

Principal's Report – Nicholson Street Public School P&C Meeting – Tuesday 11 May, 2021

Welcome back to school for term 2. This term is jam packed with events across all year levels and I know the teachers are excited for the term ahead and are looking forward to sharing information about your child's progress in learning via the Semester 1 reports later this term. Thank you to all teachers and parents who have participated in parent/teacher conferences over the last few weeks.

This term we will continue welcoming parents back to school events. Please make sure you read information on excursion notes and in the newsletter in regards to any of these events this term. Physical distancing is also now recommended rather than required where practicable. If your child is unwell, the same processes still apply from previous terms; staff and students should not attend work or school if unwell, even with mild symptoms of COVID-19. Any person with any COVID-19 symptoms will be sent home and should not return until they have received a negative test result and are symptom-free. In circumstances where children have other medical reasons for recurrent symptoms a letter from their GP is sufficient to negate the requirement for a negative test. If you need to see your child's class teacher, please make sure that you make an appointment and sign in appropriately at the front office so that we can keep a track of parents staying on site.

I am very proud to announce that Nicholson Street Public School was the **first** school in the Iron Cove Network of schools, and indeed the first Sydney school that I am aware of, to have had their 2021-2024 Strategic Improvement Plan signed off by the Director for quality assurance and published on the school website. For a small school, this is a monumental achievement and something to be celebrated. Thank you ever so much to all of the school staff who worked tirelessly on this new plan and thank you to the Nicho community for your input and support.

On Tuesday 27 April our school had a visit from the Executive Director and Director, who wanted to see all of the wonderful programs that Nicho has to offer. We were one of only four schools selected in the network for this special visit. At a special request from the Director, we switched our Talent Development Project afternoon from Thursday to Tuesday and our guests visited every classroom to observe lessons and talk to teachers and students. We received such positive feedback from our guests. They were impressed with the planning and programming that had been done by the teachers for these lessons, as well as with the fantastic behaviour and engagement shown by our students. Well done to the Nicho staff and students!

NAPLAN

This week and early next week all children in Year 3 and Year 5 will sit the NAPLAN tests. These tests will measure our students' achievement across core aspects of literacy and numeracy. NAPLAN is a measure of your child's achievement in that particular test, on that particular day. The test is a benchmark measure of your child's achievements in the areas that are being assessed. Please remember that NAPLAN is a snapshot of your child's learning that can help provide areas of strengths and areas of development for both the student and school. Assessment is a regular part of school life. Without even realising it the children at Nicholson Street Public School have probably already completed a handful of 'assessment'

activities this term. Assessment and test should not be scary words for students. In fact they should be seen as tools for reflection and growth.

Check In Assessments – Literacy and Numeracy

Year 4 and Year 6 students participated in reading and numeracy Check-in assessments during the first three weeks of this term. The Check-in assessment is used by teachers to supplement existing school practices. It is used to identify how students are performing in literacy and numeracy and to help teachers tailor their teaching more specifically to student needs. Unlike NAPLAN, parents do not receive feedback about student performance in these assessments.

Update on Nicho playground renovations and building works

Plans are in place with the NSW Department of Education, Assets Unit for the following upgrades and renovations:

1. Covered Outdoor Learning Area (COLA). This will be partially funded as part of the NSW Government's Metro Renewal Program. Late last year, I applied for a grant on behalf of the school for this program and we were successful in receiving a grant of \$90,000 to put towards the upgrade. The Nicho P&C will contribute approximately \$60,000 (and any identified additional costs). The COLA will hopefully be started late term 3 and be finished by the end of the year. Next step is a site inspection by Assets, which will hopefully take place next week.
2. The smaller project of the basketball court resurfacing and high fencing in the bottom playground will be fully funded by the P&C. This will also hopefully be started and finished by the end of this year. Three quotes and all documentation have been submitted to Assets - awaiting their actioning.
3. Installation of a rooftop 28.14 kW solar PV system on school library. This will be jointly funded by the P&C \$17,500 and a Solar My Schools grant \$17,500. All paperwork has been submitted and also awaiting actioning by DoE Assets.

Annual School Report

* Our 2020 ASR has been published on our school website.

Semester 1 Student Reports

* Nicholson Street Public School Semester 1 reports will go home on **Friday 25 June** - Friday of week 10.

2022 School Enrolments

* At this point in time it is difficult to predict the 2022 projected enrolments. We have already enrolled a number of Kindergarten children for 2022 so indications point to the school maintaining steady numbers.

Premier's Reading Challenge

* All Nicholson Street Public School students have been invited to participate in the 2021 Premier's Reading Challenge (PRC). The PRC aims to encourage a love of reading for leisure and pleasure in students, and to enable them to experience quality literature. All K-2 students will be automatically enrolled in the PRC, class teachers will read the books to and

with the students and information entered at school. Entry to the PRC for 3-6 students is optional and all data will need to be entered by the students and/or parents at home.

Very Important – Students accessing Social Networking Sites/Apps

* Please do not allow your primary school aged child/ren to access social networking sites/apps without your permission and constant supervision.

* It is truly frightening to read and hear about the number of primary school aged children across Australia who have access to social networking sites/apps without being supervised by a parent or responsible adult.

* It is also frightening to hear about the number of primary school aged children who access social networking sites/apps which have a strict policy of users being at least 13 years of age (e.g. Tik Tok, House Party, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Snapchat to name just a few).

* The link below, from the Australian Government - eSafety Commissioner, gives you specific information about the various social media platforms and their safety. You will note in the "Guide for Parents" sections that most of them talk about how you can "help your teenager to have the best experience with the app".

<https://www.esafety.gov.au/key-issues/esafety-guide>

* I also refer you to the eSafety guidelines for parents from the eSafety Commissioner site.

<https://www.esafety.gov.au/parents>

* I particularly draw your attention to this section below:

What is online safety and why is it important?

Online safety is often used interchangeably with terms such as internet safety, cybersafety, internet security, online security and cyber security, although these terms can relate to different aspects of online engagement. For example, the risk of using computers, mobile phones and other electronic devices to access the internet and social media is that breaches of privacy may lead to fraud, identity theft and unauthorised access to personal information. Other risks for children and young people include image-based abuse, cyberbullying, stalking and exposure to unreliable information or illicit materials.

Criminal offenders are highly skilled at exploiting new modes of communication to gain access to children and young people, and children and young people can easily access adults-only material if there are no protective mechanisms in place (Queensland Police, 2014).

These situations can place a child or young person's emotional and physical wellbeing at risk. This is particularly the case where little or no attention has been paid to monitoring use, communicating with children or young people about use or securing the device being used. In these cases, and for the purpose of this paper, online safety is a child protection issue.

While online safety is important for protecting children and young people from dangerous

and inappropriate websites and materials, this does not mean that parents should discourage their children from using digital technology. The challenge is to help children and young people enjoy the benefits of going online while having the skills and knowledge to identify and avoid the risks.

* Please, for all of our children's sakes, do not allow your primary school aged child/ren to access social networking sites/apps without your permission and constant supervision (if at all).

May 2021 Tabled Funding Request

* We would like to please table the following funding requests:

- \$14,000: Teaching and Learning resources support

- \$5320: Sydney Theatre Company Term 3 Drama Program (successfully implemented at Nicho in 2019)

TOTAL: \$19,320

Sue Ross

Principal – Nicholson Street Public School

Tuesday 11 May, 2021