



How Are We Going?

As any organisation that offers a service it doesn't take much contemplating to come to the conclusion that if you want to know how you are going (what's working and what could be improved) then the simple thing to do would be to ask those for whom you are providing a service. As a school we do engage in a process of surveying our community every two years with the objective of finding out how we are going not only from a parent perspective but we are also interested in what our students think, as well as our staff. So, all of our families, some of our students and our staff will be offered the opportunity in the not too distant future to provide feedback on how the school is going.

Now, if you're thinking to yourself as you read this that you simply don't have the time to fill out yet another survey, especially when you feel your suggestions aren't taken seriously, then I understand where you're coming from. Don't you just hate those people who ring at 6.30pm to ask your opinion on something? My experience with designing and administering surveys is unless people are really interested in the questions they won't take the time to participate AND surveys only give you the answer to the questions you ask! "REALLY".....I hear you saying. What I mean is that it really is important to ask the right questions and to also design the questions so that respondents are able to provide their opinion and offer suggestions for improvement.

Tonight at our School Board meeting one of the agenda items is to look closely at the impending survey and to consider the types of questions we need to ask to elicit really good information/feedback from our community. Hopefully we will be successful and you "enjoy" the experience. **WHEN YOU ARE OFFERED THE OPPORTUNITY PLEASE TAKE THE TEN MINUTES REQUIRED TO COMPLETE THE QUESTIONS SO THAT WE CAN MAKE APPLECROSS AN EVEN BETTER PLACE FOR THE CHILDREN AND THE COMMUNITY.**

Not that I'm very good at predicting the future, if I was I'd be fishing on my very large boat somewhere off the northwest coast, but I'm willing to guess that one of the outcomes of the survey will be that parents place a very high importance on the provision of a safe and secure environment being provided inside the school fence. That's a natural thing for any parent to want when they leave their child in a place that is not part of the family's physical environment. So I'm predicting that all parents will provide feedback that safety for their child/ren at school is a high priority for them. That's great and I'm also confident that we can assure parents that this is something we work really hard on every day.

What I simply can't get my head around is if all parents want a safe and secure environment for their children at school, why then are so many prepared to risk their children's lives twice a day just before school and just after school?

Applecross Primary School is no different to any other school in the metropolitan area when it comes to the provision of enough car parking bays on the perimeter of the school (Applecross doesn't have enough inside the school either but that's another issue). What we do in conjunction with the P&C Association is work really hard to implement a safe drop off and pick up process that is designed primarily to ensure children are safe but is also aimed at alleviating driver stress when picking up and dropping off children. Where this all falls down is a small proportion of our population don't seem to want to ensure their children's safety or the safety of anyone else's child at these very busy times of the day. So we see....

- Parking in ACROD bays.
- Reversing into angled parking bays from the opposite side of the road.
- Stopping in the flow (on a yellow line) of traffic to let children out of the car.
- Pulling up at Kiss & Drive the wrong way.
- Stopping on the opposite side of the road to Kiss & Drive and demanding that a child run through the line of traffic in Kiss & Drive and across the road to get into the car.
- Backing out of a carpark and crossing the road (backwards) to gain entry to the traffic flowing in the other direction.
- Speeding.

- Parking on islands next to signs that say “No Parking”.
- Requiring children to get into a car some ten cars from the front of the Kiss & Drive line and then suddenly pulling out into the flow of traffic without any warning.
- Pulling up in the Kiss & Drive zone, getting out of the car, locking it and walking into the school grounds to deliver a child to their classroom.



I've travelled to many countries around the world and in none of them is it okay to park either side of a sign like this one located on an island. Somehow there are a number of people who pick up and drop off at Applecross who seem to misinterpret this as meaning it is not okay to park on top of the sign but it is ok to park either side of it by having your wheels both on the island and in the parking bay, despite there already being a car in the parking bay.

All of the above are really dangerous behaviours that can be avoided but for the application of some common sense, a little patience and showing courtesy to fellow road users!

Some days it may not seem like it but we do actually have a system when it comes to picking children up and dropping them off. It is mostly based on common sense, the need to have a little patience and it is primarily aimed at extending that safety zone outside the school fence to incorporate the roadways around the school. Information related to this can be found on our website under the “Parent Info” tab. It is titled “School Traffic Management”.

What would also help, when you do get the opportunity to feedback your opinion about our school, is if you feel really strongly about the current traffic issues around Applecross Primary School, and if you have a possible solution, then we would love to hear it.

Kind regards

Kim Guelfi