

Woonona Public School P&C Association

General Meeting Minutes – Wednesday 11th March 2020

Present:

Tim Fisher, Marg Nichols, Alison Strinic, Andromeda Lembo, Matt Argae, Bronwyn Sedgwick, Loren Marsh, Terri Toneguzzo, Justin Dixon, Mel Sergeant, Kris West

1. Welcome

General Meeting opened: 7.20pm

2. Apologies

Jayde Neal, Belinda Markovska, Janelle Roby, Rob Burgess, Sarah Longhurst

3. Previous Minutes

February 2020 – Minutes accepted (Proposed: Justin Dixon; Seconded: Andromeda Lembo)

4. Matters Arising from Previous Meeting

i) Review of Canteen Model

A Canteen review working group was formed following the February P&C meeting comprising Marg Nichols and Bronwyn Sedgwick (parents), Tim Fisher and Karina Curry (staff). Marg talked about the research undertaken by the team across 27 local schools, and Tim talked about the many conversations and feedback that he had received from other schools locally and of similar size.

Based on their research, Marg, Tim and Bronwyn presented their findings in a report, including an evaluation and recommendation for the future canteen operation to the P&C.

The full report is attached.

The group recommended that the Woonona Public School Canteen is **tendered to an external operator for the next 3 years** (with review after 12 months).

The main reasons for this are:

1. All local schools we spoke with (from a staff and parent perspective) who have external canteen operators are extremely happy and would not prefer an alternative model.
2. Positive feedback from many schools includes ease of operation (eliminates almost all issues for the school/P&C), the menu, prices, reliability, quality and way the operator communicates/works within the school community.
3. We did not find any reason why an external canteen operator would not also provide a positive outcome for our Woonona Public School community
4. Almost all schools operating with a paid canteen manager and/or volunteers continue to face significant challenges. Based on this, we do not expect that employing a paid manager would eliminate many of our current challenges.
5. Outsourcing offers the lowest financial risk:

Canteen Model	Profit per annum (\$'000)	Comment
Volunteers only	11.3	Average profit. No longer viable due to insufficient volunteers
Paid canteen manager 3 days/week (with volunteers)	(9.2)	Possibly offset by improved sales/expenses
Paid canteen manager 4 days/week (with volunteers)	(16.8)	Possibly offset by improved sales/expenses
Tendered external operator	4.00	Low estimate based on min \$100/wk (40 weeks) - may be higher

6. Approximate (maximum) net negative impact on funds raised for school = \$7.3k per annum.
7. Canteen menu prices from Made Fresh and Fresh Start Canteens are reasonable (not considerably higher than 2019 WPS menu). Variety is more extensive and other schools are very happy with it.

Motion: the Woonona Public School Canteen be tendered to an external operator for the next 3 years (proposed: Marg Nichols; seconded: Justin Dixon). Unanimous agreement. Motion carried.

There was some discussion around next steps, including the tender process, a possible Community User Agreement to get an operator in quickly, what happens to existing canteen equipment, and whether to open the canteen on occasional days in the meantime (decided against). The Canteen Review Working Group will continue to meet to move forward, with the goal to get the canteen open (with an external operator) for our school community as soon as possible.

Justin suggested that we could share the report after all the hard work that went into it, and how valuable it might be to other schools.

ii) **Hall Stage curtains**

Sarah has measured the hall stage and is providing a quote.

iii) **Filing out and coordinating the school calendar with P&C Events.**

Now that the new Events committee is formed, Loren and Bron will meet with Tim Fisher and fill out the calendar to fit in events from the school, The P&C and Year 6.

