

Letter from your Principal

Dear Parents, Carers and Community Members,

I take this opportunity to thank you for your support in ensuring 2019 was highly successful for all. It has been a year of significant pedagogical and organisational change with impressive outcomes for our students.

We feel very fortunate to have the outstanding support of a future focused, School Board and a dedicated, hard working P&C who make significant contributions to the school to ensure the learning environment is the best it can be.

I am privileged to lead Willetton Primary School and be supported by a fabulous team of educators and support staff who work hard each and every day to offer the best learning experiences and service to your children.

Today is the final siren for our Year 6 graduates and a number of staff. We wish them all well as they leave to pursue their goals and dreams. A special farewell to our Deputy Principal Scott Palmer, who is taking a 12 months fixed term position in the north metropolitan education region, Pre-primary teacher Rebecca Cameron, who is returning to her previous school, and School Psychologist Amy Peterson, who has been given the opportunity to broaden her experience in other schools.

Christmas Concert

What a wonderful way to end another year at Willetton Primary! Last night our community gathered on the oval with picnics and rugs to sit back and enjoy an Australian Christmas Concert, presented by our students from Kindy to Year 6. The talented cast took us on an adventure around Australia, being entertained by each year level along the way. It was fabulous to see and hear the audience enjoying the concert as much as the students enjoyed presenting it.

A huge thank you to all of our parents and families and friends for your active support for our school throughout the year. Partnerships between parents, students and the school only promotes student learning, wellbeing and high expectations for student success.

Year 6 Graduation Ceremony and Dinner Dance

Last week's Year 6 Graduation Ceremony was a wonderful occasion where we celebrated the achievements, perseverance and successes of an exceptional group of students. As parents, families and staff officially farewelled the senior students and announced academic, citizenship and leadership awards; tears were shed, faces beamed and hearts swelled with happiness and pride. We wish this great group of students the very best in their future studies and trust they take with them the Willetton Primary Values and lifelong memories and friendships.

The celebrations culminated in dinner and dancing at Tompkins On Swan where staff joined the graduates for a lovely evening. For me personally, the graduation celebrations were a moment of reflection on, what has not only been a great year for the Year 6's, but it also reminded me how proud I am to have been a part of all of our students' schooling throughout another year.

Parent/Teacher Interviews

We are continuously working to refine our current community engagement processes to keep our whole school community well informed. We currently report student progress through the mandated Semester 1 and 2 student reports, a Parent Information Meeting with classroom teachers during the first couple of weeks of Term 1, and an Open Night in Term 3.

The practice of parent/teacher interviews is one that provides the parent community with an excellent opportunity to engage with staff and discuss first hand their child's progress and needs and an opportunity to celebrate their successes.

Following discussions with the executive team and teaching staff and ratification by the Board, regarding the decision to apply for a half day closure to meet the time involved to conduct interviews, I am pleased to inform you that the Regional Education Director is supportive of the initiative and has approved the

suspension of the school timetable on **Tuesday 31 March 2020, Week 9 Term 1, from 12pm**, for the purpose of individual parent/teacher interviews.

Interviews will be strictly 10 minutes' duration, there will be an online booking system where the parents will be able to book specific times that have been made available by individual teachers. Not all parent interviews will be able to take place on that day, so the online booking system will outline alternative days and times available for each particular teacher.

The students who remain at school would be supervised by the onsite Before and After School Care facility, OSHClub, and members of the executive team.

Publication of Class Lists for 2020

The class lists for 2020 will be displayed on **Friday 31 January 2020 at 1:00pm in the Undercover Area**. These class lists are considered final.

Teachers ensure that each new class has a mix of academic ability, gender and social groups from current classes, so new friendships can be formed. It must be noted that student numbers may change by commencement of the school year. If enrolments change, then class structures and staffing may change.

Building and Infrastructure

The Western Australian Government has allocated \$200 million to implement the High Priority Maintenance and Minor Works Program in schools. The program will run over the 2019-20 and 2020-21 financial years and consists of two phases. Phase 1- School Grants is to undertake much-needed maintenance and improvements to school infrastructure. Works on new concrete walkways will commence on the 6 January 2020. In Cluster 1, doorways between Areas 1 & 2 and Areas 5 & 6 will be constructed during January.

Plans are underway to commence Phase 2 – Targeted Maintenance Packages, beginning with carpeting and painting in Cluster 3.

School Development Days 2020

The Board have ratified the following dates:

Term 1: Thursday 30 January and Friday 31 January (before students commence Term 1)

Friday 28 February (leads into the Labour Day long weekend)

Term 2: Friday 29 May (leads in to Western Australia Day long weekend)

Term 4: Monday 12 October (first day of term 4)

Friday 18 December (last day Term 4)

Newsletters

We have a fortnightly newsletter that is emailed through Connect. Our first Newsletter for 2020 will be emailed on Wednesday 12 February. Hard copies are available at the front office or can be viewed online at willettonps.wa.edu.au

List of Important Dates

- 29 January - School Office Opens
- 31 January - Publication of class lists 1:00pm
- 3 February - Students Commence
- 5 February – 14 February Swimming Lessons Years 3 - 6
- 7 February - Welcome Back Breakfast Barbeque 7:30-8:30am
- 7 February – Welcome Back Assembly 8:40am

Education is a journey of partnerships and one I am excited about continuing in 2020.

I hope you enjoy the festive season and have a restful holiday with your families and friends.

Best Wishes,

Heather McNeil