PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

Term 4 is moving along very well. Teachers are working on the end of semester reports. To make their workload more efficient we have invested in an online reporting format.  This means teachers will be able to work more efficiency, and it will reduce workload without compromising the quality of the information presented to parents. There will be a minor change in the format of the report but the content presented will be the same.

Kindergarten Orientation starts this week. We will be welcoming 58 new Kindergarten children into the school. The enrolment committee met last term to consider the out of area placements. Luckily we had room for our out of area siblings and we accepted them last term, and we have also accepted a few out of areas who are just over the boarder. In each case ANPS was physically closer to their home than their designated school. Taking these children has meant that we will maintain 16 classes this year. Currently they will all be straight classes, no composites. This may change but it is our current plan. Teachers are looking at class formation. It is a delicate balance of educational needs, a spread of abilities. Friendship groupings are taken into account, however teachers are looking at students who will work well together rather that students who are friends.  The specific needs of individual of students such as anxiety or learning needs are also carefully considered so that there is a balanced class.  Teachers spend an extraordinary amount of time creating classes taking the needs of all children into account. If parents have any special needs they need to make the school aware of, please put these in writing and direct them to me so that I can pass on any information necessary to teachers as they make the classes.

The school is working through the reality of the new financial system. Things are progressing a little slower than usual as new processes take some adjustment however we are now able to process all payments as usual. I would like to thank all the parents who have been supportive of the closed office and changed arrangements. It has been enormously helpful in making the change as easy as possible.

I recently had a meeting with our uniform supplier Pickles. We discussed the possibility of moving to a maroon shirt with a yellow embroidered crest and yellow trim on the collar. This would be a simple move and one that would not incur a higher cost per item. The aims of the uniform change were to have a uniform which was smarter, engendering a sense of pride throughout the school, a uniform which was more gender neutral as well as having options for all students and a uniform which was different to neighbouring schools.

The girls uniform will consist of the summer dress, or grey shorts or skorts with the maroon shirt. The winter tartan skirt with bib will remain for girls who choose that option or they can wear the maroon shirt with grey trousers.

Boys would wear the maroon shirt with grey shorts in summer and trousers in winter.

Both girls and boys will wear maroon shorts and the maroon t shirt on sporting days, with the option of a maroon tracksuit bottom in winter. The colour change between the regular uniform and the sports uniform will negate the need to have ANPS monogrammed on the shorts as was previously discussed.

Pickles will keep the two jumper options we currently have, the sweat shirt and the jacket styles, as well as offering a polar fleece option.

All uniform options will be on display early next week for everyone to see. The new uniform will be phased in over time before it is compulsory. Pickles will cut the sleeves off our long shirts to make yellow t- shirts, meaning e can start to phase in the new uniform with Kindergarten this winter.

Pickles are finding it difficult to maintain the weekly school uniform shop. From next year they are proposing that their shop in Marrickville will stock our uniform. They are open twice a week as well as every Saturday  from 9-2. There will also be an online ordering system which parents can use and orders will be delivered to school once a week. The shop is also open for 2 weeks in the holiday also which will eliminate the queue at the beginning of the year.

The school executive is currently finalising a wish list for the P& C. The primary focus is on improving the quality of the playground equipment. Since the last meeting, I have spoken to the parent who requested a climbing wall and staff is in favour of that project also. The Green Team are working frantically on planting up the flowerbeds. They are keen to secure a small grant to continue their work. The Urban Forest needs some seating. Long term, we were looking at building amphitheatre style seating at the Johnston St end of the forest so that it could be utilised for outdoor lessons. Renewal of technology will always be on the list, although the development of the coding and robotics programs would be a positive step in curriculum delivery. We will work on getting some costing for these projects for the AGM.