





**A Boy-Friendly School
Middle School
at
Ipswich Grammar School**








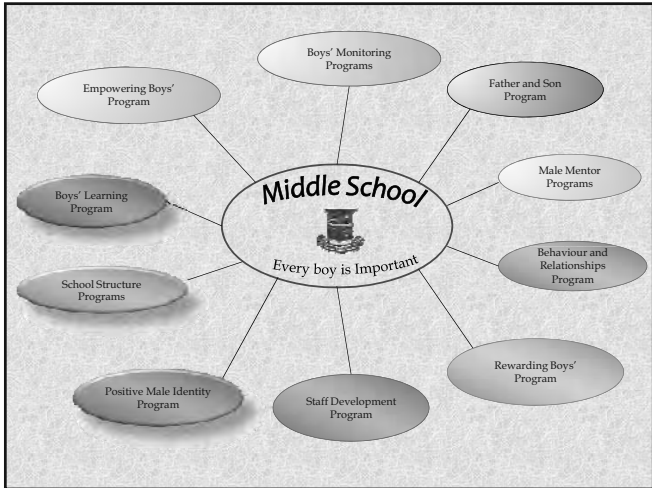
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Head of Middle School
Ipswich Grammar School

Ipswich Grammar School



- The state of Queensland is celebrating it's 150th Anniversary, Ipswich Grammar is celebrating it's 148th Anniversary.
- Approx 50kms west of Brisbane in the city of Ipswich.
- The oldest Grammar, Secondary and Boarding school in Queensland.
- Established in 1863.



Father and Son Program

Issues:

"The Missing Father Syndrome"

US study, children of absent fathers account for ;
71% of high school dropouts
65% of youth suicides
90% of homeless kids (McLeod)

"Under fathering in Australian homes. Dads are a walking ATM" (Carr - Gregg)

"I have never met a boy in court who had a good relationship with his father" (Irving)

IGS program:

- Father and Son Functions (Yr 7).
- Father and Son Reading Nights (Yr 7-9).
- Male Staff role models (behaviour, teaching practices, grooming).
- Information nights.
- Visiting specialists.



Letter Between Son and Dad

Dear Dad,
School is really great. I am making lots of friends and studying very hard. With all my stuff, I simply can't think of anything I need. So if you would like, you can just send me a card, as I would love to hear from you.
Love, Your son

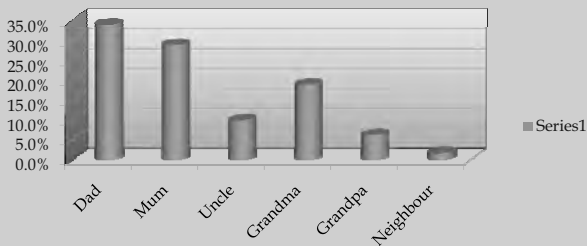
The Reply

Dear Son,
I am so glad to hear that you are doing well at school and that you are studying hard. It is my hope that you will continue to do well and that you will never give up on your education. Do not forget that the pursuit of knowledge is a noble task, and you can never study enough.
Dad

Boys' Education Project 2010

Question:

If it was possible I would like to invite the following people to visit my school for a day.



Boys' Monitoring Programs

Issues:

"Too often teachers don't ask, don't listen and don't care about boys" (OECD research)

Over the last 30 years "throughout the western world, boys have dropped their motivation levels in schools" (Sax)

IGS program:

Monitor all aspects of their schooling

- Academics
 - ⇒ Before commence Middle School
 - ⇒ Favourite subjects/reasons.
 - ⇒ Changes in results-early intervention (Learning support)

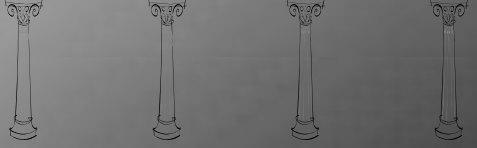
FOUR PILLARS OF MIDDLE SCHOOL

Academic
Excellence

Good
Sportsmanship

Excellent
Behaviour

Integrity



The Four Pillars symbolise the values/mission statement of the Middle School. It acts as an overall goal for our boys in and out of the classroom and helps to track a student over the three years in the Middle School.

Behaviour and Relationships Program



“Boys are wayward, uncivilised and very much in need of discipline” (Aristotle).

“Aggressive boys who are confronted at home instead of negotiation to resolve conflicts are being educated that only aggression resolves problems” (Pollack).

