

## **2025 Board Chair Report**

“Children are at the heart of our school”

As 2025 draws to a close, we take a moment to reflect on another incredible year for our Oakwood Primary School community and board, with many significant accomplishments, events, and milestones to celebrate. I would like to sincerely thank all of our board members for their contribution, direction, and investment in the continued improvement of our school, where we continue to ensure our decisions and vision have children at their core.

There have been a number of changes to our board this year, and I would like to start with acknowledging our outgoing, incoming, and re-elected members. A sincere thank you to Peta Whitfield and Kate Veljacich who have resigned their positions, and for all their meaningful contributions during their tenure. I would like to now congratulate and welcome Shannon Wright (Community Member – Local Councilor), Stacey Hope (Community Member – Down South Therapy), Megha Jensen (Community Member – Rio), Shibu Sandhu (Parent Member), and Brad Heggs (Parent Member) as our incoming board members. I would also like to acknowledge re-elections of Haylee Lewis (Parent Member), Kerry Butterworth (Parent Member), Denika Meehan (change from Community to Staff Member) and myself, Nikki Fairhurst (Community – Curtin University), in my re-election as board chair. We are excited to continue leveraging the range of expertise and skills that our board members possess.

Oakwood Primary School priorities continue to center on the success of all children:

- Successful Learners,
- Culture and Relationships, and
- Engagement and Wellbeing.

In relation to our school priorities, it excites me to start with the continual growth reflected in our NAPLAN results. In both Year 3 and Year 5, we achieved two green lights (Numeracy and Punctuation/Grammar; Reading and Writing respectively), which highlights those areas exceeding one standard deviation above expected results. This is an exceptional indicator for both progress and achievement, and needs to be celebrated. In addition, the target of being at or exceeding Like School performance was achieved for both Year 3 and Year 5 in Reading, Numeracy, Writing, Spelling, and Grammar and Punctuation. It is evident that the continued refinement and consistency of our evidence-based whole-school approaches combined with staff expertise and fidelity have resulted in these fantastic achievements. Our NAPLAN and ‘off year’ NAPLAN results have been a key driver of reflection, and will continue to promote positive change.

One of the greatest strengths of our school is its supportive and engaged community, and this is a wonderful opportunity to reflect on these moments as we transition towards the end of the year. We are constantly in awe of our community involvement, and our events would not be possible without this. Term One began with the Twilight Swimming Carnival and celebrating Office Appreciation Day. Later in the term, our Fish! Day was an important reminder about our philosophies to *Be There, Play, Make Their Day, and Choose Your Attitude*, and our community picnic was an excellent success. The term concluded with our ANZAC Ceremony as a mark of respect and recognition to commemorate the courage and sacrifice of those involved in military operations.

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Term Two began with the Oakwood Talent Quest, where the children showcased incredible skills including dancing, singing, instrumental music, puppetry and acting. We then commemorated National Sorry Day and Reconciliation Week, an integral event in acknowledging the Stolen Generation survivors, and for reflection on how we all play a part in the healing of our country. This ended with PBS day, where we celebrated our school values of *Be Caring, Act with Integrity, Show Respect, and Do Your Personal Best*. The winter carnival and senior cross-country were the final events of the term.

Term Three had the incredible Curriculum Week (a personal favourite of mine), which included Math, Spanish, Science, English, and Inquiry days over the week. Of course this also included the Book Week Dress Up Parade to celebrate literacy, which is always a favourite of our community, and I'm sure the costumes continue to get more elaborate each year! The Athletics Carnivals celebrated the hard work and dedication of the students, and the friendly competition between the factions was exciting. There was also another favourite night of the year – Open Night, where our community was welcomed into classrooms to celebrate the hard work and dedication of children across all learning areas, and served as an opportunity to get to know all staff throughout our school. Term Three ended on a high – the incredible Wizard of Oz theatre production, which included 42 children from Years 2-6 showcasing their singing and dancing skills.

Now that Term Four has commenced, we look forward to our upcoming events. As always, it is an incredibly busy term with the Kindy Sports Carnival, swimming lessons, World Teacher's Day, WA Canteen Day, Interschool Athletics Carnival, NAIDOC Day, Year 6 camp, and the celebrated End of Year Concert. We look forward to sharing these moments with the Oakwood community.

It is with pride that I share this report with you, as a foundation staff member, and now passionate community member, Board Chairperson, and occasional reader of merit certificates at assemblies. Oakwood Primary School consistently embodies its vision, and our ethos is clear within our community. We have a strong presence and reputation, and I sincerely believe this is because our collective community direction exemplifies that *children are at the heart of all that we do*.

Kindest regards,

Nikki Fairhurst

Board Chairperson