

We welcomed new students to the school on Monday 4 February, with all students returning on Tuesday 5th February. The school is presently fully staffed, an achievement as the search for the best staff extended throughout January. It is also our pleasure this year to have five beginning teachers who are very enthusiastic to be starting their new careers at Telopea Park School.

The new teachers in the school this year are:

In Primary

Suzanne Phippen – Year 1

Mhairi Henderson – Year 5

Andrew McEwin – Year 5

In Secondary

English – Joanne Archer

Mathematics – Jeff Mansfield, Beau Olsen

Languages – Le-Anh to support Daphne Liew in Mandarin

Humanities – Sophie Millington, Anderson Ritchie and James Knott

The Arts – Michael Thomas (Drama)

Pe/Health – Sarah Darcy, James McAuliffe

We wish all our new teachers a successful and happy year with us.

Census

The Directorate's Census sweep is used to fund the school for the year. This was on Wednesday 20th February when there were 553 students in the primary sector and 879 in secondary - a total of 1432 students in the whole school. This is 21 students more than at the start of 2018. A new classroom was created from the teachers' staff room in primary to accommodate the extra class that has been formed. Teachers now meet in the old Before & After School Care (BASC) room on the bottom floor of the primary building. The BASC office has moved to the Francophonie Building. Rooming is tight in secondary with most rooms used by several teachers. Unfortunately, there is an imbalance of students in the year groups with year 9 increasing to 249 students. Several extra classes have needed to be opened in this year group to ensure that all classes remain at a reasonable size.

Finances.

Financial statements will be sent out to all families in the next few weeks. This year the costs are: \$300 per student for voluntary contributions (used for enrichment of the delivery of the curriculum, including digital technology supplies).

\$400 per students for Primary and EFS students – delivery of the French National Curriculum (\$300 for subsequent children).

Secondary *Learningfield* \$88 (Mathematics and Science textbooks) and Athletics \$25.

Other secondary subject contributions as determined by subject choices.

Some families started the year well by paying their contributions to the school.

2019 School Plan and the 2018 Impact Plan

At the end of each year a report on the Annual Action Plan is written. This has been renamed as the annual Impact Report. This Report is with the Education Directorate for verification. It will be available soon.

The writing of the 2019 Action Plan was started with a planning workshop on Tuesday 19th February at a conference space at Rydges Capital Hill. All Executive Teachers attended and worked together to discuss the actions we will take this year towards realising the 2018-2021 Strategic Plan. From this workshop the senior executive team and I have written this year's plan with the agreement of all executive teachers. Again, this plan is in draft form until we receive ED approval.

Campus Upgrades

Some important upgrades were carried out during the Christmas holidays and stand-down. These included the creation of a classroom from the primary staffroom; painting of some secondary corridors and classrooms; tree and grounds maintenance.

Major works to be completed this semester include:

- An upgrade to the secondary quadrangle between the heritage building and the canteen. This has been approved by both the Education Directorate (ED) and the Heritage Council to go ahead. We are waiting for a tender to be appointment and a timeline accepted. Than you to the P&C for their support of this project
- The creation of a sixth Science Laboratory in the three-storey building. The space was cleared 12 months ago ready for the work to begin. I have signed off on the plan which has now been approved to go out to tender. I have been assured that this will be this term with work scheduled for term 2.

Communication Protocols

At the end of 2018 we were asked to draft a communication protocol for parents who wish to speak with their child's teacher/s and/or any other member of the school staff. The document will be ready to chare at the meeting.

School Uniform

I have asked that all parents support the school by ensuring their children are dressed in school uniform. This is an ACT ED requirement. The uniform includes collared school t-shirts (red for primary and white for secondary), navy bottoms (long shorts, skirts), school checked dress, black shoes and white or navy socks. The outer garment for cold days is a red school top for primary children and a navy school top for secondary students. This continues to be a problem for some parents to oversee, sending children to school out of uniform.

Planned school excursions

In addition to the usual year camps for years 3, 4, 5, 7 and 9, students in other years can nominate to join overseas trips as below.

School exchange with Noumea

Planning is under way to support our year 6 students to travel to New Caledonia on exchange with students at Collège George Baudoux in Noumea. This exchange will take place in term 3. The Noumean students will return on their exchange with us in Term 4.

Secondary French exchange – to Grenoble as in previous years. To ensure viability of this initiative, we have joined with Lyneham High School to increase numbers this year. The students and teachers will depart on the 29th March for five weeks in France, returning on the 4th May.

World Challenge

Students will again be part of the World Challenge experience. They are in training at the moment with local walks planned as well as more intense walks in Namadgi National Park later in the year. This year the students and two teachers will be travelling to Sri Lanka in September and will be working on a project to support the local people. The students will soon nominate what project they would like to do.

In addition, a **third band trip** to France, Belgium and England for 2020 is in the planning phase.

Road Safety

To ensure the safety of children at the front of the school before and after school, a new process for entering the school was put in place this term. Families were informed that they will no longer be able to drive through the front circle to drop off and collect their children before and after school. Primary students are to be dropped off at the primary side of the school unless they are accompanied by an adult (when the front door can be used and the parent signs into the school). Secondary students can enter to the front of the building through the right-hand side door or be dropped off at the far end of the oval. We continue to monitor the traffic around the school and are still alarmed by the number of parents who do not abide by the traffic laws. The police have been notified.

Personal Projects

We congratulated students in Year 10 who show-cased their *Personal Projects* research and work at Roundtables this term. The standard of the work presented was mainly of a very high level so we are optimistic of the presentation of the final projects to the community in Term 3. We thanks Ms Kirsty Hilson for leading the *Projects* this year.

NAPLAN

At this time of year, we are again preparing for NAPLAN testing in week 3 of term 2. The tests will be on-line as they were last year. The school coped well with this last year for the first time so we do not foresee any problems this year. To be able to prepare the primary students the school has ordered and hopefully will have received 160 Chromebooks for years 3 and 5. This has cost the school about \$85000.

Cultural Integrity

Cultural awareness training has continued for executive teachers in all schools this year. This refers to the importance we place on understanding and valuing the contributions of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to our nation. As in past years, our Telopea Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) committee will continue to meet each term to discuss our journey of cultural understanding and integrity.

Occupational Violence

The Education Directorate is supporting schools to be able to cope with harassment and violence in the workplace. Telopea Park School is not immune to this with some parents not role-modelling our school values.

Violence in schools in the ACT has also been a focus in the Canberra Times. We do not tolerate violence of any kind in the school.

Kerrie Blain
Principal
18 March 2019