

THE BALLY TIMES

From the Balgowlah Community

Are Smart Watches Simply Sinister Devices for Cheating?

Are students unfairly resorting to using the calculator and note taker on smart watches in assessments? This is the pressing question that needs to be asked in this new age of technology.

Smartwatches are the most recent fad in schools. Not only do these watches tell the time, but they also allow people to store notes, use a calculator, Siri and texting apps. Smart watches offer enormous support and quite simply provide an unfair advantage when used insidiously in assessments and assignments.

Clearly teachers need to be more aware of students using smartwatches. Students using smartwatches in test conditions should live in fear of being caught and punished. Cheating is a disgraceful act which lacks integrity, and it must be stopped immediately. Some smartwatches are disguised as ordinary digital and analogue watches. The Samsung smartwatch is a great example with rounded edges and a dial on the side. They are very convincing to teachers. Teachers should check all watches to see if they are disguised as smartwatches.

In April 2015 the first smartwatch was released by apple. These watches go for up to \$700 dollars!



These watches have been slowly increasing in popularity, and unfortunately we are seeing them used more and more to unfairly advantage students who can afford the device. Concerns surrounding inaccurate subject scores and rankings are now very well-founded. Quite simply, we no longer have a level playing field. Some people have even raised questions surrounding the legitimacy of the Gifted and Talented classes. Were these students invited into this program on talent alone? We're not so sure.

The simple way to fix all of these problems is to confiscate smartwatches during tests. With technology rapidly changing, children are getting too much help from their devices.

With technology changing so rapidly, many students have so much information right at their fingertips. We interviewed Ms Anderson and she said "I'm sure someone has used it unfairly in the past."

It's quite obvious that, due to smart watches, cheating is rife. Even if the advantage is small, it is still unfair.

In the HSC exams students aren't allowed to bring in smartwatches, so why should they be allowed to have them in school assessments?

Dissections In Stage-4 Science Triggering Violent Tendencies!

Animal dissections are one of the many activities that students look forward to in high-school, and it all seems like fun and games. The question, however, needs to be asked - how is this graphic and confronting process affecting our students' mental health?

It is estimated that over 170 species are used for dissection including frogs, cats, grasshoppers, dogs, sheep, rats, turtles, fetal pigs and many more. Dissecting animals such as dogs and cats can scar a Stage 4 student. Some of your favourite animals could be one of those 170 species of innocent creatures. Just think about that!



These dissections are not appropriate for Stage 4 students, and can be harmful to their mental health. Looking upon a dead animal is bad enough, but having to cut one open and experiment on it is something completely different. These experiments can cause very serious stress and anxiety and that can lead to depression, and even worse mental instability problems.

Stage 4 students are not mature enough to understand that what they are doing is just for an experiment, and that these actions should not be repeated out in society. The students are participating in the violent act of cutting animals into little pieces, and this will possibly inspire violence in the real world!

Dissecting animals increases negative thoughts and not every student is comfortable with cutting up an animal, and doing it at school is major reason animal cruelty exists. Animal dissections can also be incredibly uncomfortable to younger children. Full body dissections can possibly include private areas of the animal and can disturb a child and make them feel very uncomfortable.

During dissections, students use scalpels, that are equal to extremely sharp knives. This equipment is not safe and if used incorrectly or irresponsibly, can lead to very serious injuries.

The alarming figure that around 90% of extension students are intrigued and excited for dissections raises serious concerns about how this process is potentially triggering innate violent tendencies. One of the students stated, "I can't wait to cut one of these animals open with a scalpel". This sentiment is quite frankly disturbing and an ominous sign for what is to come of these students and the future of our society.

Is Aerosol Deodorant More Dangerous Than Smoking?

There have been damning reports coming from the PE Department in reference to the change rooms in the gym emitting a nasty smell, infecting all students that come into contact with this disgusting stench. It appears students have been trying to remove some of the other more peculiar smells (adolescent body odour) emanating from the change rooms by using Aerosol Deodorants. This has caused outrage among most of the student population. It raises the question - would you rather get lung diseases and possibly die from organ malfunctions due to the potent smell of Lynx Africa, or simply put up with a bit of a stench for 10 minutes every time you get changed?

Inhaling high amounts of chemicals created by the aerosol can cause heart failure and possible death. Many people inhale these chemicals without knowing the health related issues behind them.

Aerosol can be dangerous to some students and, to a certain extent, some teachers as well. Aerosols are a common cause of asthma. Asthma is a serious, sometimes life-threatening, condition. Asthma is where a person's airways become inflamed, swollen and produce extra mucus, which makes it difficult to breathe.



Aerosol deodorants can be lethal when sprayed in the wrong place at the wrong time. If aerosol deodorants come into contact with any sort of flame, it will instantaneously catch alight and make a large flame. The science labs are almost always active with Bunsen burners that produce large flames and if aerosol deodorants happen to be sprayed in the labs then it may possibly ignite, burning anybody or anything that is around the spray.



It has been scientifically proven that the chemicals produced by aerosol deodorants can be worse than cigarettes if inhaled the wrong way. If a large amount of aerosol deodorant is inhaled, then your lungs can begin to be filled with chemicals causing numerous diseases and illnesses. These illnesses are extremely serious and can lead to death.

