RESULTS OF PARENT SURVEYS (Part 2)

Each year the Parent Surveys are a Departmental requirement as part of our accountability processes. We send them to all families rather then a randomly chosen few and in addition we ask parents to respond to additional questions. We then believe it is important to share the results with the whole school community as a means of clarifying information. Please feel free to contact me in the front office if you require further clarification of any points.

Question 2: What do you like least about Port Noarlunga Primary School? had 28/40 responses and

Question 3: What one thing would you like to see changed at PNPS? had 32/40 responses. Many things that people like least about the school were also the things that they would like changed and so therefore the responses below are a combination of both questions. After many of the comments is a response from the school clarifying that concern. Please contact me if you would like further information or clarification.

Heather Walker (Principal)

Comments relating to the behaviour at the school:

- Currently my child is having trouble with other students. It's manageable at the moment but sometimes causes him distress. If it gets out of hand I will contact the school.
- Disciplinary actions are not reinforced strongly/consistently enough for the constant rule breaking students. Their negative behaviours interfere with good students’ learning. Stricter enforcement of 'no tolerance'. Behave and do your work or go home (or something of the like). The interrupters get way too much attention and absorb valuable teaching time. NOT fair to the kids who want a positive classroom and calm learning space.
- Disruptive behaviour in classrooms that concerns my children and makes them feel unsure at times (playground lunch and recess)
- Bullying issues
- The behaviour of some of the children in my child’s class.
- More funding to allow supervision at lunch and recess also allow extra help with children who obviously have behaviour and anger issues.

There are processes in place at class, yard, school and departmental level to support students with behavioural issues. This includes additional School Service Officer (SSO) time allocated to the yard, Take Home and Suspensions. Whilst we obviously cannot discuss individual students with other parents we are happy to outline the processes in place across the school. Please contact me in the front office if you would like to discuss this further. Information regarding this was also presented at the last Governing Council meeting.

Comments relating to the facilities at the school:

- The boys' toilets. It's a shocker. The smell wafts as you walk by any time of the day. It needs eucalyptus spray and nice smelly pots handy on the walls. We agree! Despite new floor covering and wall treatments, new flush systems, deep drain cleans, and air fresheners it still continues to be a problem. It is certainly on our radar to continue to try and rectify this issue.
- How squashed my child's class is (however I know this is a short term issue in regards to the current development plans)
- The security of the school building. Easy access for anyone to enter off street and outside toilets. Young children wandering across playgrounds by front gate which is open to go to the toilet.
- The asbestos buildings/small classrooms. Any asbestos will be removed during the redevelopment in accordance with safety guidelines.
- The parking options / Pick up and drop off station so that parents don't get confused about the staff car park. There should not be any confusion about the staff carpark as this is not for parents to drop off students at any time, unless,perhaps, for OSHC.
- Not enough covered area for when it's raining
- A new perimeter fence around the oval in particular
- Smaller class sizes (My son is in the Rainbow Room – it's pretty hectic for a 5 year old.)

Comments relating to classes at the school:

- Not sure my daughter is achieving her academic level. Not clear on what is being taught in class and don't agree that no homework is the best policy. Sometimes feels a little disorganised. Please liaise with your child's teacher about their progress.
- Mixed classes. E.g. Grade 1/2 although my daughter is not in a mixed class. I hope she isn't in the future. It is most likely that the majority of classes will continue to be composite (mixed) as we are funded for a certain number according to enrolments but the numbers in each year level don't always make it possible to have "straight" classes. Please come to the meeting that will be offered later in the year to explain the class placement processes.
- Class sizes are full to capacity. This is why we are having additional buildings to cater for the growing enrolments.
- Lack of teacher continuity
- My child's teacher does not allocate homework. Therefore it is not always visible whether my child is progressing.
- My child's teacher has a grumpy zone in his classroom that he puts himself in. I disagree with this concept.
- Would like younger children to read to an adult more often. It is hoped that every child reads to an adult at home daily.
• Letting children know on Day 1, Term 1 who their teacher will be and who will be in their class. As a teacher myself I know about the numbers game and teachers not being placed before the end of the previous year but personally I think it would be more effective as well as reducing high levels of student anxiety if you place students in their class groups without a teacher’s name attached and communicate this information to parents before Day 1, Term 1. Given our increasing enrolments we have often been in the position where the actual number of classes isn’t known until the new year.
• More teachers’ aides in classrooms.
• More variety of subjects and different learning areas. For example: Home Ec – planning and preparing food, art rooms, science lab etc.
• National curriculum implemented as soon as possible to ensure that all students are learning same objectives at same grade levels. Streamline and organise the content of each grade level. Get all the teachers on the same academic page. Standardising makes things easier for everyone and will ensure a way to attain measureable outcomes for assessments. Staff are involved in ongoing professional learning to implement the new Australian Curriculum. This includes staff meeting time, student free days and training and development at weekends and during holiday breaks.
• Better communication between teachers, all parents (even separated ones) and students. Having the newsletter emailed ensures families receive it, including both parents if the family is separated.

Other miscellaneous comments:
• There seems to be a real lack of technology available to students. Two computers in a classroom doesn’t seem enough. All classes also have Interactive Whiteboards and a new computer suite will be part of the new building. There are also pods of computers around the school.
• The lack of awareness of children’s whereabouts and what they are doing. They leave lessons without saying where they are going. They seem to not be very well supervised as I am always hearing about fights where no teachers intervened and they were between lessons or at lunch.
• Bad communication skills between teachers and parents. Bullying of my child is to me a no-no and this should never have been able to happen. More staff are required as this can have massive implications on kids for their future
• The canteen could be run differently
• I would like to see the children learn a language instead of Asian Studies. We are awaiting information about languages in line with the new Australian Curriculum.
• I think the number of new students enrolling at the school needs to be carefully monitored – it seems there are so many new children starting that the school won’t be able to fit them all in, even with the redevelopment. We are in a rapidly growing area and need to be able to cater for this increase. The additional relocatables are catering for this in additional to the Capital Works programme.
• Funding put in place to support those with special needs and extra security safeguarding children from stranger access or easy access out.
• I am disappointed about The Arts, especially in that there’s no concerts or plays where students can express their creative self. I know every child remembers their past of being in a play or concert; singing, dancing, getting dressed up, performing in front of their parent. / Does the school have music lessons? No Festival choir. It is likely that Performing Arts will be a specialist subject once the redevelopment is completed.
• The Fun Run fundraiser – I think it would be more equitable if all participants received a small token for their fundraising efforts rather than prizes for students who raise more than others. Many families, due to socio-economic reasons, arriving from overseas recently etc., do not have the money to support their children this way.
• Thank you for giving us parents a chance to let our voices be heard. I deeply appreciate the opportunity.
• Generally I love PNPS, just a few minor issues.
• Special note: Please do not be tempted to increase the size of the school – build more and more classes. We chose Port Noarlunga over ***** Primary School for the size and lovely feel of the grounds.
• I don’t think there’s anything I can pinpoint (that I would like to see change). I think the new development looks great and will be great when it is completed.
• Not a criticism or a suggested change, just a question: Is PNPS still using Play is the Way games and methodologies? (I don’t hear the language used as much this year with my girls or in the newsletters/parent communication.)