

Manly West State School

Active Minds, Bright Futures

Newsletter



NEWSLETTER – THURSDAY, 3 NOVEMBER 2016

Principal's Message

CELEBRATING – STATE SCHOOLS ARE GREAT SCHOOLS!

What a wonderful result! Our Wynnum Manly State Education Alliance (2 high, 8 primary and 2 specialist schools) was awarded the prestigious - *State Education Showcase Award for School Leadership*.



THE SHARK TANK TEAM AT MWSS

Last week Glen Richards (from the Network 10 Shark Tank program) and visitors from local schools, Rotary, politicians, staff and students were involved in the Queensland launch of the KitchenCart and 'Get Kids Cooking' initiative at our school. We had some fun cooking and loved sharing our beautiful kitchen garden!



P&C REMINDER - Independent Public School Parent Vote

Come along to cast your vote tonight at 6:30pm in the staffroom. The proposal is attached again for you to read over.

As the school principal, one of my key roles is to respond to the ever changing needs and directions of our local and global communities. One such initiative that would assist our school to grow is to become an Independent Public School. Many families and staff have indicated their support for this proposal because:

- we could select new staff coming into the school and current school staff working conditions would not be changed;
- we would receive \$50000 of extra funding every year;
- we would elect a school council of staff, parents and community leaders in business and academia to advise on strategic direction;
- 2017 is the last opportunity to become an IPS;
- Gonski funding finishes in 2018 and these funds would support our key strategies including extra teacher aide, art, purchase of new resources, reading to learn, data coaching and year level team planning.
- we already use the Direct to Market purchasing model (IPS feature);

SPOOKY STUFF! JUNIOR AND SENIOR BANDS AT HALLOWEEN

Special thanks to Mr Rander, Ms Goodwin and Ms Comiskey for their wonderful teaching of our young musicians. The large crowd of parents and staff at the Halloween Festival last Saturday were very proud of their efforts!



Come along and be entertained at the Manly West SS All Groups Concert next week on Thursday, 10 November from 7.00 to 8.15pm.

SCHOOL CAPTAINS' CHRISTMAS HAMPER APPEAL

Please donate at the school office for the Silky Oaks Children's Haven Christmas Hamper. It has become a tradition that our student councillors and captains co-ordinate this project and this year they are working to make the hampers the best ever! What works best for hampers?

Christmas pudding, tinned ham/fruit/vegetables or fish, shortbread, biscuits, chips, chocolate, lifelong milk, juice poppers, sugar, tea, coffee, laundry and dishwashing detergent, toilet paper, toothbrush and toothpaste, shampoo and conditioner, nappies, baby wipes, Christmas bonbons and decorations, any toys/clothing/books.

BUSY BOOK FAIR

Thanks to our super Library team for co-ordinating an amazingly successful Book Fair. A highlight was the excitement of our students as they wandered through packed book shelves searching for the latest in their favourite book series.

Congratulations to Sam from 4B, the overall winner of the Count the Minties in the Jar competition.

FINAL CLASS CO-ORDINATORS' MEETING

Catch up for a chat and a cuppa at the final Class Co-ordinators' meeting for 2016 from 9-10am on Friday 18 November in the OSHC playroom. Younger children are very welcome.

PAST MANLY WEST STUDENTS – NOW HIGH SCHOOL STARS!

Recently, Mr Darryl Brown and I had the pleasure of attending the Wynnum and Brisbane Bayside High School Annual Award evenings and it was wonderful to see so many of our past students achieving their personal best. MWSS teacher Julie Aldridge was particularly proud as her son Eli was announced 2017 Junior School Captain at Brisbane Bayside State College. Congratulations to Year 12 past students who are moving on to the next exciting phase of life.

CELEBRATING INTERSCHOOL SPORTS

Congratulations to our Manly West interschool sports champion, Mr Casey Flack. All year, Mr Flack has worked tirelessly to create great sporting opportunities for our students, from the conventional interschool sports on the bus each Friday to Gala Days, and also securing extra funding through Sporting Schools grants.

The Gala Day model continues to grow in popularity because we support it with expert Friday afternoon coaching (funded through sporting school grants). Again this year, both the traditional and gala day models were implemented. We are always seeking feedback to make our programs the very best they can be. Please let us know your thoughts on sports – email to Casey Flack at cflac12@eq.edu.au

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR CALTEX COMMUNITY SPIRIT AWARD WINNER – Krysten in Year 6



Kind regards

Lisa Morrison (Principal)

Our aim - every day, in every classroom, every child learning and achieving!

From the Office

Payments Due:

There are no payments due this week.

Enrolling for 2017?

There are very few places left in Prep for 2017. If you have not yet enrolled your child for next year, you are urged to do so as a matter of urgency. Please contact the Office on 3906 8333 or by emailing admin@manlywestss.eq.edu.au so we can send you an enrolment pack.

