

## 2015 P&C Survey results for discussion at P&C 19/8/15

**Q1) Are you aware of the Forrest Primary School mobile app for Apple and Google mobile devices?**

### Published Results

2015: Count 82. Yes 64%, No 36% (not aware, no smart phone)

2014: Count 97. Yes 91%, No 5%, don't have access 4%

2013: Count 5. Yes 85%, No 0%, don't have access 14%

COMMENTS: like newsletters better, excellent reminders, love the morning reminders, app a bit clunky and messages sometime come too late, should be one for windows phones, can tie in with afters notifications as well.

### Analysis

Forrest Primary School app is a useful tool used by the majority of surveyed parents however an increasing number of those surveyed were unaware of the app.

### Considerations

- 1) Discuss with school how to better integrate P&C/School communication channels
- 2) School to consider extending the app to windows smart phones.
- 3) School to consider an additional plug of the App in the newsletter to target those who are unaware of the app
- 4) P&C to offer to review new parents handbook content including all communication channel information.

**Q2) What is the best way for the P&C to communicate with your family about activities & news?**

### Published Results

	2015 (ranking)	2014	2013
School newsletter	1	75%	40%
Email	2	62%	34%
School app	3	30%	
P&C website	4	9%	14%
Class parent representative (new)	5	N/a	N/a
Notice board in the school foyer	6	7%	4%
Social media such as Twitter or facebook	7	2%	7%

### Analysis

Overwhelmingly the survey results identified the school newsletter, email and the school app as the 3 most effective forms of communication in that order. Notice boards and Social media rated as the lowest/least effective ways to communicate.

### Considerations

- 1) The email subscription introduced in May on the P&C website is not widely used (as per website stats) so consider promoting or abandoning. If promoting need to consider in light of Afters has a mail list, the school and P&C has class parent reps, should we be asking parents to sign up to third email subscription list. Would it make sense to combine the Afters and P&C email lists.

2) Consider purpose of P&C website and whether it fits purpose/review website.

**Q3) Why did you choose Forrest Primary School for your children? (not asked in 2013)**

**Published Results**

Comments include:

- 2015 – good teacher and friendly families, word of mouth, sibling, close to home, good reputation, high academic achievements, proximity to work and home, ethos of school aligns with values, size and nature of school, great after school care program, friends at school, smaller class sizes, PYP & IB, amazing teachers, it’s awesome, multiculturalism, excellent Principal and senior teachers, impressions when being shown around school, seemed like lovely school grounds, well balanced curriculum.
- 2014 – Cultural diversity and academic quality; local government school; near work and liked the ‘feel’ of school when visited; IB Program; quality before and after school program; reputation, multicultural acceptance, would fulfil our child’s academic and emotional needs; recommended by others; general feel of the school and teachers; principal; smaller school with smaller classes; caring environment.

**Analysis**

The following summarises the reasons why people chose Forrest Primary School by analysing the comments made (80 comments, though some comments identified multiple reasons):-

Location	45 comments identified with this reason
1 <sup>st</sup> hand experience of the school - quality, caring teachers - Ms Pilgrim - IB program - look and feel of school and grounds - small classes - community	31 comments identified with this reason
2 <sup>nd</sup> hand experience of the school - online rating - recommendations by family/friends - general reputation	25 comments identified with this reason
Before/afters program and after school activities	9 comments identified with this reason
Friends or siblings at Forrest Primary	8 comments identified with this reason

**Considerations**

- 1) Knowledge building exercise, no considerations or action required.

**Q4) How would you normally provide feedback or suggestions regarding experiences at school?**

**Published Results**

	2015 (ranking)	2014	2013
Talking/emailing the teacher?	1	91%	51%
Talking/emailing the Principal?	2		
Talking to other parents?	3	N/a	
Attending a P&C meeting to raise the matter?	4	25%	18%
Talking/emailing a P&C executive member?	5	27%	22%
Through the class parent representative?	6	N/a	
Raising via the School Board?	7	N/a	

Comments include: FOOSHC, at other school meetings, hard to raise suggestions – people get defensive, depends on situation – teacher then principal, filling out surveys, depends on issue.

**Analysis**

Overwhelmingly parents surveyed would provide feedback/suggestions to the school by talking with their classroom teacher (89%), then contacting the principal(45.1%).

