

DRUMMOYNE PUBLIC SCHOOL

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Tuesday 20th August 2024

Principal's Report: P&C Meeting August 2024

Teaching and Learning

- Stage 3 Camp

At the end of last term, our Stage 3 students embarked on camp to Bathurst (Year 5) and Canberra (Year 6). These trips are a rite of passage for our students (I'm sure those of you educated in NSW will remember your own primary school trips to Canberra and/or the gold fields) and gave them the opportunity to explore significant historical and cultural landmarks, enhancing their learning beyond the classroom. With this in mind, I would like to acknowledge the dedication and sacrifice of our wonderful Stage 3 teachers, support and executive staff who accompanied the students, ensuring their safety and well-being 24/7 for the duration of the trip. Their commitment to providing such valuable experiences is truly commendable.

- Semester 1 Reports & Parent/Teacher Interviews Parent Survey

In a change to previous years, student reports were sent out to parents on Friday of Week 9 last term with Parent-Teacher Interviews held in the following week. Teacher and parent surveys were conducted, in regards to these changes, at the beginning of this term. The response to these changes from parents was overwhelmingly positive and results from the surveys will inform further improvements to our Semester 2 reports and parent-teacher interview organisation for next year.

- NAPLAN

Printed NAPLAN 2024 individual student reports (ISR) were distributed to families at the start of Term 3. I will be presenting a detailed analysis of school results to staff next week and to the P&C at the September meeting.

Extra-Curricular Activities

- Public Education Week / Art Trail

Education Week was a true celebration of public education and our school community. It was wonderful to see so many of you at our special assembly, enjoying the students' performances, visiting our open classrooms, indulging in the cake stall, exploring the beautiful art trail and also celebrating the unveiling of our two new Indigenous Murals.

The theme of this year's Education Week, 'Proud to Belong', resonates deeply with me as a school leader. It is a reminder of the strength and unity we build when everyone in our school community comes together in support of our common cause - providing the very best for our children. The sense of belonging that we foster here at Drummoyne Public School is what makes our school a place where every child feels valued, supported and proud to be themselves.

- **Science Week**

Science Week was an exciting and inspiring event, filled with curiosity and hands-on learning. Our K-2 students eagerly engaged in a variety of fun experiments, sparking their interest in the world of science and our Stage 3-6 students took on a meaningful and impactful project, creating solar lights for students in Papua New Guinea through the Origin Energy 'Solar Buddies' Program. This initiative not only taught them about renewable energy and sustainability but also allowed them to make a real difference in the lives of others. It was heartwarming to see our students come together to embrace science, creativity and global citizenship, showcasing the values and spirit of our school.

A very big thank you to Jane Duquemin, who facilitated our school's involvement in this initiative with Origin Energy; Ms O'Dowd, for coordinating the event; Hannah Heath, for her ongoing work with our student Environmental Leaders; and also to all the parents who responded to the call out and volunteered their time to assist.

- **Book Week**

Our Book Week Parade on Monday was a fantastic celebration of reading, creativity and community. The event was well attended by parents, who outdid themselves in crafting extraordinary costumes for their children. Your creativity and enthusiasm brought the characters to life and added so much joy to the day. I would also like to give special thanks to our librarian, Mr Joe Neufeld, whose hard work and meticulous planning made the event possible.

- **Stage 3 at Festival of Choral Music**

I was very pleased to be able to attend another celebration of Public Education at the Opera House last Tuesday night, the Festival of Choral Music. Even though I have attended this event as an accompanying teacher many times in the past, this was my first time as an audience member and I couldn't have been more proud of our Stage 3 choir for their outstanding performance. Watching our talented students stand on such a prestigious stage, their voices harmonising beautifully with choristers from across the state, their hard work, dedication and passion for music truly shone through.

I would like to extend a huge thank you to Ms Xenos and Ms Cantlay for their tireless effort, encouragement and expert direction. Without their time and dedication to music education, this opportunity for our students would not have been possible. I am very much looking forward to seeing our Stage 2 Choir perform at the Town Hall as part of the Primary Proms at the end of this term.

- **Mad Food Incursion and Parent Workshop**

Our students are participating in The Mad Food Science Incursion this week. This healthy eating program is run by Certified Instructor, Suzanne Burke, who will be helping students to learn about food, how it can make them feel many different ways and how what we eat can impact the planet.

We have organised for Suzanne to run a seminar for parents prior to the September P&C meeting on Tuesday 17/10 at 5:45pm. Details below,

WHEREVER YOU ARE AT IS TOTALLY PERFECT Every family is unique, and there's no judgment here - just practical tips to simplify feeding your family and feel great about it. Ask questions in the Q&A at the end. We're here to help.

The seminar will help you support your child to,

- *Eat a wider variety of real food.*
- *Be less fussy or picky with the foods they eat.*
- *Stop nagging you for packaged food.*
- *Have less volatile behaviour.*
- *Be able to concentrate or focus for longer.*
- *Learn more easily, or get better results in school.*
- *Sleep better or get fewer nightmares.*
- *Not get headaches, or get sick so often.*

You'll discover how food may be impacting all of this and will also explore,

- *A simple language to talk to children about food.*
- *Better, simple food swaps.*
- *Navigating the supermarket to improve health.*
- *Techniques to save time and money.*
- *Tactics to transition your family to eat more fruits and vegetables.*
- *Where to get more free help this year.*

- **Zone Athletics**

I was blown away to hear the results coming in from the Inner-West Zone Athletics Carnival yesterday. Our athletes ran, jumped, threw and put (what you do with a shot!) with all their might, representing our school with pride. Drummoyne PS won ALL FOUR zone shields (boys, girls, aggregate points, & proportional points) on offer with our athletes out performing every other school in our zone.

Uniform Guidelines

I brought the P&C's feedback regarding uniform standards at last month's meeting to the exec. and we agreed that it would be good to provide clearer guidelines to the community. With that in mind, we've drafted the document linked below which was shared with the P&C for feedback and support/approval. [School Uniform Guidelines DPS 2024.docx.pdf](#) at June's meeting. As outlined in the guidelines, I would like to move a motion to form a uniform committee who would have oversight over school uniform decisions moving forward.

Thank yous

I want to express my gratitude to the parent community for their incredible engagement in the many activities we've had so far this term. Your ongoing support and involvement have truly enriched school life and learning for our students. A special thank you for all the hard work that has (and will be) put into preparing for the upcoming fete on Sunday. Your dedication and enthusiasm are what make events like this such a highlight for our entire community. I look forward to seeing everything come together celebrating what promises to be a fantastic day for everyone.

Regards,

John Nguyen

Principal