



Mount Ommaney Special School

PARENTS' & CITIZENS' ASSOCIATION
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8 December 2015

Dear Parents, Carers & the wider school community

A number of school issues have arisen since the final 2015 P&C meeting on 18 November. Consequently parents have been approaching P&C members with questions. Three members of the P&C Executive (Liza, Tennille & Jen) met with the Principal (Susan) on Friday 4 December to discuss these issues. Susan reiterated her wish to be open and honest with the P&C, and welcomed this opportunity to provide an update. The following outlines the topics discussed and any decisions made in terms of further actions required.

1) Staffing issues

Susan said that she would send out an end-of-year update to all parents before the end of term, which we welcomed. Key points included:

- A new Deputy Principal – Mike Curtis – had just been appointed (note: in addition to Karen).
We have met Mike, who seems eager to start the New Year. We look forward to having continued strong leadership at MOSS.
- Advice that the three Sector Leaders (Alastair, Ben and Katie) would be pursuing new opportunities next year, and we wish them all the best. A plan is in place to ensure that suitably qualified staff are appointed as replacement sector leaders

Specifically:

1. Hannah Tucker will be the Early Years sector leader
2. Mike Curtis will undertake the role of Middle Years Sector Leader
3. Rachael Byrne will be the Senior Co-ordinator and Karen Walton will assist in the role of Senior Years Sector Leader

Hannah Tucker will be given two days per week to assist with Early Sector Leadership. Hannah will also have a teaching role in the Early Years. Rachel Byrne will have one day per week to assist her with Senior Co-ordination.

"To provide high quality, innovative educational programs to students with high or complex support needs "

A visual presentation of the new school staffing leadership structure will be disseminated to the school community and displayed in the foyer of the Administration Block at the beginning of 2016.

2) Intensive Interaction

Susan reaffirmed her commitment to Intensive Interaction (II) and including it school wide. With the return of Dave Hewitt, Susan is reinforcing MOSS as a leader in II and special needs education.

Louise Ruzic will be the Intensive Interaction coordinator from 2016, and Susan is currently working with Louise to define the role description to ensure all aspects of II continue. Dave Hewitt will be returning to the school early in 2016 with a focus on up-skilling staff, but Janee Williamson will not be continuing as the II Coach. The school priority is to maintain the integrity of II, but on the basis that it is a pedagogical approach to accessing the curriculum, and not the class curriculum itself. Thus II will be imbedded throughout the school next year, as appropriate for each individual student.

3) P&C finances

After a brief discussion around the relative merits of the Sensory Learning Area and the Senior Playground, as well as the critical need for adequate perimeter fencing around the school, we agreed that a re-assessment is required of the immediate priorities of the school community to ensure that the proceeds from our various fundraising activities are targeted appropriately.

For 2016 and beyond, the P&C is looking forward to an on-going constructive and mutually supportive relationship with the Principal and the school leadership team. Open channels of communication will be critical in this process. To this end, one member of the P&C Executive will meet briefly with the Principal in advance of P&C meetings with a view to ensuring the School Leadership team and the P&C are across the issues in advance so we can expeditiously move through the agenda and take decisions on the basis of all available information.

We will be re-assessing funding priorities over the school break in conjunction with our Fundraising Plan with a view to a detailed discussion at our first meeting in 2016 (tentatively set for 17 February 2016, to be confirmed early in the school year). We look forward to meeting with Susan and Kerrie early in the new school year to get off to a great start.

As always, we would welcome your input at our meetings, either via attendance or you can email us anytime (pandc@mtommanespecs.eq.edu.au). Or if you see us around the school grounds, grab us for a chat.

Have a wonderful break over the holidays, see you in 2016!

P&C Committee