Dear Parents and Caregivers,

I recently came across this article on the game Minecraft, as so many of our students are into this game I thought it would be good to share it with you.

Don't be daft about Minecraft

By Jason Fox

Minecraft may be the best trend to hit boy world in years. Writer Jason Fox explains the attraction and outlines the benefits for kids.

If you have a young child or teenager, chances are you've heard about Minecraft. It's a video game that's kind of like digital LEGO, except that you're in an ever-evolving world with seemingly limitless possibilities. It's a game that inspires deep exploration, collaboration and creativity.

It has been the subject of international conventions. Some schools and universities have even incorporated Minecraft into their curriculum, where students learn about city planning, environmental issues, getting things done, and even how to plan for the future, as well as things like maths and problem solving.

The open sandbox nature of Minecraft makes it one of the most exciting games on the market – and not because of its flash graphics or blood and gore (there are none of those). The gameplay experience design just works. And on top of all that, it's rated one of the safest video games for kids ever. But parents are worried. And rightfully so, to a degree. Too much of a good thing can be a bad thing.

But some parents are freaking out about the amount of time their kids are investing in the game, and are imposing blanket bans of it without first understanding its magic. So, let's have a look at what makes Minecraft so engaging, why blanket bans aren't a good idea, and how to manage your child's play.

Minecraft is an infinite, non-winnable game: Unlike a book, a game of chess, or a football match, a Minecraft game doesn’t end. There’s always more that can be explored, and more that can be done. The projects you undertake in Minecraft are self-initiated: no one is telling you what to do. And the process of making progress within Minecraft is completely autonomous – no one is telling you how to execute your projects and achieve your goals. It’s self-regulated learning at its finest.
So, when a parent bans Minecraft it’s a lot different to banning other games. You’re not simply cutting your child out from a source of entertainment. You’re preventing them from accessing a world where it’s safe to fail, learn, explore, build and share. In essence: it can be pretty devastating – particularly when we put things back into the context of the future of work.

Why? Because your child’s ability to participate in and contribute to unprecedented, self-driven, creative and collaborative work is going to be one of the key employable talents in the future. Your child could already be building a digital portfolio of project work, without you even knowing it. But being able to ‘unplug’ and manage time and energy are essential skills your child needs to learn too.

So, here are three ways you can help them manage Minecraft in your house:

1. **Show genuine interest (this should be your first step)** If your child plays Minecraft, ask them to take you on a tour. Show an interest in their passion, and ask them questions like: what are you trying to build? What are your goals? What are the steps you need to take? What’s the coolest thing you’ve found? Set aside at least an hour for this. It’s highly likely they’d love the chance to share this with you, which will help you to open up a new level of connection with them.

2. **Encourage interactivity correctly** Minecraft’s multiplayer mode allows your child to play and build in the same online world as their friends. But remember: there are a lot of idiots on the internet, so do the following two things:
   a) Create your own server or ‘whitelist’ – it’s like having an invite-only friend list.
   b) Use a family-friendly server – you can Google these to find the right one to play in.

3. **Don’t ban – bracket** Banning something like Minecraft should be the very last resort, as it usually only serves to enhance the craving for it. Instead, make it part of their daily ‘free time’. Try not to have this at the end of the day or make it contingent on homework being completed, as this may only create angst, rushed homework and late nights. After school is best, especially if it’s bracketed by dinnertime, where all phones and computers are turned off.

My true hope is that you give option #1 a very good go first. And if #1, #2, #3 don’t work, I’m hoping you’ve found them an even better game to play.

*Dr Jason Fox keeps savvy people up to date with the latest in motivation design.* Learn more at [www.drjasonfox.com](http://www.drjasonfox.com)

**Influenza (flu) season**


Our school is helping to prevent the flu from spreading by:

- encouraging children, staff and visitors to cover their mouths and noses when they sneeze or cough
- making tissues readily available and ensuring used tissues are disposed of immediately
- ensuring children and staff wash their hands regularly
- cleaning our facilities and resources regularly
- encouraging staff and children with flu-like symptoms to stay at home strongly urging staff and children who arrive with flu-like symptoms to instead stay at home and encouraging them to seek early medical advice.

If your child catches the flu, seek medical advice and keep them home until they are feeling well again. Please phone the school and let us know that they will be absent due to illness.

**STUDENT SIGN OUT**

Parents are reminded to see Administration Staff in the office when collecting their child/ren before 3:00p.m. This is for your child’s safety. Parents are asked to contact the office where you will be asked to sign the children out before leaving with them.
Whooping Cough Alert
Whooping cough occurs often at this time of the year. Please look out for whooping cough, it can be especially deadly if caught by young babies. Let us be diligent.

What are the symptoms? Whooping cough usually starts with a runny nose, followed by persistent cough that comes in bouts. Bouts may be followed by vomiting and a whooping sound as the child gasps for air. Whooping cough can cause a severe illness in young children particularly those aged under 6 months.

How is it spread? Whooping cough is usually spread by direct contact with the droplets from the nose and throat of an infected person produced whilst coughing. People at greatest risk of getting the illness are those who have had a considerable amount of face-to-face contact with a person with the disease. Whooping cough can occur in people previously vaccinated.

What should parents do? Anyone developing symptoms should consult their local doctor and mention that there have been cases of whooping cough in the local area. Children who are diagnosed with whooping cough need to stay away from school until they have taken five days of a special antibiotic.

For further information, please contact Queensland Health.

Regards

Heather Castle
Principal

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Barambah Small School’s Cross Country/Ball Games

Cloyna State School—Friday June 19

Reminder— Students are to arrive with their families about 8.30am. The day starts with the Cross Country then followed by Ball Games. Please find attached a program for the day. Food on sale for the day will be—steak burger, steakette burger, sausage on bread, assorted sandwiches, mini quiche, home baking, icy cups, poppers, water, tea & coffee. As our school is hosting the day and the P & C are organising the canteen we would appreciate any help you can give. Come and join us for the day. GO CLOYNA!!!

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Cleaners Day—June 15

The school community would like to say ‘thank-you’ very much to our wonderful cleaner, Mrs Webber. You have given our school many years of wonderful service and what a pleasure to come to school each day to a lovely clean school. Thank you.

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School Photos

School photos will be available before the holidays. There are a couple of families who still need to pay—could you please pay as soon as possible.
QCWA HIVESVILLE

INVITES YOU TO ATTEND OUR

Our International Day

On 17th June at 10.30am for Morning tea

Dear Cloyna school student parent,
I hope you are able to join us for morning tea. Your child’s QCWA international work will be on display, and prizes for the winners and their participation will be presented.

Inquiries phone Deirdre 0428689529
Happy Birthday—June

Hayden – 28
Madison – 29

Award Winners

Jorja, Bella, Jack W, Jack B, Hayden, Billey, Blade, Katie, Lochlan, Heath, Elijah, Madison

Congratulations to all our students

CWA Visit

On Wednesday June 17, the school has been invited to attend a morning tea and announcement of winners of the CWA Country of Study at CWA Hivesville rooms. The students will be transported to and from Hivesville by bus. Students need to wear their best uniforms and be on their best behaviour. We will leave at 9.15am and return at 11.30am. Parents are welcome to attend—please see invitation in the newsletter.

Please return by Monday June 15.

I give permission for my child/children to attend the CWA morning tea at Hivesville and be transported by bus.

Signed by Parent