

PRINCIPAL'S UPDATE for the School Board WEEK 8, TERM 3, 2019

Staffing for 2020

We are currently running two processes for 2020 teaching and deputy positions to cover maternity leave/ parental leave for our permanent teaching and one deputy staff member. We also require an extra fixed term deputy to cover me for the duration of my contract for 2020 as Principal. This is quite a lengthy process, with the submission of a written application and then interview/ presentation for successful applicants. The purpose of the process is to create an Aubin Grove deputy and teacher pool for suitable applicants that we can draw from should vacancies arise throughout 2020. Both pools have now been finalised as of Monday and after the breach period of 4 days, we can then commence appointing staff for 2020 positions as they arise. Projected numbers and the Kindy intake are forecasted to be less next year, which will have an adverse effect on how many fixed term teaching staff members we can retain. My main objective throughout this process has been to be transparent with those staff member on fixed term contracts, so they are prepared to secure positions at other schools if required. We have provided professional learning in application writing and interview techniques to give them the best possible advantage in any application process that they apply for.

Student Numbers

There has been communication with our families over the last term through emails and newsletters requesting to parents of their intentions for student enrolments for 2020. Our projected numbers are displaying a slow decline, with reduced Kindy enrolments and some families indicating that they are not returning to the school due to relocation. Our most recent projection indicated enrolments of 1067, which is down from our current numbers of 1099.

Explicit Teaching of Literacy Internship with Curtin University

We have been selected out of 80 schools who applied to receive the internship to partner with Curtin University over the next two years to support our teaching of English in the classroom. Only 20 schools across Western Australia received this internship, which was officially opened on the 20th August by the Hon Minister for Education, Sue Ellery. Clare Chapman will be the teacher who will be working directly with Curtin and oversee the delivery of the internship' over the next two years. This is such a valuable and long term professional learning opportunity for our school and really the first public education supported professional learning opportunity of English in quite a few years. Our first steps with Curtin University is to meet with the coordinators on the 20th September to determine our way forward, based on our school needs. This partnership will also heavily influence the direction of our new business plan for beyond 2020.

School Events

Term Three is always a very busy term for school events and this year has been no exception. Our school has been involved in over the past few weeks:

- The One Big Voice music festival at RAC arenas for our Year 2/3 Junior Choir
- Two teams entered the regional competition of Tournament of Minds on August 31st at Edith Cowan University with the Social Science team, facilitated by Ros Foote, making it through to the state final competition on Sunday 15th September, which they won for their category and are now off to Tasmania to compete in the international final.
- The annual Science competition, this year's theme of 'Destination Moon' for the CCEN network with many student submissions and 1st and 2nd prizes for each year level. The first prize winners then showcased their exhibit at Lakelands SHS for the network component of the competition.
- Our first ever Aubin Grove Orienteering Team competed earlier in the term at Manning Park in Spearwood and enjoyed this experience as a first-time entrant in the competition, after many weeks on early morning training on the school site.
- Our Senior Athletics Carnival took place Monday and Wednesday of Week 7 and as always was such a successful and well-planned day for all to enjoy. A vibrant and colourful environment was to be enjoyed by all, with excellent sportsmanship and athleticism displayed by all students throughout the day. Congratulations to Gold Faction who were the overall winners of the carnival and now we will turn our attention to the junior school in Term 4 with their carnival to take place in Term 4.
- Massed Choir at the Perth Concert Hall will take place for the senior choir tonight which will involve the senior choir students.
- Open Night is almost upon us commencing at 5:30pm through to 7pm on Wednesday 25th September to showcase our students learning journey and progress from Term 1 to Term 3. This is always such a rewarding night for our teaching staff and students, welcoming parents and extended family members into our classrooms.

The variety and availability of extra-curricular opportunities for all our students to explore different areas of interest is testament to the dedication of our staff. They set high expectations for all of our students, yet make it possible through their dedication and numerous hours of volunteer time for our children to excel in their chosen areas of interest.

Goodbyes

Wishing Mrs Ashleigh Axeford, her husband Reece and son Levi all the best of their imminent arrival of their second child. Ash has been with us for two years in a Pre Primary teaching role after finishing her final teaching practical experience in 2017. Mrs Lisa Attard (Hood) has returned to us after the birth of her first child Oscar and a brief relocation over east to Victoria with her husband. We welcome Lisa back to AG, as she resumes her teaching in Ashleigh's Pre Primary classroom for the remainder of 2019.