

PRC News:

Welcome all! Last week, we had our Term 1 PRC meeting combined with the AGM at Patrician brothers Blacktown. Mr Wayne Davie has been elected as the new PRC president. Wayne was served as the PRC's secretary for the past two years and has lots to offer and I wish him well. I was elected as the Parramatta/Cumberland cluster leader. I also like to welcome the new PRC Alternate Rep Mrs Rohini Singh.

Our special guest was Danielle Cronin, Chief Governance and Strategy Manager Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta (CEDP). Danielle is a strong advocate of parent engagement and she discussed about parent engagement and why it matters.

Family engagement occurs when schools and their partners employ intentional and collaborative strategies. Family engagement is a shared responsibility of families, schools and communities for students learning and achievement. Children learning occurs in three environments namely school, home and the extended community. Children spend more time outside the schools.

Research shows that in order to raise achievement parents need to be both involved in schools and engaged in their learning. The engagement is necessary both at schools and outside of the schools.

Family participation in education is twice as predictive of students' academic success as family socioeconomic status.

Parental effort has large effect on student achievement compared with school resources.

Schools with strong family engagement are four times more likely to improve in student reading over time, and ten times more likely to improve student's learning gain in mathematics.

Students, whose parents regularly read with them, talk about life and school, get them to think critically tend to score 25 points above peers on Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA). This equates well over half a school year.

Parents and the home environment they create are the single most important factor in shaping their children's achievements. It is not who parents are, but what parents do that matters.

It is never too early for parents to be engaged in learning, and it is never too late, as children benefit at every stage of their lives.

The forms of engagement that are most beneficial are not necessarily those that require the most time or money on the part of parents.

The dimensions of engagement are parents to support "learning & well-being at home", school to support parents to "reaching out" and parents to support school to "reaching in".

What are the new ways to partner with parents and families? Develop models for parents to connect with their child's learning data; Engage with parents on key learning framework and how to support their child's learning; Include parent voice and expertise as key element of student learning. Develop greater understanding parent engagement through survey and other data; Consultation with parents through networks to support parent engagement.

Danielle also talked about how the parents and friends association (P&F) could play a major role aiming to strengthen the partnership between family, school, parish and wider community for the benefit of a child's faith formation, learning and well-being. She also talked about a school's P&F transformed this way. P&F is evolving in this regards as they are functioning as both educational and fundraising, this transformation will continue to serve better educational outcome.

Our Term 2 guest speaker is Dianne Mills Expert in VET & Educational Pathways, CEDP, will give speech on Career Planning and Transition to work and Tertiary Studies, this meeting will be held on the 4th June 2018, 7pm at Diocesan Assembly Centre, Blacktown. All parents are welcome, high school students are also welcome to attend with a parent/caregiver.

PRC Rep: Siva Veluppillai