5. **Correspondence**

- **Soul Fit – Fun Run** – Bronwyn suggested it as a fun event to promote and get involved in, whilst raising money for the school
- **K-2 Easter Hat Parade** – Kathryn Postill emailed the P&C, which was forwarded to the school about making the parade more environmentally friendly, the school agreed was a great idea, suggesting in the Easter Hat note they could be made of recycled products rather than be store bought.
- **Entertainment Books** – in future to be online only. Correspondence to be handed over to Events Committee

6. **Reports**

i) President's Report - Marg

Marg talked about the goals and aims for the year ahead.

ii) Treasurer's Report – Terri

Presented the financial reports.

iii) Principal's Report – Tim

As per Principal's report, prepared by Tim Fisher

(Includes a "Wish List" from the school for support from the P&C)

iv) Uniform Shop Report - Terri

Terri presented bag alternatives to stock in the Uniform shop as the old ones are no longer being made.

v) Events Committee Report - Terri

- M+M Family Fun BBQ 15/3 – Request for \$800 to cover costs for the BBQ (proposed: Terri; seconded: Justin)
- Hot Cross Buns – Mon 6th - Terri organising
- Mother's Day Stall – Request for \$5,100 to cover costs (proposed: Terri; seconded: Andromeda)

vi) Working Bee Report – Justin

Justin mentioned the willingness of the working bee committee to get projects done, and are looking forward to the school contacting them for help.

7. Other Business

i) Shade and Water Stations at School Cross Country 26/3

Request received from Mr McMullen to provide additional gazebos for shade and a water drinks station. P&C very happy to coordinate parent help. Andromeda to organise.

ii) Colour Run – Bronwyn

Bronwyn presented a fun, physical and fundraising idea for the school to possibly be held at the end of Term 3. Bronwyn outlined how it works, costs, success at other schools, and ways to make it really fun event for students, staff, parents and possibly involve High School students. Examples of prizes were presented. A number of other schools have found it to be a great and easy community event. The proposed idea was received favorably and with much excitement. Bronwyn to meet with Tim Fisher to find a date to book in.

iii) Health & Hygiene - Andromeda

Andromeda presented concerns of parents of the lack of soap in the toilets at the school, and for the menstrual handling management in the girl's toilet to be audited in

terms of number available and hygiene practices available. Tim Fisher responded that the school was already looking into this and had just completed an audit of the soap dispensers. Existing dispensers will be replaced and additional ones installed. Alison Strinic is going to undertake a further audit of all toilets in the school and will look into providing further sanitary bins in the girls toilets if required.

iv) Ideas for engaging and strengthening connections between new and existing families (eg welcome BBQ) - Marg

Meeting closed at 9.00pm

Next meeting – 8 April 2020, 6.30pm

Action List

Topic	Action	Person
Canteen working group	Communicate recommendation and decision to school community. Next steps – set up Community User Agreement or tender with a canteen operator	Tim (& Karina, Marg & Bronwyn)
Draft P&C Calendar of events 2020	Meet and fill out the P&C calendar to fit in events from the school, The P&C and Year 6.	Loren, Bronwyn, Tim
P&C Goals & Priorities for 2020	Review school goals for P&C and “wishlist” in Principal’s report, and incorporate into P&C goals and priorities for 2020. Present draft at April P&C meeting	P&C Executive Committee
School bags	Terri to make recommendation for new brand/design based on P&C feedback	Terri
Upcoming events (see Events Committee report)	Coordinate and communicate	Terri / Loren / Bronwyn
Cross Country shade and water station	Coordinate and communicate	Andromeda
Colour Run!	Agree on proposed date with school, and book organizing company	Bronwyn/Loren (with Tim)
Health and Hygiene	Install additional soap dispensers and bins as required	Tim / Alison

Woonona Public School P&C Canteen

ASSESSMENT AND RECOMMENDATION FOR A CANTEEN OPERATING MODEL FOR 2020

11 March 2020

Background

The Woonona Public School canteen:

- a valued service to the school community. 68% of parents consider services (canteen and uniform shop) as the main purpose of the P&C, and of high value to them¹.
- has operated continuously and profitability (average \$11.3k), though not without challenges, for many years.

