CAMPBELL PRIMARY SCHOOL BOARD
FOCUS GROUP OUTCOMES

The Campbell Primary School Board conducted two Parent Focus Groups on Thursday 12 May 2011 and Wednesday 18 May 2011 to assist the Board in its consideration of the Strategic Plan.

In preparing for the Focus Groups, the Board requested parents to nominate three things they thought the school did well and three things that could be improved. From the responses received, three themes emerged:

- Balanced Curriculum
- Communications,
- Building a Positive School Community.

Each Focus Group endorsed the adoption of these themes with a fourth added, Other, to capture any novel issues raised during discussions.

The consolidated results of the Focus Groups are presented below under each of the above themes. Some of the issues raised may appear under more than one theme as the issues may relate to the communication of curriculum, for instance.

**Balanced Curriculum**

- NAPLAN results vs School results
- What are the curriculum goals – Term Overviews (Teacher terminology, use of phonics) – Continuous messaging about system of education
- Transition to structured learning
- 'Rock & Water' – Positive
- Values – Positive
- Dance – Positive
- Professional and committed staff
- Process of Home Readers needs structure. Changing of readers is parent-driven but should be teacher-driven; Rotating Pack suggested; Information Sheet at beginning of year/term for parents;
- Parents (Parent Helpers) that deliver home reading program need training
- What extension processes are in place? Need to communicate to parents and students. Concern expressed regarding academic ceiling in classes
- Differentiation in Teaching – moved away from teaching to middle.
- Literacy & Numeracy vs Arts
- PARENT PARTNERING IN CHILDREN'S EDUCATION

**Communication**

- Parent/Teacher communications – Term Overview & Discussion Sessions – Positive
- Website Information relevant
- Home Reading – How does colour coding work?
- Paper-based messaging/notices are problematic – Electronic Permission Forms print, sign and return
- Content is an issue rather than channels
- Promote e-mail addresses designated for feedback
- Need to elicit/encourage feedback
- Greatest weakness is parents communicating back to school
• Notices – PARENT PACK
• Learning Journeys – Positive
• Assemblies – Positive
• Parent Information Night is important
• Communicating extension programs to parents and children
• Family Accounts – Specific campaign
• On-going, continuous communication with parents regarding academic rigour
• Build-up feeling of loyalty
• Board Visibility
• Online Survey
• Reach out to Defence
• IT TAKES A VILLAGE TO RAISE A CHILD

Growing a Positive School Community

• Positive sense of community – but not positive enough
• Improvements to physical environment good
• Problems are dealt with quickly
• Explore P&C parent donations eg support for Canteen
• Staff are very professional
• CASAC is excellent
• P&C activities eg Trivia Night – Great
• Maintain/Build relationships with Campbell Shops
• Local (Defence site) fundraising
• Before school gathering/play areas
• Solicit reading support, etc from local residents
• Office Staff are great
• Partnerships with Defence, local companies – model SPARK Reading
• Value Proposition – Voluntary contribution
• IT TAKES A VILLAGE TO RAISE A CHILD

Other

• Family Accounts
• Anonymous Feedback Box

Suggestions

• Literacy & Numeracy Parent Workshop
• Harness Parent/Teacher resources
• Home Reader Information Sheet – explain process
• Parent Pack
• Ongoing Comms
• Campaign for Family Accounts
• Survey re online access and computers at home