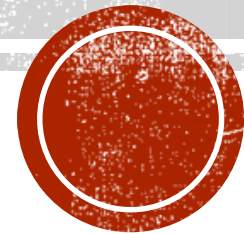


BALMAIN PUBLIC SCHOOL SURVEY SUMMARY

August 2022



CONTENTS

- Overview
- 1 – 3 Year Initiatives Roadmap results.
- Other initiatives suggested.
- Comments and feedback on initiatives.
- How would you prefer to be kept informed about P&C events and activities.
- Communication preferences results.
- How we can make our P&C Meetings more efficient, effective and interactive.
- P&C Meetings Feedback received.
- Volunteering.
- Skill specific assistance.
- Technology.
- Environment & sustainability.
- Extra Curricular activities.
- Feedback and further considerations.
- How we are going?



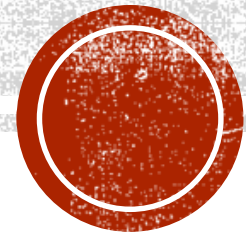
OVERVIEW

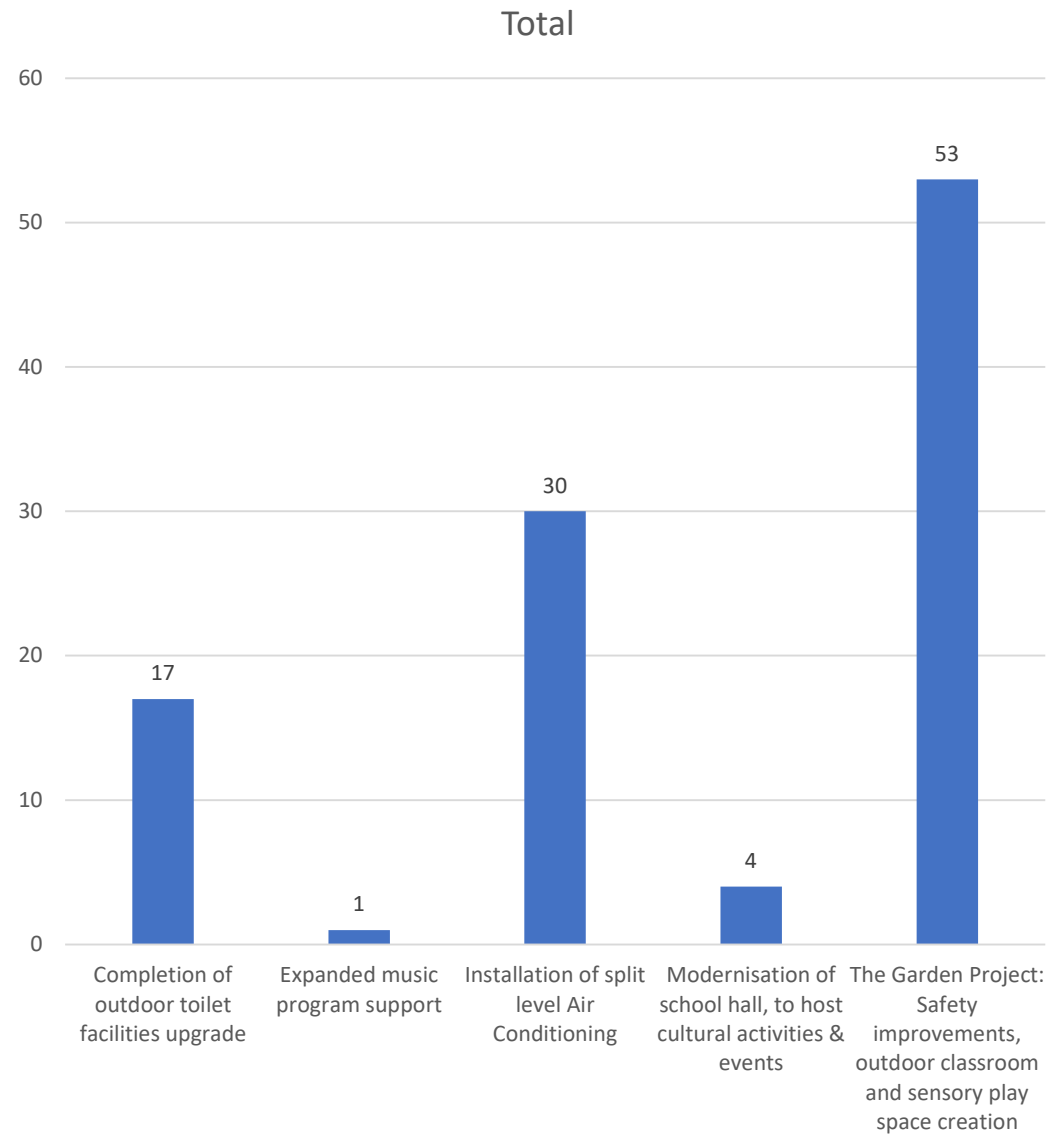
- We are a new team and are seeking input, feedback and assistance from the Balmain Public School Community.
- Funding Opportunities – while there are many worthwhile initiatives we would like to prioritise our plans over a 1 – 3 year roadmap based on feedback from you.
- Volunteering – We have a number of exciting fundraising and community events and require support to plan and execute.
- Skill specific assistance – we have identified some roles that would make a big difference in helping set us up for the future.
- Communication – Keeping everyone engaged is our key priority so we would like to understand how we can communicate better across the school community.
- Voice of the community – we would love to hear how we can improve, be more effective and achieve results working collaboratively with the community and school.





