

SCHOOL COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 2013

Achievements

2012 was another successful year for the School Council. During term 1 we were presented the plans for new school by Ralph Hems and Helen Halliday. While it's development has been frustratingly slow, we are excited by the design of the new facilities and are impressed with the planning that has gone in to accommodating all the needs of both students and staff. We look forward to moving in to the new campus in 2014.

We were successful in receiving a Parent Initiatives in Education (PIE) Grant for 2012 which we used to explore Post School Options for our children. We were delighted with attendance by many parents who are not on the School Council. A group of 10 of us enjoyed visits to SCOSA (Mitcham Hub) and Bedford Industries. After a delicious lunch at the School Café we were given presentations by Inga Perkons-Grauze and Ruth Ziegler from Disability SA, on Day Option programs and funding availability for post school options. This was followed by lively discussions on what that meant for us and our kids. We also heard from Beverley Furlong, from Multiple Solutions on assistance transitioning to un-supported work in broader community. All presentations were highly informative. If you would like more information and contact details for the organizations visited and those that presented they can be obtained from Niki Baratosy at the school.

Fundraising

This year we did a little fundraising through the sale of Entertainment Books and the Christmas Raffle. This is an area we would like to expand and would welcome any parents able to help out with ideas and time next year.

Fee Increases

Unfortunately, we have had to increase our School Fees to \$340 for next year, with the usual \$20 discount if paid by the end of term 1. While this is never a pleasant step to take, it is necessary in order to keep up with cost of materials and thank you for your understanding.

Acknowledgements

The School Council would like thank all the staff at the school for making our school such a special place for our kids. Without them we would be lost. We would also like to congratulate two students selected for the Special Olympics, Shane Colmer for the State Basketball team and Anthony Calipari for the Soccer team.

Future Directions

The School Council has submitted an application for a PIE Grant for 2013 and if successful we plan to use it to explore programs for peer support of our kids in the general community, eg helping them make friends and experiencing new things outside of home and family. To increase involvement from the parent and carer community we are planning to have casual meetings once a term. We hope that this will provide a supportive

environment for the exchange of ideas and information on how to help our kids as they grow in to adulthood.

We are also in the process of compiling the Kensington Centre Cookbook as a farewell from the old campus memento and long term fundraiser. The aim of this project is to publish a cook book for kids with special needs by kids with special needs, with recipes written (partly) and tested by our kids. We would love to receive any recipes from the parent and carer community and anyone able to volunteer their time would be most welcome. The cookbook will be available to purchase at the end of 2013.

Wishing you all Happy Holidays and a prosperous New Year,

Katrina Ramsay
Vice-Chair
Kensington Centre School Council.