

Principal's Report 2 May 2014

Staff Update

- Mrs Jodie Weber was successful in her application to fill a relieving Assistant Principal's position at Birchgrove Public School for the remainder of the year. Mr James West has accepted to fill Mrs Weber's position as KW's teacher for the remainder of 2014.

Parent/Teacher Interviews

- Parent/teacher interviews have been brought forward and will be held in the second week of Term 2. A note was sent home to parents to explain the reasons for the change - namely for teachers and parents to communicate earlier in the year regarding the progress of students. It is the intention that in 2015 these interviews will be conducted in the first term of the year.
- The school has introduced a service for parents to book their interview times online which has been welcomed by both parents and teachers. This process will greatly reduce administration time for teachers and is far more efficient.

School Review

- An external evaluation of school processes, and in particular, on communication within the school, will be conducted in week 4 of this term. A briefing to parents will be given on Tuesday 6 May from 8:00 to 9:00 am in the school library. A note inviting parents to the briefing will go out to all families today.

Technology Update

- The school has purchased 16 iPad Air devices, a charging and lock up trolley and an iBook for syncing the devices. Staff and students will be inducted in the procedures and processes for the use of these devices in teaching and learning. Staff will be undertaking professional learning to maximise the integration of this technology into teaching and learning and in particular into the use of iPad technology to supplement the implementation of the National Curriculum English and Mathematics syllabuses.
- Technology upgrades and purchases are a major expense to the school this year and the school appreciates the support of the P&C in this area. Please find invoices attached of purchases and works done so far and the total amount contributed by the P&C. A further request is made to the P&C to cover the costs of technology upgrades in the school hall as was requested by Mr Guy last term. These works have now been completed. A clarification is sought from the P&C regarding its financial support of iPad purchases.

Mathematics Resources

- The Mathematics Focus Group has requested the support of the P&C to fund the purchase of additional resources. Please find invoice attached.

Maintenance

- One tree has been removed from the area next to the shelter and Aftercare building. It was identified by our arborist audit as needing to be removed due to its unhealthy condition. Another tree will be removed on Monday in the Preschool playground. It is considered to be of imminent danger and has been cordoned off.

Kitchen Garden Project

- With the kitchen nearing completion teachers and students will be preparing to use the space for learning. Students and teachers will be inducted into safety procedures and conduct expectations before the space is made available. The teacher coordinator of the learning kitchen for 2014 is Sally Corbett and all time tabling and procedures will be organised by her. There will be an information session held next Wednesday at 3:15 in the school library on our progress in the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Project to which the school is committed. Parents are invited to come along.
- Thank you Ellie Luff for her coordination of works to complete the Learning Kitchen. Her work and dedication to the project has been outstanding. All processes for the official opening are in place. Thanks go to Rachael Beckett and Gillian Wolfe for organising the event.

Volunteer Jobs

- The P&C has offered to organise working bees to address maintenance areas of the school. Following are suggested jobs that could be worked on;
 - Frog pond bridge repair
 - Wooden seats repairs
 - Painting of new maths store room
 - Build-up of sandpit area surround
 - Painting of office area
 - Creating a store area for musical instruments

Ellie Moore

Principal