\$'000	2015/16	2016/07	2017/18	2018/19	Average
Total Sales	41.8	30.4	48.1	63.3	45.9
Total Stock Expenses	32.0	23.1	34.9	48.5	34.6
Net Profit	9.8	7.3	13.2	14.8	11.3
Margin	31%	32%	38%	31%	

- has been wholly run by the P&C Canteen Sub-Committee (comprising coordinator and assistant coordinators) and a pool of rostered parents and grandparents. All roles have been unpaid and filled by generous parents and grandparents, wishing to support the school and have a greater part in their children's school experience.
- until 2020, the canteen has usually been open every school day for recess and lunch orders and counter service.
- Despite significant growth in student enrolments in recent years, the number of volunteers in the canteen has steadily declined. Due to volunteer shortages, the canteen was closed from time to time during 2019.
- The canteen is currently closed. It has not opened in 2020 as no volunteer Canteen Coordinator/s have come forward.

¹ 2019 P&C Parent Survey

The Challenge

- The volunteer roles of Canteen Coordinator and Assistant Coordinator are demanding, and for a number of years have required a time commitment in excess of what should be reasonably expected. As a result, there has been considerable turnover of Coordinators over the past years
- We believe it is important to value and look after volunteers, not allow them to burn out
- The key challenges facing the previous Coordinators (and volunteers) are:
 1. lack of volunteers to fill the roster. Despite a large parent population, a shortfall of volunteers exists. When gaps exist in the roster, this can be stressful, and the coordinators either plead with parents to help, fill in themselves, or close the canteen. Lack of volunteers is due to both:
 - lack of availability (working, caring for younger children, other commitments). This is a challenge experienced across most school canteens and volunteer organisations.
 - lack of interest (too challenging, too demanding, a bad experience or reports from other parents that it is not enjoyable or rewarding)

2. being able to provide a high standard and efficient service for children, families and staff when every day the volunteers are different
3. being able to provide a positive experience for volunteers
4. the large number of responsibilities and amount of time required to manage the canteen – rostering, volunteer training, ordering, menu design and planning, procedures, equipment maintenance and problem solving
5. the need to revamp and rebrand the canteen into a positive service that the school community really embraces.

What are the options?

1. Close the canteen permanently
2. Continue with current 100% volunteer model
3. Employ a Part Time Canteen Manager, supported by volunteers
4. Outsource the canteen to an external provider
5. Other (see ‘Types of Canteens’ attachment 1)

The majority of school canteens either employ one or more staff, or are completely outsourced to an external provider. It is increasingly rare for canteens to be 100% volunteer run.

1. Close the canteen permanently

This option has not been considered due to the high value the school community places on the canteen service. If no other option is available, we believe an external (outsourced) provider would be willing to operate within the school.

2. Continue with current 100% volunteer model

This model requires parent volunteers for the coordination and operation of the canteen. This model has not worked for some time for a range of reasons outlined earlier. Former coordinators do not recommend this model.

There are currently no parents willing to coordinate the canteen in a voluntary capacity. Previous volunteer coordinators have been overworked and burned out, which is not in keeping with the values of the P&C.

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lower cost • Potential for highest profits and financial sustainability • Opportunity for parental involvement • Children love to see their parents and grandparents • Parents/school can influence menu and services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reliant on large number of volunteers – insufficient numbers in recent years • High workload to volunteer coordinators • Parents may feel ‘guilted’ into volunteering • Canteen closures • P&C workload to oversee management of canteen including finances

Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community building through parent/grandparent involvement • Centrelink Community Volunteers program may assist with volunteer numbers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Insufficient pool of willing volunteers • Overworked canteen coordinators and volunteers • Negative canteen, P&C and school reputation due to 'guilting' parents or other issues

3. Employ a Part Time Canteen Manager, supported by volunteers

This model involves the P&C employing a paid worker (eg. Waniora PS, Mt Ousley paid through Centrelink). The paid manager is supported by parent volunteers. Many parents suggested that the canteen should employ a coordinator in the 2019 P&C parent survey.

The following analysis is based on a model where the P&C employees one part-time casual Coordinator².

