

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Anson Street School P&C AGM

5th March 2020

Year in review

We started 2019 with 121 students and 20 classes. The main and campus sites have grown and flourished with plenty of good news stories and successes throughout the year.

Memorable moments

- Tyrese's art work being selected for Bear Cottage in Sydney.
- Kiarra, Trae, Erjan and Tyrese receiving awards for NAIDOC in Dubbo.
- 6 shining stars, Beatrice, Jacob, Aaliyah, Sophie, Shane and Shaun participating in School Spectacular supported by Miss Sarah Gilchrist, Mr Dion Corby, Miss KJ Riles and Mrs Trish Riley.
- School got a wine license so we can now sell the 2013 vintage of Tempranillo (only 10 cases remain). Bumper harvest and new winemaker Dan Shaw. Our 2019 vintage in partnership with Orange High School, will be released in the New Year.
- New hydrotherapy pool has been installed and students are benefiting from the therapy. Grand opening will be held in term 1. Thanks to Federal Member Mr Andrew Gee for the grant.
- *The Zone*, a bouldering wall space has been completed on the campus site. Official opening will be held in term 1. Thanks to Mr Stuart Riles for his support and guidance in setting up this project.
- Synthetic grass and playground area with new sandpit, cubby houses, giant games, outdoor gym equipment and outdoor table tennis have been purchased.

2020

We have started this year with 21 classes, 135 students and 92 staff (including teachers, support and admin staff, specialists, general assistants and cleaners). The executive structure is made up of 1 School Administration Manager, 1 principal, 2 non-teaching Deputy Principals, 2 non-teaching Head Teachers (Campus and Learning), 1 Instructional Leader Wellbeing, 3 Assistant Principals and 1 Senior Psychologist Education.

Additional positions include Art Support Officer, The Retreat Officer, Admin Support Officer, Clinical Psychologist (2 days/week), Dietician (1 day/week), Occupational Therapist (2 days/week), Physiotherapist (2 days/week).

The school will receive supplementary funding of \$340 000. The purpose of the one-off allocation – for 2020 only – is to provide and evaluate interim additional resourcing to alleviate staffing pressures in SSPs and inform the future staffing entitlement solution.

School Planning 2018-2020

- Review of school's strategic plan will take place this year and the development of the next three year plan will be finalised by the end of the year. Parents/carers will be asked to contribute to the evaluation of the current plan and to give ideas for the new plan.

Staffing

- Deputy Principal and Head Teacher positions will be advertised this year for permanent appointment.
- This year we have an Exchange Teacher from a special school in Canada, Mr Rick Ramada.
- We will be recruiting a Speech Pathologist (2 days a week) this term.

Technology and STEM

- Our school was selected to be part of a new rollout of laptops for every teacher.
- All teachers and support staff now have laptops.
- All classes have iPads, student laptops and desktops for student use.
- The hall will be outfitted with new screen, projector and sound system.
- Virtual Reality, robotic and Lego kits, and 3-d printer purchased this term to use in class.
- Eye gaze technology will be purchased and used across five classrooms to enable students to communicate using their eyes.

Curriculum

- Selected as one of 100 schools delivering the Numeracy course to Year 11 students.
- New subjects offered – iStem elective for stage 5 (Years 9 and 10).

Room changes

- New space has been created for basic woodworking, science and art lessons using clay in the old woodwork room. The kiln will be used for the first time in years after being given a clean bill of health.

Future Directions

- External Validation will take place in week 11 of this term. The school team choose various aspects of the school to present to an independent panel. The School Excellence Framework allows the school to showcase what we are doing in the areas of learning, teaching and leading. Each public school in NSW is externally validated every five years.
- VET Audit will be held in Term 2 as part of the Department of Education's compliance process.
- Medical students will be visiting our school throughout the year. The students are studying paediatrics and psychology.
- IDMH (intellectual Disability Mental Health) Clinic held monthly at our school. Clinic led by Dr Radha Srikanth, Psychiatrist and her team from the hospital.
- CAMHS (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service) – Anson Street clinical management meetings held monthly to exchange information and discuss strategies for students.
- Our school will be part of a program to employ a paediatrician one day a month. Up to six students will be able to see the paediatrician at school.
- New partnership with Orange Regional Conservatorium. Music teacher will be working with primary students on Tuesday during session 1. Mrs Sally Cheetham and Toot Keegan will be holding choir during session 3 on Tuesday.
- Interactive Immersion room (Curiosity Cave) will be created (Innovation grant has been submitted).

- Breakfast program on the main site will be implemented (grant has been submitted).
- 2nd KIA will be leased for transporting students.

Projects to be finished in 2020

- Outdoor education classroom on Campus site.
- Shade sails on both the main and campus sites.
- Upgrade of kitchens in classes 6 and 7.
- New blinds in classes 1-4, campus staffroom, hall and library.
- Tinting of windows in class 16 and the windows outside class 1 and 2.
- Skills House – area where students can learn the skills of making a bed, ironing, washing and folding clothes, cleaning etc. Relocation of The Retreat to
- Outdoor musical and sensory equipment installed.
- Potting shed and business enterprise of growing native flowers and herbs to sell.
- Parent seating area near pick-up area.
- Installation of bubblers on main and campus site.
- Electronic sign installed (waiting for electronics of fence to be installed).

Concerns

- Fence – front is still not complete as funding for the electronics are not available; border fence of the main site has barbed wire; perimeter fence on the campus site is able to be climbed so does not provide the level of safety for students.
- Back entrance transport area does not have shelter or covered walkways.
- Ongoing talk at a state level about what 'inclusion' means for education (see attached submission to the Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability - Education and Learning Issues Paper).

Wish List

- Community Mental Health Nurse employed
- Additional administration staff
- Upgrade of bathrooms in rooms 5, 6 and 7.
- Purpose built structure on campus site to replace three demountables.
- Obstacle course constructed on campus site.
- Climbing equipment for back oval

I thank the P&C for their dedication and support throughout 2019. The small but active group have held many fundraising throughout the year and raised much needed funds for the school. The projects that the P&C have contributed across the school include: School Blazers for student leaders; \$10 000 for ???,

Melanie Meers

Report prepared by Melanie Meers
Principal
4th March 2020

Attachments: School Financial statement; Submission to the Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability - Education and Learning Issues Paper