From the Deputy

School Council Experience

G'day, my name is Justin Marchesi from Samford SS, in Brisbane's North West. It is a privilege to be acting Deputy Principal for three days this week filling in for Ms von Richter.

Samford SS is an IPS school and I am a member of the School Council at Samford SS. Our school council has been together since the middle of 2015. The roles of our school council are: a) monitor the strategic direction of the school; b) monitor the milestones as the strategic plan is rolled out; c) be informed about the school's reading, researching, discussing and debating.



Our council has four parents (with a variety of backgrounds and business acumen) and four staff (with at least two teaching staff), plus the P&C president and school principal.

Here are my responses to some questions recently posed to Council members for the 2016:

1. What Council achievement are you most proud of?

It's hard to go past the opportunity to support the Strategic Plan implementation, as it creates the 'True North' for the school's directional compass. I am also very proud of the collegiality of the Council, acting as one team in alignment, for the betterment of the school.

2. What advice would you give someone considering running for council?

Do it! What an amazing way to contribute meaningfully to the strategic direction of the school. The insights, discussions and sharing are inspiring.

3. What excites you about 2017?

Seeing more of the strategic plan actualised into operation and the problem-solving that makes this happen.

4. How would you describe our meetings?

Fun, fruitful, intellectual, collegial, enjoyable.

5. What was your motivation behind running for Council?

Making more of a difference to the Samford community and learning about aspects of governance with our school.

Enjoy the week.

Kind regards,

Justin Marchesi

From Around the School

Can you help please?

Do you have any working but unwanted smart phones at home? The ICT committee would love donations of old android or apple smartphones to use in classrooms. Please ensure you remove anything you wish to keep from the device before sending it in, as we will be wiping them clean and installing a small number of apps applicable to our needs. Any chargers you don't need, please send them in too. Please drop them off to Miss Goodwin's classroom – D Block or to the Office. Thanks for your donation!

Tuckshop

Do you have a little bit of time you can spare, even if it's only once a week, or once a month? The Tuckshop is in urgent need of volunteers. Please see Bev or Tania if you can help.

Schools with Pools Swimming Carnival

This event, scheduled for 11 November, has been cancelled.

Student Council Disco

Thank you to everyone who supported the fluro disco last week ... the Hall was awash with colour and the kids seemed to have a fabulous time.

Steve Gould from *The Coffee Guy at Wynnum* also supported the disco, so please consider contacting him next time you need a coffee van at thecoffeeguy.net.au

A **HUGE** thank you to Bev, Sandra and all our Year 4 & 5 parents who helped organise and serve food on the night and finally, a heartfelt thanks to all the staff who gave up their time to assist on the night. A great team effort!

High School News

Parents of Year 6 students entering the Bayside State College in 2017 are encouraged to enrol now in order to support their child's participation in the Orientation Day to be held on Tuesday 6 December. Please contact enrolments officer Lee-Ann Kohl on 3893 5333 to book an interview time or e-mail enrolments@brisbanebaysidesc.eq.edu.au

Community News

As we have for many years, the School Dental Service still provides **FREE Dental Treatment** to *all* school students up to Year 10 as well as to those 0 to 4 year olds and Year 11 and 12 students who hold a Health Care Card or receive the Child Dental Benefits Scheme. Call 1300 300 850 to book an appointment at a clinic near you.

Do you need help with school costs? The Smith Family offers **Savers Plus**, a program you can join that will match your savings, dollar for dollar, up to \$500 for educational costs such as uniforms, text books, excursions/camps, music tuition, instrument hire and more. To find out if you are eligible, contact David Smith on 3115 6202 / 0417 436 183 or email david.smit@thesmithfamily.com.au

Interested in playing **Futsal**? 5-a-side indoor soccer is being played at a club near you. Competitions start in September of ages 3 and up, Juniors and Adults. Register at www.qldfutsal.com or phone 1800 FUTSAL.

MILO T20 Blast is coming to a Club near you from 5.30pm on Friday, 14 October – 2 December. Register at playcricket.com.au. Click on the "Where Can I Play" box, and type in Wynnum Manly Cricket Club. For further information, contact Jason Bragger on 0417 303 951.

Wynnum Juniors **Touch Rugby League** season commences at Iona College Oval on 10 October for girls and boys aged 6-15 years. For further information or to register, phone 3393 3482 or email admin@trlredlands.com.au

Calendar

Thursday, 10 November

All Groups Music Concert, 7.00 to 8.15pm

CRITERION ONE:**Please detail the schools capacity to assume greater responsibility for its affairs.**

Our school community is committed to achieving the twin goals of excellence and equity. We believe that our work should extend and challenge every child to achieve their personal best. We aim to provide personalised pathways of learning for every child. To achieve this we embrace both innovation and community connectedness.