WE ARE IN THE PROCESS OF DEVELOPING A 1-3 YEAR ROADMAP. IN ORDER FOR US TO PRIORITISE THESE INITIATIVES, WE WOULD LIKE TO UNDERSTAND WHICH ARE YOUR PRIORITIES?

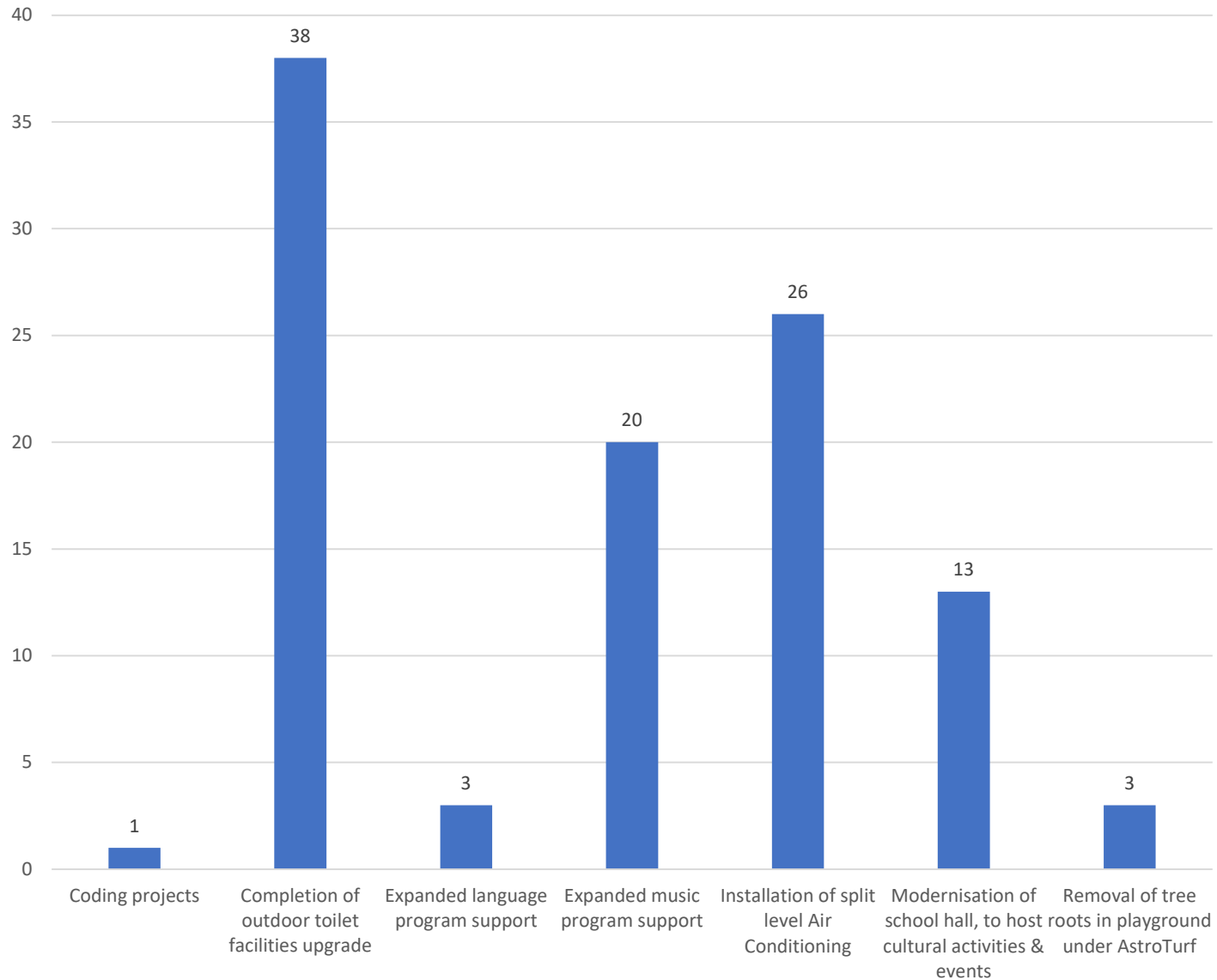




1ST PRIORITY

1. **The Garden Project: Safety improvements, outdoor classroom & sensory play space creation.**
2. **Installation of Split-Level Air conditioning.**
3. **Outdoor Toilet Upgrade.**
4. **Modernisation of School Hall.**
5. **Expanded Music Program.**

