

Dear Parents

This is our final Board of Trustees letter for 2016 – it thanks important people, contains an invitation for you all, and provides feedback on the community consultation process that we have been running this term.

You're all invited! End of year family picnic – Friday 9 December, 5pm

Our traditional end of year family picnic will happen this Friday from 5pm at school. This year, we are letting our hard-working school staff off the hook and the Board is hosting the picnic. It's a very informal event. Bring yourselves, your family, your picnic rug and your dinner and come along to enjoy each others' company. We will have the BBQ going and a limited number of burgers will be available for a gold coin donation. Be in quick if you want a burger! We hope to see many of you at school on Friday celebrating the end of the school year together. (Wet weather venue: CDPS hall.)

Thank you for participating in the community consultation process

During this term the Board has conducted a community consultation process focused on our school charter and strategic direction. The discussions that took place in the Focus Group sessions were fantastic and thought-provoking. Thank you to all the participants who gave up their time to come and talk through some of the most important foundations of the school's culture with us. We have greatly appreciated your input. Thank you also to the large number of parents who contributed their ideas through the online survey. For further information, please read the short summary document on the charter review process which is attached to the same email as this letter.

Staff departures

The Board is very sorry to be saying goodbye to a number of staff members. Ben Young, Maria Gorrie and Leanne McCarty will all be leaving CDPS at the end of this term. Their contributions to the life of the school and to our individual children have been very significant. We wish all of them well as they move on to engage in new opportunities and adventures.

On a brighter note, many of you will remember Amy Burgess, our junior pod teacher who went on maternity leave at the end of 2015. Amy's 12 month maternity leave is nearly complete but the Board has approved Amy a further 12 months leave so that she can spend more time with her little daughter Lucy. Amy is now scheduled to return to CDPS at the beginning of the 2018 school year.

Thank you to all staff

The Board would like to extend a huge thank you to all of our staff for their work this year. We're tremendously grateful for the daily effort and commitment they demonstrate in all of the variety of roles that they perform in the school. Without this, our children would not have the level of engagement, learning and care that they experience every day at CDPS. During this term, as the Board has talked with the parent community about what really matters the most at CDPS, time and again we have heard that it is the attitude and approach of our staff that make the critical difference. Please take a few minutes sometime between now and the last day of school to personally thank our staff for their work with your children.



And so, the busy year is drawing to a close. It's been an exciting one for the Board of Trustees with some big projects completed (think new classrooms, hall, elections, community consultation) and we're certainly ready for a break! We know it's been very busy for children, staff and parents too and that the forthcoming holidays are well-deserved.

To those families leaving CDPS at the end of the year as their youngest child finishes Year 6 and to those who are moving away for other reasons, we wish you all the best for the next stage of family life and hope you stay in touch.

Thank you to all of our community for your ongoing support of the Board and the school this year. Happy Christmas and best wishes for the summer holidays.

Kind regards

Robyn McInnes

Chairperson, Board of Trustees

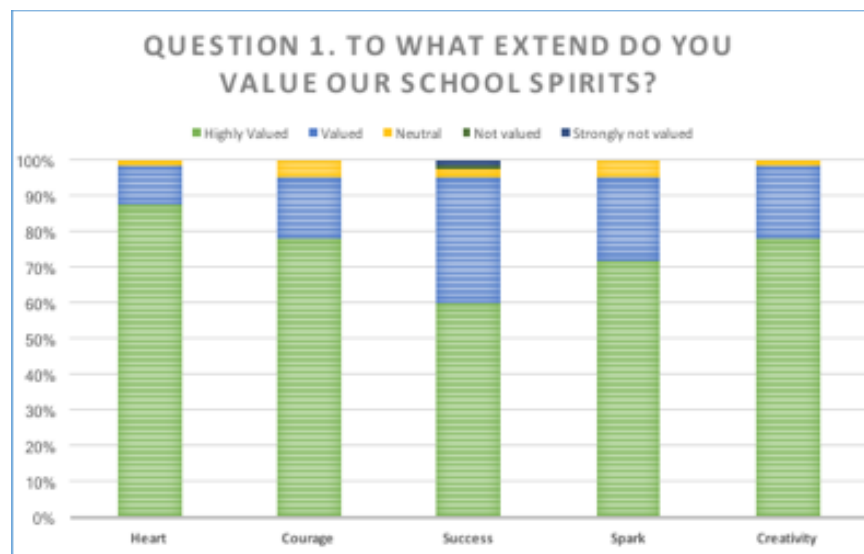
Crofton Downs Primary School Charter Review – update December 2016

