Science Week

The focus for Science Week this year was sustainable energy; to explore this topic all Years 5 and 6 students visited the Middle School laboratories.

Beforehand, students gained some background knowledge with their classroom teachers about how Australia produces most of its electrical energy. The students came to the realisation that much of the energy is produced through the burning of fossil fuels and this is not going to be able to be sustained at the rate at which we are currently using electricity. They then investigated some other ways that we can produce electricity.

After these discussions, the students went to the Middle School laboratories and burned cheezels to explore how biomass can be used as a source of energy to produce electricity. They used solar cells to light a bulb and learnt how hydrogen can power a car and how wind turbines can produce electricity. Students also made circuits using ‘brainboxes’. Follow-up discussions were then held with class teachers about how some of the renewable energies are currently being used commercially and domestically to generate power.

Years 3 and 4 students had a similar discussion about how Australia produces most of its electricity and explored how electricity travels in circuits. Students used the brainboxes to see how circuits worked.

Many Junior Primary classes also used the brainboxes during buddy lessons.

We thank the dedicated Middle School Science Staff, both the teachers and the Laboratory Technicians, for making these experiences possible for the Junior School students. They really engaged in the experience and gained a lot from it.

Mr Smith
Year 5 Teacher