Parent and Community Engagement 2015 Action Plan

**Vision**
To provide engaging relevant curriculum and innovative, specialised teaching in partnership with families and the community in a safe, supportive environment.

**Values**
All members of the community, including students, staff and families are learners working collaboratively as a team.

**Communication**
Effective communication forms the foundation in developing and maintaining partnerships. Schools also have a responsibility to help families understand the language of learning.

- Conduct survey to assess family communication needs
- Seek and share feedback from newly enrolled families
- Review school signage
- Review current ‘front desk’ practices and responsibilities
- Design a ‘links to learning’ logo
- Showcase student work with ‘links to learning’ in foyer and classroom windows
- Update student of the week display in foyer each month
- Incorporate good news items into sector and leadership meetings
- Hold parent information evenings for each sector
- Investigate further social media options

**Learning Partnerships**
While involving parents in school events and fundraising activities is important, it is engagement through learning partnerships which has been shown to have much greater impact on student outcomes.

- Regularly update entrance/foyer student learning displays
- Investigate making info sessions available to parents digitally
- Develop calendar of events displaying ‘links to learning’
- Support parental attendance at post-school options expo
- Encourage parent attendance at learning centred theme days
- Provide photo and short ‘intro to class teacher’ message when class groups are announced
- Develop school specific family communication diary
- Create foyer photo display of teaching teams
- Develop sector specific brochures for families
- Share ‘learning at home’ activities with families

**Community Collaboration**
Schools do not exist in isolation – they are often the central hub of their community. Effective schools actively seek out relationships with the community.

- Actively encourage community use of school facilities
- Strengthen existing partnerships and continue to seek further partnership opportunities
- Develop database of community partners
- Print marketing materials for specific school programs
- Partner with universities and corporations to access skilled volunteer schemes
- Lead state wide intensive interaction professional learning community
- Implement recommendations from review of volunteer program

**Decision Making**
Greater community ownership and trust of school directions and decisions can be developed through the provision of opportunities for open and authentic consultation.

- Undertake parent survey to assess current perception of school decision making and consultation
- Adopt social media as a strategy to involve families in decision making
- Promote P&C meetings using a range of school media
- Seek guest speakers for P&C meetings
- Provide food and drink at P&C meetings
- Send agenda to all parents prior to P&C meeting

**Participation**
Many parents lead complex lives. Opportunities to participate in student learning in a variety of ways, times and places are key to improvement. This involvement sends a clear signal to families about the value of education.

- Implement recommendations from review of volunteer program
- Host bi-annual P&C Family Fun days
- Publicise achievements and contributions of school Chaplaincy program at P&C meetings and in school communications
- Seek a variety of speakers for MyTime parent support groups
- Develop database of parent and community skills and availability
- Develop database of parent and community participation and acknowledge contributions

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