

Principal's Report P&F Meeting March 28, 2017.

Welcome to Week Nine! This follows three major P&F events – four including last Friday! The Sundowner, Maggie Dent, Dads and Kids Camp out, and the Business Directory presentation which happened last Friday make clear the commitment by the P&F to its pillars of supporting the school in its work, empowering parents and building community.

Thanks again to the support of the P&F we can accelerate the process to reimagine the Year Two classes as contemporary learning spaces, with our Year Two teachers investigating furniture options which will work for them. Our Year One classes commenced the process, ready for the beginning of this year. Year Six will be ready from the beginning of term two. Our plan is to proceed as follows: Years 1,6,2,5,3,4, Library, PP, Kindy. With the cost being \$10 000 per class (\$20 000 per grade) and one grade per year coming from the school budget, having the P&F's support which doubles the rate of progress is very much appreciated.

Our new newsletter has been received really well. The format is great, it reads well on mobile devices, and it reduces significantly the setout work Michele has to do, thus freeing her up to undertake other duties. We are continuing to add to our FAQ page in the newsletter. The reason for creating it was aligned to our thinking i.e. if one person is asking, the odds are good that others are thinking. It has received good feedback.

Staffing: Trish Norman has finished for this term to nurse her daughter, and former staff member, Bek. Kerry Capelli is away for the foreseeable future. Please keep all of them and your families in your prayers. Rom Strack is teaching Trish's gang for the rest of the term. She has been a major asset.

Our new staff, Mel Ana and Edel continue to travel well. They certainly are proving to be great to work with, intelligent and adaptable. Our first school mass – a few weeks ago now - went well and for the first time our staff and student leaders were commissioned together. It was wonderful to be a part of that. We are blessed to have Father Peter as our parish priest. He really values the school, and is involved, and we truly are grateful for that. We look forward to our end of term mass with Father Peter. Holy Week takes place in the holidays, and not in term time. This is the most important time in the Christian Calendar, and is an important focus across Holy Rosary, with Stations of the Cross in Church, prepared by Assistant Principal Pat Winton. Class teachers together with their children have prepared reflections on the Stations, and these can be found throughout school.

Parent teacher information sessions went really well. Geordie arranged a feedback opportunity for those who attended and this was appreciated. Questions? Around timing (late) was the main one, which was a fair comment. A lot of good responses as well to understanding where what we do fits in to the bigger picture. And the footage went down really well!

Soon we have the parent teacher meetings. These meetings provide an opportunity to find out more about how the term has been for your child. Teachers have spent a lot of time preparing for these meetings with you, and we welcome your presence.

Our swimming trials were great fun! We really enjoyed them and so did the children. Events are really important in the life of the school, and they need to be managed well to get the best out of them. To that end we have an exceptional teacher of P.E. in Rob Flexman. His capacity to organize such events, and to review them and make improvements for the next time, makes him great to work with. I express my appreciation to Rob and Barracudas for arranging swimming training for our squad, at no cost. Some of our parents too will assist in the training, which is amazing!

The initial part of the Teacher Appraisal process has drawn to a close, and this year is the most successful it has been which is good news. This has been an engaging process the Admin team have been taking classes while teachers watch one another's lessons. Geordie and I have also watched lessons also have observed lessons for the purposes of appraisal. It has been an interesting and revealing exercise and one which, when done thoroughly and for the right reasons, has significant benefits for improving teacher practices. Teaching is a life long journey of learning.  
Thank you.