

**Principal's Report for the School Board
Week 4, Term 3, 2020**

Welcome to our school board members to Term 3, 2020.

COVID Update

The students, staff and community have all displayed an extraordinary effort last term, working together to maintain the government Phase 4 easing of restrictions and how they have been interpreted for an educational setting. Many of our students have developed a new-found independence in preparing themselves for their school day, through entering the school independently and supporting siblings, if necessary, through to entering their classrooms, connecting with their classroom teachers and preparing for their school day.

We have maintained the additional cleaners on our school site in Term 2 and now in Term 3 throughout the day to ensure a very hygienic school environment with a focus on high contact areas, bathrooms, playgrounds and any common areas, for example the Library, Staffroom and the public space in the Administration Office. We also celebrated and formally recognised our cleaning staff at the end of last term to thank them for their efforts in keeping our school community clean and safe during such extraordinary times. We hosted a breakfast for our staff and enjoyed spending some time with them in a relaxed setting. The staff posted their gratitude to our cleaning staff on Facebook to acknowledge the efforts of our cleaners to our community.

We are currently now adhering to the Phase 4 requirements that were announced by our government on Saturday 2th June. The implication for this phase in the school setting is the adherence to the 2-metre squared rule for all adults, which has made our recommencement of whole school events, assemblies and open nights not possible at this stage due to our large population and restriction in indoor venue size. We will continue with certain school events; for example Science Week (Wk 4 and 7), NAIDOC Week (Wk10) and the Athletics Carnivals (Wk7 and 9) in alternative formats so our students can still experience these important school calendar events; however with reduced numbers and alterations to parent involvement.

We are now waiting to see if Phase 5 will be implemented by the state government; however, it has been postponed now on three occasions. The next tentative review date has now been scheduled for Saturday August 29th. The department has advised that any changes will be formally outlined to school leaders later after the move to Phase 5 and will then be communicated by me to our community.

Business Plan 2021-2023

We are now entering the six month working phase for the development of the next business plan, the fourth to be delivered to the school. Over the next term, working parties of the whole staff, students, school board and parent representatives will be invited to reflect on the school's past business plans, the strategic direction of the department, data sets and what our aspirations and vision is for the school in the short, medium and long term. The key to a successful plan is to widely consult with all stakeholders to ensure that there is ownership and authorship of what is created. The additional school development day, given to us by the department due to COVID this year, on Friday 11th September, will be dedicated to the continuation of this work with the staff. A number of parent and P and C representatives will be invited to come into the school to work through the process with key staff members in Week 5 and the School Board will be updated at each meeting and will, at times, be consulted so that the members can contribute to relevant areas in the plan.

Development of Health and Wellbeing Surveys for Students, Staff and Community

To determine the effects of COVID on our staff, students and community, we have designed and have now implemented a range of surveys; all of which were closed by the conclusion of Term 2. The analysis of this data will support what strategic direction we need to take, not only to support our community for the remainder of the year, but to also determine what the requirements would be moving forward for the school's new business plan.

After extensive research by the Positive Education team we decided to fund and access the AWE (Assessing Wellbeing in Education) assessment for children. This survey, undertaken in Week 10 of Term 2, saw students in Years 3-6 complete a short, online questionnaire.

Well-being assessment scientists and school psychology experts have developed the Assessing Wellbeing in Education (AWE) assessment in consultation with Australian schools. The AWE survey consists of a collection of validated psychometric scales and scientifically informed, age appropriate questions from the psychology literature that assess various aspects of well-being. It covers all major theories of well-being, rather than one particular theory or perspective. We provided our families with information about the survey, also offering an 'opt out', should they not want their child to participate.

The P and C also requested some information on how they can support our families, as they decided as a group that the usual targeted fundraising would not be appropriate this year. The parent and family survey will provide this group some further insight as to how they can support our families emerging from COVID restrictions and have already initiated for Term 4 a partially funded yoga program open to all interested students to promote a positive health and wellbeing. To rebuild and promote a positive school community, they are also organising a free disco evening event for all students in Week 3 of Term 4.

All of this data will be analysed by the Positive Education team and shared with the appropriate parties over the course of Term 3.

Developing Excellent Educators- Future Leaders Framework

We have again in 2020 nominated our school to be involved in the Department's initiative to actively identify and develop those staff members who self-identify as having leadership aspirations, regardless of where they are in their career. This opportunity asks prospective applicants to reflect upon their personal attributes, in addition to what they have already achieved in the area of school leadership to self-nominate for a position. An independent panel, including a member from outside of the school then selects those suitable applicants, based on the application process to be involved in the process for the next 18 months. We are expanding this initiative this cycle to include other schools in the CCEN network; to encourage the creation of a collegiate group for the successful applicants, to provide increased coaching and mentoring opportunities, work shadowing and a more targeted approach to the provided professional learning, based on individual needs. Deputy Principal's, Jaylene Fritchley from Aubin Grove and Christie Toms, from Atwell Primary School have both been attending the professional learning for the Future Leaders and will oversee the implementation of this across our network.

Capital Works and Improvements:

There are some areas in the school we are looking to upgrade over the next six months:

Year 1 and 2 playground and equipment- This particular phase of the school has not received an upgrade to their play area in some time. With the degeneration of the cubby house which resulted in its removal, we are now currently working with Programmed to tender out an upgrade to the imaginative play aspect of this area. Concept drawings have been created, with a focus on a fort type structure, extra bike tracks and climbing apparatus to develop upper body strength; an area that is not accommodated for in the Spiderman play equipment. The finance committee has also approved the purchase of a variety of equipment items that encourage both passive and imaginative play in the undercover area.

Furniture- upgrades to furniture in the Administration area public entry, IT area for the upper primary (which \$10 000 was funded by the P and C at the conclusion of 2019) and staff professional learning space is currently in the final consultation stage. DVA Fabrication is our preferred company to complete these upgrades and we will be expecting delivery of our new furniture mid Term 4, 2020.

As part of our upgrade and replacement program for our aging interactive board, six new boards will be ordered this term to replace 4 general purpose classrooms and the two Art rooms.

Mesha Steel
Principal