

**Principal's Report for the School Board
Term 2, Week 9, 2022**

Information Technology Strategic Direction- Lumos Learning

This term we have engaged an independent consultant Sarah Hill from Lumos Learning to consult with the school to strategically plan for our information technology improvement plans over the next two years. This consultation has been considerably beneficial with the addition of the iPads into the Year Four classrooms this year. Sarah comes from a teaching background, initially developing the one-to-one iPad programme at Bertram Primary School and other IT roles within the Department. She now works with over 15 schools across the Perth metropolitan area.

The administration team along with the ICT committee have identified some staff members that have a natural passion for information technology, and she is coaching them to build their capacity at their point of need and to also support their team members in their understandings of ICT. We have spent time with Sarah over the past few weeks, sharing our past journey, our vision of what ICT needs to look like moving forward at our school over the next two to five years. She has supported us in this space and has helped us to map a clear direction to upscale all of our staff over this time. Our long-term goal working with Sarah is to address the business plan focus of creating the environment *'that promotes future focused learning and creative and critical thinking'*, and also complete the process to ultimately become an Apple Distinguished School. This is a very achievable goal for our community due to our long term investment with Apple product and our innovative ability as a school to enhance the learning environment and educational experience for those students using iPads and MacBooks.

Reporting for Semester 1

Due to the significant impact that COVID has had on the attendance of many of our students and our staff over the last six months, the Director General of the Department of Education recently announced some modifications to the Semester One reporting requirements. The changes that she outlined for all schools makes the accommodation for schools to reduce comments on the Semester One report. Where possible, all students will still receive a grade for each learning area and an indication of the level of the level of effort; however, comments that are usually included in the areas of English and Maths will be omitted this semester. In some cases where students have experienced significant absences from school, a 'non assessed' category will be received if teachers are unable to have enough evidence to grade a child in a particular learning area.

Students will receive the usual general comment on this report which outlines to the families how the child has engaged in the education program, interacted in the school community over the course of this semester and developed their social and emotional skills. Hopefully, as we are now seeing a decline in positive COVID cases, reporting should return to its usual format at the conclusion of Semester 2.

Parents can access their child's report through the secure Connect page. The reports will be available for parents in the final week of Term One from Thursday the 30th of June. If parents need support with their Connect login access, please speak to the team of staff at the school's administration building.

Return to Mainstream School Operations- Middle Leadership Team

Although this term has still presented many challenges in managing COVID, we are slowly gaining a sense of returning to some of our standard school operations. On Monday of Week 8, we were able to hold our first face to face Middle Leadership Team meeting for the year. In this first meeting, being aware that we are taking a slow and steady approach back into our school improvement planning, we shared our individual wins and challenges in our leadership roles over the past six months. We also examined some areas in our business planning that, as a middle leadership team we could direct our focus to; the learning area of English and examining our SAER (Students at Educational Risk) processes. Being able to move forward again with the Middle Leadership Team was really reassuring for myself and the executive team, as we rely heavily on these leaders in seeking opinion, expertise and advice in our decision-making processes at Aubin Grove, as a key component of our distributed leadership and whole school governance model.

School Development Day

Our School Development Day, held on Friday 10th October, gave our staff an opportunity to also move out of the crisis management COVID space for the first time this year and begin to think about our transition into a new era

in Semester 2, as we learn to live with the virus and continue on in driving our school improvement plan. Understanding that 'we are still not there' quite yet, and that living through a pandemic is unpredictable, we are beginning to see opportunities where we can regain some of the work we have put on hold over the past year. This School Development Day was an opportunity for us as a staff to examine where we are at, and what are some focus areas that we can find our momentum with over the next semester. As a team, we have celebrated our collective efforts and capacity building in the teaching of English, Mathematics, STEAM (Science, Technologies, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics), Information Technologies and Positive Education. These areas will remain a priority for us, until the conclusion of 2022.

To continue our special project work, focusing on the transition of our senior students into adolescence, our Specialist Team spent the morning at Hammond Park Secondary College observing the students in their secondary environment, both before school, transitioning during classes and whilst in their lessons. They also had some time to meet with the executive team to find out about how we could additionally prepare our Year 6 students for their transition into the secondary space, without jeopardising their primary school experience. So much learning and personal reflection was taken away from this experience for our specialist team, and the thinking and planning to accommodate some independence for our students going into Semester Two is continuing with this team and our senior classroom teachers.

The Education Assistants and Special Needs Education Assistants worked with an Occupational Therapist from Rocky Bay throughout the day to understand sensory processing for all students and our afternoon sessions were hosted by our School Psychologists, Shelley Taylor and Gwen Appleyard in the areas of Understanding Pre-Adolescent Children and Identification of Learning Difficulties and Disabilities in our Early Years.

We have incredible expertise in our school and it was rewarding to have the opportunity to share this professional knowledge across our staff over the course of the day. As usual, the day was information packed, linked closely to our improvement planning and an opportunity to celebrate the work that has been able to take place over the last six months and where we want to go as a school moving forward.

Signature Leadership Program

I have been so fortunate being offered the Department of Education position on the Signature Leadership Program for 2022, and am sad that I am already now halfway through this year long journey. I am beginning to feel a sense of belonging to the cohort and now feel somewhat more confident to share my leadership experiences and reflections with this incredible group of Western Australian leaders.

Over the past term, our group of thirty-seven has broadened our knowledge of the issues that we all face living in Western Australia, particularly in the regions, which is where we travelled through, earlier in the term. Although very intense, out of the comfort zone at times and very tiring, we have been exposed to many aspects of regional life- we have visited the Pinjarra Massacre Site, learnt about the great work that takes place in connecting the smaller agriculture towns, like Dwellingup, Williams, Boyup Brook and Narrogin to services through Community Resource Centres. We were able to experience and understand the incredible research being invested into the agricultural industry through the work taking place at the Katanning Research Facility. We have met some hard-working leaders in the towns of Katanning and Collie, and how they are promoting their town across WA, but also dealing with the significant issues of drugs, crime, mental health and loss of industry that many of the smaller and isolated country towns face, with limited resource.

I have met some inspirational leaders from many different sectors over the last six months and taken away their key messages about their leadership journeys that can benefit my journey as a leader in the education sector. Through these opportunities, I feel as though I am developing some life knowledge that helps me to understand the complexities that our state of Western Australia will be facing and what that might mean for the future of my students, their families and ultimately, my leadership in Education. Still being unsure of how my leadership will grow and change as a result of this program, I am ensuring that I am making the most of every opportunity, connecting with some incredible people across WA and often reflecting on my leadership style and how this can be developed as a result of my new learnings. I am certainly a work in progress to be sure, but loving every minute of that this opportunity presents and learning how to be well out of my comfort zone!

To discuss in our General Business:

- OSH Club earlier start times
- Extension of the School Business Plan for one year due to the impact of COVID