

Telopea Park School
Principal's P&C Report
20 June 2018

Dear P&C parents and carers

This has been a very successful semester for the school and our students achieving excellence in many fields. We have high expectations of every child in the school and they consistently remind us that our efforts are appreciated. Achievements of our students have included:

Secondary -

- Success in the Computational and Algorithmic Thinking (CAT) competition with outstanding results. This is a one-hour problem-solving competition which seeks to identify computer programming potential. This year 30 students participated obtaining: 1 High Distinctions; 5 Distinctions; and 10 Credits
- Mathematics students are currently completing the Challenge and Enrichment programmes and the UNSW Global 57th Annual School Maths Competition.
- A guest speaker Jason Schwab from the CBA SMART Programme spoke to the students about Financial Literacy.
- In the Arts and Technology faculties, the students have excelled in many areas:
 - At the Canberra Show many Year 8-10 Food Design students were successful in the Junior Cookery competition. Students received numerous awards and the school was awarded 'Most Successful Junior Exhibitor'. 1st and 3rd Place - Anzac Biscuits (Year 9-10 International Foods) 2nd, 3rd and Highly commended - Tea Cakes (Year 9-10 CBS) 2nd Place - Iced Patty Cakes (Year 8)
 - On Saturday 19 May, the Music students excelled at the National Eisteddfod (Year 7-10): Year 7 awarded silver (in Category B) and Year 7-9 awarded gold (in Category A)
- The Senior Debating Team was the grand champion team in the ACT Debating Union Senior Open finals. The students defeated Canberra Grammar School in the semi-finals and Canberra Girls Grammar School in the finals. An exceptional effort!
- A year 8 and Year 10 team represented Telopea at the Inter Schools Legislative Assembly debates
- A successful Anglicare Pantry Appeal was run by Mr Peter Hobbs and Year 9 Geography classes as part of the unit Biomes and Food Security. An amazing 2882 items of food were collected

Primary –

A summary of the Primary School achievements and events was given in the week 7 *Telopea Topics*. We are very proud of their efforts.

This is just a short list of some achievements this semester. Many other sporting and musical achievements are noted on a regular basis. Amazing students!

School Reports

Teachers are presently engaged in assessment of your children's progress and are in the middle of report writing to inform you about this.

End-of-semester reports will be sent home with your children in week 10. If you do not receive your child's full report, please contact the school office for another copy.

Staff Changes

Peter Clayden, the K-10 deputy principal, will continue to be the Acting Principal at Birragai Outdoor Educational Centre. He will return to us in term 4.

At the end of July, as is usually the case, we will be saying goodbye to some teachers and students. Best wishes to the students who will be leaving us, including some teachers' children. We know that their years at Telopea Park School will stay with them forever.

A number of French teachers will be moving on to other countries/schools.

In the primary sector: Vincent Boutraud; Cécile Guignonnet; and Séverine Navaux.

In the secondary sector: Jillian Erin-Agot; Agnès Boutraud; and Christophe Navaux.

We wish them all the best in their future careers.

In the secondary Australian Stream, Patricia Blumstein, Head of Languages, will be taking a term's leave to travel through Europe. Her replacement will be announced soon.

Contributions from French Stream families – update

To discuss at the meeting

School exchanges and excursions

Apart from school camps in years 3,4,5,7 and 9, the school also offers a number of international experiences to students. These are annual events and are advertised well in advance to give students and families the opportunity to save for such events. They include:

Primary:

- Year 6 exchange visit with Collège Georges Baudoux in Nouméa, New Caledonia.

Secondary – annual trips:

- Exchange visit to Lycée International de Grenoble, France, for students in years 9-11
- German exchange with a Gymnasium near Berlin, Germany, for students in years 9 and 10. This was first offered in 2018 and was highly successful. With enough interest, this trip will be offered in 2019
- Exchange with Lycée Jules Garnier in Nouméa, New Caledonia, for students in yr 11
- World Challenge experience to a third world country to be immersed in a different culture and to contribute to the local areas chosen – for students in years 9 and 10
- A Spanish trip is being advertised for 2019 and the paperwork has begun.

Secondary – occasional trips:

- European Band Tour

As well as the above, other excursions include:

Band trips to other parts of Australia – South Coast for Year 7 and Central Australia for the Band students (2018)

Sydney visits for Opera House productions, when appropriate

Annual Cowra excursion for students of Japanese

Secondary Text Books - *Learningfield*

We continue to offer this alternative to hard copy textbooks.

Learningfield is the online company providing Mathematics and Science textbooks for all secondary Australian Stream students. Unfortunately, although the texts are excellent and contemporary, less than half of the families have paid. Again this will leave the school with a large debt to pay. We are presently investigating a better solution.

NAIDOC acknowledgement

In week 9 secondary students will participate in the annual assembly in recognition of NAIDOC Week. Every faculty will demonstrate how they incorporate Indigenous understanding and culture into the delivery of the Australian Curriculum. This is a core priority.

Australian Business Week (ABW)

All year 10 students will participate in ABW in week 10 of term. This is an interactive week where small groups of students form “companies” to run a hospitality facility from all aspects of its operation. They will develop the facility; operate it over a theoretical two-year period and in the process, learn about the Australian Stock Exchange; they will produce a written and an oral company report as well as develop a 60-second video to promote their resort/hotel. Many students in the past have reported that this was their favourite week in their high school years! It certainly is a steep learning curve. The school is still asking parents to be mentors during this week. No company experience is necessary and any support would be very much appreciated.

Personal Projects

Students in Years 9 and 10 complete a *Personal Project* as part of their IB requirements. The journey starts in Year 9, Term 4 and continues into Term 3 of Year 10. This year’s students have produced some innovative results and we look forward to the community show-case in the secondary library on Thursday 28 June, 3.30-5.30pm.

Student Safety

As you know, there have been several reports of students being harassed – verbally and by being followed – around some schools in Canberra. This has occurred as close to our school as National Circuit. A letter was sent to all parents and carers of our school asking them to be vigilant and to talk with their children about appropriate responses to similar situations. We continue to monitor the situation and ask all parents to inform us of any inappropriate behaviour from members of the public

School times

Again I remind all parents that school times are:

Primary - 9am to 3.15pm

Secondary - 8.45am to 3.15pm (3.09pm on Thursdays)

There is supervision at the school for half an hour before and after classes.

Please ensure that your children do not arrive before supervision starts for the day and leave the school promptly after classes are finished. This is an issue during the winter months when children seek the warmth of the corridors before school hours.

Thank you to the parents who so regularly support the school in many ways. Your commitment to the students is very much appreciated.
Best wishes for happy, safe and relaxing holidays at the end of the term.

Kerrie Blain
15 June 2018