NOVEMBER SCHOOL COUNCIL UPDATE:

At our November Meeting School Council Meeting, Council discussed the data and comment responses to Westgrove’s 2015 Parent Opinion Survey.

The following is a summary of Council’s discussion:

- Each year schools have the opportunity to forward to their school community a number of surveys dependent on their student numbers. 2015 response rate was once again an issue of concern.
- School Climate, Student Behaviour and Student Engagement are areas where Parents/Carers rated Westgrove either at or below expected level. School Council would like to see this above expected level.

Council felt that perhaps there are some misconceptions about some aspects that the survey asks responses for and that the following may provide a clearer picture of what the school does have in place already.

Student Safety:
- The school yard is sectioned into 5 areas for Yard Duty staff. Oval, Basketball Courts including Senior Playground, Courtyard Area, Prep Play area and Grades 1&2 Play area. Staff are highly visible wearing ‘orange’ vests.
- Daily, staff reward students with wristbands and verbal praise for exhibiting values of ‘respect & ‘safety’ whilst in the yard.
- Daily, staff follow up ‘yard misbehaviours’. Restorative conversations are the first action of any misbehaviour.
- Misbehaviours of a more serious nature are escalated to senior staff for follow up. Such behaviours are treated seriously with consequences ranging from removal from yard through to suspension. These consequences are then communicated to parents/carers.
- Students consistently displaying inappropriate behaviours in the yard participate in an alternative program developed in conjunction with parents/carers.
- Each lunchtime alternative activities are scheduled in the school Library, supervised by senior staff. These are available for students who would prefer not to go out into the yard.

Parent / Carer Input:
- Westgrove staff value and ask for a partnership in the education of your child. Some staff have not yet met all of their classes parents/carers despite numerous invitations to come and meet them.
- Attendance at parent/carer /teacher/student interviews is disappointingly low.

Extra Curricula:
- Extra curricula activities such as incursions, excursions and interschool sport have been offered by both Year level staff and Specialists throughout 2015, complementing the day to day classroom learning and teaching. Our calendar of events is evidence of this.

Transitions:
- Westgrove places high value on transition into, across year levels and onto secondary school with comprehensive programs on offer. Particular support is given to ensuring students with additional needs are catered for at these transitions.
Learning Focus:

- Each term year level Learning Focus statements are posted on our Website and communicated explicitly to the students.

School Improvement:

- School Council has progressively developed our school grounds and buildings to maintain a high standard.
- In line with the School’s Strategic Plan and Annual Implementation Plan emphasis has been placed on building staff capacity to ensure a high quality instruction across all year levels. Our five Leading Teachers are a key part of this process through their instructional coaching.
- Staff work collaboratively in all aspects of curriculum planning and assessment ensuring that all classes have a consistent approach.