

### ***Parent Forum and Information Session***

### ***Student Welfare and Mental Health***

As part of my continual evaluation of the systems and policies within our school, I will be holding the first of a series of community forums, Wednesday August 17. The forum will commence at 6pm and conclude at 7pm. Dependent on numbers it will be held in the school library or the hall.

The purpose of the initial forum is for me to begin the conversations surrounding our student welfare programs, child interactions, child development and bullying.

I have a wealth of knowledge as an educator of over 27 years working in the fields of behaviour, gang violence-culture and treatment programs (both in Australia and New York), conflict resolution and restorative justice. In addition to this, I am also a parent and have experienced the highs and lows of raising children and adolescents.

The forum will focus on how the school can support the community in managing the mental health and well-being of our children.

I will facilitate the conversation beginning with an overview of the changes we have made to our welfare programs this year and then move on to promoting healthy mindsets in children and welfare at school and home.

We will discuss bullying during this forum. I am a pragmatic principal who knows all children have the capacity to be a bully, some choose to and some choose not to. I know this first hand as a parent. This forum **will not** be about raising children's names or making allegations. The school has systems in place to receive specific allegations regarding student behaviour and specific interview procedures.

This forum will be the initial phase of our welfare and mental health review, which will be reported in our 2016 Annual School Report.

I am looking forward to engaging in an informative and community building activity.

Light refreshments will be available on the night.

This is a parent only event.

Sincerely,

Glenn O'Neill  
Principal  
Mount Kuring-gai Public School.