Over the last few months the Board of Trustees has been going through the process of discovering what is important to our school community, both now and in the future. This has been with the purpose of updating our School Charter as a reflection of the strategic direction of the School. This is a requirement of all schools to create and maintain.

To discover what is important to our school and community we have carried out a survey of current and prospective parents as well as our teaching and support staff. This has been followed with a series of Focus Groups to discuss what is important to us in more detail.

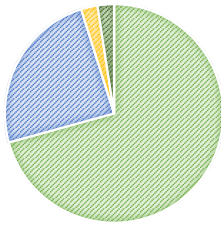
We had a great response (over 80 responses) to our survey so we wanted to give you a flavour of the feedback we received. Overall it seems that what our school and community value is in line with what the Board understands it to be, and is currently using to guide our strategic decision making. There is always room for improvement particularly around how we articulate some of these ideas so we have some work to do on tidying this up.

Our School Spirits – we're close on these being the true values that our school and our community live and breathe. Four of the five spirits (Heart, Courage, Spark and Creativity) resonate very strongly with you, but the Spirit of Success needs some work, particularly around how it is interpreted to ensure we are clear on what we want it to mean in the context of our school.



2.1 TO WHAT EXTENT DO YOU AGREE WITH THE MISSION STATEMENT AS THE OVERARCHING PURPOSE OF THE SCHOOL?

• Strongly Agree • Agree • Neutral • Disagree • Strongly Disagree

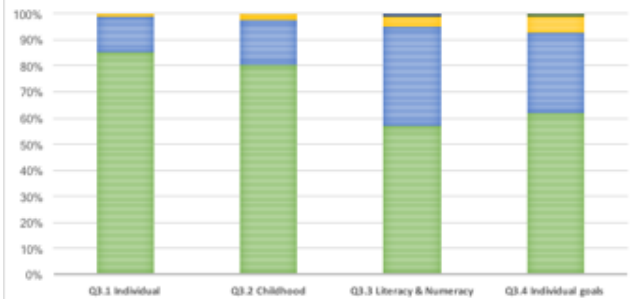


Our School Mission – Overwhelmingly our community strongly agrees with the school’s mission however we have some work to do on our choice of language to align it better with our School Spirits.

Our School Vision – we asked about the key concepts pulled from the current vision for CDPS, as it is quite wordy in its full form. The concepts of the individual and childhood connected with our community, however the feedback on the other two concepts of Literacy & Numeracy and Individual goals indicate we have some work to do on what these mean and the importance we place on them.

3.1 HOW IMPORTANT TO YOU ARE THESE CONCEPTS FROM OUR CURRENT VISION?

■ Very important ■ Important ■ Neutral ■ Unimportant ■ Very unimportant



Our Focus Groups (as well as a session specifically with teaching and support staff) were a great opportunity for the Board and our community to come together and give some real thought and consideration to what our school means to us and how we want it to develop.

While our Focus Group discussions came at the three topics (School Spirits, Mission and vision and CDPS as a growing school) in different ways there were some real key themes that came to the surface;

- Our focus on children as individuals, to find their spark and help them grow as learners is important
- Our connection as a community is something we want to nurture and build on
- Our valuing of the spirit of childhood is what makes our school special and
- Our approach and style of teaching and learning supports our diversity and is highly valued.

Next steps - the next steps in our Charter Review process will be carried out by the Board Subcommittee, early in 2017. We will formulate and update our charter based on the input, thoughts and ideas from our school community.

We would like to take the opportunity to thank those that responded to the survey and/or came along to one of the Focus Groups as the Board has appreciated the time you have taken and the open and honest feedback you have given us.

