Principal's Report to the P&C Tuesday 8 February 2022

Start to the School Year

We have had a wonderfully smooth start to the 2022 school year. I wish to thank the staff for their many hours of planning and preparation. I also wish to express my thanks to the community for their positivity and flexibility as we adapt to changing circumstances.

Safe Return to School Plan

Every public school in WA is following the Safe Return to School Plan, which is based on the latest health advice. It provides guidance on:

- Ensuring teaching and learning continues;
- Mandatory vaccination, including boosters, for all school staff;
- Vaccination requirements for regular visitors to the school;
- Hygiene, ventilation and other health and safety measures; and
- How to adapt and respond to COVID-19 based on health advice.

The goal of all of the plan is to ensure student and staff safety, while maximizing face-to-face learning.

Adjustments to School Operations

In recent days, all schools in Western Australia have implemented a number of changes based on advice from the Chief Health Officer. The goal is to minimize the risk of COVID infections in school by avoiding large gatherings and reducing mingling between different groups.

All parents have been notified of these changes, and we appreciate their patience and flexibility. It is anticipated that further changes will be required if and when the state moves to a very high caseload setting.

Camp

It has unfortunately been necessary to postpone the school camp planned for next week. We are currently seeking to schedule an alternative booking for later in the year.

Parent Communication

We continue to refine our communication systems and value the ongoing feedback from parents.

The fortnightly school newsletter is now being sent out to parents' registered email addresses as well as their mobile phone number. The newsletter is formatted so that it adapts to the type of screen being used. The phone messaging system can also be used for student absences and quick parent contact in the event of a whole-school emergency.

The *Qkr!* service is now in place for all school payments, and we appreciate the P&C's efforts in transitioning to the same platform.

Class placements in 2023 will continue to be advised by Australia Post letter. However, this will be supplemented with a full online class list which parents can check in the event that the post is delayed.

Third Party Online Services

Schools are required to obtain parent permission before students use online services. In 2022, we will be using two new online tools --- Showbie and Socrative. These will become particularly helpful in the event that children are required to quarantine.

Parents have received updated permission forms by email today. It would assist the school greatly if parents could complete this form as soon as possible.

School fencing proposal

A member of the parent community has requested that a perimeter fence be erected around Goollelal Primary School. The basis for this request is child safety.

The Department of Education allows schools to "apply for the installation of a perimeter security fence to reduce the cost of wilful damage to your school buildings". Applications are due by 31 May.

Before applying for the installation of a perimeter security fence, schools are required to engage in an extensive consultation process, including school staff, School Board, P&C and "surrounding properties that may be affected by the fence installation".

Before deciding whether to proceed with any application, Goollelal Primary School intends to conduct a confidential whole-school survey to gauge parent sentiment on this idea.

School Review

Goollelal Primary School was independently reviewed in 2021 and the results were incredibly positive. Copies of the review findings are available on the <u>school website</u>.

The reviewers have endorsed our plans to improve student outcomes, especially in literacy and numeracy. At our request, the reviewers will return in 2022 to assess the progress that we have made against two of the six domains (Teaching Quality and Student Achievement and Progress). I look forward to sharing the results of our efforts later this year.

Paul Fuller | Principal