

Principal's Report for the School Board Term 4, Week 5 2021

Welcome to Our New Board Staff Members

I would like to warmly welcome Rochelle Lloyd (three-year tenure) and Ash Bisdee (two-year tenure) to the Aubin Grove Primary School Board. I would also like to congratulate Ros Foote who will be returning to our membership for another year. Rochelle, Ash and Ros are recognised as lead teachers in our community, and all continuously go above and beyond their roles to work with, and promote our students and their achievements beyond our school. Their rich and varied teaching experiences will add value to our board membership, and we look forward to partnering with them to drive our school improvement plan throughout their tenure.

I have also tentatively nominated our school, along with Bibra Lake Primary School for any new board members to attend the Department of Education's School Board training at their school on **Thursday 17th February 2022, from 4:00- 6:00pm**. I urge all board members to note this date in their calendars, as it is always an informative and collaborative session to expand member's confidence and knowledge on the board governance for public schools.

School Development Day Term 4

We recently held our final school development day on Friday 29th October for 2021 to undertake some important learning together to drive our key targets and strategies our school business plan. To ensure a consistent and whole school approach to English, our English support teachers and committee members created an opportunity for all of our staff members to be students for the morning and participate in a AGPS English Block.

Separating the staff into early childhood and upper primary, teachers were given a first-hand experience of the student's perspective of the block structure and how each component should be taught, specific to the phases of learning and where the individual students learning is at. It allowed our teaching staff to ask questions, reflect on their own block structures and set some personal goals to work towards in refining their own practice. The feedback from staff was overwhelmingly positive, as it was such a rich learning opportunity for all of our staff members.

Each year level professional learning community also used this day to examine some student data, specific to their year level, in order to set some goals for driving improvement as a team for the final term. This examination of data is also vital information in our transition of students into their new year level and teachers for 2022, to provide continuity of the targeted teaching and learning for our students.

The school development day also allowed the whole staff to hear presentations from fellow colleagues on their extensive work in developing a whole school communication policy for staff and families. All staff were also briefed on the recent review of our Positive Behaviour Policy and what needed to be actioned to ensure a consistent approach from all staff to managing student behaviour.

Capital Works Update

The works scheduled for the school holiday period were all successfully completed during this break. Prior to the holiday period, MCS, Therese Turner, Head Cleaner Megan Sharman, Gardener Kris Mincherton and Principal Meshia Steel did an audit of the entire school grounds and buildings, in order to ascertain what areas need prioritising for upgrades over the next few years.

We were able to upgrade the damaged areas to the naturescape playground and ensured that routine maintenance of removing damaged wood, sanding and sealing the playground was completed. The front garden

beds were raised, and limestone borders were created to define the front façade of the school and are now ready to be planted out in Kris's chosen design, with contributions of gifted plants from the 2020 graduating Year 6 students. The entire school was professionally high pressure cleaned by a commercial provider and our stunning shade sails were reinstalled by West Coast Shade. On behalf of the entire school community, I would also like to pass on my gratitude to the P and C volunteers who installed the 10-year anniversary tree and seat, which is such a beautiful and significant addition to our school's history. Many students and families have shown delight in finding their family leaf and using the swing seat as a photo opportunity.

We have recently experienced a structural fault with a verandah, connected to four transportable buildings in our Year 4 area. This area has now been declared structurally sound by an engineer and we are working closely with the Department of Education and Programmed to rectify the damage to the verandah over the coming weeks. Although to ensure the safety of our staff and students, classes in this area were moved to other areas in the school for one week whilst the assessment of the area was undertaken, all of these classes are now back in their rooms, with the damaged area sectioned off whilst the repair work is being completed.

Community News-Traffic Management Support

Last week, I communicated to all families about an incident that occurred prior to the commencement of the school day, where a young child was hit by a car on his way to school. The student received medical care and has now recovered and back at school.

The management of traffic around the school has become increasingly problematic, before and after school. Both cross walk attendants have reported many near misses, poor driving decisions around the school site, insulting language directed at them and drivers not adhering to the 40 km speed limit around the school. In addition to this, it has been observed that some students are coming to school on bikes and scooters, yet are not wearing helmets. As a result of the recent accident and the deep concern from the community about the management of traffic around the site, there has been an increased police presence, resulting in several driving infringements handed out. The school is also now listed as a regular location for speed cameras, and they have already been present twice in the past week during drop off and pick up times. Due to this increased presence and monitoring, there has already been a significant reduction in negative driving behaviours over the past week.

Staffing for 2022/ Mandatory Staff Immunisation

It has been announced by the State Government and Director General that all staff from Term 1, 2022 will need to be immunised to attend a school site. This directive does not include parents who come into the school for their children. Staff have been informed of this decision and what it means for them as Department of Education staff from 2022.

Staffing for 2022 and the school structure is nearing its final stages for completion. To ensure that the proposed structure is accurate, we are regularly appealing to our families to inform the front office if they are unsure if their children are returning to AGPS in 2022. With the government's decision to keep the state border closed for the immediate future, we will be uncertain if our numbers will shift significantly prior to the commencement of Term 1, 2022; a common concern across all schools currently.

Mesha Steel
PRINCIPAL