

DRUMMOYNE PUBLIC SCHOOL

Rawson Avenue, Drummoyne New South Wales 2047 Australia

Phone 61-2 9181 2636 or 61-2 9181 1927 Fax 61-2 9719 8741

Email drummoyne-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au

Website www.drummoyne-p.schools.nsw.edu.au



Tuesday 17th September 2024

Principal's Report: P&C Meeting September 2024

Staffing

At the beginning of September, I announced the transfer of our Deputy Principal, Ms Dianne Colb, to Guildford Public School beginning next year. This change comes as a result of the planned decrease in student numbers at Drummoyne Public School due to boundary adjustments following Russell Lea Public School's transition to a K-6 school. While we understand the necessity of this change, we are deeply saddened to be losing Ms Colb, who has become an integral part of our school community over the last 8 years. Her dedication, leadership and passion for education have touched the lives of many students, staff and families. We will be holding a special farewell event towards the end of the year.

In better news, I was pleased to welcome Ms Lisa Cameron to our staff as the new Italian teacher on Wednesdays through Fridays. Ms Jess LoSurdo will be teaching Italian on Mondays. While we are still in the process of finding a full-time Italian teacher, we are excited to have Ms Cameron with us for the remainder of this term, with the possibility of her staying on until the end of the year. Ms Cameron brings a wealth of experience to the role, having taught French at Kambala for the past four years, French at PLC prior to that, and Italian at Leichhardt Public School from 2008 to 2016.

Teaching and Learning

- Year 4 Camp

Our Year 4 students recently returned from a fantastic overnight experience at Stanwell Tops. The camp provided a wonderful opportunity for students to build teamwork skills, challenge themselves with outdoor activities and create lasting memories with their peers. The program was designed to encourage problem-solving, cooperation, and personal growth and we were proud of how well the Year 4 students engaged with every activity. A special thank you to Ms Ward, Ms Cantlay and Ms Xenos for their time, dedication and hard work in ensuring the camp ran smoothly. Their commitment to our students' well-being and learning is very much appreciated.

- Year 1/2 Swim School

In response to feedback from previous years, we will be trialling an indoor venue for our Stage 1 swim school and opening up the lessons to Year 1 students as well as Year 2. The lessons will be run at Ryde Aquatic Centre in the first two weeks of Term 4 (Tues- Fri @ 9:30 - 12:00). There will be a price increase for the program due to the need to hire buses; however, we are confident that this new venue will provide a more positive experience for our students with fewer cancellations of sessions.

- Check-in Assessments

Over the last few weeks, our students in Years 3-6 have been completing the DoE Check-in assessments on reading and numeracy, with Year 6 also taking an extra writing test. Unlike NAPLAN, one of the best things about the Check-In is that we get the results immediately.

- **NAPLAN**

Speaking of NAPLAN, I'm pleased to share a summary of our 2024 NAPLAN results which demonstrate consistent performance across the school, in line with similar schools across all assessments. Our Year 3 cohort has achieved particularly strong results, reflecting the hard work of Early Stage 1 and Stage 1 students and teachers alike. Year 5 students performed well, maintaining results that are competitive with similar schools. It's worth noting that last year's Year 5 cohort had particularly high outcomes, setting a strong benchmark. In terms of strategic school planning, only minor adjustments will be made. Our primary focus will remain on enhancing data collection and analysis practices, strengthening collaborative planning among teachers and increasing teacher observations of practice to ensure ongoing improvement in best-practice teaching strategies and student outcomes.

Extra-Curricular Activities

- **Fete**

This year was my first Drummoyne PS Fete experience and it was truly humbling to witness the immense time, effort and heart that so many of you put into making the day such a triumph. From the Saturday and early-morning setup teams, to the afternoon (evening!) pack-up crew and everyone in between, your dedication is what makes our school such a special place for your children. Thank you to the parents for your unwavering support, for volunteering your time and for bringing such joy to our school community. This fete was a true testament to what we can achieve when we all come together.

- **Tournament of Minds**

I was thrilled to hear that both of our Tournament of Minds teams performed exceptionally well and finished as runners-up in their respective divisions. This is a fantastic achievement and we are incredibly proud of their creativity, teamwork, and problem-solving skills. A big thank you to Ms Adams, Ms Mooney and Mr Sutton for their guidance and support of the teams throughout the competition. Their dedication has been instrumental in helping our students excel.

- **PSSA Gala Days in 2025**

After a lengthy consultation process, the Inner West PSSA has decided to move away from weekly inter-school sport competitions and will instead organise two gala days p/term in 2025. Organisation (sports, age groups etc) is still to be finalised; however, I was pleased to be able to inform the community that Drummoyne PS students will have access to this competitive sporting opportunity next year.

- **Year 6 Leadership Roles for 2025**

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.

Uniform Guidelines

As outlined in the guidelines [School Uniform Guidelines DPS 2024.docx.pdf](#) proposed at June's meeting, I would like to take nominations to form a uniform committee who would have oversight over school uniform decisions moving forward.

Funding Proposal: Flexible Furniture Project

We have finished the process of getting quotes for the furniture the Stage 3 and Kindy teachers would like for their classroom. I underestimated the amount of new furniture that was already in the Stage 3 rooms so the quotes are slightly more than I had initially presented.

- **BFX = \$29 632**
- Empire = \$32 986
- Elite = \$49 440

The school's preference would be to go with BFX as the supplier as I have worked with them before and they also supplied the existing flexible furniture that is in the Stage 3 rooms. They would also be able to deliver most of the items this holidays. Empire's quote was competitive but the furniture, though comparable to what we wanted, was not quite the same (different shapes etc). Their timeline for delivery was also not until the end of the year. Elite make all of their furniture in Australia which is why it is significantly more expensive.

Thank yous

A huge thank you to the mighty fete committee and P&C. It has been absolutely amazing to see first hand the time, passion and enthusiasm that they, led by Rob and Walid, put into organising and preparing and running our fete this year.

A few weeks ago, we celebrated PSA Schools Recognition Week and at DPS, our SAS (School Administrative and Support) staff play a huge part in keeping everything running smoothly. We're lucky to have such a fantastic team who are a huge part of what makes Drummoyne PS so great. Thank you to, Evelyn, Kirsty, Nina, Phil, Kate, Deb, Gemma, Alice, Lucy and Kim for all the support they give to our school community every day.

Claudie, our wonderful crossing guard, celebrated 10 years in the role a few weeks ago. Claudie's dedication and commitment to ensuring the safety of our students and families over the past decade has been truly remarkable and we are incredibly grateful for her continued service. Congratulations, Claudie, on this amazing milestone and thank you for your work to keep our school community safe.

Regards,

John Nguyen

Principal