



# Aubin Grove

## PRIMARY SCHOOL

### Principal's Report for the School Board

Term 2, Week 4 2021

#### **Manager Corporate Services Appointment**

With Sheryl Mansfield's retirement at the conclusion of Term 1, Mrs Therese Turner has been successful in receiving a fixed term contract for the MCS role for the next six months. Therese is a foundation AGPS staff member and originally a level three school officer who has extensive knowledge of the resource and financial management of the school. She is currently being supported by mentors across the MCS network and experts from central office to build upon her knowledge base and has looked at the MCS role with fresh eyes, to streamline processes moving forward throughout 2021.

#### **Melanie Osborne Wins Permanent Principal Position**

I am sure that by now you would have read Melanie's very exciting, but sad news that she will not be returning to Aubin Grove at the commencement of Term 2, 2021.

On behalf of the Aubin Grove community, I want to pass on my sincerest of congratulations to Melanie for achieving a permanent Principal position. When we first met Melanie three years ago, we knew that her depth of early childhood knowledge and pedagogical approach was extremely rare to find and there was absolutely no way we were going to let this amazing opportunity for our school pass us by. Along with her calm, caring and friendly personality, she has developed a clear improvement strategy in collaboration with her team and then bought them along with her vision. As a result, our early childhood program is outstanding and very well known as a leader in this field in public education. How lucky have we all been, having this opportunity, whether it be administrator, teacher, education assistant or support staff to work alongside her and benefit from her expertise!

Most importantly, Melanie is a trusted colleague, confidant and friend and we are all going to miss her terribly. Melanie will make the most wonderful principal and the personal timing for her couldn't be any better, with adult children and her husband Matt settling into his new role down at SMERO. Her determination to continuously develop her own professional capacity in order to position herself in readiness for the right role has been wonderful to observe and North Dandalup PS will be privileged to have her leading their school. I am hoping that when we all settle into our 'new normal' Melanie can come back to AGPS for a little visit and we can give her the send off that she truly deserves. I would appreciate a member of the board, who has worked closely with Melanie over the past three years to write her a letter to thank her for her contributions to the board.

After taking the time to talk to the Early Childhood team and based on their feedback, the administration team have extensively explored the options to determine who could fill the deputy role for a short period of time to provide the continuity of leadership. Based on what the team told us, this person would need to have a good understanding of the immediate context of the early childhood phase of the school, the current pedagogy in place for both K and PP, and the need to utilise the most recent data to implement an alternative approach into the kindy classrooms to address the needs for oral language acquisition in our Kindy students. Of course, there are the more traditional needs required of a deputy, to ensure the continued smooth operation of this phase, without disrupting the school in what we know to be a busy, reporting term.

Based on all of this information, the unexpected absence of a deputy at the start of the term and the uncertainty around how long a process could take, we have decided to appoint Mrs Rui Tan into the temporary deputy role for until the successful permanent deputy is determined. Rui has extensive knowledge of the current context, pedagogy, students, parents, agencies and staff and already knows how to proceed in many of the priority areas for the next term. She has already established a trusting, caring and supportive relationship with the early childhood staff and she will continue to work with them in a similar fashion as she has done so over the past year, except more from a leadership perspective over the next few weeks. I know that as a school we are so fortunate to have many educators who would be exceptional, capable and aspirant to take on a short-term acting administration role; however, Rui is the right choice for this team, right now, and her temporary appointment will ensure that early childhood will continue to have the stability this phase of learning requires over the next while, whilst they come to terms with Melanie's departure from Aubin Grove.

I know that along with the administration team, you will congratulate Rui on this new role and continue to work collaboratively with her until our recruitment process is completed. Rui commenced her role in Week 3 and her student work in her intervention role will also be backfilled by returning teacher, Hannah Chadwick and education assistant, Sarah Chapman whilst she steps away and oversees this responsibility more from a leadership perspective, in addition to the deputy role.

### **Year 6 Camp**

We were so fortunate during these COVID times that we were able to take our 125, Year 6 students off to a three-day leadership camp at Woodman Point Reserve in Week 3. This camp was action packed for the entire time, with a huge array of challenging and team building activities organised by the Department of Sport and Recreation instructors, including indoor-climbing, canoeing, archery, orienteering, kayaking and sports, just to name a few. The instructors who worked with our students and staff were outstanding; they formed relationships with our students and were both knowledgeable and professional in supporting the leadership learning that took place throughout the camp.

The entire cohort, along with the Year 6 staff and members of the administration team had the most wonderful time, getting to know our student leaders in a different setting away from school. The children were engaged, motivated and enjoyed making new friendships and trying new outdoor activities. It is safe to say that we all left the campsite on Friday evening exhausted, but so thrilled that the camp was a wonderful success. I would like to take the opportunity to sincerely thank all of the staff who extensively planned for six months for the camp, in addition to taking time away from their families to support this leadership development of our students; Lily Dorotich, Sasha Battrick, Peta Bartlett, Clare, Chapman Yvette Foulk, Lynna Matthews, Deb Luff, Trish Johnstone, Kylie Becker, Amberlie Conguista, Emanuel, Ribeiro Tarah Souter, Michael Crake and Che Hillson.

### **NAPLAN Assessments Underway**

The Year 3 and 5 students will complete their NAPLAN assessments over the next two weeks to examine their performance in the areas of Writing, Grammar and Spelling Conventions, Reading and Mathematics. We ensure that our students are well prepared to handle the types of questions they may be asked and how this assessment is implemented, as the majority of the assessments are now conducted online with students completing the tests on iPads in Year 3 and MacBooks in Year 5.

Over the past 6 months, the schools IT infrastructure has been challenged on a regular basis to ensure the testing load is effectively handled by our current bandwidths. All schools must take part in these practice tests to ensure that the NAPLAN assessment periods are run without disruption. We understand that the NAPLAN information that we will receive about our school's performance is only a snapshot of our data story; however, without the NAPLAN results to reflect upon from 2020, due to COVID disruptions, we are keen to see how we are travelling against our school improvement plan moving forward with our new business plan for our school.

### **Support for Hammond Park College in their GAT program**

Thank you to the AGPS School Board Chair, Mike Van Dongen for writing to Hammond Park Secondary to support their application to become a gifted and talented (GAT) secondary school. A successful application will support many of our Aubin Grove families, who often look beyond the public school system to enrol their child into a secondary school that offer GAT extension. At AGPS, we have always identified and nurtured our students who require academic extension, with AEP programs offered to identified students in Years 1-6 in Term 2 each year, in addition to our students attending PEAC courses and Tournament of Minds teams competing each year at a state and international level. Developing a clear pathway for our students who are involved in these opportunities at Aubin Grove will ensure they receive a clear transition without additional interruption to their academic progress, whilst being able to continue their schooling close to home with their childhood friends.