

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a massive week it has been here at school. The renovations continue through the main building with the pin-boards going in this week and next as well as the painting coming to a conclusion soon. The room areas are looking terrific and will be even better when the carpet goes in (starting from March 14 at this point). We hope to have classes back in their rooms in full by the end of next week with only the day out for carpet after that. In the meantime we have been utilizing the band room (5-6C), the art room (5-6J) and the library (5-6L). On Monday and Tuesday 3-6H will attend classes in the MOOSH room so that the painting and pin-boarding can be completed in their room. All in all, there is a smell of “new-ness” around the place that is becoming more and more pervasive and it is exciting to see the new facilities take shape.

There are already some exceptional opportunities opening up on the teaching front from the new structures too. We have a shared Kindergarten space in which KG and KC attend their classes. It is something to behold Kindergarten students, in just their first five weeks of schooling, working with such concentration, collaboration and engagement and the way they move around the room and work with such respect for each other is tremendous too. Upstairs in our shared Year 5-6, every time I visit they are in a different formation doing different things but the focus and energy in the room, which is almost as big as our hall, is something special too. With our 3-4 classes re-entering their rooms, it really interesting to observe the difference that the open space and class numbers makes and the opportunities that are offered. Students aren't restricted to their own class as such. They have the support of more students and the hyper-vigilance of teachers not only being in front of them but behind them as well.

Our regular classroom spaces continue then just as normal – happy and welcoming spaces that are engaging and energetic and provide the “feel” that so many enjoy at Maitland Public School. I have been wandering this week around the school with contractors looking at our next upgrades through planned maintenance with all classrooms “getting the treatment” with carpets coming over the holidays (and probably a little beyond – it will be a big undertaking) as well as paint and pin-boards through Term 2. The reasoning behind the pin-boards is two-fold. One, it provides a great display and learning space and two, it deadens sound and ensures that our classrooms are an oasis of calm and happiness (sounds idyllic, doesn't it!). Students, staff and parents have been very patient through the works and we thank you for that. The end result is going to be exceptional for our school and we can't wait to show our new spaces off in the very near future. We will hold an open day (afternoon) when the Pender works are complete and the furniture in place so you too can see the advancements that have been made and the advantages our students will enjoy.

At times over the start of the year I have felt more of a project manager than a principal but there are great things happening at school. We have appointed Miss Harris as our fourth assistant principal this week so that we have four Stage teams of four to five teachers that will give us great collaborative structures to drive new initiatives and to really know and plan for and assess every child within a Stage group. Mrs. Robins will be Assistant Principal (ES1) for two days a week with Mrs. Cameron on leave and I congratulate Mrs. Robins and Miss Harris on their appointments.

Enjoy the week. Look after each other.

Kevin Greaves (Principal)
Maitland Public School
March 2, 2018