



# Sandringham East Primary School

Department of Education & Training require all schools to undertake a school review every 4 years. In 2015 Sandringham East Primary School underwent its 4 yearly review.

## 2015 SCHOOL REVIEW

### Report from School Council President, Geoff McRobinson

Every four years schools are required to undergo a strategic school review. Many of you gave us input to this review via the workshops we held several weeks ago (parents, teachers and children participated in separate workshops). This information helps us establish focus areas for tactical improvements; which we revisit in our Annual Implementation Plan each year. The school review panel included representation from:

- Accredited school reviewer: Mr Tony Ross from Monash University
- Staff: Teachers – Michelle Smith, Karen Roberts, Kate Hornsby, Claire Parsons and Eileen Lunney. Principal – Lauren Walton, Assistant Principal – Genevieve Casonato and Business Manager – Helen Dalzotto
- PFA & Community: PFA President – Angela Grogan, Past Parent & School Councillor – Rebecca Wilde
- School Council: President – Geoff McRobinson, School Council Representative – Belinda Wilson
- Peer Principals: Elsternwick PS – Mark Walker and Mentone Park PS – Kendra Parker
- Department of Education & Training: SARP – Simon Hamilton

The review clearly showed us what a great school we have. The panel was thoroughly impressed with tours of the school, led by our well-spoken, confident and knowledgeable children from Level 6 (a big thank you to Emma, Marcus, Louis, Max, Tash, Lucy, Phoenix, Sarah and Ruby). Equally impressive were the children who came in and answered questions for the review panel. In many ways, the children 'sold' the panel on the quality of what we do at SEPS whilst also helping us to be clearer about areas to focus on



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for the next four years. The enthusiasm and confidence exhibited by our SEPS children – who had no forewarning that they would be called to speak of their views and be quizzed by a large group of adults was amazing. Thank you to Orlando, Olivia, Emma, Phoenix, Sarah, Oliver, Amelia, Lucy, Rosalie and Mia. Special thanks also to Mr Marco and his team of volunteers for a very tasty Pizza and salad lunch.

We spent the review day examining the excellent progress made since our last review in 2011. Everyone on the panel felt the day had been a huge success. We have now received the reviewers report and it confirms that SEPS is travelling extremely well – as our Reviewer said: “one of Metropolitan Melbourne's high performing schools.”

## School Review comments from Newsletter May 11<sup>th</sup>

Congratulations to our Junior School Council students (Orlando, Emma, Olivia, Phoenix, Sarah, Oliver, Amelia, Lucy, Rosalie and Mia) who proudly shared their reflections about SEPS with the panel members for the School Review. The panel visitors were most impressed at the confidence, pride and knowledge of the school that they saw in the discussions about what the students felt about Sandy East.

Review Day, May 4<sup>th</sup>, involved a full day looking at progress over the last Strategy Plan period with regard to: student achievement, student engagement, student wellbeing and productivity. The day was a great success with much professional discussion leading to a pretty clear direction for the future. The Reviewer, Tony Ross, will have a report to us soon and then we will work on the new Strategy Plan for the coming four years.

It was good that Simon Hamilton, the SARP from DET, was there most of the morning and I have had a call from him saying **“that was the best review I have ever been to!”** He was impressed with our amazing students who so confidently talked about their school and with the wide range of participants around the table and the level of discussion and professional debate.





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The Reviewer and DET representative were also impressed with the staff discussion at recess and their positive feedback and acclamation about leadership, professional learning and the programs at the school. Along with the Peer Principals, they agreed that our self-evaluation was **outstanding** and congratulated the school.

The Reviewer managed the day well to ensure that we dug deep into our self-evaluation and concluded **“I think this is one of Metropolitan Melbourne’s high performing schools”**.

**SO...this is a team effort and I thank each and every one of our school community (students, parents and staff) for being part of the amazing team that is SEPS.**

Panel members' comments included:

- It was a great day and so great to hear all the amazing things the school is doing. (School Councillor)
- The day was evidence of the amazingly hard work that we do as a whole school team – thank you for the opportunity to be involved. (Teacher)
- Thanks for asking me to be a part of today's experience. It has given me a more informed appreciation of the work and dedication behind making SEPS the wonderful school that it is. (School Councillor)
- I just wanted to say “thank you” for including me in yesterday's SEPS School Review. What a wonderful way to tie up my time with the school – I came home buzzing about the wonderful school we have been blessed to have been part of for 15 years. You are doing an exceptional job and I just wish all parents knew how fortunate they are to have you at the helm leading a talented teaching team full of passion and drive. (Parent)
- I was so proud how well all our students presented themselves and their school during the panel tours & review consultation – proud & confident. Visiting Principal's on the review panel were impressed with SEPS results! (Staff)
- Wow what an action packed day. We spent time discussing what's working well and delved into what skills could we further improve on as teachers in the future. Looking forward to the next exciting stage at SEPS. (Teacher)
- Great day yesterday – congratulations again on the wonderful work you are doing. (Peer Principal)
- It was an inspiring day to reflect on what we have achieved as a school community and to set goals for the future. (Teacher)