

Central School taps into educational technology

...willing to share videos with other schools

By Glenda Willie

CENTRAL SCHOOL IN PORT VILA has tapped into educational technology for effective results for its students.

The project commenced in May 2017 with teaching materials downloaded mainly from Youtube.

This project is based on three main goals; "Provide stimulating, interesting, appropriate, accurate visual materials for students and teachers, both within the Vanuatu Curriculum and beyond, so as to stimulate learning and curiosity and raise achievement.

"Encourage and enable teachers to use variety of teaching approaches (flipped classroom, blended learning) so as to make their teaching more student-centered, differentiated, informed and effective.

"Supply audio-visual materials to schools in Vanuatu, particularly those disadvantaged by lack of access to internet and television."

According to School Principal, Alexander Hetyet, the initiative came about after concerns were raised by school principals on the ongoing fail rate of Year 13 students. They have not been achieving the results as expected in chemistry, Biology, Accounting, Statistics, physics.

"One of the problems that the principals identified was that many of the schools lacked resources."

Hetyet said students these days are visually geared with electronic gadgets so the school

is using this opportunity to transfer the learning materials to the students.

To date, the school has downloaded 50,000 videos. These videos range from teaching materials for preschool up to Year 13 in all subjects in English language.

Principal Hetyet said they also downloaded subjects that are not included in the school curriculum but have been downloaded, for example, Meteorology, Geology, astronomy, linguistics, anthropology.

"This is to help the students make good career choices while studying."

All the students from Years 10-13 have a flash drive each.

"That is a total of 320 students altogether, supplied with a 32GB flash drive each covering several 100 videos with all their respective subjects."

The students watch their lessons at night and take notes and they can ask questions in class the following day.

"This is going to make a big difference in their achievements in education."

The school is also training the teachers on how to use the materials.

So far, the school principal said they have distributed the educational videos to at least 52 schools within Shefa Province, a couple to Malekula, Pentecost and Tafea.

They are planning to go around and conduct workshops in schools on how to use the videos.

There are also plans to take in a French counterpart so this

project will be available in French as well.

Central School is inviting any schools, parents or students from other schools to contact the Central School principal if they are keen to use the downloaded collection of the educational videos.

The teaching materials are charged but at affordable prices.

"The school is supplying flash drives or external drives. The pricing is based on the cost of the external/flash drives, internet, administrative charges, labours and overheads. There is no profit margin since Central School considers this as a community service."

Schools which are interested can be supplied with the videos in a couple of days.

Central School is also welcoming sponsorship from anyone who is interested to support this course.

Principal Hetyet is conveying his acknowledgment to the Australian High Commissioner, Ms Jenny Da Rin for providing two multi USB port rapid duplicators, and assisting the principal with travel expenses to distribute the drives and provide training to teachers on the most effective ways to use the videos.

Acknowledgment is also extended to EQAP and SPC in Fiji for providing a multi-port rapid duplicator through support of Mrs. Geetanjali Lal.

Their contributions towards this project will be benefiting not only students of Vanuatu, but, students from Solomon Islands, Samoa, Kiribati and Tuvalu.