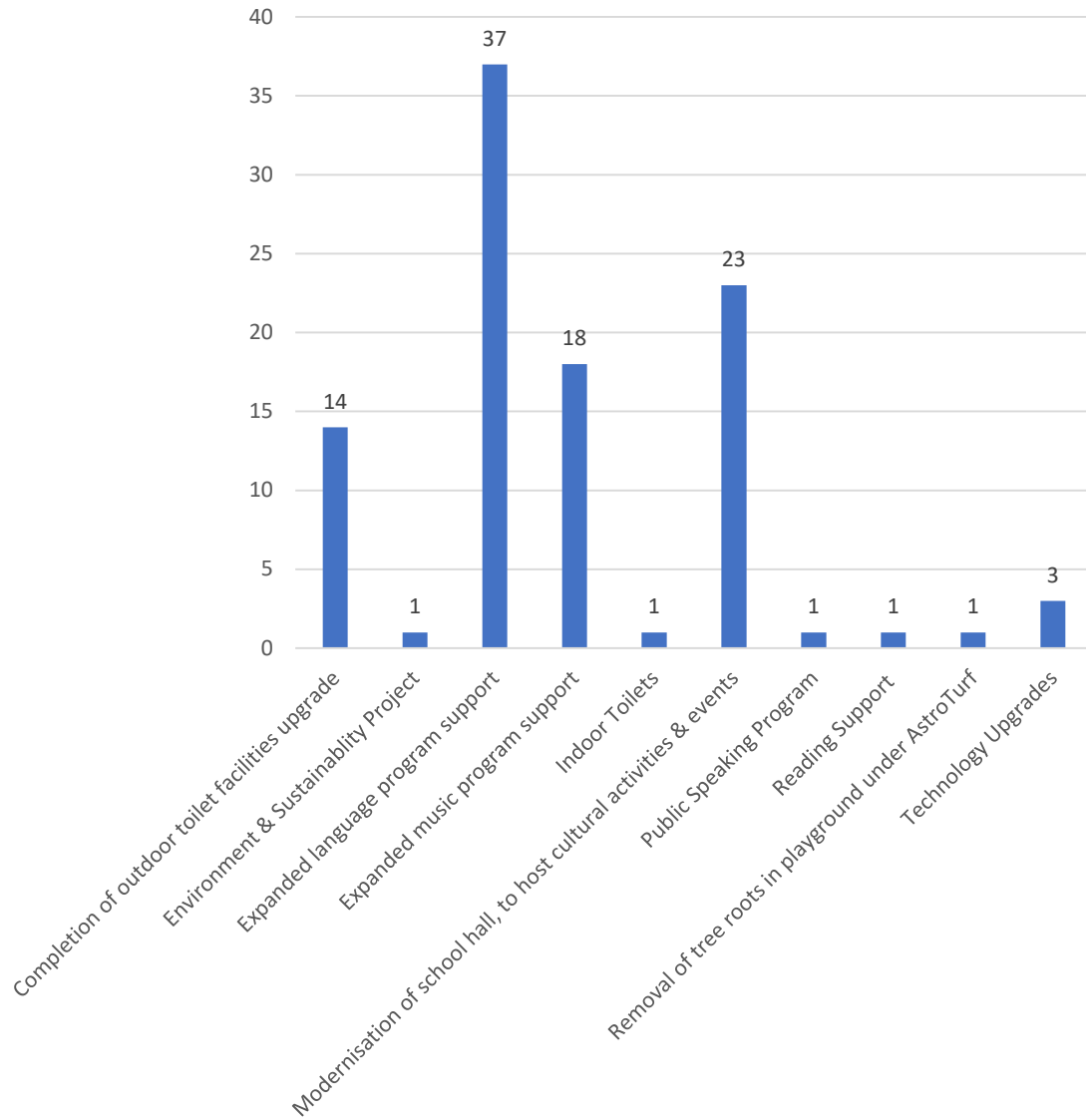




2ND PRIORITY

- Outdoor Toilet Upgrade
- Installation of split level Air conditioning.
- Expanded Music Program.
- Modernisation of School Hall
- Expanded Language Support Program
- Removal of tree roots in Playground under AstroTurf
- Coding Projects





3RD PRIORITY

1. Expanded Language Support Program
2. Modernisation of School Hall
3. Expanded Music Support Program
4. Completion of outdoor Toilet upgrade
5. Technology Upgrades
6. Environment, Indoor Toilets, Public speaking, Reading Support, Removal of Tree roots under Astro Turf.





OTHER INITIATIVES SUGGESTED

- Library expansion
- More Mufti Dress Days
- Career Pathway Discussion
- Appropriate singlets for representative (zone; PSSA) sport. BPS is about the only school in our zone without them.
- IT support and New laptops for students - updates, regular IT service (external provider).
- Indoor toilets
- Public speaking programs
- Reading support
- Recycling & Environmental efforts & projects



COMMENTS AND FEEDBACK ON INITIATIVES

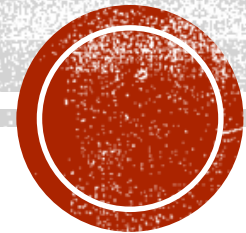
“I think things like toilet upgrades should be Dept responsibility and I wonder if we should push back/advocate for Dept to do more”.

“I’m a bit amazed to hear tree roots need removal - surely this would have been looked at before astroturf laid out. We might need an arborist to advise too. I recall convo with the playground upgrade person and we need to be careful we don’t kill those amazing trees we have in playground. As it is, I don’t think there’s much space for water to get down to roots as we’ve paved in so much of the area around”

