

Principal's Report – Nicholson Street Public School P&C Meeting – Tuesday 10 November 2020

Kindergarten Orientation

We had a wonderful time last Tuesday welcoming most of our 2021 Kindergarten students to their first Kindergarten Orientation session. Our newest enrolments settled brilliantly into the morning session. Thank you so much to Ms Linda Nguyen, Kindergarten Teacher and Ms Nunik Alexander and Ms Sarah John, School Learning Support Officers, who worked tirelessly to ensure that the morning was such a success. Thank you also to Isabella B and Sam from 5N who helped out as older "buddies".

Thank you to Ashley McGrath and Devina Solanki from the P&C for coming to the Zoom Session for new Kindergarten parents to speak to them about all things Nicho. We look forward to welcoming the students back to Nicho on Tuesday 17 November.

Thank you to the P&C and parent helpers

Throughout each year, the P&C provides outstanding service to the school. The P&C not only coordinates fundraising events, but also provides extensive services to the school community through sub-committees and supporting/coordinating school activities. Unfortunately this year we will not be able to hold our "thank you" morning tea to recognise those parents who give of their time voluntarily to support the students, staff and school. Can I take this time to publicly acknowledge all our hard working parents who give their time and effort to support all of us at Nicholson Street Public School. You are all amazing and we miss not having you working closely with us at school this year.

Thank you so much to the P&C for providing some lovely sweet treats for all Nicho staff today in recognition of World Teachers' Day.

Thank you so much to our wonderful parent helpers for helping out on the Mini Halloween Festival late last month to make this such a special event for our students:- **Bec, Brooke, Jamie, Devina, Krista, Ashley, Hayes, Sandy, Kathryn, Nicole, Kimmie, Annelie, Kirsten, Montys, Delphine and Carly**. Huge thanks to **Devina** for coordinating the event! We can't thank you all enough!

COVID-19 Health update and advice

The NSW Department of Education has been working very closely with NSW Health to ease some restrictions for the remainder of Term 4. However, we still need to comply with NSW Health advice to ensure we maximise the health and safety of staff, students and our community. All adults must maintain a minimum of 1.5 metres physical distance from each other at all times.

What's changed?

From **12 November**, the following activities can take place:

- External providers delivering education services can recommence
- Parents and carers allowed on school site to purchase or pickup uniform from the uniform shop
- Year 7 transition to high school in Term 4
- school planned end of year events can proceed in a COVID-safe way while adhering to relevant COVID-19 Safety Plans
- P&C meetings may occur on the school sites with executives and invited guests. These meetings must occur outside of school hours and are limited to a maximum of 20 people. Physical distancing and hygiene measures must be adhered to at all times. All attendees must sign the visitor acknowledgement form upon arrival. P&C or

other community social events or functions, fundraisers, fetes and barbecues are not permitted in Term 4.

Curriculum and General Matters

- Online applications for placement in Year 7 in selective high schools in 2022 opened on **13 October 2020** and close on **16 November 2020**. Parents must apply online by the due date.
- Twice per year parents/carers receive written reports about how their children are progressing at school. Student reports outline summative information about performance and application in academic and social aspects of schooling. Teachers are currently assessing how students in their respective classes are progressing, in readiness for reports being issued at the end of the term. I acknowledge and thank all teachers for the way they are assessing students and translating their knowledge of how each student has achieved into Semester Two reports.
- I am very pleased to announce that we have finally been successful in securing a paid School Crossing Supervisor position for our school for morning and afternoon time slots. For further details and information on how to apply, please refer to the attachment. Applications for the position close on 22 November 2020.
- I am also very pleased to say that we have a new, professionally built House Points scoreboard up in our school playground which will give a progressive tally of the house points across the school. It is located next to our sports storage shed and will be maintained by the student house captains.

End of Year Events

- Although there is and will be much greater teaching and learning over the remainder of the term, there are also many important end of year events to be finalised. Our Presentation Day for 2020 will be held at school in our library/multipurpose space in two separate sessions so that we meet the guidelines provided by the NSW Department of Education. Although we will be unable to have parents attend, we will still formally acknowledge many students for their outstanding work and effort this year. As a school we will provide parents with an online format to view these presentations. The final details will be provided closer to the date of the Presentation Day.
- The Year 6 parents, Mr Lee, myself and other Nicho staff members are also deep in planning to ensure that we farewell our wonderful Year 6 students in the best way possible under the current guidelines. I know that whatever the final plans will be, parents will be supportive to ensure that the students are recognised and have a fun last term in primary school.
- Kindergarten and Year 6 graduations will also take place in the final week of term. These events will also be modified to meet current guidelines, while still ensuring that students are appropriately acknowledged. We will once again look at online methods to share these graduations with parents.

Strategic Improvement Plan

The term is proving to be an extremely busy term for all staff and students. Our school is currently finalising its current three year plan as well as writing the new Strategic Improvement Plan, which is a four year plan to lead our school in future directions. This process involves looking at data, being reflective and evaluating what has worked in the past and what we can do in the future to increase student outcomes at our school. We are evaluating current curricular and extra-curricular programs and future initiatives. It very much is a consultative process, which enables our school community to have ownership

with new directions for the school for the next four years. Our new school vision will reflect our future intentions over the next four years. I look forward to sharing our draft strategic directions with the Nicho community over the second half of this term.

Mrs Sue Ross

Principal, Nicholson Street Public School