

## Staff PYP Workshop 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> July

The workshop that occurred over the first two days of this week provided the opportunity for staff to participate in high quality professional development that encouraged critical thinking and self-reflection. It demonstrated and modelled the dedication to lifelong learning and continuous improvement that is valued by the staff at Kingsville Primary School. What was also evident was the way in which staff demonstrated the attributes of the IB learner profile and drew upon the attitudes required to engage in the significant, relevant, challenging and engaging content.

Teaching through a **concept based inquiry model** is a significant difference that places IB schools at the pointy end of best practise in teaching and learning throughout the world. Concept-based curriculum and instruction is a three-dimensional design model that frames factual content and skills with disciplinary concepts, generalizations and principles. The traditional two-dimensional curriculum model focuses on facts and skills with the goals of content coverage, analysis and the memorization of information. The three-dimensional model emphasises using related facts and skills as **tools** to gain deeper understanding of disciplinary content, transdisciplinary themes and interdisciplinary issues. The three-dimensional model facilitates conceptual transfer through time, across cultures and across situations. Conceptual understandings allow us to better understand our world and our place within it.

This is one powerful way a group of staff reflected on their learning. It is based on 'The Important Book' by Margaret Wise Brown.

The important thing about concepts is

- that they are universal
- they are the big picture
- timeless and transferable
- they allow for deep thinking
- they are the swiss army knife of thinking

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"I appreciate the opportunity I've had to explore concepts with your staff. It was an absolute pleasure to visit your school and work with your staff." Louise Cullen - IB Educator/Workshop Leader, Canberra Girls Grammar School.

Jeff McDonald, Assistant Principal and PYP co-ordinator

