



School Council Update

June - Aug 2016

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2016 School Council Dates

1. 11th May
2. 15th June
3. 17th August
4. 14th September
5. 19th October
6. 16th November
7. TBC December

Contact Us

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Setting our strategy and vision at APS

Every 4 years schools review their performance and set a new 4 year plan. The purpose of a review year is to evaluate and diagnose our performance, prioritise and set goals for the next 4 years and then develop a plan that we can implement and monitor each year.

The DET Improvement Model: Framework for Improving Student Outcomes (FISO) provides a common language for school improvement across the Victorian government school system. It is structured around four state-wide priorities that are proven to have a strong bearing on the effectiveness of a school:

1. Excellence in teaching and learning
2. Professional leadership
3. Positive climate for learning
4. Community engagement in learning

We need to engage the school community in reviewing our performance against the last 4 year plan and this year we will do this by conducting a review and have asked an independent reviewer by the name of Julie Chandler to run this process for us during July.

So far Julie has held forums, interviews and focus groups with Parents, Students and Staff. Thank you to everyone who came along to the sessions on the 27th June. We have received some very useful and informative feedback that will be reviewed at our next council meeting in August to enable Kevin and the leadership team to set a vision, strategy and operational plan that reflects what you would like to see.

We know that not everyone was able to attend the forum so we will also send a survey to all families to complete if they choose. We already have lots of great information but I often talk to parents who have exciting and creative ideas to improve something at the school and others who have concerns about things they would like to see more of / less of or done differently, so we want to give you every opportunity to be involved.

This is a great opportunity to have your say and help guide APS in its planning and help to shape the future of our children's primary school education

Following a review, schools are expected to focus their improvement activity on one or more of the **six evidence-based initiatives**:

1. **Building practice excellence:** Teachers, principals and schools will work together to exchange knowledge and ideas, develop and strengthen teaching and assessment approaches, build a culture of collaboration, master the use of learning interventions and student data, and enhance feedback to students and staff.

2. **Curriculum planning and assessment:** Schools will embed a culture of curriculum planning and assessing the impact of learning programs, and adjusting them to suit individual student needs so that students can reach their potential. Schools will strengthen their use of student assessment data and feedback to evaluate students' progress, monitor the impact of teaching and adjust learning programs and interventions.
3. **Building leadership teams:** Schools will strengthen their succession planning, develop the capabilities of their leadership teams in using evidence and proven coaching and feedback methods, build a culture of trust that is focused on improvement, and strengthen the induction of new teachers into the professional learning culture of their school.
4. **Empowering students and building school pride:** Schools will develop approaches that give students a greater say in the decisions that affect their learning and their lives at school. The whole school community will engage with students so they have a voice in the learning process, and fully and proudly participate in school life.
5. **Setting expectations and promoting inclusion:** Schools will work across their communities to implement a shared approach to supporting the health, wellbeing, inclusion and engagement of all students, including setting behaviour expectations, building teachers' understandings of positive classroom behaviour and engagement practices and ensuring students have the tools and skills to develop positive and self-regulating behaviours.
6. **Building communities:** Schools will strengthen their capacity to build relationships with the broader community by partnering with the community sector and providers (for example, through the GPs in Schools initiative), make strategic use of existing community resources and capabilities, and increase the services delivered 'inside the school gate'. Schools will realise the value of harnessing the full capacity of the community and parents to collectively encourage students' learning and enhance student outcomes.

Councilor Spotlight

Each issue we will feature some of our fantastic Councilors so you can learn more about us.



REBECCA LETSON is the proud Mum of 2 gorgeous girls. Her eldest daughter Georgia is in 1SH and whilst her youngest daughter Alexandra thinks she is in 1SH she still goes to kindergarten. Her background is in events management and membership engagement. She has worked in non-profit and AFL football clubs as well as other state-based sports associations. Rebecca and hubby Nathan love being involved in the girls' activities. Bec volunteers her time as an administrator and coach for basketball and little athletics. She also plays competitive basketball and runs. Her strong commitment to the community saw her become a parent helper in Georgia's classroom and then involved in the Friends and Family Committee. Now she is on the School Council at APS and is a fantastic energetic contributor. "We have made life-long friends at APS and appreciate the wonderful sense of community you feel when speaking with the teachers and other parents. Everyone is extremely friendly and welcoming.

Hot Topics from our last meeting...

Our last 2 meetings have covered a variety of topics. In both meetings we conducted our usual review of the reports from each sub committee and also the Principal's report (which is very similar to the messages Kevin puts into the weekly newsletter). We then also covered a number of general discussion topics, some from the Leadership Team and some that were raised by parents.

