

Telopea Park School
Principal's P&C Report
11 June 2014

I send my apologies for this P&C meeting. I have a prior engagement which cannot be avoided. Since the last P&C meeting the term has progressed well with excursions, visits and teachers and students alike engaged in rich learning. The results of the teachers' "pedagogy challenge" this semester were evident in a professional learning afternoon as well as a recent staff meeting when teachers from each faculty show-cased how they differentiate teaching to meet the needs of individual students in their classes.

The concern of some parents at the last P&C concerning the time given to primary-aged students to eat their lunches was investigated further. The teachers were asked to be vigilant and ensure that students were given the time allocated to eat and that eating was a learning time to discuss healthy choices as well as sustainability. Emmanuel and I have visited many classrooms at lunchtime to find that the request is being followed.

Weeks 7 and 8 are "excursion-free" in the secondary school. This is a time when some assignments are due and tests are held. This has been communicated in the *Assessment Calendar* given to students at the start of the term, and sent to parents with the first *Telopea Topics* of the term. Good time management and organisational skills will assist your children to achieve their best. Parents can assist their children with this.

Parent/Teacher meetings for the primary sector will be held this term in weeks 8 and 9 – Tuesday 17 June, Wednesday 18 June, Tuesday 24 June and Wednesday 25 June from 4 to 6pm. This is the first time to use the "Parent/Teacher Online System" (PTO) for primary parents. We hope that primary parents find this as useful as the secondary parents.

Semester reports will be sent home in both the primary and secondary sectors at the end of week 10. Please ask your children for their reports if you do not receive them.

Week 10 is also Australian Business Week (ABW) for all Year 10 students. ABW has been held in the school for 11 years and is very much appreciated by the students each year as they learn business skills, terminology and the language of the Stock Exchange in order to form and run their own (fictitious) companies during the week. Intense competition between companies maintains the excitement culminating in the final day when the students run a Trade Fair and then present their Company Reports to parents, teachers and students. All Year 10 parents are welcome to attend.

Our students arrived back safely from France this term where they were billeted with families at the Lycée de Grenoble. This is a new exchange program for Telopea and it proved to be very successful. We will welcome the French students into the school later this term. I thank Patricia Blumstein (Head of Secondary Languages) and Baba Alhadji (French teacher in the English Stream) for accompanying the students. Overseas excursions/exchanges are a huge responsibility for teachers as they are on notice 24/7. The teachers at TPS do this willingly to further the educational opportunities for our students.

Year 5 Students will be billeted by families in Nouméa, New Caledonia, next term and we will similarly welcome Nouméan children into our school to be billeted by our families. Thank you in anticipation to the host Telopean families.

In week 4 this term we hosted a visit of Yves Jacquier, a Director of Education from New Caledonia, together with two of his colleagues. They were particularly interested in the education of indigenous students in their mother language at schools in Canberra. Emmanuel and I met with M. Jacquier in Nouméa last December to discuss possible exchanges of students and teachers in the future as well as collaboration between our two countries (France and Australia).

Last month Emmanuel and I joined the community to farewell the French Ambassador who has taken up his new position as a Councillor with the Prime Minister in Paris. In the past two and a half years the Ambassador has been very supportive of the school. We thanked him for the attention he gave us and wished him well for the future. We await the arrival of the new Ambassador.

Enjoy the rest of the term.

Kerrie Blain
9 June 2014