Their main responsibilities would typically include:

- Purchasing
- Stock Control
- Volunteer management
- Food preparation and sales
- Marketing and school communication
- Financial accounting
- Food Safety & Handling and WHS
- Compliance with NSW Healthy School Policy
- Research eg food finder, buyers guide, product suppliers etc
- Professional Development

A detailed (sample) job description is available on the P&C Federation website. The hours worked is to be determined. Cost analysis is below

SWOT Analysis

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable workload for coordinator • One less spot to fill with volunteers • Consistency of service • Volunteers can enjoy less responsibility • Less uncertainty for volunteers (when coordinator in canteen) • Lessons learned over time – used to make process/menu improvements • One point of contact/familiar face for staff, students and parents • Provides employment for a parent • If this model is trialled and doesn't work, could then outsource • Potential to generate profits for P&C 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Costs – wage, car allowance, mobile phone, insurance • Requires additional administration by P&C (eg. job advertising, interview, payroll, taxation, superannuation, insurance) and accountability • Potential paid/unpaid status challenges • No guarantee will solve current rostering shortfall problem • Risk of generating a loss which would need to be subsidised by other P&C activities

Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Motivated and skilled coordination More creative menu More home made food Specials Revamp and rebrand the canteen Positive communication/experience will entice more volunteers Consistent opening hours Increase sales Fine tune menu prices Money savings due to less waste Increase profit (offset by wage costs) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paid hours insufficient for workload Parents stop volunteering - perception no longer needed or dislike working with coordinator Employee underperformance – additional management Lack of ongoing financial viability – need to terminate employment Damage to school / P&C reputation Loss making

² This model is used at Waniora Public School, Bulli. Information provided by their paid coordinator (Sandra) and treasurer (Angela) has been used in this report.

Paid Canteen Coordinator Cost Estimates

Comparison between 2, 3 or 4 days worked per week

WAGES

Hours per day	6	Assumption
Weeks per year	40	
Hourly rate	\$ 29.16	Casual. Based on Fast Food Industry Award - Level 3 (in charge of 2 or

	Weekly			Per Annum		
	2	3	4	2	3	4
Days	2	3	4	2	3	4
Hours	12	18	24	480	720	960
Wages	350	525	700	13,997	20,995	27,994
Superannuation @ 9.5%	33	50	66	1,330	1,995	2,659
Total	383	575	766	15,326	22,990	30,653
Add: TRAVEL EXPENSES						
Rate per KM (per fast food industry award)	\$0.78					
No. of KMs @ 10km/week	10	10	10	400	400	400
Travel Expenses	\$7.80	\$7.80	\$7.80	\$312	\$312	\$312
Add: MOBILE PHONE EXPENSES						
Rate per week (\$59/month)	\$13.62					
Telephone expenses for the week	\$18	\$18	\$18	\$708	\$708	\$708
Total Employment Expenses	\$409	\$600	\$792	\$16,346	\$24,010	\$31,673

Break-Even Analysis

2018/19 Canteen Profit	\$371	\$371	\$371	\$14,847	\$14,847	\$14,847
Difference	-\$37	-\$229	-\$421	-\$1,499	-\$9,163	-\$16,826
% improvement required to break-even	-10%	-62%	-113%	-10%	-62%	-113%

Other considerations

- Timing - how long would it take to recruit a Canteen Manager and open the canteen.
- Quality of applicant/s?
- Is the P&C willing to do the payroll and manage the Canteen Coordinator

4. Outsource the canteen to an external provider

This model involves leasing out the canteen to an external business through a school-run tender process. Management of the canteen is handed over by the P&C to the school. It may be leased by an external business (eg Balgownie PS - Made Fresh) or parent leased (eg Berkeley PS).