IGS program:

- Firm but fair discipline (Issue based never personal).
- William Glassers (10 step discipline plan).
- Bill Rogers (Intrusive steps to maintain discipline).
- Zero – tolerance to bullying.
- 14 point anti-bullying program (Anti-bullying policy, confidential surveys, active and passive supervision).
- D.O.B policy (Don't Obey Bullies).
- Taking responsibility for your actions policy (To avoid the Wussification syndrome – blame game – cloak them in cotton wool, outsource their development to lawyers) (Carr – Gregg).

Rock & Water

Rewarding Boys' Programs

Issues:

- "Praising boys form an integral part of a boys' education" (Lillico).
- "A lot of boys believe only athleticism in Australia is admired over academic success" (Gross).
- "The Arts/Drama subjects are seen as 'girl subjects'. Boys who study these subjects are seen as 'gay', 'sissy's', 'un-masculine' (Boy code- in Australian schools). (Pollack, Lillico, West)



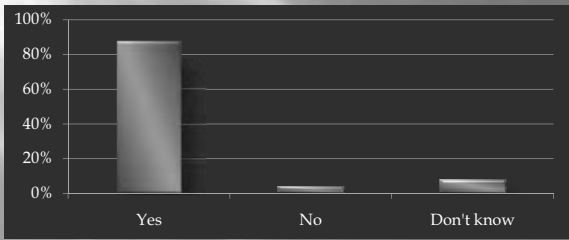
IGS Program

- Middle School Assembly
- Headmasters' Assembly
- Newsletter
- Middle School Honour Roll
- Inter- form competitions
- Year 8's in sport and non sporting activities
- Year 7 Transition Cup
- Boys of sport, non- sport and academic abilities are acknowledged for their successes.
- "Cool to be an academic" rather than "Cool to be a fool".
- The Arts are promoted to break the homophobia tag in Australian Schools.

Boys' Education Project 2010

Question:

Do you think it is important for boys to receive awards on assemblies and listed in newsletters?

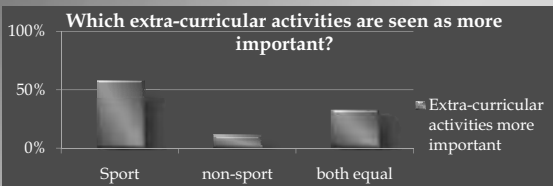


Boys' Education Project 2010

Question:

Which extra- curricular activities are seen as more important at our school?

- Sport (e.g. Cricket, Rugby, T & F) or
- Non- sport (Music, Chess, Debating)



Empowering Boys' Program

Issues:

"Boys need empowerment in schools. They need a say in school / classroom rules to break the perception that teachers don't care or listen to boys" (West, 2004).

"Student empowerment improves boys' learning and helps with the transition to new curriculum outcomes" (Lillico, 2006).

"Empowerment helps boys connect to their peers and their schooling" (Benedick, 2004).

IGS program

- Leadership Positions
- Middle School Council



IGS program

- School buddy program




Let's Read!

A Boy-Friendly Literacy Program

Issues

- "Universally, boys reject school literacy. However, they have very rich literate lives outside of school" (Wilhelm and Smith)
- "Boys typically score lower than girls on standardized tests in the language arts" (Ontario Education - Canada)
- "In 2001, a Progress in International Reading Literacy Study (PIRLS) showed girls outperformed boys in reading in all 34 countries that participated."
- "Research in Australia, UK and the USA over the last two decades find that boys' literacy levels relative to girls have declined. (Brown and Fletcher)
- "One in six people on the UK struggle with literacy" (National Literacy Trust)
- "Early as Year 3, boys fall behind girls by 10%." (Australian Education Report)

In
a
nutshell!!!



