Ringrose Public School

A voice for all through consultative decision making

Context

Ringrose Public School is located in south-western Sydney. The school is committed to learning for the 21st century and quality teaching with a clear focus on continuous improvement in literacy and numeracy. The school has an enrolment of 380 students, including 48 per cent of students from a language background other than English and two per cent of students who identify as Aboriginal. The school’s Family Occupation and Educational Index (FOEI) rating is 88 (2015/16 average). The school curriculum delivers explicit and comprehensive programs in a safe, secure and nurturing environment. Collaborative planning and consultative decision making are valued by the whole school community.

Enhancing community consultation

School leaders wanted to ensure that the school engaged with the community in an authentic way, ensuring that the school vision and the school plan were developed through genuine consultative decision making. Surveys, workshops, forums and in-depth conversations, which included the analysis of student performance data, were held with all staff and key parent groups. A school plan working party made up of parents and teachers was established. The priority was to develop a shared vision for the school. Smaller working groups were formed and focus questions relating to what the school was doing well and possible future directions were developed and addressed. Discussion points from each group were shared with the whole group and prioritised. Three strategic directions which reflected the learning goals and needs of all key stakeholders were identified.

Communication between the school, home and the community was an area for improvement identified by the working party. This led to the formation of the school promotions team. They worked to ensure that high level communication strategies were utilised throughout the school community. In addition, the assistant principal undertook professional learning in Communicating and Engaging with your Community provided by the Department and utilised the knowledge gained as an active member of the team.

Achievements

- A new and improved newsletter is now distributed fortnightly with class and student achievements outlined.
- Workshops for parents have been provided by teachers and parents as part of the Kick-start Kindergarten transition program.
- Parents continue to be engaged in a formal planning and evaluation group and there is increased parent involvement in all aspects of school life. Surveys indicate that collaborative planning and consultative decision making are valued by the whole school community.
- As communication improves, parents are gaining confidence, relationships are being strengthened and community members are more actively involved in consultative decision making.

Sustainability

As part of the school plan, the school will continue to:

- improve their website and develop a Facebook page. Parent/class representatives will be trialled for the purpose of liaising with class teachers, the school and parents to support families, keep parents informed and provide feedback to the school.
- investigate the skills and talents available in the parent community and how they may be utilised in classrooms and across the school
- increase parents’ curriculum knowledge and understandings by filming lessons from school programs for parents to view on line. Parents have also indicated that they would value seeing lessons involving technology and new ways of teaching.
- engage regularly with families and the wider community through surveys and interviews and will use data, feedback and responses to assess the impact of actions undertaken.

For more information on Ringrose Public School visit their website.