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eliminates workload for P&C canteen coordinators & volunteers • Eliminates issues faced by school coordinators, volunteers and P&C • Experience in other school canteens • Eliminates risk of loss-making by P&C <p>If a good operator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consistent opening hours and service • One point of contact/familiar face for staff, students and parents • Improved menu 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss of income stream for P&C • Possible higher menu prices • Loss of opportunity for parental involvement and community connections • Children no longer see their parents and grandparents which they enjoy • Requires the school to manage external provider to ensure meets expectations
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More creative menu (?) • More home made food (?) • Specials • Provides a revamped canteen for the school community to really embrace • May recruit parent/s from within the school, providing employment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Menu or service does not meet school or parent expectations • Negative presence within school if operated poorly

- There are examples where external providers employ parents from within the school
- Equipment in the canteen can be made available to the operator, or sold by the P&C
- A tender process can take several months. Tenderers submit how much they are willing to pay the school per week for the lease and utilities etc. Approximately LOW estimate is \$100/week = \$4,000 per annum (may be higher).
- Tenders are typically 3 years (1 year review period), with opportunity to extend for further 2 years (total 5 years)
- There is a possible option to have an external operator start in the school sooner (eg start Term 2) under a Community User Agreement (trial for both school and operator), until the tender process is completed.

Review of Other Canteen Operating Models in Wollongong Area

Woonona Public School Canteen Review Working Group
Review of Other School Canteen Operating Models - March 2020

Key: = positive feedback about current canteen operation
 = neutral or negative feedback about current canteen operation

School	Suburb	Current Model	External Operator		Paid Manager/Volunteer		Comments / Operator
			School feedback	Parent Feedback	School feedback	Parent Feedback	
Dapto Public School	Horsley	Outsourced					School: Outsourced - brilliant, runs itself. Parents (P&C): Outsourced about 4yrs ago, works really well, would not run the canteen any other way, school community very happy, great menu and range, prices did go up a little but no complaints at all Operator: Made Fresh
Hayes Park Public School	Kanahooka	Volunteers					
Thirroul Public School	Thirroul	Volunteers					Parent: Volunteer based and closes frequently because of lack of volunteers (even with 3 hours shifts only)
Wollongong Public School	Wollongong	Outsourced					Parent: Really happy with Made Fresh, parents are happy. No demands on the P&C so it can focus on other things. Parents didn't miss canteen volunteering opportunities as very few wanted to volunteer anyway. Operator is flexible - was willing to close canteen for two weeks when building works created access issues. Only downside is P&C cannot use canteen facilities for other fundraising activities such as BBQs (Note Made Fresh have said they do allow access to P&Cs if possible) Operator: Made Fresh
Helensburgh Public School	Helensburgh	Paid employee &					School: P&C paid - still labour intensive - demands on volunteers
Lindsay Park Public School	West Wollongong	Paid employee &					School: P&C paid - runs well but have an awesome supervisor - still struggle to get volunteers Parent: Volunteer based and struggling with volunteers but making it work
Unanderra Public School	Cordeaux Heights	Outsourced					School: Outsourced - great - very keen to be involved and part of the school Operator: Kids Pantry Canteens (was Made Fresh in 2018)
Waniora Public School	Bulli	Paid employee & volunteers					School: still some work that needs to go on behind the scenes Parents: Going well, however is very dependant on the quality of the canteen manager. Current manager great. Still struggle to get enough volunteers, so canteen manager often runs on her own. In 2019, paid 3 days per week and slight profit. In 2020, paying 4 days per week so uncertain if can break even.
Mount Brown Public School	Dapto	Volunteers					Open Tues-Fri, lunch only. Contact for volunteering mtbrownpandccanteen@gmail.com Tendered 2020 Operator: Fresh Start Canteens
Fairy Meadow Public School	Fairy Meadow	Outsourced					Open Wednesday, Thursday and Fridays at lunch 11:00 - 11:35am
Keiraville Public School	Keiraville	Volunteers					Mon & Fri only - 8:30 - 9:15am & 11:00 - 11:40am Operator: Mangerton Corner Store
Mount St Thomas Public School	Mangerton	External (contract)					School: outsourced 2018 - Great!
Berkeley Public School	Berkeley	Outsourced					Made Fresh stopped operating after 4 years as unable to make a profit. They found it difficult to get support from the school
Balgownie Public School	Balgownie	Previously Outsourced. Current?					School: volunteers - good numbers
Austinmer Public School	Austinmer						School: outsourced - 20 years - great!
Berkeley West Public School	Berkeley						Parent: Volunteer based and struggling with volunteers but making it work
Wollongong West Public School	West Wollongong						School: Meal deals - 1 to 2 times per term - less pressure on volunteers
Bulli Public School	Bulli						School: P&C volunteers - open certain days
Woonona East Public School	Woonona						School: tried to outsource but didn't get any applicants
Coniston Public School	Coniston						Parent: Due to volunteers, only able to open 2 days/week. In winter months - 1 half day/week
Farmborough Road Public School	Unanderra	Volunteers					School: only do lunch - if bigger would look at outsourcing
Tarrawanna Public School	Tarrawanna	Volunteers					School: Love it. Runs itself.
Sarah Redfern Public School	Minto						School: Had paid P&C but wasn't working - outsourced now and love it!
Kiama Public School	Kiama						School: P&C run
Mount Terry Public School	Albion Park						Parent: Parents love it! Gives parents more time to help out in other ways - Breakfast/Lunch - Open everyday - Large Menu (Attached) - Prices didn't increase Operator: Made Fresh - https://madefresh.net.au
Good Samaritan	Fairy Meadow						Parent: My sister lives in Tamworth and is on P&C, they have a school of 506 kids, with a large amount of lower social economical families and for over 10yrs have employed a canteen lady - They have enough profit to employ 52wks of yr - Breakfast club (not government funded one) - Online ordering - Min volunteers required
Tamworth school							