Our school has a strong governance system committed to leveraging the skills of the individual and sharing the load. As an independent public school, a school board would be a perfect addition to our existing system. Working in teams, students, staff, parents and community members employ action planning processes. This teamwork has grown new leaders and increased staff capacity, with new skill-sets that have created excellent student learning outcomes. The ability of our school leaders and teams to provide expert instruction has been widely acknowledged: with Lisa Morrison (principal) awarded a 2015 State N.E.I.T.A. award for educational leadership and our 2016 **Showcase State Finalist award** for leadership and collaborative work in the Wynnum Manly State Education Alliance (cluster). Our Manly West teachers and school leaders are regularly invited to share their expertise at local, state and national conferences and with other schools on topics such as leadership, smooth transition strategies (Deputy Principal regularly presenting at Junior Secondary conferences), Reading to Learn, teacher observation and feedback strategies and specialist music teaching (music teacher regularly presenting at national conferences). Our staff frequently host teachers and school leaders from other schools who wish to observe our expert teaching, data conferencing or curriculum planning. Each year we welcome into our school many teachers who come to learn about the Reading to Learn methodology from our expert teaching team and coach. We are a community of learners who value continuous learning and growth as key pathways to excellence and equity. At MWSS adult learning and developing performance (DP) conversations for staff enable the growth of expert teaching and informed community members. In the 2016 SOS survey, 97% of teachers identified that the DP process supports them to improve their work. In 2016, 90% of early years' parents participated in school-based workshops for Reading to Learn, social skilling, early numeracy and literacy, parenting skills.

Our parents are well-informed and eager to play a pivotal role in the education of their children. Our school is strengthened by the passion of a dedicated P&C who coordinate and staff a grants' writing team, Outside Hours School Care, Uniform Shop, Tuckshop and a Swim Club. Both the OSHC and Swim Club are accessed by wider community.

CRITERION TWO:**Please detail evidence of the school being able to assume greater responsibility as shown by improved school performance demonstrated in the 'School Data Profile' or other differentiated areas of exemplary performance (e.g. industry partnerships).**

Our 2016 School Review highlighted the following as excellent, embedded practice at MWSS:

- ✓ A clear vision aligned to strategic planning and resourcing
- ✓ A narrow improvement agenda with clear targets and standards
- ✓ Teams enabling distributive leadership and ownership
- ✓ Learning matched to the needs identified in staff performance, parent connectedness and student achievement
- ✓ Coaching supporting improved data literacy, curriculum planning and teaching practice. In the 2016 SOS survey 100% of teachers identified that they could confidently use student achievement data to improve learning opportunities.
- ✓ Teachers in triads; observing, giving and receiving feedback to learn from each other and improve practice
- ✓ A high impact, inclusive teaching methodology implemented with accuracy and consistency – Reading to Learn – through the Gradual Release of Responsibility Model (GRRM).

Since 2012 our teachers have been 'putting faces on the data' (Lyn Sharratt) to ensure they personalise learning for each child. Consequently students have demonstrated significant growth, academically, socially, in the sporting and arts arenas – for example:

- 15% growth in students awarded high school scholarships
- Academic competitions (e.g. winning all WMsea cluster competitions in 2016 and >35% of participating students achieving distinction or merit in ICAS competitions)
- Upward trends in student achievement outcomes and School Opinion survey data
- Our student learning data is frequently impacted by the enrolment of students with significant learning or social difficulties and we welcome each child with an expert support team and a very, caring community.

Key strategies to achieve excellence and equity include sourcing significant school-community/business partnerships and embracing the Direct to Market purchasing model (2013). These strategies and the outcomes lists below have enabled us to create a child-centred learning environment and diverse learning pathways matched to the needs of students, staff and parents:

- Chamber of Commerce membership leading to partnerships Rotary, Bunnings, Harcourts, CALTEX refinery funded Art Studio, local politician support and sponsorship for our programs and events,

- Science/environmental education in a kitchen garden through Wynnum Manly Rotary and Bunnings \$5000,
- Multipurpose court \$78000 P&C funded with \$35000 Bris City Council grant,
- Art Studio \$8000 CALTEX grant and \$3000 parent donation,
- Early years outdoor learning: combined \$50000 P&C funded, MAR funded with \$35000 Brisb City Council grant.
- Facility hire arrangements with the Bayside Swim School (providing extra lessons during HPE), Malpass Tennis court hire (community lessons), numerous community groups such as Wynnum Karate School, Highland Dance and other local schools.
- Working closely with Silky Oaks Child Care staff to facilitate a learning community across local schools, kindergartens and child care centres.

Community groups hire our swimming pool, sports ovals and performing arts centre. They provide funding for resources and also reciprocal learning for staff, parents and students; eg dance, music, karate. Access to expert sports coaching for ours students through 2014-2016 Sporting Schools grants.