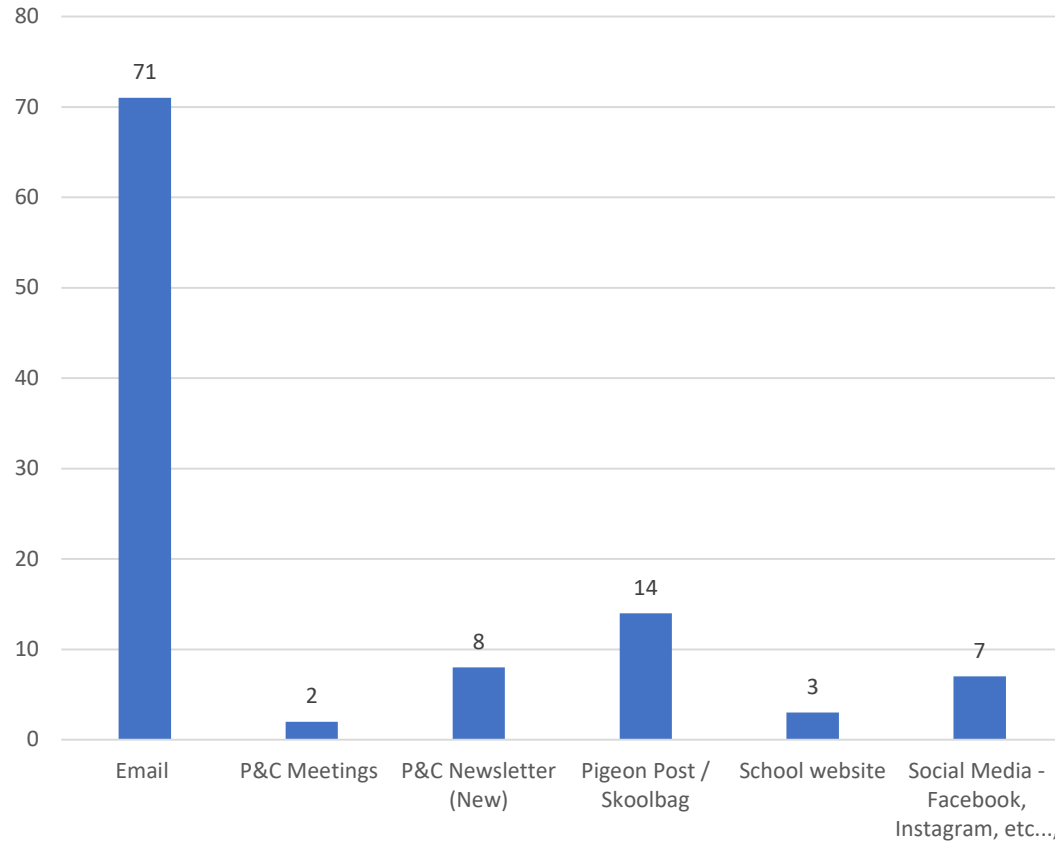




**HOW WOULD YOU
PREFER TO BE
KEPT INFORMED
ABOUT P&C
EVENTS AND
ACTIVITIES.**



COMMUNICATION PREFERENCES RESULTS



1st Preference (refer graph)

1. Email
2. Pigeon Post / Skoolbag
3. P&C Newsletter (New)
4. Social Media
5. School Website
6. P&C Meetings

2nd Preference (summary below)

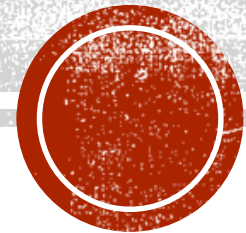
1. P&C Newsletter New (28)
2. Pigeon Post / Skoolbag (26)
3. Social Media (9)
4. P&C Meetings (5)
5. Whatsapp





PUT THIS
on YOUR
CALENDAR!

AS A NEW P&C EXECUTIVE, WE HAVE REFLECTED ON HOW WE CAN MAKE OUR P&C MEETINGS MORE EFFICIENT, EFFECTIVE AND INTERACTIVE. IN YOUR VIEW, HOW COULD WE BEST ACHIEVE THIS?



FEEDBACK ON P&C MEETINGS

- “Maintain virtual P&C meeting options (eg Zoom, Teams or Skype)”.
- “A list of topics of discussion to be included in pigeon post and if parents interested, they can get more info in the P&C email etc”.
- “The minutes are quite detailed and informative”.
- “In terms of efficient and interactive a google share drive comes to mind”.
- Time management; “Ring bell after 5mins:; “Keep a timer on the presenters. Less is more”, “Put a time limit on meetings. In the past meetings have gone over 2 hours and have not been facilitated (last year). This has put me off attending”.
- “Parking lot for fundraising planning detail discussions to subcommittee meetings. Bullet point out topics for upcoming meetings and call out for any specialist thinking / input you require”.
- “Faster turnaround between ideas and execution”.
- “I attended P&C at the beginning 2021, the meeting was long, at the pub in a small room, badly managed and full of personal opinions that ignored experts/facts (specifically topic was device use in classrooms). I didn't feel the Exec was "in control" or managing the discussion. Maybe a voting system with Exec privilege to decide on issues rather than gathering the opinions of everyone in an open forum. I wish the new executive all the best, and hopefully with some better management and a more collaborative approach (as demonstrated by this survey), the P&C will welcome new members/volunteers”.
- Timing of meetings - "Not have them at dinner/bed time - have you tried a survey of parents to see if there's a more convenient time of day? I sent a membership form in but have never heard back so perhaps a dedicated new member officer to ensure smooth onboarding“
- “More transparency around P&C finances - spend previous money raised by families, needs to be spent in the years their kids are at school”.