Criteria used to assess options and determine recommendation

- How well does it work in other schools?
- Likely impact on the school community, including staff, parents, volunteers, students (positive/negative)
- Consistency and quality of service (menu, reliability of hours, etc)
- Financial impact on the school (either directly or indirectly via P&C fundraising)
- Financial impact on school families (eg menu prices)

Recommendation

The Canteen Review Working Group recommends that the Woonona Public School Canteen is **tendered to an external operator for the next 3 years** (with review after 12 months). The main reasons for this are:

1. All local schools we spoke with (from a staff and parent perspective) who have external canteen operators are extremely happy and would not prefer an alternative model.
2. Positive feedback from many schools includes ease of operation (eliminates almost all issues for the school/P&C), the menu, prices, reliability, quality and way the operator communicates/works within the school community.
3. We did not find any reason why an external canteen operator would not also provide a positive outcome for our Woonona Public School community
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7. Canteen menu prices from Made Fresh and Fresh Start Canteens are reasonable (not considerably higher than 2019 WPS menu). Variety is more extensive and other schools are very happy with it.

Attached

- Woonona Public School P&C Canteen Menu Term 2, 2019
- Made Fresh Canteen Menu 2019 Dapto PS (Made Fresh have a standard menu/prices for all schools, but will make small changes depending on the school's needs).

Canteen Review Working Group

- Marg Nichols – Parent & P&C President
- Bronwyn Sedgwick – Parent & P&C member
- Tim Fisher – School Principal
- Karina Curry – School Administrative Manager



WOONONA PUBLIC SCHOOL

P&C MEETING

WEDNESDAY 11 MARCH 2020

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

COMMITTEE 2019-2020 AND NEW COMMITTEE 2020-2021

I would like to start by congratulating the outgoing committee of 2019-2020. Your contributions to the students of Woonona Public School are highly important to the wonderful atmosphere within our school. Your friendly, helpful nature made working with you a pleasure and resulted in a highly successful year for the P&C. I sincerely thank you all for your efforts throughout 2019-2020.

I am a big believer that a key component to a successful school is a close working relationship between the P&C and staff. I believe that it is the hard working P&C, led by the wonderful Marg Nichols, that has helped our school create an atmosphere that is based on trust and working together, while always having student success and experiences at the centre of decision making.