CRITERION THREE:

Please detail the potential benefits for students and the broader school community for the school to become an Independent Public School.

Manly West State School offers a future-focussed, innovative and equitable pedagogical program aimed at a high standard of academic achievement which engages every student; regardless of their ability, wherever they live, whatever their background. The autonomy afforded as an Independent Public School, would position our school to continue to embrace and share new technologies and new personalised learning pathways for every child. The potential benefits for the our students and the broader community include:

- Creating pathways for our students to explore innovative learning strategies and technologies;
- Expanding opportunities to explore the future of education with our whole school community through IPS links and our existing local school's cluster;
- Networking with other independent public schools to expand our knowledge and skills;
- Sharing our collegial coaching model, teacher triads, data case study model and digital learning;
- Sharing age-appropriate pedagogies' project with wider networks of early years' teachers – we currently share with our local early year's program providers;
- Supporting our focus on a consistent whole school implementation of effective curriculum and pedagogy;

The IPS program would expand on the existing opportunities for our dynamic parent and wider community to contribute to decisions about matters that directly impact on them.

CRITERION FOUR:

Please detail the innovative educational programs or practices that the school will implement as an Independent Public School to improve student performance.

This proposal outlines the current attributes and planned innovations for Manly West State School that positions our school community as an ideal candidate for the Independent Public School initiative.

Students lead their learning at MWSS. We believe children learn best when they are in the 'zone of proximal development' - challenged with new learning. Since 2013 MWSS teachers and teacher aides have used the Gradual Release of Responsibility model (GRRM) to enable student-led learning with strategies such as GRRM lesson planning, student goal-setting and feedback, three-way reporting led by the student (with teacher and parent), student leadership programs, student voice in school decision-making, including the recent addition of 'Bridge Builder' student 'conflict resolution' leaders in the play areas.

At MWSS we are working towards selecting digital tools and technologies to match the student learning opportunity or task (The Future of Learning https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xoSJ3_dZcm8). We aim to:

- Enable online learning to become every day learning;
- Flip the classroom so that the students lead their own learning;
- Give students access to digital devices that they may not have at home – e.g. a 3D printer;
- Encourage collaborative teamwork through digital technologies study;
- Provide digital learning for support staff and parents;
- Make online communication our platform of choice across our community.

In becoming an IPS, Manly West State School proposes to continue our student-led learning focus through the following three strategies:

1. Trial the future-focussed self-organised learning environment model (S.O.L.E.);
2. Explore project-based learning in a Makerspace;
3. Connect with the local environment through nature play.

Strategy 1 - S.O.L.E. Proposal. IPS funding would be used to:

- Trial the S.O.L.E. pedagogy (in a pilot program) with the aim of creating learners who can think and act creatively and critically, collaborate in the local and world context, communicate effectively across multiple media, be problem solvers, have a growth mindset, take risks and have strong foundations in literacy, numeracy;
- Learn from other SOLE schools/educators world-wide;

We believe the S.O.L.E. model would provide enhanced future-focussed learning pathways for every child.

Why? "Because current education systems are outdated for our 21st century learners ... (Sugata Mitra)"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y3jYVe1RGaU> (Sugata Mitra: Build a School in the Cloud)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N9f8Lb_ugrk (What is the future of learning? S.O.L.E.)

Strategy 2 - Create a MakerSpace. IPS funding would be used to:

Employ a coach to create a MakerSpace which supports the innovative use of technologies by students and staff and leverages existing partnerships with local industry.

What is a MakerSpace? It is community space with tools. Makerspaces combine manufacturing equipment, community, and education for the purposes of enabling community members to design, prototype and create manufactured works that wouldn't be possible to create with the resources available to individuals working alone. All are united in the purpose of providing access to equipment, community, and education, and all are unique in exactly how they are arranged to fit the purposes of the community they serve. Makerspaces represent the democratisation of design, engineering, fabrication and education. They are a fairly new phenomenon, but are beginning to produce projects with significant national impacts. In the MakerSpace students would work on their own projects that involve:

- Cross curricula capabilities
- Science, maths, engineering and problem-solving
- Environmental sustainability
- Health and well-being
- Cultural identity and diversity

Strategy 3 - Nature Play Space Proposal. IPS funding would be used to:

- Create a nature play space that incorporates opportunity for inquiry learning, creative outdoor play, art and environmental projects, Aboriginal cultural study.

Why? Because the value of each person being connected to their natural environment has been rediscovered by communities all over the world. As a community we endorse 'Nature Play Queensland's vision' – "for unstructured outdoor play to become a normal part of every child's life in Queensland, so that children can develop into resilient, healthy and creative members of the community".

A team of parents, staff, students and wider community experts has already formed in readiness for this project.