

Namadgi School Board

End of year update

As the school year draws to a close, the Namadgi School Board would like to acknowledge the efforts of all of the students, teachers and Executive, as well as the parents and volunteers; in what has been a somewhat challenging year.

The Board welcomed several new members this year, and also had the pleasure of working with both Ms Mahon and Mr Richards in the role as school principal. The school captains, Oliver and Charlie, ably represented the student voice and brought forward great ideas about looking after student health and wellbeing, and feedback on workloads and assessment structures. We look forward to hearing more from the student representatives next year, including from the primary student representative council.

Despite the disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic this year, including an extended period of remote learning; the Board has continued to focus on the improvement of student progress and performance, to support all Namadgi School students to achieve their full potential.

This has included:

- reviewing a collection of school policies, such as Gifted and Talented students and Sunsmart practices;
- making budget and financial decisions including about new school resources;
- securing the continuation of the school Japanese languages program, under the expert guidance and advice of Ms Tiffany Mahon;
- ensuring our strategic plans respond to information the community gives us about their experience in the Namadgi school community, including the introduction of the Namadgi School Indigenous Uniform earlier in the year, and continually monitoring traffic and parking conditions around the school to keep the community informed about how best to get our students safely to and from school; and
- recognising the work of the teachers and staff in the ACT Public Education Awards, where we saw a number of our community nominated, Julie White win for her work as *Education Support Person of the Year*, and Bea Hale recognized across two categories *Leader of the Year in supporting Diversity and Inclusion* and *Leader of the Year in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education*. Congratulations to all nominees, finalists and our winner!

Congratulations to the students on what they have achieved this year, and on their incredible resilience as they adapted to the changing circumstances. Well done especially to the graduating Year 10 Class of 2021, the first kindergarten class of our school. The graduation was a great celebration, especially the live vocal performance of Ms Tiffany Mahon!

In 2022, work will continue on supporting a number of activities and initiatives across Namadgi School that contribute to the priority areas of the school's strategic plan. We also hope to participate in some of the belated 10th school anniversary celebrations in partnership with the P&C. Until then, we wish all members of the Namadgi community a safe and restful break.

The Namadgi School Board meets in weeks 3 and 7 of each term. The Board encourages its community to contact the Board if there are particular items you wish to raise. This can be done via our secretariat, Janet Flint at info@namadgi.act.edu.au.

Catherine McLachlan, Board Chair and Board members