



A Surprise!

Not a day goes by without an "opinion" writer publishing on the many and varied "news" websites about the need to find a work/life balance that enables you to be successful in your chosen field and also have a happy and meaningful home life as well. I too used to subscribe to this theory and spent many years pursuing the Holy Grail. What I have come to realise is that it is nearly impossible to prevent your work life from impacting on your home life and vice versa. Now at the risk of sounding like a Marriage Guidance Counsellor I'm pretty sure a significant number of people in the community usually have a conversation with the person they share the fridge with when they get home in the evening about the events of each other's day. I can't speak for other professions (Mrs Guelfi is a Teacher) but I learned very early on in my career that teaching is one of those jobs that if you take your daily routine for granted something will inevitably happen that causes chaos for the day. The inevitable result of this is the partner of that teacher is sure to endure a lengthy and animated debrief at the end of the day.

I'm not sure if there has been a study done on the partners of teachers and how much detail they know about the children in their teacher partner's class but I'm willing to guess (and probably bet) that at any one time it would be significant and if they were placed in the middle of the class in question they would be able to identify each child purely by their nature and behaviour.

Now what I'm trying to say is just recently I failed to take my own advice about treating each day on its merits and not taking the daily routine of Applecross PS for granted when I was presented with some information that evoked a range of emotions and, of course, I went home and spoke with Mrs Guelfi about it that night and have thought about it every day since, because it will have a profound impact on Applecross Primary School in the short term and certainly a legacy in the long term.

YES.....



Mr Peter Herne is.....RETIRING!!!!

I often tell anyone who will listen that schools are like a giant bowl of jelly. While you are working in them you move about and create a ripple effect influencing everything and every person in them with the ripple effect from your movement. But because of the very nature of schools and education they don't stop for anyone so when you extract yourself from the jelly it closes behind you and it's kind of like you were never there. But there is always an exception to the rule, and Peter Herne certainly is that when it comes to his service to the community of Applecross and its children. Peter came to work at Applecross in 1998, some twenty years ago. During that time he has impacted on countless children with his no nonsense approach that is liberally dosed with humour, kindness, life skills and sound advice.

Peter will inevitably be one of a few who prove the "jelly" theory to be not so true. The impact he will leave on Applecross will be noticeable for many years to come through the eyes of parents, students and the staff who have had the pleasure of working with him during his twenty year stay.

On behalf of all who have crossed paths with Peter in the last twenty years I wish him all the very best for the adventures that lie ahead. And yes the news is a reminder for me that the "exceptional" environment that is Applecross Primary School should never be taken for granted.

Other Stuff

I was gently reminded (or reprimanded, I'm not quite sure which) recently that it has been some time since she had read an update on activities that are either happening around the school or are about to happen. So I've listed below a number of projects that are about to get underway or are continuing that you may have forgotten about.

A New Staff Carpark: Believe it or not our school grounds only has parking bays for 26 cars. Given that on any one day there are at least 45 cars parked inside the school grounds, it doesn't take a mathematical genius to figure out we don't have enough. Once the available bays are full (about 7.15am each morning) it's every one for themselves, so we park on the netball courts and the dirt area at the back of the Rosalie building. The good news is that as from early in Term 4 this will no longer be the case. Approval has been granted for the construction of a new 45 bay Staff Carpark in the same area that we currently park. As at this point in time I am unsure of the exact start date but estimate it to be towards the latter half of next term.

Completion of Rosalie Science Centre: Earlier this year we were lucky enough to be the recipients of a government grant to establish Science rooms in primary schools. Because our P&C Association is so very supportive and generous, the project was started last year, with a partial fit out of the Rosalie building to enable us to conduct Science and Technology programs in there, we were able to apply for a grant to complete the works. This will happen during the second half of the year when we will see more bench tops, data cabling, a hot water supply and purpose designed seating supplied and fitted. In addition we will receive a \$25,000 grant to purchase equipment like test tubes, microscopes, i-Pads and robots. This project will add to what is already a fantastic space within our school for the children to engage in Science and Technology activities.

Whiteboard Replacement Program: Once again because of the fantastic support of our P&C Association we are half way through a replacement program to update the whiteboard technology in all classrooms. During Term 1 new boards were installed in Rooms 8, 13, 15 and 16. During the coming school break new boards will be installed in Rooms 17, 18, 19 and 21. A very big thanks to those parents and grandparents who supported our annual Lapathon this year; your hard earned has gone toward the cost of replacing these essential classroom resources.

Applecross Primary School History on the Website: Hopefully you will have noticed that the amount of information available on the school website is increasing all the time. Last week under the "About Us" tab we added access to a document that outlines Applecross Primary School's history. If you click on "[Our History](#)" on the drop down menu you will be taken to a short statement on the history of the school. If you're interested you can then click on the black wording "Our History" at the bottom of the statement and you will gain access to a PDF document that provides a great read on the historical development of Applecross Primary School. Some of the photos are fascinating to see and really give a great pictorial representation of the development of Applecross over its 113 year journey. Happy reading!

DON'T FORGET

1. Second Term break begins this Friday 29 July.
2. The first day of Term 3 for students is Tuesday 17 July.
3. First semester Reports are available from tomorrow 27 June through your Connect Portal. If you experience trouble please don't hesitate to contact Jude James (Deputy Principal) who will be only too happy to guide you through the process.

Kind regards

Kim Guelfi