“ACER research shows low levels of literacy... are important factors in early school leaving, which in turn affects the prospects for further education or employment. Literacy is an important tool which enables people to access opportunities at school and after leaving school. To not attain competency in literacy is to severely restrict life choices”
(Rowe and Rowe)

Boys' Education Project
2008 - 2011

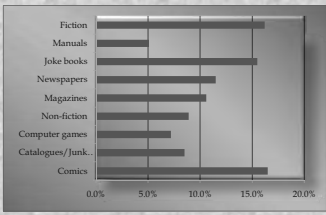
Year 7 classes (n = 75) Year 8 classes (n = 150) Year 9 classes (n = 150)

Questions asked

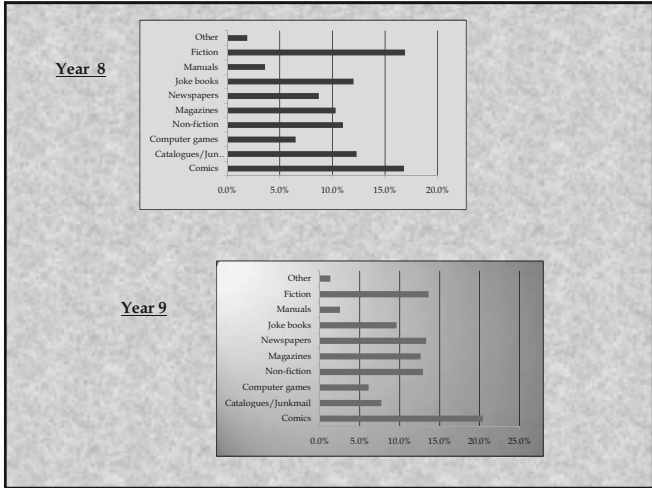
1. Do you like reading?
2. What do you like to read?
3. Who helps you to choose books or other things to read?
4. How do you use reading to help you do things in your spare time?

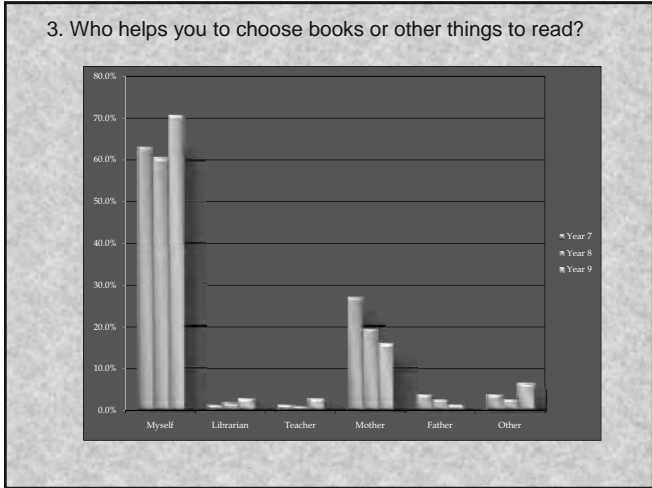
The Results

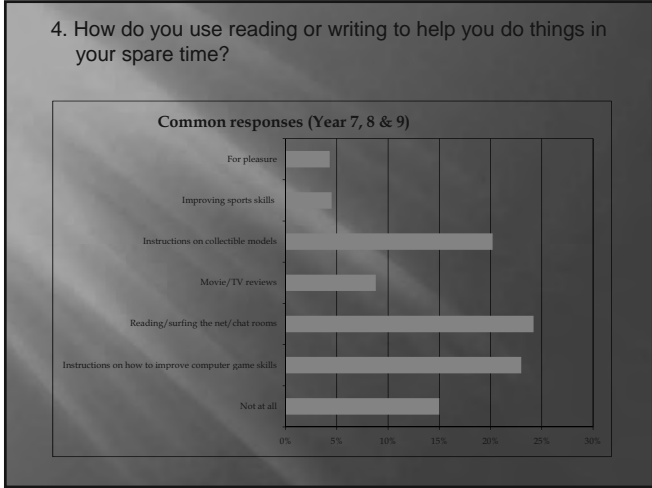
1. Do you like reading?
No 48%
Yes 52%
2. What do you like to read?
Year 7



Category	Percentage
Fiction	18%
Manuals	5%
Joke books	15%
Newspapers	12%
Magazines	10%
Non-fiction	8%
Computer games	7%
Catalogues/Junk	8%
Comics	15%





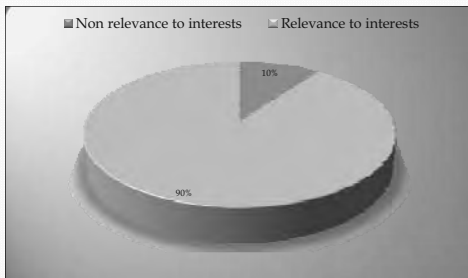


Summary

1. 48% - do not enjoy reading
2. All three cohorts indicated they choose the books they read followed by their mothers. Fathers were very low in this category.
3. Favourite reading choices
Year 7 – Comics
Year 8 – Fiction stories
Year 9 – Comics
4. 47% of boys use reading for improving overall skills (computer game skills, instructions on building models, sporting skills). Only 43% of all boys use reading for pleasure.

