School Council Report September 2010

Firstly On behalf the School Council I would like to officially congratulate Nolan on accepting the Substantive Principals Position in Tammin and I encourage the school community to give our new Principal the support that is needed to better our school and look forward to a positive, long term working relationship!

School Council has been very active this year with at least two meetings a term and currently consisting of the following representee: Nolan O’Rourke (Principal), Helen Willey, Rosalie Parkham and Cindy Edwards (staff), Haydn Dixon, Karen Humphries, Carol Crane and Myra Henry (parent), Dustin McCreery (P&C rep) and Janet Stokes (Chairperson / Parent). I would like to give special thanks to out going Raeline Thomson for her time & commitment to school council over the last three years.

The 2010 year has started very positively, as the school council chairperson I have had the opportunity to be involved in a number of school development days and future planing of the school. I have seen first hand the great benefit of these days for the schools continuum and improvement.

It was great to see so many parents nominating for School Council this year and consequently having an election for the first time for parent representatives. Congratulations to Rosalie (staff) and Myra (Parent) as new councillors for 2010. Thank you to everyone who nominated and look forward to other opportunities in the future.

School Council has been looking into the Independent Public School issue and invited our district director, Mr Kim Guelfi to our AGM to help clarify a number of concerns. Mr Guelfi’s visit was very informative and helpful. It was evident from these discussions that the disadvantages seem to out way the advantages at the current time, however IPS is something that we will continue to look into in the future.

The School council have also been involved in the decisions making regarding the 2010 camp. For this year it was decided that just the senior class (years 5-7) will be going on camp, due to the current class structures. This decision was not made lightly but was made on the advice of staff in the best interest of the teachers and students. In the near future other decisions will need to be in place for the school long term plans regarding camps. The school council will be asking for your input through a survey format later in the term. All final decisions will be made by school council and the Principal.

There has been some confusion and interest in the roles and responsibilities of both the School council and the P&C. Mr O’Rourke has made a flow chart that helps to explain these roles and the process that individual or groups can use if any issues arise (see attached). It is important to note that school council is mainly concerned with proactive suggestions for the future directions and development of the school, if there are any complaints or concerns about the school they should be directed to the Principal.
The next School Council meeting is on Thursday 9th September at 5pm. All meetings are open to everyone. If attending a meeting non councillors can not contribute to the meeting and can only be there to observe (unless in the case that someone has been invited to give information/advice to the School Council). If an issue is considered confidential, individuals including councillors can be asked to leave during some discussions. Minutes are taken at all meetings and once they have been endorsed by council are available to view on the Tammin primary school web site or from the school office.

The agenda items for the September meeting so far are:

- Principals report
- School finances
- Roles & Responsibilities of School Council & P&C
- School camp update
- Future School Camps– questionnaire: Why Camps? Possible options?
- Future Plans for school grounds / Lawn
- Parent / Staff Handbook

The School council would also like to thank Dustin McCreery and the P&C for some great fundraising initiatives that are helping to continually improve the educational opportunities for the children and also thanks to all the staff for all their hard work in educating the students. Special thanks to everyone on School Council this year for all their extra effort and dedication to the school.

In summary there have been a number of positive changes in 2010 and with these changes and now a new substantive principal I believe the quality of education can improve and that Tammin Primary School can reach its full potential in the years ahead! If anyone has any issues that they would like raised please put them in writing to Janet Stokes (chairperson) or contact other school councillors.

Yours sincerely

Janet Stokes
Chairperson