

Principal's Report for P&C  
3 December 2014

This is week 8 of Term 4 so assessment and/or reporting are occurring throughout the whole school. We are looking forward to the many traditional events that mark the end of the school year: Year 10 Graduation this week; Year 10 Concert (the usual gift to the school by Year 10 students as they leave for college); Year 6 Graduation; Year 6 Dinner Dance: Presentation Night; and the many excursions booked for students to celebrate a year well-spent.

The hosting of the President of the French Republic, M. François Hollande, two weeks ago, was the major event of the term, and perhaps the year! It was momentous in that every student present at school that day was able to see and hear the President. Many were able to shake hands and to speak to him. A privilege that will engender life-long memories! The event took enormous planning and was preceded by much up-grading of the school. The students displayed their best manners, patience and self-control. They represented our school very well and I was very proud of them all. The landscaping at the front of the school has finally been completed and has made an enormous difference to the school's public face and school entry. To this end it would be good to have a presidential visit every year!

Year 10 EFS students, who have been working on the WW1 project with the National Archives, were able to explain their project to the President while accompanied by Mr. David Fricker, the Director General of the Australian National Archives and his team. This is another excellent opportunity for the students and for the school. We will continue our relationship with the National Archives in commemorating the Centenary of WW1 over the next three years. It was interesting for the school to learn that the first two Principals of the school both fought in France in WW1 and both were decorated on their return to Australia. This is a wonderful legacy for the students of the school.

The school continues to perform well academically, placing us in the top few in NAPLAN in the ACT and Australia. This however is testing once a year in literacy and numeracy. Education at Telopea is much more than this and it pleases us all that our students are at the forefront in sporting activities, musical presentations, debating, chess, and many other competitions where the students represent the school. Our Debating Team won the ACT Ford Debating Competition this term, defeating Canberra Girls Grammar School in the Grand Finals as well as winning the overall best speaker in the whole competition and the best speaker on the day. I am immensely proud of them but it also indicates that we have teachers in the school willing to give up their time in coaching and supporting the evening debates throughout the year. Thank you to Uraj Singh, Head of English and Tina Nguyen.

Farewell to our Year 10 students and the leaders of the school for 2014. Friday will see the year 10 Graduation when year 10 students will be awarded their ACT School Certificates and IB MYP School Certificates. Thank you to the school captains for 2014, Siobhan Honey and Peter Alliot, who have led the student body admirably this year. They were MCs for the President's visit putting them on the world stage!

The new student leadership team for 2015 was elected last week. These six students were interviewed for the 2015 roles of school captains. I will announce the 2015 school captains this week. Student leaders for Years 7, 8 and 9 will be elected early next year.

Please note that Semester 2 Reports will be sent home with all students – primary and secondary, on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> December, Once again if you do not receive your child's report, please contact the school for another copy.

Thank you to Susan Cribb and the teachers involved for the hard work they put into practising for, and presenting the Primary (K-2) Concert. Events like this do not just happen and we appreciate their commitment to our students.

Thank you to the many parents who have assisted the school this year. Your support is invaluable and we acknowledge the time that you give to the school. It was good to see many parents at the Volunteers' Morning Tea this week.

It is almost time to say farewell to Kate Sutherland as she approaches her retirement from the Education and Training Directorate at the end of this term. We wish her well in her doctoral studies and in her future endeavours. We thank Kate for her commitment to the school over the past ten years and for her passion for excellence in education for every child.

My very best wishes to the school community for happy, safe and relaxing holidays. I look forward to working with you again in 2015.

School returns on Monday, 2 February for new students, and on Tuesday 3 February for returning students.

Kind regards  
Kerrie Blain  
Principal  
1 December 2014