

16 December 2016

School Council – 2016 Review



Season's Greetings to everyone in the GIPS Community from all members of the School Council.

2016 has been a busy, productive and progressive year for Council and our subcommittees. Some of the highlights include:

- Funding approval and the completion of several projects for 2016, such as:
 - *the replacement of solar panels*
 - *upgrading the Grade 1/Grade 2 playground equipment (to be completed over the long break)*
 - *introduction of the School Water Efficiency Program (SWEP)*
 - *the implementation of a new office archiving system*
 - *repair and repainting of the oval Pavilion*
 - *improvements to classroom learning space 'in-fill' areas*
 - *the purchase of a new Performing Arts stage*
 - *water tank pump repairs*
 - *repairs to toilets throughout the school*
 - *the purchase of acoustic and electric drum kits*
- Pre-approved funding for 2017 projects, such as the repainting of school buildings and the repair of perimeter fencing;
- Management of school finances to a year-end balanced budget;
- The implementation of a 'Wish List' policy and procedure which enables input from all members of the GIPS community;
- Direct intervention in the successful resolution of local neighborhood issues, such as the objection to the development of a medical clinic across the street from the school and the improvement of the laneway at the crosswalk on Glen Iris Road;
- Ongoing Council Governance training for councilors and hosting three of these sessions at our school for others to attend;
- The addition of and revision to over 25 school policies;
- Early endorsement and notification (for teachers and parents) of 2017 Professional Development Days;
- Extended use of Compass for timely communications;
- Organisation of Parent Education Workshops, "Anxiety in Children" & "What's STEM, STEAM and Coding?";
- Improvements to the school newsletter and website, based on feedback by the Council-sponsored community survey;
- Participation in and sponsorship of a School Values workshop to aid in next year's School Review and the update of our Strategic Plan; and
- Support for the highly successful Resilience Program.

The members of Council appreciate the mutually supportive nature of our relationship with the school, particularly our Principals' Office (Meredith, Robyn and Shelley) as well as the front office staff (Kathy, Sally, and Clare), not to mention our group of exceptionally-dedicated teachers, aides and ancillary staff.

We also owe a debt of gratitude to the Parents' Association and to all families at GIPS for supporting the school, not only financially, but also through your active and voluntary involvement in all of our programs and events.

Personally, I would also like to thank the individual members of 2016 School Council for their time, commitment and contribution.

For those of you who may not know their names, the Parent members are:

- *Nick Kwan* (VP)
- *Lisa Waddell* (Treasurer)
- *Carolyn Brumley* (Secretary)
- *Greg Price* (PA Liaison)
- *Flip Connell* (Finance)
- *Jess Shinnick* (Education)
- *Craig Ots-Maher* (Buildings and Grounds)
- *Miranda Forehan* (Education)
- *James Kelly* (Buildings and Grounds)

Staff Reps for 2016 Council are:

- *Meredith Carracher*
- *Robyn Floyd*
- *Shelley Morrison*
- *Barb Maclarn*
- *Megan Cofield*
- *Mary-Anne Jansen*

And, at the risk of embarrassing some of my fellow Councillors, I am sure the rest of the committee would agree that the following good people deserve public recognition for the above-and-beyond contribution they have made to School Council this year:

- **Lisa Waddell**... for delving deeper into financial accounts than required and consistently providing quality information and insight into a crucial aspect of school business.
- **Robyn Floyd**...not content with the success of last year's 150th anniversary celebrations, Robyn continues to bring new ideas, energy and professionalism to the school.
- **Craig Ots-Maher**... for his tireless service to our school. Craig has raised the bar in his role as leader of the B&G Committee and has been instrumental in campaigning for and organising most of the recent improvements to the GIPS campus.
- **Greg Price**... Greg has worn two hats on council this year, both as PA Liaison and as leader of the Communications Committee. Greg also deserves special thanks for his time and efforts regarding our intervention re the proposed medical centre. This is Greg's last year on council as the Price family is moving to another school. We will miss Greg and his unique brand of conscience, wit and enthusiastic service to the school.

Meanwhile, 2017 promises to be another busy year at Glen Iris Primary School. Our Annual Report and School Budget will be finalised in Term 1 and we will also be preparing for our 4-yearly School Review and Strategic Plan.

For those who may be interested in joining School Council and being actively involved in these activities and other Council business, please watch for notices calling for nominations early in Term 1. Feel free to contact me or any of the Councillors if you would like to discuss in more detail.

On behalf of all members of School Council, I wish you and your families a safe and enjoyable holiday break. We look forward to seeing you next year.



Alex Goldhagen
Council President