

Principal's Report for the School Board
Term 3, Week 4, 2022

Thank you to the administration team, staff and the members of our school community who all worked so well together whilst I took my long service leave in addition to the school holiday break. I am all rested and very ready to return to our school for Semester 2, and to continue the excellent work that our school community undertakes to drive our school improvement plan and positive outcomes for all of our children. I hope our students and families also had a lovely mid semester break and are ready for a productive Semester 2. We have certainly hit the ground running here at Aubin Grove this term, as Term 3 always has the reputation of being a very busy teaching and learning term, for both staff and students, culminating in our annual Open Night, Tournament of Minds competition and our annual athletics carnival.

Looking forward to 2023

Planning is now well underway to determine our school structure based on our projected numbers for 2023. At this point in time, we will be welcoming 99 (with an aim for 100) kindergarten students into our school, therefore again tracking to operate five kindergarten classes. Currently our student enrolments are 1034, and it will be interesting to observe what movement will take place in and out of our suburb in the new year, to see if the enrolments from Pre-Primary through to Year 6 rise or fall. After two full years of COVID restrictions and border closures, it will be difficult to predict what movement might take place this year. We are actively reminding families through Connect each week to inform the office if they have plans to leave Aubin Grove at the conclusion of the year, as this will support our planning.

We are hopeful that by the conclusion of this Week 5, we will have a clear idea about our permanent staff on leave this year and if they plan to return for the start of the 2023 school year. This will then allow us to issue contracts to our fixed term staff to cover this leave for 2023.

Playground Update

We are taking small, but significant steps with our planning for our upper primary playground and on behalf of our school community, I would like to thank the P and C for driving this exciting initiative for our children. To design and build a very complex and commercial grade play structure, we need to use the department's preferred project provider, Programmed to oversee the project. Programmed has surveyed the site and is now engaging companies to design and quote the type of structure we are after. This week, Programmed, has presented a baseline design from Forpark; however, it does not quite meet the brief for our school. Programmed will now outsource further to another company, who design playgrounds to a more specific brief and will then find the company who will be competitive in design and build of the structure.

As the playground will be designed for the Year 4 -6 students, the brief requested innovation in the build and the ability to cater for large numbers playing on the playground at one time. The playground needs to provide appropriate challenge to this preadolescent age group, with a specific focus on building upper and core strength.

P and C Presidents and vice Presidents, Melissa, Stacey and Rhett are all in regular contact with myself and Dianne Podmore, the school's Manager of Corporate Services to support the progress of the project. The planned timeline for completion of the playground will be from August to January 2023. Fingers crossed that materials, workers and the building timeline can be adhered to.

School Development Day

We enjoyed a really interactive final school development day for 2022 on Friday 5th August, focussing on some key areas in Kadadjiny.

All students are engaged and challenged- consistent whole school approaches to identifying, monitoring and supporting Tier 2 and Tier 3 students: Kathryn Grzelec worked with the staff on developing a common understanding of the Tiers of intervention for our students to target their specific learning and social and emotional needs.

Growing lifelong learners who flourish in a community, committed to innovation- We started our Apple Distinguished School journey with Rui Tan and the ICT committee, explaining the process to earn this accolade and then all staff started on earning their Apple Badges to become an Apple Teacher, one of the criteria in becoming an ADS.

Students thrive in an environment that promotes future focused learning and critical and creative thinking. Increase student engagement and participation in STEAM based activities: The Science Committee provided some professional learning and updates about the teaching of Science and the new resources we have available for students to access in classrooms.

Principles of Positive Psychology guide our school culture and approach to health and wellbeing across our community: We finished the day with two sessions; a new to Positive Psychology 101, presented by Elly Griffin and Ash Bisdee for those staff who are new to Aubin Grove this year, or who have returned after leave. This session focused on what Positive Psychology is, who founded it, why it suits our school and what the PERMAH model is. The alternative session, presented by Sophie Parora looked at the continuation of the Pos Psych principles in classrooms using the PEEC. (Positive Education Enhanced Curriculum) This session was designed for those staff members who are more experienced in the delivery of Positive Education in the classrooms.

Coming Events- Paul Litherland

I invite all members of the school board to attend and promote a very important parent information session next Wednesday night, 6:30-8:00am; Paul Litherland. Paul is the founder of Surf Online Safe, was in his former career a detective in the area of cybercrime with WAPOL and was recently announced as 2022 Western Australian of the Year, due to his tireless efforts in providing up to date education for both students and parents.

Proudly presented by the P and C, Paul will be providing sessions for students in Years 4-6 throughout the day focusing in on how to be internet aware, a responsible user and how to look after yourself whilst online. Paul also talks about age restrictions for certain social media platforms and explains to the students why these restrictions exist. In the parent sessions, Paul goes into much greater detail about the benefits and risks associated with being online and then what parents can proactively do to monitor their children, educate them about being internet aware and what to do if their child finds themselves in danger, whilst being online. In our current climate, with devices being a big part of our children's lives from an increasingly younger age, this session is essential for all parents to attend, yearly, as the content changes so rapidly.

Mesha Steel
Principal

10 August 2022