The other method that rated as highly as speaking with the principal was to speak with other parents (45.1%). This is interesting as it is not an effective means of providing feedback or suggestions to the school or P&C. This could be interpreted as a means of self-solving issues by discussion with peers or as a means of airing views w/o expectation of resolution. Alternatively it could indicate that parents feel as if they do not have the means of communicating their views or feel intimidated to communicate their views.

Following this, parents surveyed would consider communicating with the P&C via attending meetings (22%), talking with a P&C exec member (14.6%) or talking with a class rep (13.4%). Only 1.2% would seek to raise their view to the school board.

Single comments made suggested that - P&C contact information was not readily available; and a suggestions box could be put in front foyer as “Hard to raise suggestions- people get defensive if I do raise them”.

**Considerations**

- 1) A suggestions box in foyer is not ideal as there is no way to address the suggestions or feedback with the person making them, and considerable resources may be required to process them. If community members would like to make suggestion/feedback w/o direct contact with school, then they should raise it with the P&C or the parent representatives on the board (or the DET). If want to make them anonymously, then they need to wait for the school or P&C survey.
- 2) Market P&C contact information more visibly on website and in newsletter.
- 3) Ensure Board aware should they wish to act.

## **Q5) What future wish would you have for Forrest Primary School? (not asked in 2013)**

### **Published Results**

Comments include:

- 2015 – a better second language program, keep up great teaching, homework space/time at afters, more emphasis on maths, special classes or help for disruptive students, install the fence, better extension programs, replacement for the red/yellow, landscaping, clean and tidy school, more music and language available each week, keep good afters program, that school become an IB school, better uniform regulation, better food for lunch orders, increased readers for junior school, have indoor play space for wet weather, library project go ahead, proper support for children with learning disabilities, staff are less stressed, front of school look smarter, more a community feel than school and afters feeling separate.
- 2014 – More parents pay their school fees; better communication; specialized teachers – PE, art, music, sport; functional library; new exterior/interior paint; improved outdoor areas/playgrounds; music teachers; language program; more information on website and by email; increased focus on ICT; more excursions; to strive for excellence; shade over junior eating area; increase community participation in school life; school to be fence; school not to be fenced; openness and creativity to continue to drive school's approach; better hygiene and cleanliness; increased communication re homework; P&C was more inclusive; bullying be stamped out; success in IB accreditation; continue to improve teaching quality; languages for all children each week.

### **Analysis**

This question offers a free text response regarding a future wish for the school without multiple choice answers; as such many different responses were given.

Broadly the comments fell into the areas of Curriculum (33 comments), Grounds (17 comments), Equipment (9 comments), P&C + school relationship (6 comments), Communication (5 comments) and P&C services (4 comments).

Some of the ideas that were raised by multiple people included:

- Curriculum – extend the 2<sup>nd</sup> language program, PE, arts, music, library and maths – interest in that order.
- Grounds – comments regarding the erection of a fence (4 for, 1 against), new library, landscaping and a general cleanup of grounds were raised multiple times.
- Equipment – Junior readers, increased incursions & excursions.
- Relationship - a number of people raised a wish for a better relationship between the P&C and the school
- Communication – improved communication, 1 comment that suggested a combined communication interface of school, afters and P&C.
- P&C – better food at the canteen, include a homework club at afterschool care and improve the holiday program.

## Considerations

- 1) Discuss with school how to better integrate P&C/School communication channels
- 2) Pass on full list of suggestions to relevant group for consideration or action:
  - Curriculum and equipment → board and school
  - grounds → school/P&C development committee
  - better food at canteen → canteen committee
  - homework club and holiday program comments → FOOSHC

**Q6) How could your family contribute to the school community? Please indicate preferences.**

## Published Results

	<b>2015 (ranking)</b>	<b>2014 (ranking)</b>	<b>2013 (ranking)</b>
Attending school functions	1	1	1
Donations	2	N/a	N/a
Reading with your child's class	3	2	2
Being a class representative	4	4	N/a
Working with the P&C	5	3	3
Library	6	5	4
Assisting with uniform shop	7	8	6
Canteen	7	6	5
Traffic duty	9	6	N/a
Assisting with afterschool program	N/a	N/a	7

Comments include:

- Hope to do more, working fulltime so can't help anymore, trivia hampers each year, help with excursions, homework clubs, disengaged early as poor organization, attending meetings.

