

Learning centre sees the Big Picture and builds on three Rs

By **ANDY BENNETT***

AFTER extensive research, information gathering and consultation we have decided to adopt a Big Picture model for the development of our grade 9-12 learning centre.

Big Picture is an exciting and innovative way of organising learning that builds on the three Rs:

- **Relevance** – working with students to develop their interests and ensuring their individual learning program is connected to those interests.

- **Relationships** – supporting students to learn to work with their peers, their learning mentors and people in the community.

- **Rigour** – continually challenging students to deepen their learning, set and reach high expectations and achieve their learning goals.

Big Picture has been adopted as a model in a growing number of schools around Tasmania, including Rosetta and Claremont High Schools, Ogilvie High School, Ulverstone High and Prospect High as well as schools in Queensland, Victoria and Western Australia.

In 2010 we will run a pilot Big Picture program with the aim of starting a full school model when all our buildings are

up and running in 2011.

As a first step we have appointed Ms Cluny Addis to lead the development of the pilot program in term three.

Community, parent and student information sessions are a major part of our development plans. We will advertise dates for those sessions very soon.

There have been many developments in the federation's building program since my last article.

Design work for the new gymnasium and science centre at the Bridgewater High School site was completed on September 4 and the tender for construction of the new buildings was advertised on September 12.

The tender period ended on October 2. We anticipate construction work will begin at the end of October.

We have started the design process for the new grade 9-12 and adult learning centre. Those buildings will be located on the high school site and will include the science centre.

Much of the design process will aim to meet the needs of the Big Picture model mentioned previously.

We anticipate that the design process will take up to two months and, allowing for further community consultation and

adjustments and the tender process to follow, we aim to start stage one of the construction work in December.

Shortly afterwards we will begin designing the refurbishment of the current high school buildings to accommodate students in our new grade 5-8 middle school.

Subject to community consultation we aim to begin to stage one of that building program in December.

Work at East Derwent primary schools is now well under way. We anticipate the work at Herdsmans Cove will begin in the next two to three weeks. The start of building work at Gagebrook Primary will follow.

Plans for the primary school redevelopment can be viewed on the federation website. The science and gymnasium plans will be added after the consultation period has been completed.

For further information and to provide your comments about the federation you can go to www.education.tas.gov.au/bsmlearningfederation or email your comments to bsm.learningfederation@education.tas.gov.au

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