



## A Message from the New School Council President

Friday 20 April 2018

### Update from Alexa Every – President

Welcome back to term two at Fairfield Primary. I hope you all had a restful and fun Easter break. I wanted to take this opportunity to introduce myself and the work of the school council.

#### A Bit about Me

I have two children at the school, one in Year 5 and the other in Year 2. I also have a child who last year finished seven years at FPS and has now gone off to the big wide world of secondary school.

I am in my fourth (and final) year of School Council and recently took on the role of President. In my first three years, my main contribution was to the Wingrove Street land acquisition project. It was a hugely satisfying project, achieving a wonderful outcome for the school. But that was just the beginning of the challenge, as we now have much work to do to ensure the school maximises this amazing opportunity.

I am also on the Policy Committee where we are strengthening a range of policies as well as ensuring all policies are accessible and can provide guidance on most aspects of school life.



### School Council – Appointments, Roles & Responsibilities

#### Thank You, Welcomes and Appointments

On 27 March, the new 2018 School Council met and farewelled our outgoing members, welcomed new members and appointed office bearers and committee representatives.

Thank you to the outgoing school councillors, Jodie Palmer, Richard Lewis, Detlev Leuth, Doug Galbraith and Alister Bayston for their dedication and hard work – they have made a lasting positive impact on the life and wellbeing of Fairfield Primary. We all benefit enormously from the hours of work and creative thinking they have put in. They will be missed.



Welcome to our new school councillors, Anita Galli, Paul Hunt (Vice President), Chris Price and Bronwyn Wolfgang. Continuing parent members are Alexa Every (President), Nick Schijf (Treasurer) and Kate Symons (Secretary). Continuing Department of Education members are Katrina Lamers, Jourdan Murray and Paul Wallace (Executive Officer).

## School Council Committees

I would like to draw your attention to the role of School Council committees and **the opportunity for all members of the school community** to get involved. The standing orders of School Council stipulate that we have four committees, each reporting to School Council and each chaired by a School Council member. They are:

- Buildings and Grounds Committee
- Finance Committee
- Community Committee
- Policy Committee

Each committee meets approximately twice a school term. Dates of committee meeting are available via Compass. These committees operate at their best when enthusiastic members of the school community join and participate. I invite you to consider whether you would be interested in doing so.

### Buildings and Grounds Committee

Assists School Council with any issues relating to the buildings and grounds of the school, specifically working closely with the Principal and school administration to ensure that the school buildings and grounds are in good condition, and meet the needs of the school.

Assists the school in the development and implementation of an annual program of works under the *Master Plan* and *Grounds Action Plan*.

Arranges working bees throughout the year.

School Council representatives for 2018 are Paul Hunt, Chris Price and Jourdan Murray.

### Community Committee

Assists School Council with fundraising and community building, specifically working closely with the Principal and school administration to ensure fundraising and community building activities are initiated and on track.

Oversees the two major fundraising events on the school calendar each year (School Fair and Art4All).

Ensures delivery of a calendar of community building events (Mothers' Day stall, Fathers' Day breakfast, trivia quiz).

School Council representatives for 2018 are Anita Galli and Katrina Lamers.

### Finance Committee

Assists School Council and the Principal in managing the school's financial resources.

Provides advice to School Council on any matter that financially impacts operational and capital programs.

School Council representatives for 2018 are Nick Shijf, Paul Wallace, Katrina Lamers and the Business Manager.

### Policy Committee

Assists School Council with the creation and upgrading of school policies according to the required four-year cycle.

Engages with the parent community through consultation on policy development.

School Council representatives for 2018 are Alexa Every, Bronwyn Wolfgang and Paul Wallace.



## What's on our Agenda in 2018

While the month-to-month work of School Council will continue in 2018, some of the significant work on our agenda is:

### Strategic Plan

Every four years the school is required to revise its *Strategic Plan*, which identifies educational and developmental priorities. The *Strategic Plan* is then executed through an *Annual Implementation Plan*. The development of a new Strategic Plan will be one of our priorities in 2018.

### Capital Works

As a result of the acquisition of the Wingrove Street land, we have a new *Master Plan* for the school. We are looking at major construction on both campuses to get FPS ready for escalating enrolments and high quality learning and teaching spaces. School Council will be overseeing the delivery of the first stage of the *Master Plan* using the \$2.5M allocated by the State Government in 2017. It is important to note that, although the Wingrove Street land has been acquired, future funding of facilities on that site is yet to be secured and this will be a priority for the year ahead.

We are also keeping an eye on the construction of the competition grade sports court. While there has been a small delay due to soft ground, the court is currently scheduled to be ready by the end of May. The acrylic surface will be applied at the end of the year when the warmer weather allows.

### Fundraising

The FPS community is tremendously successful at fundraising. A challenge for School Council in response to that success is ensuring that the funds are spent with the best possible outcomes for our students – this is always at the centre of our decision-making.

An important agenda item for school council this year is not just the expenditure of fundraising monies, but also how we continue to improve our communications to the school community around that expenditure.

### Keeping Up with School Council Actions

School Council understands the importance of providing our school community with current and relevant information. The fortnightly [newsletter](#) provides updates on school developments and events and I encourage all families to read this via Compass.

You can follow the work and decisions of School Council via the [minutes](#), which are posted each month on the school website.

### In Closing

I look forward to continued positive relationships with those of you I know and to getting to know those of you I am yet to meet. A local primary school is a precious resource and I know, with shared effort, we can continue to help ours be the best it can be.

~ Alexa Every, School Council President