

SPIRIT OF PLAY COMMUNITY SCHOOL

ANNUAL REPORT 2020



Tabled at the Spirit of Play *Annual General Meeting*, held 3 May 2021.

OVERVIEW

Education at Spirit of Play Community School is based on an holistic approach that supports the innate curiosity and desire to learn that is present in each child, with a strong emphasis on the social and emotional development of children. This is achieved through child-centred learning; nature based educational activities; learning through music; learning from Indigenous cultures; and learning about the environment and sustainability.

2020 was a somewhat turbulent year for the school, in spite of which much was achieved.

1. BUILDING PROJECT

The new Upper Primary classroom was finished in time for the commencement of Term 1. The multipurpose space, office and kitchen construction commenced in Term 2 and finished for Term 4. Landscaping of grassed areas, with a planted curved retaining wall, was finished during Term 4 with the official opening by Shire President Ceinwen Gearon held on the 11th December. The building project represented the culmination of many



years' work by Councillors and Principal Rance Boog. It was funded by savings (Upper Primary), Low Interest Loan (State Govt), and Capital Works Grant (Commonwealth Government). The buildings were designed by a member of the school association, Denisia Menglet, and built by local builder Westruct (Steven Madaffari).

2. COVID-19 PANDEMIC AND RESPONSE



The School Council reacted swiftly and in a coordinated way to the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, giving an extra week of planning to teachers at the end of Term 1 to work out a transition to online learning. There was a big learning curve for teachers, but all did really well in creating engaging programs for children at home under lockdown conditions. Their provision of learning materials and other community support was greatly appreciated by the parent body. The School Council met and made a considered decision to halve the operational budget and make school fees for Term 2 optional. School activities were curtailed for Term 2 and much of Term 3 due to COVID restrictions.

3. SCHOOL NAME CHANGE

At the AGM, the members agreed to change the school name to Kwoorabup Community School. Council determined that the change should be subject to consultation with Noongar Elders before it could be finalised. Council has formed a Noongar consultative committee that has actively engaged with Noongar Elders in the region, and solicited feedback on the proposed name change among other matters.



4. PRINCIPAL AND COUNCIL CHANGE

2020 was a challenging year in the management and governance of our wonderful school. A dispute between the Principal and Council disrupted working relationships and after a period of mediation, the School Council stepped down at a Special General Meeting held in December. Two members of the Council nominated for re-election, and were joined by five new members. Rance Boog continued as Principal until the end of the year, and Joanna Griffith was recruited as the new Principal commencing in January 2021.

WHAT WE GOT UP TO



The school year was full of many and diverse activities, although the possibilities were curtailed by the COVID-19 pandemic and some of our regular events had to be cancelled or postponed. Still we were fortunate to be able to offer a rich program of incursions, excursions, festivals and community engagement in line with the relevant regulations. Some key events in the 2020 school year included:

- 7th February Welcome back Picnic
- 11th February Special General Meeting
- 10th March: Larry Blight Noongar culture incursion for Lower Primary
- 12th March: Upper Primary Solar Car challenge in Albany
- 16th March: Upper Primary incursion - Westpac loans officer
- 18th March: Middle Primary incursion - Fisheries Department
- 25th March: Middle and Upper Primary incursion - Fisheries Department
- 30th March: School closes face to face teaching due to COVID-19
- 6th April: Non-teaching week to prepare for remote learning
- 13th April- 27th April: School holidays
- 28th April: School opened remote teaching and supervision for students in need
- 4th May: School opened to transition to face to face learning (ast week of remote teaching)
- 11th May: Face to face learning resumed for all students.
- [NO EVENTS MAY to JUNE due to COVID]
- 24th June K-2 Noongar incursion with Eliza Woods and Annette Eades
- 27th June Winter Festival
- 27th June Spirit-Ed Art exhibition
- 29th June Give it a go day
- 2nd July Parent Teacher interviews
- 3rd July - 21st July School Holidays
- 20th July Whole staff meeting and planning Term 3
- 21st July Child Protection PD all staff
- 19th August Science Week activities
- 24th August Have a Go Day
- 11th September Action Packed Sports Day
- 18th September Clothes Swap Fundraiser
- 23rd September Spring Parade



- 13th-16th October Year 6 Camp
- 19th October Book Week dress up
- 22-23rd October Middle Primary Bike Camp
- 5th November Music Count us In
- 30th November Visit from Indonesian Consul General
- 4th December Whole School Production
- 11th December Official Classroom Opening Ceremony
- 17th December Graduation Ceremony

STUDENT NUMBERS

There was some movement in our school community during 2020, with some families moving on and new families joining us.

We started 2020 with 77 students attending in term 1, up from 74 students at the end of 2019. We reached a peak of 80 students by the middle of the year, dropping to 74 students at the end of the year.

We were excited to see our second cohort of year 6 students graduate and head off to high school. They were farewelled at a moving graduation ceremony held on the last day of the school year.

TEACHING AND SUPPORT STAFF

In 2020 the School employed 19 staff, comprising 11 teachers, four education assistants, and four executive and administrative staff (Principal, Bursar, Executive Assistant and Administrative Manager). We are fortunate to have such skilled and passionate teachers, dedicated and enthusiastic teaching support staff, and proficient and accomplished executive and administrative staff. At the end of the year we farewelled early childhood teacher Melanie Trenow and EA Merome Darvill, thanking them for their years of service and wishing them well in their future endeavours.

Teachers in 2020:

Upper Primary: Elaine West

Middle Primary: Claire Flottmann

Lower Primary: Simone Barrow and Tash Rubie

Kindy/PP: Mel Trenow and Sarah Pozzi

Walkabout and Science: Olly Watkins

The Arts: Lena Grayson and Jasmine Heslop (to Term 3), Rosie Lane (T3 and 4)

Indonesian: Jasmine Heslop (to Term 3)



LEAP program: Serena Kirby

Classroom support:

Kanae Jones

Jess Dyer

Merome Darvill

Angela Dickenson

Executive and administrative staff:

Principal: Rance Boog

Bursar: Rene Procter

Executive Assistant: Zoe Car

Admin Manager: Sandra Brandao

THANKS

The Spirit of Play School Council would like to heartily thank all the many individuals who devote their passion, energy, time and effort to make this school possible.

These include all the

wonderful kids,
passionate families,
inspired teachers and EAs,
dedicated staff and management,
diverse community groups,
the Shire of Denmark, and
committed volunteers...

... who all make our school so great.

It truly takes a village to raise a child, and we are fortunate and grateful to have the beautiful community in Denmark to help raise our next generation within the Spirit of Play Community School.