

Principals report 2022

This year has been an interesting year to say the least! We began the year with a terrible tragedy involving a parent at our site, and then Covid flared again. Near the end of term 1 our school was badly affected by Covid, to the point where the Education Department closed us for 2 days to try and circuit break the number of cases on sight. The remainder of the year has seen us battle staff shortages due to illnesses and personal traumas.

On the flip side of all this, staff have worked together in an extremely supportive and cohesive way to ensure that our school has continued to operate in a professional manner that is conducive to optimal learning. We are fortunate to have a stable staff who have been here long enough to be highly invested in our site.

Our NAPLAN, Phonics Screening and PAT data are a testament to the delivery of a high impact curriculum by dedicated staff. Our academic results have once again shown us as a leading light in our area and we are continuing to make growth in both literacy and numeracy. We have continued to put money into extra SSO support for students with disabilities, intervention programs in literacy and numeracy as well as classroom support. This has had a positive impact on the learning of all students. This year we purchased the MacqLit program, (which is an extension of the Mini and MultiLit programs for Junior Primary), to provide extra literacy support for our primary students.

Our Educational focus this year, has been on writing, and we have developed a whole school statement of practice in literacy, to ensure consistency in practice from Reception to year 6. We have also begun looking at our assessment data and in particular how we assess in reading. We have employed a data and literacy consultant for the next 12 months to move to a new way of assessing reading and how we to streamline our data in both literacy and numeracy, and use data more proficiently, for planning and programming.

Our canteen has finally been completed with range hoods being installed over the ovens. The canteen is used each morning for Breakfast club and all classes have cooking lessons with their class teacher and Amber Deane, every Monday, using fruits and vegetables from our garden. The canteen is also open each Thursday and Friday for lunches and recess food. As you can see it is well utilised and is a wonderful facility to have. The entrance room to the canteen has now had a new wall and cladding installed as well as being freshly painted. We have a number of tables and chairs and 2 table tennis tables in the room for students to use. Café curtains have been installed at the door and we are awaiting on a quote to have the floor sealed and painted.

A gardener (Pauline Hardy) has been employed to work alongside Steven Coote, who mows our vast lawns and sprays weeds etc. Pauline has already made her mark, as our grounds are already looking much neater and tidier. Our school garden has continued to grow with more fruit trees and a bee garden created. Many thanks to Jo Merrett who has been a driver of this, and ran lunchtime garden electives to maintain this area. Amber Deane has also taken her life skills group regularly to care for the garden and our chooks.

In the last week of this term, we will have our staff carpark fence replaced to match the other tubular fencing. This will not only improve the look of this area but also provide us with greater security. We hope to replace the back of the school's fencing in 2023.

We have had one verandah replaced this year and this has been a bone of contention for all involved! The verandah is not only aesthetically displeasing, it also doesn't provide adequate protection from the elements. Continued negotiations have caused the project to stop until a resolution can be reached with the Department. We have engaged a painter to paint all our doorways to refresh these areas.

Our students have had numerous visitors to our site to provide opportunities such as basketball, baseball and cricket clinics. A bird conservationist/adventurer, forensic science activities, theatre companies and even Peter Combe have been wonderful 'add ons' to the curriculum.

Our Parents and Friends committee came to the fore again after a hiatus with covid. This group of ladies have worked together beautifully to fundraise for our school. The disco being a highlight this year. They also have many ideas to implement in 2023.

I would like to sincerely thank staff, students and the wider school community for their support this year. I stepped into the role of Principal for one term and ended up here for the year! By doing this I have ensured that we have found the right person for our school. I welcome Karmel to our school and look forward to Karmel taking us into the next chapter of our journey. Acting Principal - Carolyn Rayson