

DRUMMOYNE PUBLIC SCHOOL

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Tuesday 22th October 2024

Principal's Report: P&C Meeting October 2024

2025 Planning

I wanted to provide you with a brief update regarding our planning for 2025. The executive team met on Monday to draft plans for several key areas, including:

- Numbers: Projected student numbers suggest an enrolment of 430 students next year - only slightly down on 2024. We have a healthy Kindy enrolment of 65 students.
- Staffing: We are beginning to plan staffing needs based on these projections and are looking at how to best support our students and utilise the skills and expertise of our permanent and temporary staff members.
- Class Structure: Discussions and plans are underway regarding class structures for next year, including possible co-curricular and enrichment opportunities, to ensure we meet the diverse needs of our students.

On this note, we have put out an Enrichment Class Survey which closes this Friday. The feedback we receive will help inform possible changes to the program for next year.

Teaching and Learning

- **Assessments and Semester 2 Reports**

Assessments are currently underway to help inform our Semester 2 reports. We have made substantial changes to these reports in response to the feedback we received from parents following the Semester 1 report survey. These updates aim to provide clearer, more comprehensive insights into student academic progress as well as social growth. I look forward to hearing your feedback once the reports are sent out at the end of Week 9.

- **Year 1/2 Swim School**

Our Stage 1 students have been heading off to Ryde Aquatic Centre for swim school for the past week and a half. I've seen first hand the benefits of the swim safety lessons at Ryde Aquatic Centre, from my time at a previous school, and I am pleased that our students have the opportunity to take part in the program. The indoor heated pool means lessons go ahead, no matter the weather, and the qualified instructors do a fantastic job making sure kids feel confident and are safe in the water, developing important swimming and water safety skills that they'll carry with them for life.

Extra-Curricular

- Dance & Choir Performances

At the end of last term, I had the privilege of attending the NSW Public Schools State Dance Festival and, even though I am not a dancer myself, I was still absolutely blown away by the powerful performances and the level of talent on display. In particular, I was left feeling incredibly proud of Aydin Dizdar, who performed as part of the Boys State Dance Ensemble, and inspired by the skill, creativity and dedication of students across our public schools.

I was also able to attend the performance of our Stage 2 choir at the Primary Proms at the end of September, held in the Sydney Town Hall. The students gave a truly memorable performance and their hard work and dedication were evident for all to see. A huge thank you to Ms Champion and Ms Sole who meticulously prepared our choir and supported them through rehearsals and the big night.

- Koala Workshop

I'm excited to share that we've partnered The Logic Lounge in Drummoyne, a new psychology clinic, to run a special Koala Workshop for two groups of six Stage 2 students. This workshop is run by three provisional psychologists every Tuesday over 8 weeks. The students will work on sewing a felt koala as a hands-on activity while learning strategies to identify and manage their emotions and develop resilience. Our Learning and Support Team nominated students, who we thought would most benefit, to take part in the program. We're looking forward to seeing how these students benefit from the program and developing an ongoing partnership with the Logic Lounge.

- Police Visit

Senior Constable William Kim from Burwood Police will be visiting our school on Wednesday, 30th October to speak with students about important safety topics. The schedule for the day is as follows:

- 9:30 - 10:00: K-2 students will hear about road safety and how to stay safe in the community.
- 10:15 - 11:15: Years 3-6 will participate in a session covering both road safety and cyber safety.

These presentations are designed to reinforce critical safety messages and help our students make informed decisions both online and in their daily lives.

- Yr6 2025 Leadership Positions

Year 5 students will be presenting speeches to Yr 3 - 6 in Week 4 in the hope of convincing their peers to vote for them in elections which will be held in the same week. Due to the decreasing cohort size of Year 6 students over the last few years, in 2025, there will be 8 Student Prefects (previously 10), 4 boys and 4 Girls, and 8 House Captains (previously 16), a boy and girl captain for each house. A schedule outlining the leadership journey for Year 5 students has been shared with Year 5 students and families.

- Kindergarten 2025 Transition Mornings


We are looking forward to welcoming our new Kindergarten students and their families for Kindergarten Transition Mornings on 7th, 14th, and 21st November. While the students spend time in classrooms getting a taste of school life, we will be holding information sessions for parents.

These sessions will be led by myself and our Kindergarten supervisor, Gaby Walsh, who will provide an overview of the school and what to expect during the first days of Kindergarten. We will also have special guests speaking on a range of important topics including the P&C, uniforms, scripture e.t.c. Additionally, Suzanne Burke from The Root Cause will be presenting a session on healthy eating and packing healthy lunchboxes.

- Blak Douglas Artwork

There has been some controversy in recent times about the use of 'generic' Aboriginal designs in schools and corporations which revolves around issues of cultural appropriation, authenticity, engagement and respect for Indigenous cultures. With this in mind, earlier this year, the RAP committee and I began the process of commissioning an Indigenous artwork that we would be able to use on school signage and future uniform items e.g. Year 6 shirts. We engaged an Indigenous artist, Blak Douglas, to create a design for us that reflects the indigenous history of our area. I have worked with Blak before at my previous school and I am pleased to be able to bring this partnership to Drummoyne. The first projects his artwork will be utilised for is signage for our new Acknowledgment of Country and PSSA representative singlets.

- Student Environment Group: Return & Earn Program

Last term, our Student Environment group presented a proposal  Return and Earn Presentation to me about the possibility of running a Return and Earn program. Fortuitously, I had recently been approached by a company called Clean Vibes who would be happy to run this program for us (provide bins and collect the bottles /cans) and donate a majority of the funds back to the school. From dealing with other public schools, he pointed out that the money that we earn would need to go into our P&C account. I am seeking P&C approval for this to occur.

Thank yous

- Flexible Furniture Project

Thank you for your generous donation towards the flexible furniture in Kindergarten and 5/6. The new desks were delivered over the holidays, and I am pleased to report that our students have been making full use of them. The flexible learning environment has already proven to be beneficial, allowing students to engage with their work in a way that best suits their learning styles. Your support in providing these resources is greatly appreciated and contributes significantly to enhancing our students' educational experience.

Regards,

John Nguyen

Principal