

**SCHOOL BOARD PRINCIPAL'S UPDATE
WEEK 4, TERM 4, 2019**

1:1 MacBook Presentation Morning Thursday 31st October.

This year, the school administration and the ICT committee decided to present the Year 3, 1:1 Macbook information session to a morning timeslot, after the last two years receiving a poor attendance to the evening session. Although a great deal of the information was similar to what would be presented in the evening session, one new addition to the session was providing parents the opportunity to spend time in two Year 4 classrooms after the formal presentation to view learning in action, utilising the MacBooks. We also allowed parents to pre-ask any questions in regards to the program before the session, so they could be answered to the whole group. The question did arise about the future of the MacBooks in relation to swapping to a cheaper alternative to be more cost effective for parents, which I addressed. In my response, I mentioned that I, along with the School Board are hearing the concerns from parents and will make an informed decision as to how to move forward in 2020. This potential in transition will need to be researched, community opinion will need to be sought and feeder secondary schools and their BYOD programs will also need to be considered in our decision-making processes. This will need to be early work for the School Board in 2020, so appropriate planning can take place, if a change in device is going to be considered.

Graduation

The Year 6 Graduation ceremony will be taking place on Thursday 12th December and this year we will hold a day time ceremony from 12:00pm- 3:00pm, to more effectively cater to our families and dignitaries' busy schedules at this time of the year. It will again take place at the Mt Pleasant Baptist Church in Booragoon, as this is the only venue in our local area that can cater for our large cohorts. The children will have an opportunity to have a dress rehearsal in the venue in the morning prior to the formal event in the afternoon. We are also trying to support families during this busy time of year with the change in time to reduce the number of evening events that the Year 6 students need to attend in the last two weeks. To support the cost of hiring the venue, the parents will be charged, similar to last year, a nominal fee per seat.

Cultural Garden

The first stage of our two-year planning towards our cultural garden is now complete, with the finished product looking spectacular. Students, teachers and families have been busy exploring the area, holding lessons in the 'meeting place' and using the space to meet up and socialise, before and after school. Additional seating and potential shade can be added to the area at a later stage. At the next Communications Meeting, the staff will be walked through the significance of each garden bed, so this can be passed onto our students. (ie, shape of the coastline in the curve design, colour of the garden beds, planting of natives, gabien basket's significance etc) Now the garden is complete, we will explore how to respectfully conduct an opening ceremony for the area and request the presence of local elders to support this important milestone for our school.

Staffing

Staffing for 2020 is well and truly underway at this point in time, with fixed term applicants waiting to fill any position that is vacant due to permanent staff taking leave for mainly young children. As we do not have any permanent positions available at our school, retaining those quality fixed term staff who we have already invested in over the past few years is becoming problematic as new schools with clear vacancies open. We have created a quality teacher pool specific to AG for our

fixed term appointments, so as the term progresses, we will continue to offer positions once vacancies become clearer. I am continually speaking with all staff to ensure that this time, which can be quite emotional for some are well supported from a health and wellbeing perspective and given the professional learning to apply for positions as they arise.

SDD Term 4, 2019

Last Friday we held our final school development day for staff for 2019. After experiencing such a reflective year, with an independent school review process in Term 1, in addition to a completion of a second year of our school business plan, this day was a perfect opportunity to review 'where we are at' in regards to our plan, how we are going to address our review recommendations and how we are going to prioritise this important work. It is essential in these situations to get all staff to share a common understanding in our school improvement plan. To do this, we also provided our staff with time to reflect on our most recent school and system level data, work that will continue over the next few weeks. The afternoon session provided professional learning in the set up of Apple Classrooms, a new application the Apple Education suite of software. This is used to streamline what students need to access whilst using IT and also provides a monitoring system of students and what they are accessing whilst on their devices, to ensure that they are being digitally responsible citizens. The day was extremely information heavy, however very productive in ensuring that 2019 concludes effectively and that we are setting the scene for a strong and clear direction commencement for 2020, as a teaching staff.

School Events

Seven students from Years 4 through to 6 represented Western Australia and our school to the highest level last week when they travelled to Tasmania for the International final of Tournament of Minds competition. Over 800 students from all over Australia, New Zealand and Hong Kong competed in 4 different discipline areas to win a place in this international competition. Our students competed in the Primary Social Science category and although they did not place this year, their solutions were creative and highly engaging. I would like to pass on my sincerest thanks to Ros Foote for facilitating the team over Term 3 to support them to reach this position and Lynna Matthews for overseeing the organisation of the travel of the students to Tasmania. Next year, the International final will be held in Western Australia, which will alleviate the financial burden if we make the final rounds again.

Congratulations to Che Hillson and Michael Crake for preparing the interschool team to attend the CCEN athletics carnival last Monday and Wednesday. The students had a fantastic day, demonstrated impeccable sportsmanship and was rewarded for their efforts by placing third for team games, and third overall. Our Year 3 boy, Maikah received overall champion boy and Bayley, in Year 4 received champion boy for his division.

Mesha Steel
Principal