**iOntheFuture 4 2020 Vision**

Teachers from Brooklyn Public School attended the iOntheFuture conference in August this year at Turramurra North Public School**.**

Many prominent educators from around the country and overseas shared their insights and research findings into how education will need to evolve in order to prepare our children for the future.

Michael Priddis gave us an alarming look at the rate of technological change and how this will impact the future of work. Technology is advancing at an exponential rate which means that much of the routine cognitive work that we do now will be replaced by automated machines. Any job involving the rote application of procedures can be replaced by computers!

Key ideas that were shared on the day include:

\*re-assessing assessing! Can we really assess a student’s potential and should we focus on their recall of knowledge rather than their creative skill set?

\*are children inspired to be life-long learners?

\*do children experience the joy of learning?



Children are born learners! Learning is what they want to do – but why then does our education system stop them from learning the real-life stuff and settle for teaching them the ordinary, routine stuff in case they might need it??!!

Particularly interesting was what keynote speaker, **Eric Mazur**, had to say about assessment. He calls it the ‘silent killer of learning’. His research on assessment and the value of the regurgitation of information has serious implications for what we are trying to do in education. He has serious concerns about the obsession with ranking and rating students and goes so far as to call it a ‘social injustice’! Promoting intrinsic motivation for learning is the key.

He encouraged us all not to be ‘followers of yesterday’ but to rethink assessment and not allow high stakes testing to drive the purpose for education. Not a fan of NAPLAN, needless to say!!

Teacher and author, **Ron Berger**, encouraged us to build an ‘ethic of excellence’ in our schools whereby all tasks students engage with are completed to the very best of their ability no matter how much time this might require. He talks about inspiring students to produce ‘beautiful work’ and implores us to ‘stop rushing’! Teachers become facilitators and work together with students as they strive for excellence. A great example of this is Austin’s butterfly which can be seen at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QzrHkFREwog>

Educator **Steve Shareski** asked us, ‘Whatever happened to joy?’ He passionately believes that our young learners need time to wonder and don’t know!! Learners need more time to play as this is a much more effective intellectual goal!