FEEDBACK ON P&C MEETINGS CONT...

- “Strict agenda, clear accountabilities and decisions. Stop attendees from derailing the agenda with minutae”.
- “4 year strategy, proper documentation, succession plan”.
- “It is hard to participate when you full time working / a reminder at the same day before the meeting over skoolbag or whatsapp would be a great support”.
- “Rotate meetings at different venues”.
- “There seems same issues constantly are raised (e.g. parents allowed into school and keeping gates open) - these issues have been dealt with time and time again”.
- “P&C meet and greets at school pick up times - we don't know who you really are and how to approach you”.
- “Why not even have a stall with Executive members at Friday assembly one a month to coincide with second hand uniform stall so that parents can see you and discuss issues? That way you can also encourage membership - inform parents on what activities are coming up - have a volunteer roster started for parents to sign on to”.
- “I found the energy at some of the P&C events I attended to be quite low and some of the interactions quite hostile. Maybe a brief moment at the start of the event for everyone to introduce themselves and some kind of exercise to help lighten the mood and get everyone comfortable and in a positive headspace before the actual meeting begins could be helpful”.
- “Always start with details on what's being achieved - not only on what is wrong and needs more effort. It often felt like airing the list of struggles was all there was time for”.





FOLLOWING ARE SOME VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES FOR EVENTS IN 2022 AND BEYOND. EVENTS TYPICALLY OCCUR OUTSIDE NORMAL WORKING HOURS OR ON WEEKENDS. WHICH OF THESE EVENTS ARE YOU WILLING TO ASSIST WITH?





Month	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
P&C	31st Welcom e Drinks	8th Easter Parade BBQ	8th Mothers Day 21st Election 27th Trivia				2nd Fathers Day	28th Disco	18th & 19th Art show	Salvos boxes
School	T1 exams 10th	T1 Hols 11th- 22nd	T2 exams 10th-20th	T2	T2 Hols 4th - 15th	T3	T3 Hols 26th	T4 Hols 7th	T4	T4 Hols 21st

EVENT CALENDAR



VOLUNTEERING

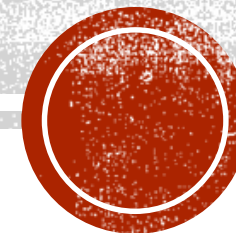
A big thank you for all those that volunteered to help with the upcoming events..

We will be in contact soon regarding next steps.





THE P&C NEEDS SOME SKILL SPECIFIC ASSISTANCE IN KEY AREAS. VOLUNTEERING WOULD BE ON AN ONGOING BASIS (1-2HRS PER WEEK). PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU ARE INTERESTED TO LEARN MORE ABOUT ANY OF THESE ROLES:



SKILL SPECIFIC ASSISTANCE

FANTASTIC RESPONSE, WE WILL BE IN CONTACT SHORTLY WITH NEXT STEPS!

- Environment and Sustainability Coordinator (helping Balmain Public School become a more sustainable school)
- Planning & Organising Coordinator (run sheets and intel from past events)
- Grant writing (ID opportunities & co write proposals)
- Local Business and Community Coordinator (ensuring we maximise partnership opportunities)
- Other special skills you are able to contribute e.g. event coordination, marketing, etc..





TECHNOLOGY



FEEDBACK ON TECHNOLOGY

- “Investment in technology (devices) in classrooms would be of benefit. Stage 2 and 3 only has about 1 device between 2-3 students which can be challenging and these devices are shared between 2 classes”.
- “IT support and laptops for students - new ones, updates, regular IT service (external provider)”
- “IT upgrade”
- “Upgrade of the iPads. These are not safe for use (battery issue?)”





ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY



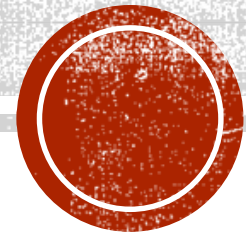
FEEDBACK ON ENVIRONMENT EFFORTS

- "I would like to see Balmain Public School take a more proactive and active role around environmental efforts in Balmain. One idea of note is recycling bottles and cans (fund raising activity) which we could put towards donations for improving the environment in Balmain/NSW. Feel it is important for children to be involved / aware of climate issues and take care of the living environment for future generations."
- "Recycling & Environmental community efforts & projects"





EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES



FEEDBACK ON EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

- Could we have more extra curricular activities /sports offered after school Such as gymnastics/ basketball/others. This would also help with the numbers at Eaton Street as they are short staffed.

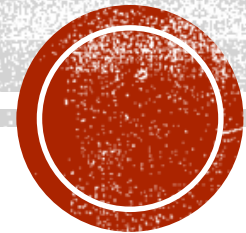
■ **44** respondents expressed a preference for Expanded music program support.

■ **40** respondents expressed a preference for Expanded language program support





FEEDBACK AND FURTHER CONSIDERATIONS



- “I did wonder if we should ask the kids what they think the school needs/what is important to them? Perhaps the Prime Ministers/Senators could collate some response from year groups? It’d be interesting to see if our thoughts align!”
- “Fewer dress up days”
- “More Mufti Days”
- “Continue to provide opportunities for families to contribute if they can’t volunteer time (Eg the voluntary donations for the air filters was quite well organised)”
- “Future of ESC before and after school care. I think the P&C should take on this great service otherwise it’s at risk of going out to tender”
- “Less spend on aesthetics and more on actual education! It’s frustrating looking at the fancy playground knowing that the kids educational needs are lacking.”
- “There should be more opportunities for parents to feel part of the school community - stop locking gates to school after 3pm and let parents inside. The school felt more like a community pre covid.”
- “As we look to raise funds (and having been part of various fundraising efforts over the past 10 years at BPS) could you consider sponsored 'bricks' eg <https://www.signature-engraving.com.au/> as a way of engaging the BPS community (past, present and future) to leave a legacy and also contribute to the capital improvement of the school (eg around Pauline's garden, the new toilets, generic paving etc). Low effort to set up, high impact for extensive community (how many left BPS 10,20, 80 years ago that would consider buying a brick?!) and generates additional source of fundraising revenue.”
- Canteen – “It would be fantastic if the Canteen could be expanded to more days. I am not sure of the history of why the School does not have a Canteen, but it is a real gap at the School. There are lots of cafes in Balmain and I am sure many would welcome the opportunity to supply the School with children's lunches”.
- Composite classes – “I am not sure of the reason why each year is a composite class? Has the P&C discussed this with the Principal and Teachers? Has the School provided a reason why this is occurring? When was the last time this was reviewed? Is there any evidence that this achieves better outcomes for children than being in their peer group class like in other Schools”?
- School Camp – “I think it is a real gap that the School does not do school camps for years 4 and 5, let alone only every second year 6. There are many organisations that run school camps efficiently. Has the School looked at this issue recently? School camps enrich children's School experience at School and promote bonding in a way that can't be achieved otherwise”.





**HOW WE ARE
GOING?**



"Firstly, very thankful for the work you do and for taking the time to reach out like this. Schools work best when staff and community work together. These google forms are a great way to communicate with teachers. They're quick and easy and can be done anytime - ideal for teaching staff!"

"Thanks for being such a supportive, proactive team! BPS is lucky to have you!"

"You're doing a fabulous job! Thanks so much for supporting our students and school!"

"Thank you for your support!"

"Keep up the great work!!"

"Thank you for all your work!"

"I feel this year the P&C has been more recognisable and accessible (sadly I think covid had a big impact in past years so no fault of any previous members!). There is better communication, transparency and more buzz and energy with more events being held."

"You're doing a great job!"

"Thank you for asking for our feedback!"

"Thanks for doing such a great job to fundraise for the school and make everyone feel welcome and part of the BPS community!"

