

## **Principal's Report – AGM – Tuesday 11 May 2021**

2020 was another successful year for Nicholson Street Public School, despite all of the challenges we were faced with due to the global pandemic.

As the Principal of Nicholson Street Public School I am proud that the productive partnership that exists between the P&C and staff at the school continues to grow and thrive. I am proud of the partnership that exists at all levels of the school and the collective approach that exists within this school community to just make 'it' happen no matter how large or seemingly insurmountable the 'it' might seem.

I thank all members of the current P&C executive for their work supporting the initiatives and programs that have driven school improvement and growth during their time in their current roles. I also thank those members of the executive who have worked hard as leaders of the school community and step down from their roles tonight. Your collective insights and support are appreciated and valued by us all and I hope your skills and enthusiasm are not lost to the school as you move from your formal roles in the P&C.

I thank all members of the school leadership team who have worked closely with me over the last 12 months to ensure that the resources we are provided with by the P&C are effectively utilised in classrooms to achieve their purpose, which is to make a difference to the learning outcomes of the students who attend our great school. I greatly value the support of our substantive Assistant Principal, Lucy Norrish, and also Mr Daniel Lee who has worked with Lucy and me as part of the Nicho Executive Team.

As teachers, we use 'evidence' to show proof that our students achieve ... sometimes the achievements are large but often they are small, yet still significant! As principal I have the privilege to see how all the facets of a school community impact on the learning and achievement of our students and school. Thank you to all of the adults in our students' lives - parents, teachers, support staff, extended family - for working together ... the collective effort has truly improved the life, learning and wellbeing opportunities for each child.

There are often debates about the conditions and qualities needed which contribute to a highly effective education system. As a parent and principal, I believe the true marker of success is what happens in classrooms on a minute-by minute basis: students learning a new skill; teachers praising every effort; the look of respect and adoration that teachers and students exchange with each other. At Nicholson Street Public School, all staff (teaching, administrative and support) worked harder than ever throughout 2020 to improve the learning opportunities for students. I publicly acknowledge and thank all staff for the great work they have done this year. The staff at Nicholson Street Public School have made a difference!

The Nicholson Street Public School staff were asked to reflect on their year and to outline their professional achievements - beginning with themselves and moving wider to grade/stage teams and Nicholson Street Public School as a whole. This is a collective summary of their highlights (please note that this list is not exhaustive and some achievements are interchangeable between categories):

### **Personal Achievements**

- Building rapport with class and parents
- Quality teaching and learning through a COVID ravaged year
- Implementing "Seven Steps to Writing"
- Consolidating Maths games and ensuring all students were engaged
- Built a great relationship with my class and had a positive classroom climate
- Using One Note effectively and accessing departmental resources to enhance effective planning and to collaborate with all staff
- Improvement in student engagement and academic achievement - data driven
- Improvement in general student behaviour
- Had fun with my class while they learnt at the same time
- Differentiating the curriculum to cater for the wide range of learning needs in the class
- Coordinating student passion projects
- Engaged in quality professional learning via Zoom
- Using data, especially literacy and numeracy data, to effectively plan and program quality teaching and learning
- Exploring play-based learning
- Effective and efficient communication with parents
- Implemented remote learning
- Filmed/edited videos for Education Week and for other school events and purposes
- Sports competitions
- Flexible - adapting to changing roles and programs
- Worked with parents to develop goals and strategies to support students' learning

### **Grade/Stage/Team Achievements**

- Deep collaborative planning and programming on One Note to ensure that all students' needs were addressed
- Online learning was positive and successful
- Using assessment to implement planning/learning
- True and authentic collaboration with stage team and keeping a really positive and true team spirit!
- Team building and professional learning challenges together Whole School Achievements
- Supporting each other (staff) through uncertain times

- Supporting each other and the students/wider community during COVID restrictions
- Keeping our focus firmly on the academic, wellbeing and welfare of the students in a really difficult year and overcoming continuous setbacks
- Being positive throughout
- Kept a sense of normality during COVID restrictions
- Planned and programmed together and followed whole school scope and sequence documents to ensure continuity of learning for all students
- Undertook quality professional learning in literacy and numeracy and applied new knowledge in classroom practice
- Always putting students first, at the forefront of any decisions we made

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the following successes in the school/community partnership from the last 12 months:

- upgrading of student toilet blocks
- commenced the development of our COLA and sports ground upgrade
- re-launched our urban garden
- supported learning within the classroom with inspirational speakers, electronic white boards, teaching support and new air-conditioning
- help with writing the new school song
- phenomenal fundraising effort led by the incredible Tricks and Treats Discount Book (355 sold), and supported by fruit and veg boxes, trivia nights, father's day lunches and more
- simplification of families' shopping experience for events and uniforms

There are numerous other examples that highlight the strength of the school and community partnerships at Nicholson Street Public School. I thank every member of the community for their contribution over the last 12 months. The time, energy and enthusiasm that this community puts into the school are evident in the learning experienced by our students. Congratulations must go to the P&C and indeed, the entire Nicholson Street Public School community, for what has been an extremely successful year. We look forward to 2021 being another year of continued success for our students, staff and community.

***Sue Ross***

***Principal – Nicholson Street Public School***

***Tuesday 11 May, 2021***