PROCESSES AND INITIATIVES

It has been another exciting week here at Westgrove Primary School. I wanted to continue to share with you the many wonderful and varied opportunities that I have seen in action whilst getting to know the students, parents and teachers.

School Connectedness

Westgrove staff work hard to ensure that students feel a part of the community. To be connected means students are included and the school understands the individuality of each child and provides opportunities across a range of areas for children to display success individually and collectively. Our teachers work to differentiate the curriculum to cater for all student needs within the classroom and across the cohort. Those who require extra help either with support or extension are placed within an intervention group for a selected period of time. Support teachers and integration aides work across the school alongside teachers to ensure all students can access the curriculum and experience success. This not only happens in the classroom but can be seen throughout the play spaces where students are offered different opportunities such as the indoor programs, the large games, supported play and some lunchtime club activities.

Whilst there are opportunities all year for curriculum learning, there are many opportunities for students to engage in extra-curricular activities including: Hoop Time basketball, Spelling Competitions, Arts Competitions, Writing Competitions, Chess Club, Cultural Opportunities, Book Parade and Harmony Day to name a few.

Student Engagement, Motivation and Behaviour

The educational programs in classrooms are differentiated using student data to inform the teachers about the specific needs of each child. All students being able to access the classroom program promotes engagement and positive outcomes. Being engaged in learning does not mean order and quietness, in fact on many occasions it can mean quite the opposite. At our school we understand that we have at our disposal a range of tools to help us engage students in their learning including iPads and other multi-media, our kitchen and vegetable garden, radio station and our library are some examples. However our greatest asset is our staff.

Students lend their voice to their learning through self and peer assessments, completing surveys, running assemblies, participating in the Year 6 leadership program, being a student class leader in Years 3-6 and serving as a House Captain. They are encouraged to speak their mind and have an educated opinion whilst learning to respect the ideas and opinions of others which may not reflect their own.

The Positive Behaviour Support (PBS) framework underpins all of the behavioural expectations and interactions for all members of the school community. These skills are being taught explicitly and fostered in all areas of the school program.
Being **safe** means:
- Being a positive role model to all members of the community
- Following the rules to ensure the safety of themselves and others
- Being cooperative with teachers and other students
- Being sunsmart
- Helping others to follow the rules by encouraging respectful behaviour
- Being honest

Being **respectful** means:
- Being a positive role model by using appropriate behaviour and language
- Following the rules and showing tolerance and acceptance
- Being cooperative with all members of the school community
- Wearing school uniform with pride
- Using manners
- Using appropriate language in the appropriate forums
- Being patient and helpful with others
- Being confident to share your opinions and ideas and stand up for the rights of others
- Supporting other students
- Being honest

Being a **learner** means:
- Being a positive role model by being motivated and engaged
- Following the rules which encourages others to do the same
- Being cooperative with others to learn and achieve together
- Participating in a range of activities both in and out of the classroom
- Speaking in front of large groups with confidence and enthusiasm
- Being organised within all areas of school life
- Being resilient and learning to bounce back

By using this framework at Westgrove PS we are encouraging and developing students who are globally minded, socially capable and solution focussed. Our over-arching goal within the school is to continually improve student outcomes and we are committed to achieving this through developing positive relationships between all members of the school community. If you have any questions, ideas or issues please do not hesitate to come and see us.

*Tami-Jo Richter*
*Principal*