

Parent Class Meetings

Lets face it, for most of us, the role of being a parent can at times be challenging. With no rule book, it can be an isolating experience. Surveys from the most recent Parent Connect led class meetings, show that over 92% of families who attended the meetings rated the session as excellent and very good. Parents valued connecting with other parents and benefited from doing so.

What parents are saying after attending the Parent Class Meeting:

- “Loved meeting the parents and having discussions about key topics”.
- “Thanks to the wonderful parents that organised these important meetings”.
- “Enjoyed greater connection particularly for working parents who are not at every school pickup / drop off”.
- “Benefited from the chance to openly discuss topics and realise shared challenges and strategies.”

Learning Difficulties Parent Network

The Learning Difficulties Parent Network is for parents with children who have learning difficulties. The inaugural meeting was held in Term 4 2017. The purpose of this Group is to share resources, information and expertise, along with providing support to each other. Meeting times will be communicated to families via Konnective, and also on the Parents Connect tab on the APPS website.

Mindfulness Initiative for Teachers and Students

During 2017, all APPS staff completed a mindfulness-based professional development program with the goal of giving them the personal tools to meaningfully bring mindfulness into the classroom in 2018. While some teachers have already been incorporating mindfulness practices into their school day, an APPS teaching team has been assembled to manage the roll out of a school-wide program in 2018. Rachel Lerhner (Grade 4) is the APPS lead for this initiative and is supported by Clare Kearney (Grade 5) and Julie-Anne Bouras (Prep). The APPS-specific program has been mapped to both the Albert Park Learning Dispositions and the Australian Schools Curriculum.

The Parents Connect Committee is hoping to broaden this initiative in 2018 to introduce mindfulness to parents so as to support the work being performed at school. A parent information evening will be scheduled.

Family Mentoring Program

This program exists to help families who are new to the school and community. New families to APPS are connected to an existing family who can provide support during their transition (where appropriate).