In this case study, the school was beginning to integrate technology into all aspects of education. Ricardo, the teacher, discussed the use of smart boards and mentioned that many teachers were unfamiliar with how to use them, often using them for PowerPoints presentations. He questioned how we can determine whether technology is making a difference and how we can ensure it is helping students broaden their minds, rather than narrowing them.

**The Future is Now**

***Philosophy: Do you think that critical thinking, social responsibility, and interpersonal skills are necessarily compromised when an educational system embraces technology?***

As schools start to increasingly embrace technology, there will continue to be concerns about life skills being compromised. This shift in technology can be seen from two sides; one being technology enhances students' skills or the other being technology risks students' development. I find myself somewhere in the middle of these two views, as a teacher, I believe embracing technology is a deeply personal decision. We need to look at the idea of technology as a supplement, not a substitution. Technology can be used to enhance learning, bringing a more diverse way of teaching and opportunities to use new tools, and quite frankly if we aren’t teaching our students to use technology then they are falling behind. Students need to learn how to use technology, so they are prepared for the future and feel comfortable using it. In today's world, technology is a big part of everyday life so knowing how to use it is essential and how to use it responsibly is important. Technology also can replace real-world learning, being hands-on, face-to-face communication that could lead to gaps in the curriculum. Critical thinking could also be compromised if technology is being overused for simple tasks. I think students can become too reliant on technology to do things, which can become an unhealthy routine. It's important for technology to help or challenge students, not just make things easier.

***Implications for Practice: In adopting new technologies, how will you ensure that you keep both student learning and student safety at the forefront.***

When adopting new technologies in my classroom, it is important to remember to prioritize students' safety and learning. To keep students safe while online, it is up to the teacher to check and try out the website before using it and making sure it is safe and what they want the students to learn. A good thing to practice is teaching them digital safety, technology is something that will be in their lives and ensuring they learn how to properly use it while being safe is a good step. To ensure students are learning, asking for feedback, or doing an assessment is an easy way to track if they are learning, can also monitor to make sure students are on track.