What do we do at Ipswich Grammar School?

- Reading logs
- Reading classes (timetable)
- Reading competitions
- Male staff role model themselves as advert readers (teacher charts)
- Literacy relevant to boys interests.



Me Read? No Way! (Ontario Education) Canada



- > Have the right stuff (Harry Potter series)
- > Help make it a habit (Book party)
- > Find positive role models (PE teachers)

University of Newcastle Australia



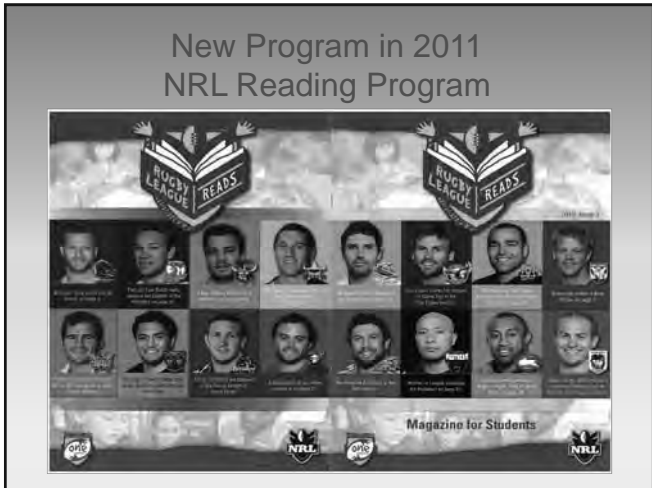
- > relevance to a boys' life is critical to improve literacy
- > fathers play an important role
- > personal interest to boys
- > build in success for the boy
- > have a purpose connected to the boy's interests or some aspect of his real world

Reading Champions Club UK



- > Bronze
- > Silver
- > Gold



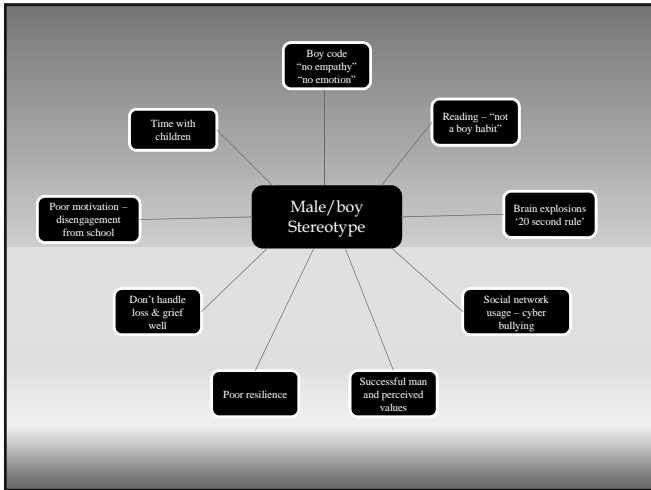


Real Man Project

What is a real man?

 A cartoon illustration of a man with a large mustache and glasses, wearing only his briefs, sitting in a large armchair. He is holding a remote control. There are some items on the floor around him.

- In the planning - 6 years
- Questions what is a real man - Challenges/breaks stereotyping of male images portrayed in the media/society



**MIDDLE SCHOOL LIFE SKILLS PROGRAM
OPERATIONAL PLAN 2011 - 2012**

	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4
Year 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Values Education/ Study Skills Rock & Water Making Friends 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rock & Water How to tie a tie 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Primary Health Education Rock & Water 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rock & Water
Year 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 8 and Transition Reading Rock & Water 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rock & Water Reading How to tie a tie Cyber bullying A Successful Man Adolescent Loss and Grief Cooking/Table Manners 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rock & Water Reading Choosing to see, speak and act Motivation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rock & Water Reading Can Young People Be Leaders The Good, Bad and The Ugly Being a Team Leader
Year 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> From Boys to Manhood Goal Setting Fatherhood Cyber Safe - Identifying and Combating Cyber Bullies Bullies and Bullying 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Risk Taking Resilience Health/hygiene/etiquette Conflict avoidance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be Real Game (entire term) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be Real Game Writing a resume

