

## Principal's Report – Nicholson Street Public School P&C Meeting – Tuesday 8 September 2020

We are now over the halfway point of Term 3 and it is important to reflect on the progress our students and teachers are making in their classrooms in this very unique year. It has been a more settled term and I congratulate the majority of students on an improved approach to their interactions with one another and their teachers.

Outstanding student behaviour is built on a foundation of respect that includes respect for peers, for adults in their lives and of course for themselves. It is no accident that people who demonstrate respect for others and themselves are respected by those around them. We demonstrate our respect for each other in the words we choose, the body language we communicate and the actions we take.

As we move towards the end of the term I hope a culture of mutual respect can continue to grow and the term can finish in a positive, proactive and rewarding way for the entire school community.

### Thank you to the P&C

- Thank you to everyone who supported the SRC Mufti Day Fundraiser in August which raised money for Stewart House;
- Thank you for organising the Fruit & Veg month boxes for Nicho families and a huge thanks to Craig and Mandy at 60 Darling St Deli for their support of our school;
- Huge thanks to the P&C for organising the delivery of 150 pieces of fruit for the launch of Fruit & Veg month! The students devoured the fruit and it is interesting to note that green apples were the most popular fruit of choice;
- Thanks also to the P&C for organising the trivia night fundraiser, Father's Day spinning wheel outside the deli and the Father's Day guest speaker luncheon with Gus Worland. We truly do appreciate every little bit of work that you do for our school.

### NSPS Community congratulations

Congratulations to **Mr Daniel Lee** (Year 6 Teacher), **Ms Nunik Alexander** (School Learning Support Officer) and **Ms Kathryn Reynolds** (School Parent) for being the recipients of 2020 Metropolitan South Operational Directorate Principals' Network Awards.

Mr Simon Paterson, Relieving Director Educational Leadership, Iron Cove Principals Network, visited Nicho on Wednesday 19 August to present the awards at morning lines.

The Award Categories were as follows:

- \* **Early Career Teacher Award** - Mr Daniel Lee
- \* **School Administrative and Support Staff Award** - Ms Nunik Alexander
- \* **Parent or Community Member Award** - Ms Kathryn Reynolds

Daniel, Nunik and Kathryn are valued members of the Nicho community and deserved recipients of these awards!

### School Administrative and Support Staff (SASS) Recognition Week

The week of 24-28 August was School Administrative and Support Staff (SASS) Recognition Week. It was a week where members of the school community - teachers, parents, students - were encouraged to say 'thanks' to our administrative and support staff and reflect on the wonderful work that the team does.

Our SASS team offers outstanding support to teachers, students and families on a daily basis and we thank them for the care, courtesy and common sense they provide to our school community. They are often at the front line answering questions and then working behind the scenes to ensure the school runs smoothly.

Sincere thanks to **Mrs Jen Makim** (School Administrative Manager), **Mrs Christina Alenaje** (School Administration Officer), **Mrs Nunik Alexander**, **Ms Jesse Jordan**, **Ms Sarah John** (School Learning Support Officers) and **Mr Sid Stuart** (General Assistant). We hope that each of you have had a great week knowing that you make a significant contribution to the high levels of success that we enjoy at Nicholson Street Public School!

### **ARE YOU SCHOOL SAFE? Illegal parking around schools endangers children's lives**

#### **Important advice from Leichhardt Police Area Command, who regularly patrol in our area.**

- \* If you've heard the expression "it's only a matter of time until someone gets hurt" then you'll understand why it is important for **EVERYONE** to obey the road rules.
- \* School opening and closing hours are busy times for pedestrians and vehicles outside the school.
- \* Park safely even if it means walking further to the school gate. Schools provide information in school newsletters and emails to promote safe behaviour and this includes parking legally during drop off and pick up times.
- \* Always take extra care in 40km/h school zones, which operate on gazetted school days. Observe all parking signs. They are planned with children's safety in mind.
- \* Illegal parking around schools puts lives at risk. That's why Council and the Police take a **'zero tolerance'** approach. Council Rangers, Parking Officers and Police regularly patrol schools across the Leichhardt PAC.
- \* Parking in a No Parking area - means you can stop to drop off or pick up passengers for a **MAXIMUM of 2 MINUTES**. You must stay within 3 metres of the vehicle.
- \* Parking in a No Stopping area - means you **CANNOT** stop in this area for **ANY** reason.
- \* Parking in a Bus Zone area - means you **CANNOT** stop or park unless you are driving a bus.

