

Maths Corner!



By Mrs Kathleen Kemp
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Tribute to an amazing Mathematician and an extraordinary man!



Four years ago my Father passed away and at the time I paid tribute to him in a Newsletter article. With my appointment this term as Acting Head of Mathematics it is time to pay tribute to him again to highlight the contributions maths can make to the world!

Dad was a remarkable Mathematician and he ended up using his maths skills to go into a career in Medicine. After University he continued to study for many years so that he could specialise in Paediatric Surgery. Dad's expertise in mathematics and chemistry enabled him to develop the formula to intravenously feed premature babies which allowed them to develop normally. This pioneered a major medical breakthrough.

Dad performed many remarkable life-saving surgeries on babies and children and was a leader in his field. He performed the first in utero foetal surgery operation in Australia. Dad also followed up with the after care of these babies and children by doing things such as being a Founding Governor for the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

Never underestimate where Mathematics can get you and its contribution to the world!

Technology and Education

Often parents wonder the value of all the technology that has "invaded" the education system and to this end it is worthwhile to hear about examples of how technology can enhance students learning. One of the ways is being able to take photos of notes teacher write on the board. This can be very useful when students are absent for a class as the teacher can then email the photo of board notes immediately to the absent student after the lesson. It also means students can listen carefully to explanations given in class as the teacher summarises what they are saying on the board without trying to copy everything down at the same time – because they can just take a photo of the board at the end of the explanation.

The importance of this is highlighted in the following point taken directly from The School of Excellence's HSC Study Tip #7 handout (which can be found at: <http://www.tsfx.com.au/hsc-study-tips/>):

- **Taking large quantities of notes whilst listening to a teacher and trying to follow/understand the materials being covered is not recommended.**

You are likely to miss vital concepts or confuse issues; which will subsequently lead to frustration and stress, resulting in additional study requirements outside school hours. **Note:** Those students who divide their attention to listening, seeing and writing notes will only remember in the order of 5% of what was presented, whereas those students who listen, watch and absorb can remember up to 50% of what is being presented in a lecture or classroom!

To maximise learning, students should spend as much of the time in the classroom listening and absorbing the information being delivered. Therefore, only copy examples after the teacher has finished explaining concepts and minimise note taking where possible.

The School of Excellence produces these HSC Study Tips that are actually very relevant to all year levels. This is also another example of the value of technology to students learning. Students have the opportunity to access valuable resources such as these HSC Study Tips via the web.