on charge.

Maybe in the future students will be able to bring their own technology to school. Teacher Mr Hadley would like to see students using their own iPods, iPhones, iPads and Wi-Fi devices at school.

If that happens, it would be great, as most children have some form of technology at home that would be useful to help with school work.

By JARROD DONNELLY-LEHRLE and JAYDEN ROBINSON

NBN weather reporter Gavin Morris recently visited Fern Bay Public School to talk to students about the weather.

The students learnt about a lot of things, from the gases people breathe to understanding how to read a synoptic chart.

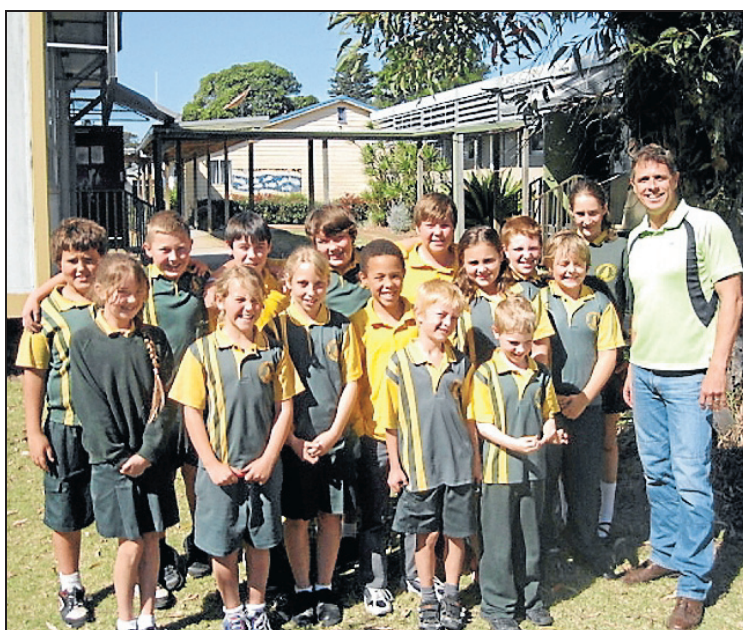
Gavin also talked about his visit to the school on the evening news on NBN.

It was interesting to learn that while oxygen is important for us to live, it is not one of the main gases in the air or atmosphere. The three main gases, percentage-wise, are nitrogen, hydrogen and carbon dioxide.

Oxygen, while not one of the main gases, can be found up to 100 kilometres up in the atmosphere.

Oxygen, along with methane and other gases, is among the minor gases in the air we breathe.

The atmosphere is divided into different layers: the stratosphere, mesosphere, the thermosphere and the exosphere.



Students watched a video on a satellite that showed them the weather from above.

They were able to see how lightning hits the earth from the

clouds. Viewing the northern lights from above was absolutely awesome to see.

Students also looked at the different features of the synoptic

FORECAST: Weatherman Gavin Morris with students on his visit to Fern Bay Public School.

charts that are used in the news on television, including the differences between high-pressure and low-pressure cells.

The synoptic charts are used to show the current weather and to predict the future weather. A high-pressure system usually means the air is sinking and that the weather is fine and settled. Low-pressure systems are thought to be rising air and usually mean unsettled weather, which can mean rain in the future.

The closer the isobars are together on a synoptic map, the stronger the winds will be in that area. In a high-pressure system, the winds move in an anti-clockwise direction in the northern hemisphere and clockwise in the southern hemisphere.

Many students will consider looking at meteorology and the weather as an interesting job in the future after Gavin's visit.



AT LARGE: Eastern bearded dragons are regularly seen at the school.

Bearded visitors come to school

By TATE SMILEY

THE students at Fern Bay Public School are lucky to have a large school playground, with many areas where they can play.

It also has areas where visitors can live and be protected by the students.

The visitors in the school playground are the Eastern bearded dragons. There are quite a few different beard-

ed dragons visiting the school playground.

There are several that children have given names to as they are frequently seen resting on branches in the playground or relaxing in the sun on the basketball court or in the grass nearby.

All children at the school have learnt to respect these animals and really like to have them in and around the school grounds.

On seeing them the first few times, many children have either wanted to pet them or run away from them.

All students now see them and appreciate that they are in the playground, but they leave them alone after having a look.

The students of Fern Bay realise how lucky they are to have the native visitors and they hope they will continue to hang around.



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