

Principal's Report for the School Board

Term 4, Week 2 2022

Welcome to Term 4

Thank you to the school board members for their ongoing support of our school throughout the last three terms. It goes without saying that although this has been a very disjointed year dealing with COVID, it is so refreshing to think that we are looking towards the future without pandemic restrictions holding our school community back. As we transition out of our pandemic response, we are using Term 4 to turn our attention to reflect upon where we are at as a school and where we need to head in 2023. In addition to this work, we know that term 4 is extremely busy for students, staff, and their families. We have assessment and reporting on the go, transition plans in place for our students so they are ready for their 2023 year level and several whole school events to take place. Term 4 is wonderful term for so many reasons, but we also know it will be the conclusion of the school year before we know it!

School Open Night

Open Night this year was a celebration of our school community finally being able to come together, restriction free for the first time since 2020. As this year has been disrupted continually, we chose to welcome our families back through a STEAM expo. This allowed our staff and students to work through a whole school process and provide the opportunity for students to showcase to their families a unit of work incorporating a number of learning areas, rather than three terms of a learning journey. This would not have been possible for many of our students and staff who have experienced interrupted schooling and a high number of absences this year due to COVID.

It was a successful night for all, and it was so joyful to be able to enjoy meeting and talking with our families about our school and students. It was also a wonderful opportunity for our specialist subject area to showcase the incredible learning experiences they provide our students to enhance their learning and scope of interests. Thank you to all of those families who took the time out of their busy schedules to visit our school and to celebrate what we have achieved; despite the challenges we have faced as a community this year.

Staff Movements

I would like to congratulate our dear friend and colleague, Kathryn Grzelec, who has won the permanent Associate Principal position at Melville Primary School, which was advertised earlier in Term 3. Her new role at Melville Primary School has commenced at the beginning of Term 4.

For many of us here at Aubin Grove, we have built a wonderful collegiate history, working alongside Kathryn for the past eleven years. Kathryn commenced at AG in 2012, as a classroom teacher, then won the deputy principal position in 2014, where she led the school in the early childhood phase, alongside myself, Nola Smith and Frank Pansini as principal. Over the years, Kathryn has been involved in two independent school reviews, four business plans, assisted with the applications and successful outcomes for Primary School of the Year 2016 and Primary Principal of the Year 2016. These are just a few of the highlights of the extensive contributions Kathryn has made to AGPS over her time with us.

Kathryn epitomises all of the attributes required to be an outstanding educational leader. I have always been in awe of her approach to any role she has taken on, her professionalism, her calm and patient demeanour and razor-sharp strategic thinking. She has worked tirelessly for the Aubin Grove community, ensuring that through her leadership, the school improvement plan is in constant motion and that all staff members are given the opportunities to contribute to this work. Over the years, Kathryn has built many strong partnerships with our students and their families, through her knowledge and expertise in the student services field, in addition to many lifelong friendships with her teaching colleagues. It is an understatement to say that Kathryn will be greatly missed by the Aubin Grove community.

It goes without saying that Kathryn will be greatly missed by myself and everyone on the AGPS team. However, it is exciting to know that Kathryn is going to share her expertise across another context in Public Education and I am sure that a little bit of AGPS will stay with her, wherever she may go.

I know that you will all join with me in congratulating Kathryn's achievements and news.

Senior Playground Update

The vision for the playground is finally starting to come together after working with Programmed, concept company Emerge and the member of the P and C over the past few months. We are now at the point where we will decide on a final design, and this will then go to tender for the build.

We are still planning with Programmed for the works to be undertaken over the summer holiday break in readiness for the commencement of the 2023 school year. Please see attached designs to see what has been presented to us as a final concept.

Proposed Timetable Change Outcome

I would like to thank all of our families who considered the proposal to alter the school timetable for 2023 as a trial. This was considered by the School Board and the staff, who had received feedback from many families about the complexities of managing drop off and pick-ups each day, whilst trying to early morning work and children drop offs at other schools. Through the survey, we were able to understand the views of almost 350 parents, which will support our decision making moving forward. 68.9% respondents wanted the school day to stay the same, with 31.1% respondents happy to trial a change in day structure.

Based on these results, we will *not* be moving forward with the trial in 2023. However, some of the areas we will be looking at trialling some changes in are swapping over the start and finish times for the older students to support families with Year 1-6 sibling drop offs and to help parents of younger children by allowing them more time to get to school each day. We will also approach OSHClub to see whether it is feasible to start the service earlier in the morning (6:30am), as both of these areas were highlighted in the comment responses. Further information about these changes will be release to families in the coming weeks in preparation for the 2023 school year.

TOM Winners

Congratulations to our Social Science TOM team, consisting of Freya (6), Aryana (6), Harry (5), Vincent (5), Isabelle (5), Irene (4) and Raphael (4) for making it into the international final of the Tournament of Minds competition and travelling to the ACT over the last week to compete. In this final stage of the competition, the students worked their way through a three-hour Social Science problem on their own and performed their solution through a drama performance to the judges and audience.

A even bigger congratulations that despite tough competition, they won! The whole school community are so proud of this big achievement and of all the hard work, this team, plus Mrs Matthews Mrs Foulk and Mrs Foote have put in, in order to grow this team over the last term.

Commissioner for Children and Young People Visit to AG

Fourteen students ranging in ages from 8 to 12 were invited to meet with the Commissioner for Children and Young People, Ms Jacqueline McGowan Jones last Wednesday. The purpose of the commissioner's visit was to hear from our students and to connect with them over the current issues and complexities our young people face. Our students were so eager to meet the commissioner and took their roles very seriously.

The students were very confident and wanted to share with the commissioner all of their thoughts, ideas and opinions, which were very in depth and wide ranging on a variety of topics, including being taken seriously, opportunity, inclusivity, social media, career prospects and safety, just to name a few. They spoke about the challenges that they face as children living in Western Australia, but also what were some of the positives of being a young person. They also shared with the commissioner some important things that they thought that she needed to know if she was to be successful in her role.

They then asked Ms Jacqueline (as they affectionately called her!) if she wanted to go on a tour of the school, an hour after her planned exit time! She was so accommodating of their requests and the students showed her three of their favourite things at AG; the chickens, the early childhood precinct, and the Year 6 classrooms. It was such an honour and pleasure to host the Commissioner and I am certain that she had lots to take away from her visit to our school.