

Primary entry #15: Heaton Public School



The Heaton Herald



WEB AWARE: Jodie Holt educates parents about cyber safety.

Picture: Chloe Jones and Spencer Clarke

The dangers that lie in a mobile phone

By **NYKEETA JOHNSON** and **SPENCER CLARKE**

CYBER safety is a major issue in our community and Heaton Public School is addressing this need through parent and community information sessions and student education programs.

Placing the computer in the kitchen or another public place is no longer enough for parents to be able to keep an eye on what is going on.

Mobile phones are now mobile computers and can access the cyber world from anywhere.

It is becoming increasingly difficult for parents to keep abreast of current trends as technology improves and expands and new services emerge on the scene daily.

Parents are not considered what is known as "digital natives", rather, they are "digital immigrants".

Services such as Instagram, Facebook, Twitter, Snapchat and YouTube are foreign to most parents.

Assistant principal Jodie Holt has been helping parents to become better informed through parent technology information sessions.

"I had no idea of some of these sites or the age limits," said one of our parents.

Students have also had education sessions in cyber safety and learning to live online.

Student Joel said: "It was an interesting session, I found the program helpful and it made me realise the dangers of the online world."

By **CRYSTAL CULLEN** and **ZENA-LEE KIOUZELIS**

DOES the gender gap exist in science?

It certainly doesn't look like it at Jesmond High.

Laura Matheson, senior science teacher, said: "The number of girls choosing science in years 11 and 12 is increasing.

"Biology was still the most chosen but chemistry and physics are becoming more popular.

"In chemistry 10 per cent of the class are girls and the top three students are female.

"Three girls from Jesmond High are now studying medical science."

In the past, parental opinion may have impacted on a girl's perception of their place in the world of science.

Ms Matheson felt that female attitudes were changing due to more high-profile women working in scientific roles, such as Dr Cathy Foley, CSIRO chief of materials, science and engineering division, and the 2005 Australian of the Year, Dr Fiona Wood AM.

Ms Matheson runs a science club during the school holidays, which takes places at Waratah Technology Campus.

It started off with only a couple of girls but now 50 per cent of the class are females.

The science program at Heaton



HANDS ON: Future scientists Crystal Cullen and Zena-Lee Kiouzelis with Callaghan College science teachers Lyn Biacego, Leslie White and Laura Matheson.

Picture: Chloe Jones

Public School, led by Mrs Harborne, is adding to this increased participation.

The students are finding the program very interesting and the majority of girls enjoy science very much – perhaps having a female science teacher also helps the girls feel more comfortable, particularly at a senior level.

Mrs Harborne also serves as a

positive role model.

"I like science and the topics are interesting, my favourite are the hands-on experiments," a Heaton student said.

"We do lots of experiments from making a 3D mountain to a solar circuit."

Mrs Harborne is very pleased with her students' progress.

"We are always occupied and

often the girls are more precise and careful than boys," she said.

Maybe the reason not many girls were interested in science in the past is because there weren't enough experiments.

It seems females are making a comeback in the world of science.

Perhaps in the past there has been too much talking and not enough action.



HAND UP: Some of the happy faces of people who have received help from the Smith family.

Heaton's very own Smith family

By **DAISY SMITH**

THE Smiths are an Australian family who feel blessed to live in a country where they have everything they need. They love to help and encourage others.

In a display of this compassion, they sponsor three children, two in Indonesia and one in India, as well as a school in Nepal.

Without the building of a

school, the local children had to walk for six days to go to school.

Mr and Mrs Smith went to Uganda and helped to build a high school classroom in an orphan village and in Mozambique they helped build a new community hall and church, as well as repair houses for widows and orphans.

They also helped a family return to Australia – the

father now goes to TAFE, while the mother is at university. The children now go to the local school and preschool.

The Smith family has to do without sometimes in order to provide assistance to others, but with the little bit they give, many children around the world are helped to be healthy with medicine and now have the opportunity to go to school.



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