

Principal's Report for P&C
17 October 2014

This is a preview of what will be in *Telopea Topics* next Friday. My reports are similar, so I will share this with you all first.

Welcome to Term 4. I wish you all a happy and successful term. It promises to be an exciting end to the year with many activities and events planned.

The P&C Fete, La Grande Fete, will be held on Saturday 1 November and all families and friends are invited to attend and share in this multicultural event. Mark your diaries to share in the fun on that day!

Watch out for invitations to musical performances throughout the term, as well as end-of-year events: Years 6 and 10 Graduations; Year 10 Formal; Presentation Night; and Awards Assemblies.

During the holidays we welcomed home the French Band Tour. Led by Rob Clements, the Secondary Music Teacher, with the support of Patricia Blumstein, Megan Taylor and Pierrick Chalaye, the group toured the north of France performing in many towns and schools in commemoration of the centenary of WW1, with a final performance at Lycée Henri IV in Paris. They brought great credit to the school and I sincerely thank the teachers and students for this. They came back with many experiences and memories they will treasure forever. Very lucky students!

Last weekend we also welcomed home the teachers and students who participated in the World Challenge experience to Malaysia and Borneo. A huge thank you to Mary De Poorter and Andrew Livermore for leading this expedition. The students spent some of their time working on a community project to support the less-advantaged people in Borneo. A perfect example of "Service and Action" as we teach our students to be global citizens.

With the support of the French Embassy and the School Board we are now able to move further towards full membership of the AEFÉ, the French Government Agency for French Schools Abroad. This means we will be part of a network of French schools around the world. The advantages are many including support with curriculum delivery, pedagogy and staffing. To this end all families of students in Primary and those in the Secondary English/French Stream (EFS) were sent a letter informing them that from the start of 2015, a financial contribution towards the delivery of the French National Curriculum will be asked for each student.

In week 1, students in Years 6 and 9 were given the opportunity to sit for the DELF examinations. This is the accredited certification for French language proficiency which is recognised around the world. This is another great opportunity for our students to prove their expertise in language and to celebrate this in the school and the ACT.

Parent/teacher interviews were held in Secondary in the last week of Term 3. Progress Reports were sent home with all secondary students at the end of week 9. If you did not receive your child's report, please contact the front office for another copy. We encourage all parents and carers to work closely with the school to ensure that every child can reach his/her potential. Communication is vital if we are to achieve this together.

Thank you to the many teachers who have been in acting roles during the past term. Again this term we welcome Natalie Bray to the Acting Head of Humanities position, replacing Mandy Trethowan. Kylie Louis will continue in the Acting Student Services Executive role. Ben Yuen, Executive Teacher of PE and Health, is recovering from a fractured ankle. His classes are being taken by relief teachers. We wish him a speedy recovery.

In Week 10 last term I was honoured by the French Government by being presented with a Palmes Académique, Chevalier, by the French Ambassador, M. Christoph Lecourtier. This was a huge compliment to me, to Telopea Park School and to education in the ACT. It is a French National Award for furthering French cultural relations and education in Australia. The award recognises us all as participants in an environment which values and respects bi-national education in a multicultural environment. I am privileged to be working with your children guiding them to be global citizens.

And now I have a request for the P&C. Could we coordinate the P&C meetings in 2015 to be held at times which are convenient to the school. I suggest every week 2 and week 8 of term. This way, each meeting will be six weeks apart and could be placed on the 2015 Calendar now. The Board would then have no problems setting their dates.

Kind regards
Kerrie Blain
Principal