**Q7) Is there anything that limits you from becoming more involved in aspects of school life?**

## Published Results

	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2013</b>
Not enough time/too busy	63%	56%	58%
I already participate in school activities	45%	54%	
Activities have been at awkward times	24%	20%	27%
I am not aware of how I can be involved	10%	7%	8%
Activities have not interested me	5%	0%	5%
unable to attend for financial/ transport reasons	0%	0%	0%

## Analysis of Q6 and Q7

In Q6 the vast majority of those surveyed identified with making contributions to the school community by attending social events (72%) and making donations (57.3%). These activities are once offs and do not require any ongoing commitment. These type of activities suit those surveyed and it is presumed from the responses in Q7 that this is due to parents having "not enough time/too busy" (62.7% identified with this). 24.1% also found the opportunities to volunteer in school were at "awkward times".

Following this, parents surveyed were more involved in class room type volunteering such as helping with reading (49.3%) and being a class representative (33.3%). Working with the P&C also rated highly in the preferences (26.7%).

Volunteering opportunities which are more general, during work hours and with ongoing commitments attracted the least preference with traffic duty (5.3%), library (17.3%), and canteen (6.7%).

In Q7 the number of surveyed parents who already participate in school activities was 44.6%. *This indicates that almost half of those parents who took the time to participate in the survey are those parents who are already involved with the school community.*

### **Considerations from Q6 and Q7**

- 1) These preferences should be considered for future community volunteering events. E.g. more one off activities out of hours - working bees on weekends? Or more monetary donations for specific causes - Landscaping drive – buy a plant? Library – buy a carpet floor tile? People also seem more likely to get involved if the event is linked to their child's class or year group.
- 2) For next year's survey, how do we get more families to participate from the pool of families who are less involved in the school community?

**Q8) P&C meetings are held on Wednesday night at 7.30pm in weeks 2 and 8 each term. The meetings discuss any current issues within the school community, hear reports from the Principal and plan activities. The meetings are open to all parents and carers. Are there any issues you want to see specifically covered or time you want to see set aside for a specific purpose?**

### **Published Results**

Comments include:

- 2015 – improved pick up and drop off arrangements, afters/holiday program planning, money go to classes for educational expenses, more seating outside, bullying, improved communication, language classes, school and afters need to communicate better to be a united community, review the uniform.
- 2014 – Curriculum, home work support, regular P.E program; new fiction library books; discussions on how the school is dealing with bullying, improved communication between school & parents; 5 year strategic plan; additional fund raising ideas; newsletter, emphasis on sporting and recreation pursuits in Asia – ping pong and badminton; teaching an Asia-focused curriculum.

### **Analysis**

This question offers a free text response regarding issues that could be discussed at future P&C meetings. As such various comments were made. Those issues raised multiple times included the issue of parents ignoring the traffic drop off/pickup arrangements (3 comments) and the opportunity to have a fence forum (3 comments).

Other interesting comments included:

- Suggestion for the P&C meeting agenda to be expanded to include the key points to be discussed and distributed a week before the meeting.
- P&C to have an off-site meeting in addition to the school P&C meeting

- P&C to be more transparent about how funds are spent

### Considerations

- 1) Traffic issue is already known to school, board, and P&C. The ACT Government has determined a course of action. Pass comments to school for their information/if the ACT Government seeks feedback.
- 2) Fence forum has now taken place. Fence issue now being handled by Board who will receive a copy of this report.
- 3) P&C to consider holding an additional off-site meeting every term.
- 4) P&C to make agenda and meeting papers available on the website a week in advance of the meeting.
- 5) P&C to promote what monies raised through businesses and fundraising are spent on.

**Q9) In addition to fundraising, the P&C organizes some community events such as the welcome BBQ and trivia night (Friday May 29th). Are you happy with the events and would you like to see other events organised? (not asked in 2014 or 2013)**

### Published Results

Count 76, yes 76%, no 24%

Comments – fair/fete, fun night for families to connect, games night with kids included, bush dance, more events for indigenous kids, outdoor movie night, another maths night, support group for parents who are struggling, camping on the oval with a parent.

