

**Principal's Report for the School Board  
Term 1, Week 5 2021**

*Welcome back to all members for our 2021 school year. You are all an integral component of our school community, our decision-making processes to drive the school improvement plan and the delivery of our school targets. We are very appreciative of your support and positive endorsement of our school across the wider community.*

**Enrolment Numbers**

This year on our census day, we finalised our enrolment as 1035 students, which is 33 students less than 2020. As forecasted, our numbers will slowly decline now over the coming years, as Honeywood Primary School, Hammond Park Secondary College and the surrounding area continues to develop. COVID has also had a significant impact around our local Cockburn network, with many of our fellow primary schools reporting a drop in enrolments across all years and students still moving to other schools, well after the commencement of Term 1. The 33 students that have left us this year are across all year levels, with all families moving out of the Aubin Grove area, or interstate. This has left us with another free transportable building at the current time, which will be utilised as a space for the community nurse to conduct early childhood screenings throughout the year, in addition to instrumental music program finally having a dedicated space to work in.

**False Start to 2021!**

The premier's announcement on Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> January to put Perth metropolitan area into lockdown for the first week of school was met with much disappointment from all AGPS staff and families, who had worked incredibly hard to open the school ready for the 2021 school year. We were well and truly ready to go, and the school environment looked incredible, thanks to the hard work from all teaching and cleaning staff.

Our school community is becoming somewhat used to the everchanging fluctuations that COVID restrictions can bring and we are well placed to move to an online teaching and learning forum, should it ever be required. All families again worked cooperatively with the school to bring their children back into the school environment through the staggering of the school day, wearing masks when on the school site and refraining from entering classrooms where possible. Students have now settled into their new classroom routines and expectations for 2021 and Term 1, with the loss of the first week, is moving at a fast pace to ensure diagnostic assessments and reporting back to parents is completed before the conclusion of the term.

**New Teaching Staff**

This year, after running a teacher recruitment process in late 2019, many of our fixed term teachers, who were acting in positions for long-term permanent staff on leave, were able to again receive a new fixed term contract for 2020.

In Term 4, 2020, we did complete an additional process to create a pool of suitable teaching staff to cover any shortfall later in the year. We have welcomed to Aubin Grove for 2021:

- Briana Lambert- PP
- Renee Barlow- Yr 1
- Grace Nalder- Yr 1
- Jessica Stevenson- Yr 2
- Lauren Franker- Yr 2
- Koby Taylor- Yr 2
- Esmerelda Reinersten- Yr 3
- Lauren Pedrotti- Yr 5
- Sasha Battrick – Yr 6
- Melanie Fehring- Yr 1 SNEA
- Kylie Cross- Yr 2 SNEA
- Cortni Cooper- Yr 3 SNEA
- Ashleigh Hegerty- Yr 4 SNEA

We welcome our new staff to our school and have a very comprehensive induction process, in addition to the distributed leadership team structure to support and mentor them and their individual needs as they transition into their new school and classrooms for 2021.

**School Development Day 2021 'a new era for Aubin Grove Primary School'**

As we have commenced 2021 with thirteen new staff members; to develop a cohesive, positive and inclusive school education team, we utilised our first school development day to build upon our growing knowledge of effective teams. Whole school

team effectiveness can be jeopardised working with such a large staff, across an expansive work site, now compounded at times by COVID restrictions. The administration team worked closely with team building company 'Beyond the Boardroom' to design an Amazing Race so that all staff members had an opportunity to meet our new staff and work for the day in a new team of colleagues that they do not often get the opportunity to work with. Focusing on communication skills, decision making and trust, the ten teams moved around Perth city to complete challenges together in a fun environment. It was exciting as a school leader to observe teams of staff working together for the first time, getting to know each other and working together in a different setting. This positive day and team development supported our resilience as a group when our first week back at school did not go to plan and will continue to help us build our strength as a group as 2021 evolves.

Our second professional development day back at the school site was a dynamic learning opportunity for all staff, utilising the expertise already existing within our staffing group. Keeping our focus on our three priority areas; English, Mathematics and Positive Education, our learning sessions covered key topics from these three areas. The morning session included Nina Vukovac presenting the Letters and Sounds phonics resource and how this can support all students in their acquisition of phonics and spelling from pre-primary to Year 6, followed by Lauren Brown and Lily Dorotich presenting a humorous and very practical session on Classroom Management Strategies- *a practical, positive and consistent approach to managing behaviour in the classroom*. Melanie Osborne supported staff in their beginning understandings of our new software platform, Datahub which will build upon and store student historical data to target individual learning need. Kathryn Grzelec shared her review and refinement of our SAER (students at educational risk) processes commencing for 2021 and her new role as the student services deputy for the students who receive a disability resourcing allocation.

As outlined in this subheading, Aubin Grove Primary School is entering into a new era, as the school community moves beyond its tenth birthday. Building on the school's exceptional foundation and success over these first years, we recognise the importance of identifying priority areas to drive our school improvement plan and to ensure that the new school business plan and all stakeholders sights are firmly set on these areas. This is the work that we will continue to focus upon over the course of the next three years.

#### **Retirement Announcement for a Foundation Staff Member**

Last Wednesday, I was made aware that an end of an era will be approaching our school community at the conclusion of Term One. Our dear friend and colleague, Sheryl Mansfield who has been our foundation business manager since 2011 has decided to retire.

Sheryl has been instrumental in working tirelessly alongside Frank Pansini, Nola Smith, Jackie Becher and the foundation teaching staff to create this beautiful school over the past years and together, they have built this community from the ground up, which we all get the benefit of working in, each and every day. Sheryl is our 'mum', our sister, and our much loved and loyal friend. Her announcement has been received with much sadness that this era of foundation administration will be over; however, with so much happiness for her that she can leave her role knowing that she has made an exceptional contribution to our school and its community.

For those who don't know, Sheryl and her lovely husband Ian are doing final renovations on their Leeming home of over 30 years to start a new home building adventure in Wandi, close to her daughter's family. Daughter Ebony has a newborn baby girl and three-year old son, Judd, who all need much more Nanna attention whilst they are young. Sheryl is the most wonderful and doting mother and grandmother, and we all know how this extra time with your children and grandchildren is so valuable and can never be replaced.

We would love to send Sheryl off to her retirement in the way that she deserves after a long and successful career. For any members of the board who would like to join the staff to celebrate all of Sheryl's achievements and even present her with a letter of recognition from the board, please keep your calendars free for Thursday April 1<sup>st</sup>, where we would love for the school board, P and C and teaching staff to join together in the staffroom for morning tea to formally recognise and celebrate her many contributions to AGPS over the last ten years, and to public education for over thirty years.

I know that many of you will want to pass on your congratulations to Sheryl over the next few days and weeks and I am very sure that she will enjoy talking and reminiscing with you all, as we have done after her announcement. She most certainly will be very missed from our daily lives.

**Mesha Steel**  
**Principal**