

T3 2021 School Board Report

I attended the 2021 Interschool Athletics Carnival at Blue Steel Oval in Bassendean yesterday – not on behalf of the Board but as a parent of one of our MPPS athletes. But as a Board member, it made me proud again to see how enthusiastically, harmoniously and collaboratively our students represented MPPS in front of their peers, teachers and parents from the five other primary schools that competed. And it was wonderful to see so many MPPS parents, carers and family members cheer on our students.

A huge credit must go to the MPPS teaching staff, of course, led by our physical education specialist Amy Wyatt, who prepared our students prior to yesterday and then ensured such a smooth and successful carnival for all.

Yesterday's performance also highlighted to me, for a second time this month, how inclusive our school is and the extent to which participation and effort by all are encouraged.

Earlier this month, the school's new multicultural playgroup featured on ABC Perth radio in a segment entitled "the United Nations of MPPS". The playgroup, which began this year as a three-year trial of a Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Early Years Link program (CaLDEYLink), is the result of creative thinking by MPPS staff about ways to better engage with the broader school community.

Both events this month are examples of the MPPS ethos to build "partnerships with students, parents and the community".

The Board meets every term and focuses on extending MPPS' partnerships, primarily with parents and the broader community, all with a clear objective to assist with delivering an ever-improving outcome for the students.

At our meeting this term, the Board again spent much of its time discussing issues we believe we can play a role in addressing, solving or promoting for the benefit of the school.

These issues included an update on an increasing need for accessible and conveniently located out-of-school care (the Board has helped MPPS to engage the City of Bayswater), the traffic challenges that are affecting the school and the progress with the Safe Routes to School initiative being championed by one of our Board members, Elli Petersen-Pik, and the national school chaplaincy program and the importance of maintaining a high-value and highly valued pastoral care service at MPPS.

As I have written previously, the Board's primary role is to ensure the school adheres to its governance principles. This includes acting as a sounding board for principal Paul Andrijich and his leadership team and raising matters that may be non-operational from a school perspective but of importance to the MPPS community. The Board takes this role very seriously and is committed to hearing all viewpoints – because a school as diverse as MPPS is made up of lots of different but equally relevant views.

As always, I would be delighted to discuss the functions and roles of the MPPS Board, or an issue you believe should be discussed at Board level, with you. You can contact me at schoolboard@mpps.wa.edu.au.

In the meantime, I hope you enjoy the Term 3 holiday.

Peter Klinger

MPPS School Board Chair