### **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.

We are keen to make life at school as normal as possible for students and to ensure that they can have a quality face-to-face education, as well as providing a positive and supportive environment.

From the information provided by the NSW Department of Education regarding extra curricula activities, the school has been able to begin many activities that occur on-site. We have postponed or cancelled all other activities that do not meet the current guidelines such as school camps, assemblies for more than 15 minutes, external excursions to indoor venues, major sporting events with other schools, school athletics carnivals with parent help etc. Those activities that have started back meet the current guidelines; however, we regularly review these activities in case modifications or changes need to occur.

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.

We understand the concerns of all our Nicholson Street Public School community, but can assure you we are following the guidelines provided by the NSW Department of Education as per advice from Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC), NSW Health and other agencies to ensure our school continues to operate in the safest ways possible during the COVID environment.

### **Strategic Improvement Plan**

A survey will go home through class parent contacts tomorrow afternoon to give you the opportunity to provide ideas 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.

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 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)**

Late last term the NSW Department of Education launched a new literacy and numeracy assessment package to further complement the suite of short assessments available to assist schools in identifying what students can do and to inform further teaching and learning. This new assessment package is a literacy and numeracy "check-in assessment"

for students in Years 3, 5 and 9. Schools that choose to use the check-in assessment have the flexibility to schedule the assessment to best suit their school and students' needs. We have registered our school to take part in this assessment and Year 5 students have already participated in the assessment. We are currently analysing these results.

Further information on the assessment is below:

### ***What is the Check-in assessment?***

The Check-in assessment is an optional online reading and numeracy assessment for students in Years 3, 5 and 9. The check-in assessments will be available to schools as follows:

- Year 5 and 9 students: Term 3, Weeks 5 to 7 (17 August to 4 September 2020)
- Year 3 students: Term 3, Week 10 to Term 4 Week 2 (21 September to 23 October 2020).

The check-in assessments can supplement existing school practices to identify how students are performing in literacy and numeracy and to help teachers tailor their teaching more specifically to student needs.

The Check-in assessments are mapped to the NSW Syllabuses and National Literacy and Numeracy Learning Progressions.

### ***The Check-in assessment***

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 will have the flexibility to schedule the assessment to best suit their school and student needs during the assessment window.

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 we will be looking at ways that we can provide feedback to parents).

### **Sporting Schools Grant: Netball NSW – NetSetGO**

We are very pleased to announce that we have been successful in acquiring a \$2000 grant from Sporting Schools Australia for a four week fundamental movement skills program in throwing and catching skills. Starting on Friday 4 September, Netball NSW will send a coach to our school for four weeks to deliver a specialist sports program for all students. Each class will participate in a 40 minute "NetSetGo" lesson every Friday, run by Netball NSW and supervised by the class teacher.

Netball Australia's official NetSetGO program has been developed to provide children with the best possible learning and playing experience, with sessions catering for students of all year levels and abilities through skill development and game sense activities.

### **ICAS Assessments**

ICAS Assessments for Science, Digital Technologies, English, Mathematics and Spelling Bee finished last week.

Please note that each subject now has two official sitting windows. Due to COVID-19, the second official sitting window (12 - 23 October) is available to all schools. If a Nicho student was absent and unable to sit the test in the first sitting window, he/she will be able to sit the test in October.

### **Additional Curricular Activities at Nicholson Street Public School in Term 3**

For your information and for P&C records:

- Smiling Mind Mindfulness K-6 sessions
- Chess Club (we need more students in term 4)
- Kindergarten 100th Day of School celebrations
- SRC Fundraising activities
- Premier's Reading Challenge
- K-6 Public Speaking Competitions
- K-6 Spelling Bee Competitions
- Nicho's Amazing Science Adventures (NASA) Day
- Jolly Bops Science Show
- STEM Robotics Lunchtime activities
- Dance Groups

### **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.

**Mrs Sue Ross**

**Principal, Nicholson Street Public School**