



OAKLEIGH SOUTH PRIMARY SCHOOL
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OSPS School Council Update – 3/12/2019

Dear Parents,

Since our last communication the OSPS School Council has met on three occasions and has been working through a number of policy reviews, the school strategic plan review, and surveys regarding the aspects of your child's education you value and the performance of the school in those areas as well as a review of the swimming program.

Parent Feedback

A disappointing turnout for the Parent Forum saw less than ten parents attend the presentation from Ron on the performance of the school. At this meeting it had been planned to workshop elements of the curriculum with parent input but the poor numbers saw us shelve these plans and subsequently develop a more comprehensive parent survey for this year.

Parent Survey

Thank you to everyone who took the time to participate in our Parent Survey in September. The survey this year listed a number of aspects of your child's education and asked parents to evaluate the performance of the school as well as rank the aspects in order of importance to parents. This was done to evaluate whether the resources of the school were being directed into the areas parents valued and where performance could be improved.

20% of families responded to the survey, a better result than the forum night, but still well below where we would like to see it.

Performance

Parents primarily rated the school Good or Very Good in all 15 areas of the survey so even the lowest ranked areas were rated well.

Parents were satisfied on a range of topics. The ones that stood out most strongly were:

- Special events and celebrations - 97% (good and very good)
- Resourcing - 94%
- Academic Results - 94%

Though still relatively highly rated, you indicated that the following areas needed some more attention:

- Buildings and infrastructure - 64% (good and very good)
- Wellbeing, Mindfulness & Resilience Development – 73%

These are areas the school had already identified as important and programs have been put in place, even prior to the survey, to address these areas.



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The school has implemented programs like Healthy Skills for Life and Respectful Relationships to address student wellbeing and in 2020 the school will be involved in a broader resilience project to benefit our kids.

The infrastructure of the school is the subject of a Facilities Review and a Masterplan for the school has been sought from the department to address the next phase of the schools physical development.

Importance

The top three areas of importance to our parents were:

1. My child on a whole is happy to come to school – It was encouraging to read that the most important factor to our parents also received one of the highest satisfaction score with 91% agreeing that the school performed good or very good.
2. Caring and empathetic teachers – 88% were satisfied with the performance of the school on this factor. Thank you to our wonderful teachers for their continued efforts to support our students.
3. Wellbeing and mindfulness and resilience development – 73% agreed that the school was good or very good in this area. While this is a reasonable score, we can do better and this will form part of the 2020 strategic plan approach.

Other aspects that parents valued included;

- Encouraging High Expectations
- Academic results
- Resourcing.

Pleasingly the school's performance was generally rated well for these aspects also and as above a number of programs are already in train.

Cyber resilience was specifically called out as important and as our kids use of social media begins earlier and earlier, a program for students – and parents – is being developed to address this area with more students. We encourage all parents to attend any educational events the school holds so we can work together to set our kids up for success in our digital world.

Again, thanks to all the families that took the time to provide their feedback to the school through this survey. Your input is invaluable and gives the school great insights for future planning.

School Communications

CareMonkey has been selected for a trial to find a better way of communicating with families and pursuing our agenda of a paperless communications process. The limitations of the current system and need to improve the accessibility of records has driven this trial.

CareMonkey is being trialled with Grade 4 families and is intended to allow more targeted communications. It was assessed against other programs and was selected by the administration for its integration with other programs and cost effectiveness. Results of the trial will be assessed by the SC in coming weeks.

TOGETHER WE ACHIEVE



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Swimming Survey

You would have recently received a survey regarding the school's swimming program. Very interestingly we received more responses to this survey than the one on the school's performance. The results are being reviewed by Council and will be communicated in the New Year. The results will be used to inform future programs but given the nature of the planning process this may mean implementation is likely to be in 2021 or beyond. Thanks to all those that gave their feedback.

2020 Fees

With no increase in school fees for three years a robust discussion regarding fees for 2020 was undertaken. As you have been made aware the Council ratified an increase for 2020 to \$490 and we felt this was a fair movement given the increases to costs right across the school and the high level of education our children continue to get.

Parent Group

The Parent Group has instigated a terrific initiative to make grants available to specialist areas of the school. These areas are key features of the broad set of experiences our schools gives our kids and the Council welcomed the assistance of the PG to progress these programs. Areas such as Sustainability, sports, art and the library will be able to apply for these grants each year, as well as

The PG has also made a significant donation to the new robotics lab to purchase equipment to get it off to a flying start and a welcome donation to the library.

Thanks to the parent group for all their fundraising efforts throughout the year.

Parking

The school was approached by a business offering to assist with our parking situation through a new App that allows local residents to 'hire out' their driveways to parents during events and school pick-up/drop-off times. Essentially like AirBnB for driveways. Whilst the parking situation continues to be frustrating, the endorsement of a private business by Council as a solution was deemed inappropriate but we have suggested the school provide a vehicle via the newsletter for the business to promote itself. Keep your eye out for it.

Robotics Lab

The Robotics Lab is set to open later this month and will be a very exciting addition to the school's resources in 2020. It is hoped it will establish the school as a community hub for digital and technology learning. We can't wait to see what is ahead.



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Strategic review

A couple of your School Councillors had the opportunity to sit in the school's Strategic Review with the region. It would be fair to say that the rigour of this process was pleasing and the process impressive. Regional reviewers and 'challenge partners' from other schools discussed the school's strategic plan, teaching practices and progress against its past plans.

The way the region and the challenge partners spoke of what OSPS has been able to achieve was simply tremendous. We are very lucky to have a staff that is able to give so much to our kids and develop programs that educate them across such a broad range of topics beyond the usual.

Key to this review was classroom observation and whilst the staff may have felt they were being tested they needn't worry as the reports back from the reviewers was glowing and their praise for our kids and staff effusive.

The review is in the final stages and School Council would like to congratulate the staff, in particular Erik Albers for their enormous effort to prepare for the review and their ongoing efforts with the kids.

Thankyou for your patience this year as the Council went through some change. We look forward to 2020 and wish all our outgoing Grade 6 kids the very best for a successful start to high school next year.

Have a safe and happy festive season from all of the School Council parents and staff



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