

Principal's Report for the P&C Meeting  
10 September 2014

We are approaching the end of term. Kerrie Blain has been on leave for the last three weeks with Tom Kobal acting in her position, Ona Siakimotu as Deputy Principal in his position and Andrew Barnett as Head of Science in the Secondary School. Kerrie will return on Monday the 15<sup>th</sup> September. In other staffing news, Kate Sutherland has announced her retirement from the end of this year. Kate has worked at Telopea as a Deputy Principal for many years and her leadership in the binational bilingual setting in particular with the harmonisation of the primary curriculum has led to some outstanding outcomes for the students and the school. Farewells will be arranged during Term 4. Currently we are searching for replacements for both Kate and for Michele Mcloughlin's Student Services position in the secondary.

The enrolment process was finalised for Kindergarten and year 7 2015 during this term. Several appeals were heard by an external panel with 2-3 of these appeals successful. This is indicative of the demand for a place at Telopea Park School.

### **Exchanges and Trips**

The exchange to Noumea is currently underway. For the last week and a half Year 5 students from Noumea have been visiting and staying with Year 5 families. Today, Year 5 Telopea students left for the return trip to Noumea. Our Noumean visitors have also left and will be on the same flight from Sydney. At the same time, we have Year 11 students from Noumea undergoing their return visit as part of the Year 11 Telopea-Noumea exchange. They performed at the French embassy and the secondary assembly last week.

World Challenge students and two teachers will leave for Malaysia and Borneo at the end of week 9 this term. This will be a three-week adventure for students to witness and support third-world countries.

The Band Tour to France will be leaving Australia on the last day of term for two weeks touring and performing in the north of France with a finale in Paris at Lycee Henry IV. The Band has increased its playing schedule leading up to the departure. This has included performances at ABC666, Floriade, and Kingston Green Square over the last few days.

The time and effort put in by teachers and parents in organising and supporting these exchanges and trips is significant. I know the students appreciate it and form memories that last a lifetime.

### **Wireless Expansion and BYOD (Bring your Own Device) at Telopea**

At the last Telopea School Board meeting, Tom Spollard (Head of Arts/Technology and IT Coordinator in the school), spoke of the coming wireless expansion in the school and how the school intends to use this upgraded capacity in the coming years. He has also written an article discussing the topic for our newsletter. The wireless expansion is happening from early next term. Our capacity will be upgraded to at least 1:1 (one device per student) in all learning areas. Teachers, parents and students would like to see our learning expand into a digital environment. This is what is happening out of school hours. The school will be organising a series of consultations with parents during the early weeks of Term 4. These discussions will centre on how we implement the introduction and use of wireless devices in our school. From the beginning, we intend to focus our discussions on the pedagogy and not on whether a particular device is better than another. More information will be provided via Telopea Topics or at subsequent meetings.

## Reminders and Appreciation

- The Bilingual Learning Conference: “How to raise a bilingual child. Benefits and Challenges” is on this Monday from 5:30-7:30 at Telopea Park School. This is not only about French/English Bilingual Learning, it is about any bilingual learning.

If you wish to register for this event, please follow this link:

<https://bilingualchild.eventbrite.com.au> (This was placed in the last Telopea Topics.)

- Thank you for your efforts with the Student Satisfaction Surveys. We had around 300 parent responses. I believe this is an increase on last year's response. We look forward to combining this data with that of the School Climate survey data to make informed decisions about our school.
- Secondary Parent Teacher night, Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> September 4-6:30, Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> September 6-8pm. Health promoting schools Parent forum on Wednesday, 5:15 – 6pm. Suits upper primary and secondary parents.

*Tom Kobal*

*A/Principal*

*10 September 2014*