Notice 029 - 2016 Front of School Redevelopment

To all Gray St Parents:

I am excited to announce that after years of fundraising, planning and preparation, the school will be starting the redevelopment of the front of the school. Temporary fencing will be erected tomorrow (Tuesday) and major works should start this week. The entire project should take around 12 weeks to be completed, depending on the weather.

As a result of these works, the bottom Drop-and-Go Zone will be unavailable for the rest of this term, and the start of next term. We ask that parents spend as little time as possible parked at the top of the school to enable all students to be picked up. We encourage as many students as possible to walk to school and we are investigating creating a “walking bus” to help students walk to school in a supervised manner.

Grade 1 and 2 students will line up at the top of the steps near the canteen, and access to these classrooms will be through the Open Learning Area.

Grade 3 students will access their classrooms between the school and the oval. There will be short periods when they will not be able to access their regular classrooms and classes will be held in the library during these times. We will ensure that any changes to regular classrooms are communicated to parents. NAPLAN is being held next week and students will be sitting the test in a quiet location away from any distractions, either in the Library, or in the Grade 5/6 building.

Additional clubs and indoor play spaces will be made available over the term while the front of the school is fenced off. Classroom teachers will have access to this information in the coming weeks.

Contractors working on-site will not be accessing the playground or school facilities unless they have signed in at the front office and following the regular procedures for contractors.

Out of School Hours Care (OSHC) will operate during the usual hours, but access will be through the office.

Students who ride to school are asked to leave their bikes at the end of the stadium.

I apologise for the late notice in communicating this information, but we were able to take advantage of an acceleration in the work timeline.

Thank you for your understanding,

Lachlan Yeates
Principal
Breaking Ground on our Outdoor Classroom and New Basketball/Netball Courts

The school community will be aware that we have been planning and saving to completely redesign the Gray Street side of the school with an outdoor classroom, new basket/netball courts and landscaping. This project has garnered benefactor’s support, a bequest and local funds saved by the school specifically for this purpose over recent years.

The project has been a priority after the master plan was undertaken in 2010. Due to the scale and specialist nature of the project, an experienced Landscape Architect and Urban Design Consultant - Urban Initiatives Pty Ltd, was chosen to develop detailed design, scope of works, documentation and an opinion of probable cost for the project. At last year’s school concert I announced that we had reached a fund raising target that would allow us to proceed with the project in early 2016.

During term 1 of 2016, a local project manager, experienced in government capital works projects, was approach to assist School Council. Jack McArthur of McArthur Solutions has assisted to seek quotes for each facet of the project and assess the capabilities and experience of trades to be used for the works. Full costings and quotations were presented to School Council at its meeting on 18th April 2016. A motion to proceed with the project with a maximum budget of $350,000 was endorsed.

I am delighted to report that work will commence from this week with security fencing being installed on the site during the week. The trades and contractors are ready to proceed once the site is secure. Civil works will be expected to commence immediately after, with works on the project likely to take 10 – 12 weeks.

We expect to complete the project with minimum disruption to the operations of the school however a number of special arrangements will need to be made to the regular activities and drop off arrangements. These will be communicated shortly.

We will be working closely with our Grade 3 teachers in Miss Ferrier and Miss Callaway as the project will be undertaken directly in front of their classroom. Alternate access arrangements will be made throughout the project. We will endeavour to keep parents of Grade 3 students well informed of any changes throughout the project. We thank them in advance for their cooperation and understanding as we undertake this generational project for our school.

This is a much anticipated project for our school which will have a lasting impact for years to come. As a school community there will be an opportunity to come together for a tree planting working bee once the structural work has been complete. Plans of the project will be available to view in the reception area.

Again I would like to thank all staff for their patience as we commence this project and look forward to seeing the final transformation. If you have any questions or seek further information please contact our Acting Principal, Lachlan Yeates.

Hugh Koch
School Council President