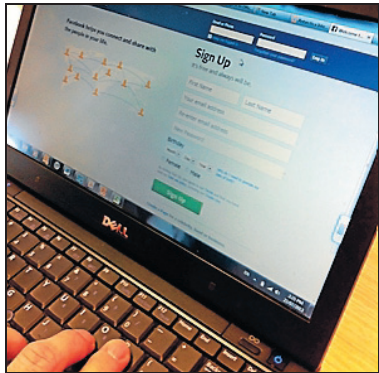


Primary entry #27: Lakes Grammar School



Heart, Soul, Mind and Strength



SHARING: More than 1 billion people use Facebook.

Picture: Harrison Bell

The good and the bad of social media

By HARRISON BELL

WITH the invention of the internet, the ways for people to connect became easier and more accessible.

One phenomenon of the web is social networking, which provides a platform where people can create and share ideas with others all over the world.

Almost everyone has heard of the social network Facebook, but it is not the only social networking site. Some of these are designed for sharing information, some can help you find a new job, some are used for sharing videos, music or pictures, and some unite people with a particular interest.

Social networking is so popular almost half the world uses it. On Facebook the total number of users worldwide is 1.12 billion, and 2.9 billion use YouTube.

However, in this digitally connected world, there are potential dangers to being constantly connected and so open in an online "life".

Not everyone is honest online. For example, children under 13 aren't supposed to have a Facebook account but many students under 13 do.

The responsibility of personal information online lies with the user. Likewise, while online, who you accept as a friend or follow really should be decided by whether you know them in real life too.

Homework useful tool

By CHELSEY WYSMAN

A LOT of children and parents complain about homework: the amount of it, its relevance and the stress it causes at home.

However, there can be benefits for both students and parents alike.

Firstly, homework can help build confidence and time management skills.

Students need to know how to best manage their time, particularly with high school approaching.

Secondly, it gives each student an opportunity to demonstrate work and skills taught in class.

School work can help with real life situations and experiences such as working out the area of a field or how many apples to share among 10 people.

Homework helps teachers find out how students understand the lesson that is being taught.

It also teaches students how to work independently.

Many teachers use a homework grid based on the research of Dr Ian Lillico which takes

their home life into account.

The grid produces a number of different activities that students can complete over a week such as sport training, times tables and housework.

This means that a student who cleans their room or washes the dishes, is, in effect completing a homework task.

"I love that helping around the house is on it," said Jenny Darbin, mother of year 6 student Sarah. "My daughter loves completing her grid."

Carolyn Drew, mother of Hannah, says the grid has allowed her daughter to achieve success both inside and outside the classroom.

"Hannah has a number of after-school activities and having the grid spread out over a week means that Hannah can work out her time on when to do certain tasks," she said. "I love the housework part too."

ORGANISED: Homework has its benefits, especially in teaching time management.

Picture: Chelsey Wysman



BLIGHT: Graffiti on a fence is likely to be more agreeable to the artist than residents. Picture: Madeleine Hart

Council's plan to channel graffiti

By MADELEINE HART

MANY people, particularly children, love the art of colourful graffiti, but is it true art? Are swear words or rude images appropriate for our society to see?

Unfortunately graffiti is everywhere. Every city, every country and every neighbourhood has graffiti on some level. Graffiti costs governments millions of dol-

lars a year in clean-up costs and damage to property.

Lakes Grammar year 6 student Chelsey Wysman says: "Graffiti is disgusting and I can't believe anyone would do such a terrible thing to some people's houses."

Some local councils have begun to take action. Many local government areas are setting aside specific areas within cities where

approved graffiti artists can display their skills, usually on a particular theme.

Wyong Netball Courts is an example where a dull space has been transformed by appropriate, approved graffiti.

The NSW government passed laws to ban sales of spray cans to minors. While this has proven somewhat effective, not all graffiti artists are under 18.

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