In **June:** we ratified a number of standard school policies. No major changes were made. Our consultant adviser ensures our policies are always in line with Department of Education requirements

Our budget for 2016 was also confirmed and, whilst we did not get many suggestions from you yet about how to spend our fundraising efforts, the priority area was agreed to be a covered area for the new grade one classrooms near Railway Street.

Kevin obtained quotes for this, engaged a contractor and the covered way has now been built.

We had a parent suggestion to introduce a "Produce Swap" at the school. The idea is similar to community farming where children could bring home grown produce to deposit or swap for other home grown items. Before anything is done we would like to gauge interest in this as an idea and would also need volunteers to run it. So please look out for it in the newsletter and let the school know if you like the idea or are keen to be involved.

It is the time of year where the school is required to complete the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data for Students with Disability (NCDD). It's an annual activity done early in term 3. The staff are quite familiar with how it works however, a change this year is that there is no longer a requirement for a 'collection notice' to parents of children who may have information included. This change is because a section of the Australia Education Regulations has been amended. If your child's teacher does decide to include any data or propose adjustments to the learning processes for your child, in line with the data required for the Department of Education, your child's teacher may discuss this with you.

Kevin also advised us that our school has been requested by the Department of Education to participate in a trial relating to the digitisation of Naplan. We are required to participate and this means that two grades will be asked to sit another Naplan tests using a computer based system. The idea behind the Department's research is to see if using computers to sit the tests affects the outcome significantly. More information will be provided to the relevant grades closer to the time.

In **August:** we congratulated the school leaders and school community on the wonderful "Colour Crazy" day we held on Monday. An enormous amount of planning and work goes into a whole school event like this and it takes the support of everyone to make it the success that it was.

We discussed planning for next year's 2017 Grade 6 yearbook and jumpers, we have a group of parents who have volunteered to coordinate these activities. That process begins in term 4 this year so keep an eye out in the newsletter if you would like to be involved. The offer to coordinate this was greatly appreciated by the school leadership team.

Summer sports season is coming and the school and council are very supportive of Altona's local clubs so please see the office staff if you wish to notify our school community of an upcoming local club registration day.

The Koorie Art project is finally underway and with the guidance of one of our parents who is volunteering their time along with our art teachers, we are finally able to utilise the grant we were given last year to involve the students in an indigenous art project that will become a permanent feature at the school. Stay tuned for more information in Term 4.

We discussed a number of planning activities for 2017 including staff vacancies to cover leave, our ongoing Japanese program, music, sports and the spaces required for all the classes in the new year.

The Friends and Family committee are doing a wonderful job of coordinating activities for the students with events planned between now and the end of the year. In addition to this we have been approached by a group of parents who would like to organise some social activities for APS parents. Extending our school community through social opportunities for our parents is a great way to get to know each other and connect beyond the school pick up and playground. More information about these events will be provided in the upcoming newsletters.

One of the themes of feedback from our school review has been regarding afterschool activities and some requests to extend these activities to include more sport, like we have in the past. We are supportive of this and like the music programs we offer, they require someone to manage and coordinate them. We have a proposal from a qualified group of personal trainers who are also part of our school community who will trial an after school sport program in Term 4. The school will provide facilities and participation will incur a small fee like the music classes. This is a great way to make after school activities more accessible for our families and we are pleased we can respond to your suggestions and look forward to your feedback. More information will be provided in the newsletter so keep an eye out for it in the coming weeks.

Lastly we would like to express our sadness on the passing of Trish O’Driscoll. Our condolences and thoughts are with her family and her friends, many who are our staff. A truly wonderful lady and a fantastic teacher. Her energy and drive was inspirational and her genuine care for others will be fondly remembered by so many of us. Her students will always remember the special bond they had with her, the things she taught them and the connection they had...she touched many hearts.

Our next meeting in September...

If you have items you’d like to raise for discussion at our next meeting, we would all be pleased to talk with you.

In the meantime your child’s teacher, the lovely ladies in the office, Kevin, Nicole or Debbie can also assist with any questions or enquiries. We are all here to help.

We hope you enjoyed reading more about the School Council and would love to hear any feedback or ideas that you may have.

Kind Regards,

Alexis Beckwith
School Council President

Who is on our School Council?

2016 School Council	Finance Committee	Policy Committee	Sustainability, Building and Grounds Committee	Family & Friends Committee
Alexis Beckwith - President	Kevin Enright	Debbie Galvin	Kevin Enright	Kylie Farr
Peter Roberts - Vice President	Shelley Golz	Nicole Fridey	Claire Carson	Rebecca Letson
Claire Carson	Ekrem Jeka	Karen Hudson	Karen Hudson	Prats Chebolu
Ekrem Jeka	Peter	Julie Giles		Debbie Galvin
Karen Hudson	Roberts	Liz Brown		
Prats Chebolu				
Rebecca Letson				
Tim Hargreaves				
Nicole Fridey				
Debbie Galvin				
Kevin Enright				