



The Pocket Public School

Community Forum Feedback

This week we began to unpack the Student Learning feedback and aligned it to our school plan. The following came through as common threads from the feedback given at the Community Forums.

Student Learning

Visible Learning

You asked about:

- Do students set goals.
- Students need to know what they're learning.

Why are we doing this?

Visible Learning is grounded in the research from John Hattie. It outlines the over 100 different aspects of schooling that have an impact of student learning. It even ranks the most effective! We will be implementing Visible Learning in 2016 and beyond as it will improve student learning outcomes.

How will we do it?

We will be working with two other local schools to implement a combined plan (currently displayed on our P and C notice board). The plan outlines our goals; that all students will be able to have an understanding and articulate a definition of an effective learner at our school and what it looks like to be successful in their learning.

What will it look like in the classroom?

Students will have clear goals, or success criteria, for each lesson and in their own personalised learning.

7 Steps Writing

You asked about:

- More time for Literacy and Numeracy.
- Have you used 7 steps writing?

Why are we doing this?

The writing of a text is a complex process. 7 Steps Writing breaks this process down into manageable chunks.

How will we do it?

All teachers will be trained in 7 Steps Writing and go on refresher courses throughout the year to evaluate our implementation.

What will it look like in the classroom?

Each skill will be explicitly taught for two weeks before being evaluated and moving on to the next one. There is also a common language of what a great writer looks like that you will hear across the classes.

TOWN (Taking Off With Numeracy)

You asked about:

- More time for Literacy and Numeracy.
- Hands on Mathematics.
- Do you need textbooks?

Why are we doing this?

TOWN is a whole-school initiative which focuses on improving numeracy skills of students in the primary years.

How will we do it?

The initiative provides ongoing professional learning over the school year to assist teachers to assess each student's current numeracy understanding and to monitor student progress against a research-based framework.

What will it look like in the classroom?

Students will be involved in explicit lessons around mathematical concepts. They will then work with hands on manipulatives and learning games to consolidate the concepts being taught. In 2016 textbooks will be one of the tools that teachers will use in the learning cycle.



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Language, Learning and Literacy (L3)

You asked about:

- Are you doing L3?
- Learning goals set for reading.
- More one on one reading.

Why are we doing this?

L3 is a research based program targeting text reading and writing. It has been designed to complement the daily Literacy program to improve student learning outcomes.

How will we do it?

Davina is currently trained in L3 and will continue to be an accredited L3 teacher through completing extensive training throughout the year.

What will it look like in the classroom?

Students receive explicit instruction in reading and writing strategies in small groups of one to three selected students. Students then rotate to independent individual or group tasks. This occurs in the daily Literacy session.

Music

You asked about:

- Each child should be taught an instrument.
- Employ a music teacher.
- Students need to know about rhythm and melody.

Why are we doing this?

There are so many reasons as to why we would be improving our music program. Research has found that learning music facilitates learning other subjects and enhances skills that children inevitably use in other areas. It can also relieve anxiety, give students another avenue to excel in and it's fun!

How will we do it?

The P and C has donated close to \$2000 to the school music program. To ensure sustainability we will be hiring a music teacher for one term to teach demonstration lessons to our staff. They will also have professional discussions around what a great music lesson looks like and how to incorporate it into their current practice.

What will it look like in the classroom?

The classes will be involved in whole class singing lessons and percussion lessons. They will be taught by a music specific teacher during Term 1 2016 while the teacher observes the lessons to better understand this specific curriculum area.

Science, History and Geography Syllabus Implementation

You asked about:

- More History, greater learning about Aboriginal culture.
- The promotion Science to all students.

Why are we doing this?

Science, History and Geography are valued syllabus documents. These documents give students a rich understanding about the world around them, their local community and where they have come from.

How will we do it?

Teachers have already participated in a Teacher Professional Learning (TPL) session held by Nikki Perrin around the new syllabus documents and what their implementation looks like. We will continue to hold TPL sessions throughout the year and hold professional discussions around the implementation.

What will it look like in the classroom?

Engaging learning sequences involving experiments, guest speakers and Aboriginal elders. We will continue to embed Aboriginal perspectives into our other syllabus documents and hold cultural events such as NAIDOC and Harmony Day Celebrations.