### Considerations

- 1) Re-establish the P&C events subcommittee, promote it and seek active participation by parents
- 2) Pass suggested event ideas to the P&C events committee for action
- 3) Discuss the suggestion about a support group for parents with the school

**Q10) What issues do you think the P&C should consider as a priority to discuss with the school for support in 2015/16?**

### Published Results

	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2013</b>
Maths and science programs	35%	N/a	N/a
extracurricular activities (music, dance, art)	22%	14%	N/a
Installation of all-purpose court	10%	N/a	N/a
More ICT	9%	N/a	10%
Landscaping around the school	9%	N/a	N/a
School furniture (adjustable desks)	7.5%	N/a	N/a
Upgrading afterschool facilities/resources	6%	26%	N/a
School buildings refurbishment	1.5%	28%	38%
Additional take home readers	0%	N/a	N/a
Playground equipment	N/a	67%	27%
Specialist programs (i.e. music, sport, languages)	N/a	62%	19%
Library refurbishment	N/a	28%	N/a

Comments include:

- I like all of the above, more science classes, new asphalt, new furniture, bullying, landscaping, rip out ugly front garden, books for junior school, arts and language program, IT person on staff, teacher development, more maths and science.

### **Analysis**

Respondents were asked to nominate areas for improvement for the P&C to consider as priorities from a list.

Unfortunately there should have been the option to choose multiple responses but the survey form limited them to 1. Note that many people commented that they would have chosen multiple responses if able.

The areas were prioritised as follows :

- Maths & science programs 35.3%
- Art programs in music, dance, art 22.1%
- Installation of all-purpose court (netball, handball etc) 10.3%
- Landscaping 8.8%
- ICT resources 8.8%
- School furniture 7.4%
- Upgrading of after school facilities 5.9%
- Fixing up school buildings 1.5%

### **Considerations**

- 1) Ensure next survey the limited answer issue is rectified
- 2) For consideration in P&C strategic plan and in discussions with school
- 3) Ensure Board is aware.

**Q11) Does your family currently use before or after school care or vacation care at the school? (not asked in 2014 or 2013)**

### **Published Results**

Count 82, Yes 76%, No 24%

Comments – great resource and the kids love it, staff are fantastic, possibly too boring for older grades, I like the activities on offer.

### **Analysis**

75.6% of respondents use the after school or vacation care program.

### **Considerations**

- 1) Knowledge building exercise, no considerations or action required.

**Q12) Currently there is a range of afterschool activities that are offered separately or in conjunction with afterschool care. These include – art, singing, chess, tae kwon do, tennis, soccer, languages and music tuition. Are you happy with the range of afterschool activities that the P&C offers? Are there other activities that you would like to see offered?**

### **Published Results**

Count 75. Yes 80%, No 3%

Comments – keyboard, Japanese, more music classes, see activities vary each semester, AFL, homework club, soccer again, tutoring, cooking, need more spots in some activities, not keen on minecraft.

### **Analysis**

80.0% of those surveyed were happy with the range of afterschool activities, 2.7% wanted additional activities added. 13% skipped the question.

Suggestions for new activities included:

- keyboard
- japanese classes (presumably to expand on the classes held at school)
- more music classes (x4)
- varying activities per team e.g. sports activities as per season
- AFL
- tutored homework club (x2)
- Soccer

### **Considerations**

- 1) the full list of suggestions will be passed to FOOSCH for their consideration

**Q13) The canteen is becoming a ‘Fresh Tastes’ canteen serving healthier food options. Have you any suggestions for regular menu items? Have you any suggestions for ‘special lunches’? - these have usually been pizza, however sushi has been trialed.**

### **Published Results**

Comments – larger range of healthy foods, sushi is great, hamburger day, wrap day, toasted sandwiches, fried rice, subway lunches, honey soy chicken, satay beef, remove sugary drinks, need to have a treat, rice paper rolls, fruit salad and yoghurt, fish and chips for special lunch order, soup in winter, zucchini muffins, kangaroo/venison stew.

### **Analysis**

This question offers a free text field for suggestions for the canteen regular menu and special lunches. In summary the comments were about having healthy options, removing junk food and drinks and having a limited, changing menu to make healthy options more feasible.

### **Considerations**

- 1) the full list of suggestions will be passed onto the Canteen committee for their consideration