Principals Report September 2016

School Review
I would again like to thank our families who provided feedback to the school review team. I would also like to acknowledge MOSS staff for their professionalism, hard work and commitment to our school improvement priorities. The review team said that they were in “awe” of what has been achieved at MOSS in such a short time. Last week our Regional Director, Assistant Regional Director and Lead Principal all spoke individually with me and acknowledged the great report and the positive direction the school is moving forward.

The report identified five key improvement strategies. These improvement strategies will form the basis of our Strategic Plan 2017 -2021. Throughout Term Four our strategic planning will involve revisiting the school vision statement and values as well as developing a school motto. The school strategic plan will be collaboratively developed and completed by the end of November. Families will be involved in the consultation process.

Staffing
Deputy Principal positions – Karen Walton is our permanent Deputy Principal. This year we have also had Mike Curtis in an Acting Deputy Principal role. Recently, this position was advertised as a permanent position and as such a formal selection and recruitment process has to take place. Shortlisting for the position will occur this week. Successful applicants will then be notified of an interview date.

Karen Walton will be on leave for the first three weeks of Term Four. Hannah Tucker will replace Karen as Acting Deputy Principal.

Chrissy Hamilton returns from extended leave in Term Four. Chrissy will resume her team teaching role with Hannah. We thank Sue for her help over the last few months.

Zac Stamenkovic is currently on leave. We are delighted that Rachel and Mr P having been supporting the class until further notice.

School Strategic Infrastructure Plan: Update
Fencing – the fencing contractors have now resumed work and will be on site until the project is finalised. The swipe card access is being completed by another contractor. We will inform families before the swipe card access is installed and provide details regarding school access. Swipe card access on the four gates is essential for student safety. The current system of having keys attached to fences is problematic. We have had a number of instances when these gates have been left unlocked and also the key has been taken. This is despite clear signage and regular reminders.

Ian Lowe Senior Playground
The infrastructure in the playground is completed, however, we are still waiting for the area to be fenced. In addition two WH&S concerns have been identified:
- Fall of the ground from the playground to the grassed area is a trip hazard. Works are required to lift the drain and even the slope
- Sandstone blocks – these require the edges to be smoothed and the ones in the centre require seating.
Junior Playground
Sarah is organising a time for maintenance works in this area to be completed in Term Four. The maintenance includes treatment of the timber, replacement of the sand, removal of the empty garden bed, and a general tidy up of the vegetation. The early years classes are making sensory boards for the area in Term Four. We are hoping the Mens’ Shed will assist us with this small project.

Sensory Room update
Thank you very much to Jen and Chrissy for their leadership around this project. I have recently met with Chrissy and approved $1700 worth of repairs/maintenance.

Steering Committee – Bus set down/pick up area
A copy of the meeting minutes is attached for members. The role of a traffic and safety controller is greatly assisting to keep students, staff and families safe. We are in the process of implementing the other control measures. Families are reminded to keep to the 10km speed limit and not to unload students unless they are in a parking bay.

Professional development – Term 3
The data team (Mike, Susan, Louise, Sue and Hannah) will be attending Dr Lyn Sharratt’s – “Putting Faces on the Data” training next week.

Budget
A copy of the budget is attached for members.

Centenary State High School
This Thursday the Years 8 and 9 “Performing Plus” students from Centenary State High school will sing the National Anthem and provide some entertainment for our Sports Day.

Kerrie is also currently organising weekly school visits from students commencing in Term Four. This will be a similar arrangement to the one we had in 2015.

I will be representing MOSS at the Centenary State High School Annual Presentation Evening on Thursday October 27th.

Warm regards

Susan Christensen