

Principal's Report – Nicholson Street Public School P&C Meeting – Tuesday 13 October 2020

Welcome Back for Term 4

Welcome back for Term 4 – As always, Term 4 is going to be packed full of great learning and events. I look forward to working productively with the P&C to continue to deliver quality educational programs to the students at Nicholson Street Public School. The school calendar has been updated on the school website with all of our upcoming events.

As the weather warms up, students may like to bring a few bottles of water to school. While students can fill up at the taps in or near their classrooms, we are still unable to use bubblers to directly drink water. Students have become incredible at taking their water bottles with them wherever they go. Well done to all. But there still needs to be a big reminder to everyone about school hats ... We have a “No hat, play in the shade policy” and will be strictly enforcing this this term.

Thank you to the P&C

Thank you so much to the P&C for the delicious lunch provided to Nicho staff on NASA Day on Wednesday 9 September. It was such a lovely, thoughtful gesture and the staff are very grateful.

COVID-19 Health update and advice

The NSW Department of Education provides all schools with regular updates and guidelines to implement at school in regards to the COVID pandemic. As a school we are constantly reviewing our practices and procedures to ensure that these guidelines and requirements are being met.

As we do every day, students are reminded of the importance of maintaining positive hygiene practices, including washing hands regularly. Daily cleaning continues to be part of our everyday practice and adults continue to socially distance. We remind all parents to remain off-site and to make contact with the school via email or phone. It is also important to socially distance when you wait to pick up your children in the afternoon.

Strategic Improvement Plan

Last term all Nicho parents were provided with the opportunity to complete a detailed survey to provide ideas to help us in moving forward towards our new Strategic Improvement Plan (SIP) that will be released during Term 1 of 2021. This is part of the School Excellence Cycle to continually drive improvement and excellence in schools. The Strategic Improvement Plan (SIP) will take the place of the current three year school plan that concludes this year. Thank you to everyone who took the time to complete the survey.

Schools engage in all aspects of a School Excellence cycle. This includes developing a Strategic Improvement Plan (SIP) in consultation with their community (students, staff and parents). The SIP has up to three strategic directions and associated improvement measures which form the basis of each planning cycle. One of these strategic directions will be ‘Student growth and attainment’ for all schools. The remaining strategic directions are chosen by each school to reflect and respond to their unique context.

The first stage of completing our SIP is to complete a situational analysis. The situational analysis is an authentic and rigorous assessment of our school's current state and is used to

inform our school's improvement journey in learning, teaching and leading. Conducting a situational analysis allows our school to develop a rich and highly contextualised understanding of our school's current situation. We will be finalising the situational analysis later this term.

We look forward to working together in partnership to ensure that we continue the high standards and vast opportunities at Nicholson Street Public School.

Year 3 and Year 5 Check In Assessment (Literacy and Numeracy)

All of our Year 5 students and most of our Year 3 have completed the school optional literacy and numeracy check-in assessments. The Check-in assessment includes two online assessments for Year 3, 5 and 9 students:

- reading assessment
- numeracy assessment

Each assessment is designed to be quick and easy to administer, consisting of approximately 40 multiple choice questions.

Schools that opt in to use the check-in assessments have the flexibility to schedule the assessment to best suit their school and student needs during the assessment window. Please note that the Year 3 sitting window is still open and three of our students, who were absent at the end of last term, still need to complete the assessments.

The check-in assessment package is supported with resources and professional learning to assist schools to administer the assessments, analyse assessment feedback and plan for teaching. This will include strategies to identify areas to focus attention and teaching strategies to address these areas. Please note that, unlike NAPLAN, there are no parent feedback reports or letters attached to the assessments (but parents will be able to book in a meeting time with their child's teacher if they wish to discuss the assessment results and future directions for their child.

Sporting Schools Grant: Hockey Australia – “HookIn2Hockey”

We are very pleased to announce that we have been successful in acquiring a \$3000 grant from Sporting Schools Australia for a five week fundamental movement skills program in fundamental hockey skills. Starting on Friday 6 November, Hockey Australia will send a coach to our school for five weeks to deliver a specialist sports program for all students. Each class will participate in a 40 minute "HookIn2Hockey" lesson every Friday, run by Hockey Australia and supervised by the class teacher.

“HookIn2Hockey” is designed for boys and girls aged 12 and under, but the skills can be modified to suit players of any age. “HookIn2Hockey” gives young boys and girls the opportunity to learn the basic skills of hockey, develop fundamental motor skills and make friends all while beginning their lifelong love of hockey.

Kindergarten 2021 Enrolment

Please be reminded that we are currently taking enrolments for Kindergarten 2021. If you are yet to enrol your child for school, we encourage you to do so as we are currently considering plans for how Kindergarten Orientation can work this year. At the moment we

are following the NSW Department of Education guidelines around safe protocols in schools; so the plans around Kindergarten Orientation will need to be flexible this year.

If you have neighbours or friends also looking to start their child next year, would you please touch base with them to ensure they are aware that we are currently processing enrolments.

For further information, please contact the office on 9810 2863 and speak to Jen or Christina.

The Kindergarten Transition to School mornings will be held on the following days:

- Tuesday 3 November: 9:30am – 11:00am
- Tuesday 17 November: 9:30am – 11:00am

The transition mornings are an opportunity for students and parents to get to know the school and for students to take part in supervised learning opportunities and observations in the kindergarten classrooms. These mornings are also a great opportunity for new parents to network with other families, finalise their child's enrolment for the 2021 school year, and meet with me to discuss the transition to school.

Our 2021 Parent Information Session, for new Nicho families and families of 2021 Kindergarten students will be held via Zoom, due to strict COVID regulations handed down by the NSW Department of Education.

- Tuesday 3 November – 6:30pm - 8:00pm (ZOOM Meeting details to be emailed early in Term 4).

Mrs Sue Ross

Principal, Nicholson Street Public School