It is recommended to use roller deodorant instead of aerosol, as it is safer and has no hazards or risks, such as setting a blaze or frustrating the peers around you. While aerosol is still ok to use and does work with no negative effects, if used right, it is still suggested to stay away from the spray.

Are Sin Bins Really Effective?

For as long as anyone can remember, Sin Bins have been a central part of Balgowlah Boys' discipline policy. The Sin Bin was designed to discipline students by depriving them of the opportunity to play sport, however, this comfortable 90 minutes in the air-conditioned school library has become an enjoyable experience for many of the students.

Sin Bins are supposed to be a form of punishment meted out by the teachers during Wednesday's Year 7 sports time. Sin Bins are usually given for not participating in sport or failing to follow teachers instructions.

The teacher most invested in this process, Head of Sport Ms Duncan, spoke with regard to Sin Bins and their effectiveness.

"There has been a fairly large number of kids getting Sin Bins, but that's actually slowly reducing," Ms Duncan said.



"I think Sin Bins serve a very important place here at Balgowlah because we want to make sure everyone is safe and happy in their sport and when people do things that don't fall into those guidelines they need to know that's not the right thing to do."

After speaking with Ms Duncan, we decided to talk with numerous students who have received Sin Bins in the past.

Multiple Students stated they were on their mobile devices while in sin bin, describing it as a 'relaxing' experience. Obviously this against the rules, but where was the teacher supervision?

Our team has come to the conclusion that many students are deliberately seeking out trouble in sport so they can go onto their devices in Sin Bin instead of doing sport, homework or reading.

Someone needs to act now!



Kassulke Reportedly Bribing Juniors in Design-Tech

Rumours are flying around school that the esteemed design technology teacher, Mrs Kassulke, is bribing kids for their hard-earned work in exchange for some nice sugar.

Rumour also has it that she has been hacking students' debit cards to pay for lollies, making an easy tax-free profit on top of her salary.

Our interviewer, Matthew Marin, had a very revealing interrogation.

Kassulke admitted that she had "scammed many year sevens and year eights' delicious food and prized debit cards".

Obviously repulsed, Matthew questioned: "Is there any profit in this?"

Kassulke replied: "Yes, there is enormous profit to be made as lollies cost little but most students' debit cards contain much more."

Despite admitting to these claims, Mrs Kassulke gave us interviewers lollies to keep quiet. However, we did not comply.



Students have described Mrs Kassulke as sweet and nice normally but, when frustrated, can be a whole new person. She will take a student's invention and either hide or destroy it!

Her skills in hacking debit cards have reportedly come from the members of the technology department teaching her the ways of hacking and scamming.

Taking all this into consideration, it is easy to say that Mrs Kassulke cannot be trusted by anybody, and you might want to be cautious around her when in DT.

You never know when she might be planning to steal your hard-earned cash and precious debit card.



Money Wasted on Plants which are Already Being Destroyed!

As part of the school's beautification program, a brand new garden has been planted near the woodwork workshop, however, it is being trampled over by students in a clear sign they are unhappy with the new developments.

The garden was constructed in controversy as it caused considerable disruption to students trying to work in the surrounding classrooms while jackhammers smashed away at concrete to create the space. If the garden was made during the holidays the noise would not have disrupted the students.

The promised ping-pong table has not been put anywhere in the garden. Thousands of dollars have been wasted on plants that were destroyed within the first week. A simple fix to this problem would be building a barrier around the unprotected plants which would save having to replace the plants. This barrier would cost very little money.



We interviewed Mr Sheather and he said. "The plant beds were not raised, because from an economic point of view it would have been a lot more expensive. We are looking into putting logs around the gardens, but we wanted it to look aesthetically pleasing."

Even though a lot of planning would have gone into the design of the gardens, there could have been improvements to stop the students from walking through the garden.

"The pathways are there for a reason," explained Mr Sheather.

From a long-term point of view, money would be saved by protecting the plants instead of leaving them in the open for children to destroy. Unfortunately, the students seem to be somewhat indifferent to the fragility of the garden and its plants.



Heart-Stopping Production of Lord of the Flies

Are human beings mere savages at heart?

This is the question William Golding seeks to explore in his groundbreaking novel *Lord of the Flies*. Inspired by Golding's masterpiece, Balgowlah Boys are performing a theatre adaptation in 2019. The book and play traces the journey of a group of British schoolboys stranded on an uninhabited island and their failed attempts to govern themselves.

As the play is being released so soon, we spoke to the mastermind behind it, Mrs Tricia Herman.

After talking to Mrs Herman and the cast we had a much better insight into the drama production. We learnt that the drama production, which we assumed was running smoothly, was riddled with problems ranging from lightning, to the hall and cast not being available for practice.

Some of these problems they were able to fix, such as buying new lighting. Unfortunately, they were not able to resolve problems like cast being unavailable and the hall being used.



As Mrs Herman explained, “These problems have not stopped us from creating a marvellous play.”

We also realised that the cast were mainly kids new to acting and drama. They only have 4 experienced cast members. In total there are thirteen cast members performing the play with the director and one stage manager.

After speaking to Mrs Tricia Herman we concluded that the drama production was not something to be missed. It is being performed in the school hall on the 27th and the 28th of March. These shows are open to anybody as long as you book in advance.

“It wasn't difficult, it was just challenging.”