

SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING

June 19th 2019

Principal's Report

As we are coming up to the middle of the year, I asked Team Leaders to provide a brief summary of some of the things that have been happening recently.

Specialists:

- The specialists recently attended a Professional Learning session, using one of their Professional Practice Days, related to feedback in the classroom directed by Georgina Pazzi.
- Dave is currently working with the senior students painting the boards and getting them ready to have the silhouettes of sports people to be placed in the gym for the legacy project.
- Liam has recently had cross country – each year more students are getting through to the next level
- John has had a focus on World Environment Day where students were involved in cooking and fundraising for endangered species. Water Watch gave a presentation for the junior students, there was a casual clothes day last week (green and blue) raising \$70. Foundation's incursion has been postponed to Week 8. A CERES event is also upcoming.
- Melanie has commenced concert organization. Foundation to grade 2 students have already began working on their concert items
- Japanese Day included Anne Norman's Omusubi incursion, fashion parade, dress up theme, sushi lunch and lunch time activities (karaoke, origami, photo booth, fish game, Japanese animation.

The students were busy making time or weather related movies in Japanese and all students continue to learn 'shuuwa' – Japanese sign language. Melissa is also currently working with other language teachers on developing the impact of shuuwa within Japanese language teachers program in Victoria.

Foundation:

This term, the Foundation students will be introduced to Discovery Learning through our Inquiry Program. Discovery Learning is a form of teaching that is based on the student finding things out for themselves, looking into problems, and asking questions. It is all about students coming to their own conclusions and asking questions about things that they might not have previously known about or been exposed to. Once enquiries are made, students can learn new

things and hence will have become part of an innovative, thought-provoking and interesting educational journey.

Roxburgh Rise Primary School has implemented Discovery Learning into their Foundation Program with great success. The Foundation Teachers visited Roxburgh Rise last week to learn more about how they teach Discovery Learning but also, how it's integrated into all areas of the curriculum. They enjoyed their visit and came back feeling very inspired and excited about the benefits of Discovery Learning.

Next term, the Foundation students will be learning about Community Helpers and their importance through our Discovery Learning Program. Over the holidays, the Foundation Teachers, along with Maria and Raph will be working on setting up a 'Discovery Learning' space within the middle area of the Early Years Building. The space will include a variety of 'Discovery Stations' based around the theme of Community Helpers, e.g. Doctor's Surgery, Carpenter's Station, Cooking Station etc.

The idea is that students rotate through these stations weekly to help support their understanding in an engaging, interesting and collaborative way. Several new resources have been purchased to support the program. Discovery Learning will run for one hour, three times a week. An excursion to the Essendon Traffic School is also being organised as part of the Program.

The Foundation students will be celebrating their 100th day of school next term, during week 2. This year, we are inviting students (and their teachers) to come to school dressed up as what they think they will look like when they turn 100! An excursion is currently being organised for students to visit and sing a song about '100 Days of School' to the residents of Hilltop Aged Care Facility. The visit is designed as an introduction to our new Discovery Learning topic and to help students form an understanding of how we can give back to those within our community.

Grade 1/2:

- Excursion to Scienceworks as part of our Inquiry focus: What excites you about Science?
- During Careers Week, we had several visits from parents who talked about their careers:
 - Eugenie Baulch who spoke about her career as an editor.
 - Chris Burke who demonstrated an experiment and spoke about his work as a robotic engineer as part of our Science Inquiry Theme.
 - Danielle Acosta Clarke spoke about teaching dance.

- Students were excited about the Science experiments conducted in the classroom. Some tried experiments at home with their parents e.g 'Bouncy Egg' and 'Skittles' experiments.
- A reminder that our 1-2 Fun Night will be held on the 25th October this year.

Grade 5/6:

- Google classroom has been launched and is being well used by teachers and students.
- Maths topics being covered at the moment include addition, subtraction, perimeter and area.
- Inquiry topic of Puberty has been a hit, with engagement really high and students have been developing their own questions to investigate and present at the end of term.
- Sport has been cancelled a few times due to poor weather, so we are trying to organise an excursion to 'Bounce' to make up for the money spent.
- A Student Graduation Committee is being organized so that students will have a say in how this major event will be organized this year.
- School Captains continuing to do a great job with the organization of assembly each week.
- The Life Skills program has been very successful again this term, with sessions each Tuesday.

Mathematics:

- There has been a resource audit across the whole school, aiming to provide every classroom with a core set of resources to be used in classrooms daily.
- Teachers analysed and used On Demand Data to assist with reporting.
- First PL session run by maths specialists, focusing on growth mindsets in maths.
- New approaches to teaching maths being trialled in 1PA and 56G

English

The English team has recently changed the format of our planning documents and part of this process is revisiting the 'OPPS Expectations for English.' This has involved unpacking what the lesson structure looks like and what time should be spent on certain areas. English leaders are sharing this with their teams before it becomes a requirement.

In week 6 we ran a Writing Moderation session, with the purpose being to ensure teachers are consistent in their expectations and with their marking of students' writing. This was a whole-school meeting and involved teachers plotting student work along the progression point continuum. It's also an opportunity to identify areas we need to focus on to improve student writing in Term 3.

