

**Principal's Report for the School Board
Week 10, Term 3, 2020**

Year 3-6 Athletics Carnival

We changed our format this year for the both the junior and senior athletics carnival to cater for the Phase 4 COVID conditions. Separating all of the carnivals; junior and senior and then further again with a K/PP carnival in the morning and 1/2 in the afternoon and again with the year 3/4 and 5/6 separating was most favourable. The students were busy and engaged the whole time they were out on the oval, in addition to being very motivated to cheer on their faction! We were able to ensure that all events were still programmed in for the day, minus the parent and teacher relay at the conclusion of the day!

The families and communities were especially supportive of the day and I would personally like to pass on my gratitude for all stakeholders working together to ensure that we remained COVID safe whilst holding a whole school event. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the Aubin Grove Community centre for allowing our families to use their facilities on the carnival days, which then allowed our school site to remain exclusive for our students and staff, keeping in line with COVID restrictions. Well done to all students who participated with excellent sportsmanship on the day and a big congratulations must be passed onto Green Faction, who held the lead for the whole day!

I would also like to thank Mr Craig Fritchley and Mr Che Hilson for their exceptional work with their students throughout the term to ensure that the students were prepared for the day and for their planning of the events in very unusual circumstances.

Year 6 Rottnest Camp

After two false starts (COVID restrictions and a cancelled ferry due to large swell) all 133, Year 6 students finally made it to Rottnest Island for their camp on the 8th through to the 10th of September. Once we finally made it to the island we had such an action-packed time; riding bikes up to Oliver Hill, playing beach games, quokka observing and star gazing, just to name a few of our many planned activities. The students made new friendships, developed further resiliency being away from home and families, took on new leadership opportunities and displayed the highest level of behaviour at all times.

It is very safe to say, that we all came back to Perth happy but extremely exhausted as there wasn't a great deal of sleep for some students over the two nights. Our students very much enjoyed keeping each other awake in some dorms with lots of talk and laughter and we do all know that excited children together do not sleep! I would like to thank all of the Year 6 teachers and Education Assistants, Deputy Lynna Matthews, and our extra helpers Amberlie, Che, Therese, Michelle and parent Justine Johnson for supporting our Year 6 students to have the most fantastic time.

Tournament of Minds 2020

Tournament of Minds 2020 was a little different to the usual format we have been very familiar with in competitions in past years. In 2020, the requirement to compete was to upload a 5- minute presentation to the TOM site, to showcase IT skills whilst solving the presented problem, rather than performing a solution to a live audience. This year Aubin Grove PS entered three teams; with the Language Literature team winning a distinction and the Social Science Team 1 winning an honour mention. The Social Science Team 2 also created a stellar solution to their problem and produced a highly humorous and antic filled performance. Well done to all of our students for their team efforts and commitment to their TOM work throughout the competition season. I would also like to thank Mrs Ros Foote, Miss Peta Bartlett and Mrs Matthews for dedicating their personal time to developing their teams to this level.

NAIDOC Week

In this final week of Term 3, we are celebrating a most special event on our school calendar; NAIDOC Week. This year the theme for NAIDOC is 'Always Was, Always Will Be' and recognises the first Nations people have occupied and cared for this continent for over 65 000 years. To recognise the significance of this week, last Friday, we welcomed the Binjareb Middars group to Aubin Grove to perform a Noongar 'Welcome to Country', followed by dancing to showcase the dance styles and techniques, unique to various occasions for Aboriginal people. This week, our HASS committee have organised an interactive week of recess and lunch break activities for our students to be involved with; including a visual display from all AGPS students, beading and bracelet making, season hunt and chalk drawings to name a few. The school choir will perform for our community on Tuesday morning and teachers will be highlighting with their students the significance of NAIDOC week in their teaching and learning programs. This acknowledgement and celebration will be a very fitting end to our successful Term 3.

Virtual Open Night

Teachers and students are working extremely hard to prepare for our virtual open night which will be sent out electronically to parents on Wednesday of Week 10. We made this decision to hold our annual open night in this innovative way this year due to not being able to accommodate our visitors on our school site due to COVID. The virtual open night will be similar to participating in a learning journey in the classroom, so families can view the progress their child/ren have made throughout the year, only this time, the work samples will be showcased in an online format.

In Week 10 on Wednesday 23rd September, all parents will receive a formal invitation to the virtual event, with a QR code to access their child's See Saw account for Years Kindy through to Year 3 and parents in Years 4-6 will receive an invitation link to access an ePublisher document showcasing their child's work. The students have been working incredibly hard, learning new technology to showcase their work over the last term and they are looking forward to sharing open night with their families, in the comforts of their own homes. I have been so fortunate to have seen many samples of open night work across the different year levels and I have been so impressed with our student's IT capabilities and the high standard of work that they have produced over the past three terms. We look forward to hearing some feedback from our families about what their child shares with them on Wednesday before the conclusion of the term.

Staffing

As Term 3 draws to a close, recruitment processes for 2021 have commenced. These processes will continue until the conclusion of Term 4, with processes for fixed term teaching staff, deputies, principal and a new pedagogical leader role to support the delivery of curriculum into the classroom, will all need to take place. We still have a number of permanent teachers that have indicated that they will be away on parental leave for 2021 and due to the COVID restrictions in movement across states, our final student numbers may not stabilise until the commencement of the 2021 school year. Other schools are reporting similar concerns with how they predict student numbers for 2021 and currently, government is requesting information on how many potential staff and students are looking to move interstate or international in the new year. Creating recruitment pools of staff will support our school to ensure that the highest level of staff who are aligned to our AGPS values are available and ready should our student numbers demand further staff.

Mesha Steel
Principal