Learning Support at BHS ... Introducing Meg Mitchell

I would like to introduce myself formally to you. My name is Meg Mitchell and I have been teaching for some twenty five years at various High Schools in the Campbelltown Region. Recently, I have been at St. Gregory’s College Campbelltown but have now the greatest pleasure of working at Bowral High School where I feel so privileged to be in such a high and positive learning culture.

I have two learning hats at Bowral Highs school as I run a core program of "Lexia" and "Reading Plus" for selected Year 7 and year 8 classes and a program for selected year 8 students called "Make a Difference—M.A.D" where they focus on reengagement with school life and learning.

My understanding of this high and positive learning culture comes from the knowledge I gained of Bowral’s teaching and student population when I had been consulting and leading some of your “Speak-Act-Lead” programs for the past three years. This program allowed for individual goal setting, growth and leadership opportunities that are being carried forward today. The educational journey I have had with the students of Bowral High School has been very rewarding.

So WHY am I here in a different role?

As you are aware Bowral High School is providing support for your young men and women with reading and literacy needs. Both the Learning Support Team and school leaders recognised the need to develop and enhance student reading skills.

With my recommendation and the executive support, Bowral High School has purchased a software program entitled "Lexia" and "Reading Plus" to provide a platform for the students in Year 7, 8 and of need to reach the standard of reading expected of their stage level of learning. I know that these programs are successfully utilised in very prestigious school across Australia and internationally to increase reading ability and retention skills and Bowral High School wanted them for our students. Unlike many Literacy Online Programs, these are NOT AVAILABLE to the general public. This exclusivity of purchase creates great opportunities for our children to grow in confidence and literacy ability. I come with the initial training and will be working with this program for our students.

In the very near future you and your child (student) will be invited to an information session to provide the necessary information regarding the “Lexia” and “Reading Plus” Programs and how it is to be administered. The aim is to make the program completely transparent so that both students and family/carers have the same intention, background knowledge and current knowledge of the reading objectives.

At this meeting you will have the opportunity to meet myself and the team of teachers/leaders supporting your students reading goal of attainment. We will be taking you through the support that your children will need at home to have the program succeed with their reading development. We will endeavour at these times to answer any questions or concerns that you may have or any suggestions to help with the program and your children’s success.

It is our aim and intention to have all students of Bowral high School to reach a higher level of literacy attainment to their current placement. Finally, I am so excited to be a part of an educational system such as Bowral High School where true innovation in learning is happening for your children. I am available on Wednesdays to answer any questions you may have.

Lovely to meet you all via this newsletter........Meg Mitchell
Positive Behaviours for Success (PBS)

PBS is an ongoing decision-making school program using evidence-based academic and behavioural practices to improve outcomes for all students in important academic and social settings.

The program quite literally teaches students what positive behaviours will promote success for them both in and out of school, by focussing on specific values and promoting them as the basis for making decisions about their behaviour.

Bowral High School’s values focus on Respect, Responsibility, and Fairness.

PBS is for the whole school. It is about:
- Improving classroom & school tone
- Maximising academic achievement
- Enhancing support for students with academic and behavioural needs
- Combining academic & behaviour strategies

This is done by providing:
- Regular, predictable, positive teaching and learning environments
- Positive adult and peer models
- Regular positive reinforcement, incorporating VIVO rewards
- Academic and social success, and
- Tuesday rolcall sessions where all students and staff concentrate on one area of school life and how respect, responsibility and fairness operate in that setting.

As always, Bowral High School values its partnership with parents/carers in providing a positive rewarding educational experience for students, and appreciates your support in reinforcing this program in all aspects of students’ lives.

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