

SCHOOL COUNCIL PRESIDENT REPORT FOR AGM 2024

The 2023 year was very lively and successful at Beaumaris North Primary School. After a stable year with small classes in 2022 where all our students were able to focus their attention on rebuilding their skills and confidence after the major disruptions in 2020 and 2021, we regrouped as a school body and returned to full business-as-usual operating. With the introduction of Science/STEM as a specialist subject to complement the existing Japanese program, our school offered the widest and most comprehensive curriculum within the Primary Years Program framework.

BNPS is fortunate to have a truly diverse and highly experienced teaching staff, and our outstanding results in the 2023 NAPLAN testing are a testament to the hard work that goes into educating our children not only through Year 3 and Year 5 where testing takes place, but at every stage of their primary school education. Our students should be proud of their strong academic outcomes, and equally proud of their overall resilience, kindness, and caring that they show to one another and to our school staff on a regular basis.

School Council in 2023 was fortunate to have wonderful financial support from our BNPS Parents & Friends. Our Preps were graced with a fantastic new playground at the end of Term 1, our literacy program was bolstered with the addition of hundreds of new phonics readers, and our senior football teams received new jumpers. I thank Natalie Northey and the whole Parents & Friends committee for their outstanding support and commitment to improving our school and engaging our community.

After careful consideration and some roundtable meetings, Council made the significant decision to make plans for a School Fete in 2024. Again led by Natalie Northey, an outstanding team of parents have worked tirelessly since Term 3 to bring that event to life this weekend. It has been wonderful to take this opportunity to fully reintegrate all our families, new and existing, back into our BNPS community: to realise that only our Year 6 cohort for 2024 had ever experienced a BNPS fete as a student (back in 2018 as Preps) was a real driver to rally our community to come together and make this event a reality and a great success.

Our School Council executive featured an all-new line up in 2023, with Natalie Northey being elected as Vice-President, Sonia Hogan as our Treasurer, and Angus Ross taking on the role of Minute Secretary. On behalf of all of School Council I thank our outgoing Treasurer Helen Moore for her wonderful dedication and commitment to her position from 2020 to 2023.

With all meetings held face to face last year, our School Council has continued to work cohesively and collaboratively and on behalf of the School Council executive, I thank all councillors for their service, their time, and their commitment to developing our community. We thank Brent Plowright, a DET representative, for his service on School Council prior to taking up a new opportunity in the Department. We also thank long serving councillors Mike Fitzpatrick and Peter McOrist for their time and dedication to our School Council for many years and wish them very well in their final year as parents in our school.

In the report I tabled on behalf of our outgoing President at this time last year, I noted that while the most obvious and serious health impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic had moved out of our immediate conscious thoughts, the economic impact it has left behind will continue to be felt for years to come. BNPS is part of a thriving local community, albeit one where our demographic is slowly shifting. As our established community watches its families expand and our children grow up before our eyes, opportunities for new families to live in our school zone, and indeed to live in our local government area, become more limited. We must continue to work together to maximise the opportunities we have as a school community to ensure our students are achieving their goals.

The BNPS School Council welcomes your ideas, your thoughts, and your feedback on ways we can make our school the best it can be. Please reach out to me and my fellow councillors at any time to facilitate those discussions.

2024 is going to be a wonderful year for our school. We will continue to shape plans for our school's future and work on solutions that bring our school to the most fulsome and productive it can be while providing our students equal opportunities and resourcing to all students in Victoria. We look forward to working with all of you as we continue on this journey.

Mary Sheargold
President, School Council
Beaumaris North Primary School