Dear Parents,

Something exciting is happening in our Year 3 – 6 classrooms! Your child is being introduced to Genius Hour, which will provide them with the opportunity to research a topic, or idea, that they are interested in.

**What is Genius Hour?**
Genius Hour is time set aside in class for students to study their passion, or a new idea or skill once a week for a set amount of time.

**Why is Genius Hour important?**
Students take ownership of their own learning. They learn about something they want to learn. Genius Hour sparks curiosity and students have an opportunity to become their own genius. Genius Hour encourages life-long learning, imagination, perseverance, self-awareness and adaptability.

**How will Genius Hour work in our classrooms?**
Students will participate in Genius Hour for one hour per week. After mini-lessons on what is appropriate, students will choose a topic to study with teacher approval. Students will be given time in class to work on the project with the teacher serving as a facilitator. As an end project, students must present their topic, as well as what they have learned, to the class.

**How can parents help?**
In the next week, students will be coming home with a few ideas. We would love for parents to sit with their child and discuss their ideas, helping them to narrow them down to one topic. Research topics should be in the form of a driving question and should not be so simple that the answer can be found out in one Google search, but also not so complicated that they cannot be completed by the end of this term. Some examples of questions are:

- What does it take to design a dress?
- How are video games made?
- How do glasses improve our eyesight?

P.T.O.
• What allows a cheetah to run fast?
• Which kind of biscuit do people like best?
• How can I teach people about knitting?
• What are electric cars and why aren’t there more of them?
• How can I help homeless people?
• How has football changed over the years?

We are able to provide basic materials such as A4 and A3 coloured card, basic craft supplies, etc, however, if your child chooses a research project that requires materials other than these, it will be up to the parents to supply them. Please consider this when assisting your child to finalise their research topic.

Once students have chosen their driving question, they begin their research and create an item, such as a model, Power Point, display, instruction manual, etc. Students will not receive a final mark for their Genius Hour project, however, the teachers will use their observations of the skills each student developed and practised and use these as information for reporting. The main purpose of Genius Hour is to spark curiosity and to provide students with the skills to find answers.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact myself, or your child’s class teacher.

Kind regards,

Lisa Gallin
Assistant Principal