To the incoming committee I would like to welcome you to the 2020-2021 Woonona Public School P&C Committee. With the fantastic work of previous P&C committees, you have huge shoes to fill, but with the support of experienced members and enthusiasm, I look forward to what I know will be another fun, enjoyable and profitable year for Woonona Public School P&C.

START TO 2020

It has been a fantastic start to the year, with loads of great activities to get the year off to a busy but enjoyable beginning. In addition to the return of all of our 2019 students we had 76 Kindergarten students begin school and an additional fourteen students begin their schooling at Woonona Public School. These students have settled well into their new school life and are doing a wonderful job in establishing themselves as an important part of Woonona Public School. As reported at the last P&C Meeting, our school continues to grow and we now sit at 621 students!

LIBRARY

The library continues to take shape. We have had a few glitches in the process and therefore we are yet to have an official opening. We are also aware that the outdoor libraries are not yet up and running. We hope this will happen soon.

STAFF WISH LIST AND WORKING COLLECTIVELY IN 2020

At the previous P&C meeting, I was asked to go back to our staff and create a wish list for 2020. The staff have come back with one suggestion: Purchase of technology resources.

Currently our school is trying hard to integrate more technology into the classroom – what does this mean? Rather than the school having a bank of technology for all teachers to share, we want to put these resources into classes, so they are being used often to reinforce in-class learning. We believe that, used effectively, this will enhance the student learning happening every day.

While we acknowledge that P&C fundraising has made many positive changes to support our school and students, we see a higher value in the P&C coordinating “Community Events.” These events, such as Mother’s Day and Father’s Day Stalls, Bunnings BBQs, Kindergarten Welcome and the Trivia Night, just to name a few, can at times raise money, but more than that, can raise the profile of the school as a welcoming and collaborative network.

We hope that in 2020, we will continue to build on some of these events, with a focus on fun and togetherness. In doing so, I believe that we will build on the culture of inclusiveness within our school.

ANNUAL SCHOOL REPORT 2019

Woonona Public School’s Annual School Report will soon be completed and submitted to the Department of Education and uploaded to our school website – by Friday 10 April. This document is a thorough review of 2019 and I encourage parents to take their time to have a read and reflect on the 2019 school year. I believe 2019 was a highly successful year with the school making very pleasing steps towards achieving some of our goals both individually and collectively.

CROSS COUNTRY – THURSDAY 26 MARCH

Our school Cross Country Carnival is scheduled to be held on Thursday 26 March, with students in Years K-1 to remain at school and run around the flat, while students in Years 2-6 to attend Bulli Park. Notes for the Cross Country Carnival will go home with students this week. Students are encouraged to wear their sports house colours on this day.

PARENT/TEACHER INTERVIEWS

We will again be conducting parent/teacher interviews at the conclusion of Term 1, 2020. These important meetings ensure the lines of communication between school and home are opened early and are spread more consistently across the whole school year. Notes went home today with your children about how to book in for the meetings that will be held on Tuesday of Week 10.

UPCOMING EVENTS

The following events are coming up between now and the end of the term:

- 12/3/20 – 13/3/20 – Tim away – State Council Meeting
- 19/3/20 – 20/3/20 – Tim away – ISER Conference
- 19/3/20 – Harmony Day Mufti Day – Wear Orange
- 23/3/20 and 27/3/20 – NAPLAN Online Practice Tests
- 24/3/20 – Interrelate Program
- 26/3/20 – School Cross Country
- 31/3/20 – Parent/Teacher interviews
- 31/3/20 – Year 6 Fundraising Cake Stall
- 8/4/20 – P&C Meeting
- 9/4/20 – 11:30am - Easter Hat Parade
- 9/4/20 – Last day of Term 1 for students and staff

Term 2 will begin for staff on Monday, 27 April and for students on Tuesday, 28 April.

I again thank you all for showing a huge interest in the education of the students at WPS.

Tim Fisher
Principal