

P&C Principal's Report – Tuesday 14th May 2019

It has been a very busy start to Term 2 with staff and students involved in a vast array of activities. This term we have welcomed four new students into Years 2, 4, 5 and Kindergarten. There have been some changes to staffing in the school with Mr Fuller commencing his relieving Principal position at Chatswood P.S. I am honoured to fulfil the role of relieving Principal at Mimosa for this term. Mrs Louise Grigg will assume the role of relieving Deputy Principal during this period. This week we will welcome Mrs Sara Bell to our teaching team and as the classroom teacher of KG. Mrs Kathryn Garrihy who has been teaching and supporting a number of classes across the school this year will commence her maternity leave at the end of this week. I'd like to thank Mrs Garrihy for her professionalism and dedication to teaching, supporting and caring for the Mimosa students.

On the School Development Day, staff members were involved in training relating to the 'Strong Minds' , Wellbeing program which is being implemented in classrooms this term. Teachers engaged in training with Circle Solutions, where students spend time working in a class circle to discuss and work through lesson content. The theory behind working in a circle formation is that all students are encouraged to attend and engage in the lesson. There are a range of strategies used to encourage active participation by all students (providing all participants an opportunity to share around the circle, partner activities and movement activities to encourage students to work with other students across the circle). Our staff also engaged in a professional learning session with Reading Eggs (Online Literacy Program). We learnt about new functions within the program, how to set tasks for groups and individuals in our class and about activities which can support our improvement focus of reading and comprehension. Mr Fuller led a session focused on Action Research and teams of teachers started to formulate their action research projects which will be conducted throughout Terms 2 and 3. A range of sessions were focused on Literacy, with teachers of Years 3-6, learning more about a reading benchmarking program, Kindergarten teachers developing a data wall for phonics and Stage 1 teachers working on the Literacy Progressions. All of these professional learning projects focused on quality teaching, learning and assessment practices.

On Wednesday 1st May we held our Parent Information Evening for Kindergarten 2020. This information session was held in the KG classroom so that parents could see what a Kindergarten classroom looks like and enjoy viewing the beautiful artworks decorating the room. The evening was well attended with over sixty visitors. Mr Fuller informed the audience, with information about starting school and details about our wonderful school programs. Mrs Cleary spoke about enrolment information and the vital role which our administration team plays in welcoming and supporting students at school. I worked with the Kindergarten team to share information about the Kindergarten curriculum, Best Start and our orientation program (S.T.A.R) which will commence in October this year. We look forward to welcoming many new families for our school tours which are scheduled to take place on Tuesday 28th May and Thursday 20th June. I would also like to invite members of the P&C committees to share information about their role in the school at STAR 1 which will be held on Tuesday 29th October 2019.

I would like to thank Kath McQuoid and her team of fabulous helpers for making the Mother's Day Market a great success. The gifts were divine and the students really enjoyed the opportunity to 'go shopping' at school and to have the opportunity to choose something special for the significant female in their lives. I know that many hours go into ensuring that the gifts are ordered, delivered and prepared before being sold. Thank you!

Parent/teacher interviews were held in Weeks 1 and 2. These meetings provided an opportunity for teachers and parents to communicate about student progress and to plan learning goals for the future. These meetings provided the perfect opportunity for parents to find out more about their child's academic, emotional and social development at school. It was also an opportunity for parents to share information about their child with the class teacher/s. A positive outcome from these meetings is the partnership which is forged between school and home, as goals are developed and plans made about how teachers and parents can work in partnership to support students to improve and progress at school.

The class, extra-curricular group, sport and the whole school photo were taken last week. The students looked great as they were all wearing the full school uniform. The School Photographer will return in late Term 3 or early Term 4 to take additional sport and extra-curricular photographs. Parents will be advised later in the year how they can order the photo book featuring all 2019 group photos.

There has been progress in relation to the new uniform option for the girls. The Uniform Shop has sought samples from various suppliers and have shown these to Mr Fuller and myself. A survey has been drafted and will be sent to families with girls in the near future. Survey questions will focus on styles of long pants and shorts as well as options for ties and tabs. Information will also be gathered regarding buyer interest in these products which will impact on the ordering for the Uniform Shop.

NAPLAN Online commenced today and will run until Friday 24th May. Year 3 and 5 students completed the writing assessment today. Year 3 students continue to complete the writing test using pencil and paper and will complete their first online test on Thursday. Year 5 students completed the writing assessment online in the Tech Space and will continue with their Reading test tomorrow. Participating in the tests online means the set of tests are able to be more tailored to the students' abilities and give a more accurate picture of their capabilities. NAPLAN assessments are completed in the following order: Writing, Reading, Conventions of Language and Numeracy. NAPLAN tests are a snapshot of where students are achieving in various curriculum areas at a point in time.

The Life Education Van will arrive at Mimosa tomorrow. All classes are scheduled to visit the van to engage in lessons focusing on personal development, health and safety, not to mention a visit to Harold!

I am very excited to inform you that a local company, 'code2make' will be joining our teaching team at Mimosa two mornings each week to teach the digital technologies curriculum to Early Stage 1 – Stage 3 students. These lessons will also provide a professional learning opportunity for Mimosa teachers. The focus of this program will be coding and robotics, with the aim of developing computational thinking skills and the concepts of abstraction, algorithms, sequencing and design. The robotics and coding equipment which has been purchased in recent years will be utilised in these lessons. In Term 2, Stage 3 classes will engage in lessons using the Lego EV3 Robots. Stage 2 classes will engage in these lessons during Term 3, using the Lego WeDo Sphero and Early Stage 1 and Stage 1 classes will participate in these creative learning experiences in Term 4 using the Bluebots and Lego WeDo resources. The P&C have targeted funds to support this initiative which will provide enriched learning experiences for students and an excellent opportunity for our teaching staff to learn how to effectively teach students the digital technologies component of the curriculum.

Fiona Smith