Teachers are also working on benchmarking students in Reading. This means they are finding their instructional reading level. Consistent running record assessment kits are used to do this.

Our next projects include updating the English handbook and looking more closely at how we run our teaching groups during the Reading block.

Inquiry Learning:

- All teams are working on the concept 'Systems' from our Inquiry learning scope and sequence
- Foundation - Using Discovery Learning as an opportunity to promote curiosity; asking questions etc.
- 1/2 Inquiry question: What excites you about Science?
- 3/4 Inquiry question: How do things work together to create change?
- 5/6 Inquiry question: How does my body change?

Rights, Responsibilities and Respectful Relationships:

- Implementation of the RRRR program school wide.
- RRRR Scope and Sequence F-6. Staff put it in their planner each week, following the sequence of lessons in the RRRR document, doing one lesson per week.
- We've introduced the vocabulary of Respectful Relationships and discussed what it was/how it was important.

Wellbeing:

- Free Fruit for Our Children at OPPS; students having brain breaks throughout the day, as required.
- Wellbeing Leaders, Capri Byrne, Adem Ozcan, Bridget Miller and Lilly Zeini.
- Friendship Day, Anti-Bullying Day, Wellbeing Day incursions have been organized.
- Gratitude Wall
- School Psychologist, Alana Roy currently supporting about twenty of our families.
- Student Wellbeing Program; we have linked with Aged Care residents at Lifestyle Hilltop in Preston, on a weekly 1 hour visit.

Excursions and Events

Recent Events:

- Book Fair
- Education Week
- School Photos

- Foundation Information Night
- District Cross Country
- Grade 3/4 Science incursions
- Foundation excursion: Big Book About Water
- Japanese Day
- NAIDOC Incursion

Coming Events:

- Oak Park PS hosting an Interschool Chess Tournament under the auspices of Chess Victoria, making this an approved Zonal Event; June 20th
- Our Wellbeing Captains continue working with Maria to organise our Wellbeing Days which will be held later this term; June 24th and 25th

Staff

The successful candidate who took over from Hayley is Amy McDonald. Amy taught most recently at Aitken Creek and before that at Broadmeadows Valley Primary School. She is an experienced teacher who has taken on a number of leadership positions in the past and comes to us with a great reputation as a teacher.

Sally will be on long service leave for two weeks from the start of Term 3.

We will be hosting Matt Kerby, the Assistant Principal of Coburg Primary School for 4 weeks during Term 3. Matt is currently participating in the Unlocking Potential (UP) Principal Preparation Program through Bastow. Part of the commitment is for Matt to shadow an experienced principal and complete an 'internship' in another school. You might remember Monika completing this program last year, just prior to taking up her principal position.

Cultural Understanding Training

During Term 3, all staff will be participating in Cultural Understanding and Safety Training (CUST) along with colleagues from Fawkner PS.

The training is designed to improve our understanding of Aboriginal culture, the importance of equity and inclusion in educational practice and what schools can do to provide a culturally safe learning environment for Koorie students.

Topics covered in training include:

- Welcome to Country/Acknowledgement of Country
- History – Pre colonisation and post colonisation

- Local Community today
- Inclusion and reflective practice
- Aboriginal Perspectives in the Victorian Curriculum
- Local context

Annual Implementation Plan monitoring

Coming up to the mid point of the year, the leadership and School Improvement Team are reviewing our Annual Implementation Plan. The AIP is on track but a couple of adjustments will need to be made. Our student agency goal referred to the Attitudes to School Survey as a measure for how we are progressing, but we have made the decision this year, after the plan was implemented, not to the ATSS this year, using PIVOT instead.

Curriculum Day

A Curriculum Day is scheduled for Friday August 9th (end of Week 4 Term 3) and I will seek approval for this at the next meeting.

Parent Opinion Survey

Each year Victorian schools conduct an opinion survey of 15 per cent of the school community. Parents are randomly selected to participate and the information is used to inform and direct future school planning and improvement.

The survey takes about 20 minutes to complete, responses are confidential. Parent comments in the final, open-ended question are scanned and provided back to the school.

This year's survey is scheduled during the first few weeks of Term 3.

Facilities

I mentioned at the previous meeting that we would look towards forming a committee of people interested in discussing ideas and plans for the outdoor 'adventure playground'. I am hoping to start this at our next meeting.

We expect to engage the services of some external providers, whilst also making use of Raph's expertise as well as tapping into the support of our local school community. I have received a quote for a 'refreshing' of the amphitheatre area and will discuss this with you on Wednesday.

Raph and I attended a workshop on Friday to help with the development of our School Assessment Maintenance Plan (SMP), using the information from the recent building audit.

The SMP is meant to enable schools to prioritise and address maintenance issues, formulate a maintenance program to prevent issues recurring and to manage school assets.

Some recent works completed:

- Raph has replaced flashing on the rooves of both of the 1/2 portables. This has caused issues for years and was identified in the CAR.
- Repaired dislodged downpipes and roof flashing.
- Replaced plinths to portable classrooms.
- Replaced internal acoustic ceiling tiles in library, ICT office.
- Replaced external lighting.
- Repaired lifting bricks along entry footpath

Regards

Bryan