Reach class offers hand to gifted young students

KEIR TUNBRIDGE

A NEW class catering for the needs of gifted students has started at Little Grove Primary School.
Principal Patricia Joss said the Reach class would run five mornings a week and provide an environment for talented students from Year 4 to 7 to learn at their own pace.

Mrs Joss said the class would focus on literacy, numeracy and thinking skills, with students returning to regular classes in the afternoon.
Reach class teacher Julie Blogg said the class was fantastic.
"The kids are really enjoying being with like-minded students and being able to show what they can do without feeling embarrassed," she said.

Year 6 student Freya Findlay said she was enjoying the Reach class.

"There’s lots of things which are very challenging," she said.
"We’ve had a word of the day every day so we try and use that as much as possible, and we also do lots of different activities – like what if your mouth was on your forehead?
"They’re fun, but there’s some hard things as well like mathematics."

Year 4 student Lexie Duncan-Phillips said some activities were very challenging.
"But we like to have some games sometimes, and we get points every time we use the word of the day, and whoever gets the most points they get a prize," she said.
The word of the day on Tuesday was "metacognition".
"We’re still trying to figure out what it means," Lexie said.

Park Watch monitors Caroline Walmsley and Robyn Altus at Mills Park in Little Grove.

Parents on park patrol

KATHERINE MOUNTAIN

ALBANY parents have found a novel approach in the fight against childhood obesity with the Park Watch program.
Park Watch has been run in association with the Albany Injury Prevention Association for about two years.
The program began after a group of mothers identified the importance of their children being active after school and involves fluoro-vested volunteers monitoring parks for about an hour each, twice a week.
The program starts again next week and parents, children and volunteers are invited.

Co-ordinator Kim Buttfield said the program was about creating safe environments in parks to keep children active.
The program began after a group of mothers identified the importance of their children being active after school and involves fluoro-vested volunteers monitoring parks for about an hour each, twice a week.
Albany Injury Prevention Association chairman Julian Blogg said it was hard to get children away from the computer and TV.
"Park Watch is something where we don’t have to nag them because they really enjoy being here," he said.

Park Watch will hold its 2011 launch at Foundation Park today at 4pm, and at Mills Park in Little Grove on Tuesday, March 1, at 3.30pm.

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