



Sheidow Park Chairperson Annual Report

2023 marked a new beginning for our school, with a very welcome and renewed focus on student wellbeing and reconnecting with families after Covid restrictions caused a disconnect in the previous years.

We are happy to see more parents and carers mingling outside classrooms at pick-up and drop-off times, although not at the same level we used to see pre-covid. Families are also attending our assembly again, regardless of whether their child's class is presenting, which is a wonderful way to connect with others and with the learning that is happening across the school. Our new breakfast club, with the wonderful support of KickStart for Kids has become a lively and busy place for students, parents and even grandparents to meet on Tuesday mornings before school. I want to thank the leadership team and our Pastoral Care Worker for their support and dedication to the breakfast club, which has created a warm and welcoming school environment. It is also great to see students and other members of the community volunteering their time.

We have created a lovely welcoming space in the courtyard to hold breakfast club, and for student play and learning, which we should all be proud of as a community. From the many efforts of our fundraising committee, and the generous donations of Sheidow Park families and the community, we were able to commission a local artist to paint the courtyard; it is as beautiful as we had hoped and represents our school perfectly. New sustainable picnic tables provide plenty of room for sitting together and everyone is thrilled with our new and more durable ping-pong tables that complete the space. Thank you to the families who always respond to calls for volunteers – assembling the picnic and ping pong tables was labour-intensive and couldn't have been done without the community coming together. And not to forget the lovely bench seat purchased by fundraising, which was kindly installed in the nature play garden by the Hallett Cove Lions Club in term 1.

The year saw some upheaval, with Jennie-Marie vacating her role as Principal in the second half of the year. We thank her for her time leading our school and wish her the best in her new venture. We were fortunate to have Jo take the role, who brings renewed enthusiasm and ideas for student learning and the school overall. Jo is committed to sharing the learning and activity that takes place in our school with the broader community, not only to create important connections and partnerships but also to highlight to prospective families the quality education our school provides.

At the request of some families, Governing Council supported two student Ambassadors to attend the Hallett Cove Anzac Day Dawn Service to lay a wreath on behalf of our school. This was the first time our school had attended the service. It was a special experience and an important contribution to the community that we look forward to continuing.

At the end of the school year, we said goodbye to our much loved long-serving canteen manager Jodie. We warmly welcome Michael to the role. OSHC continues to operate successfully, attracting yet even more non-school families to its popular vacation care program, which necessitated a policy of giving school families first access to bookings before the program is advertised externally.





Careful management of school fee payments, including implementing a payment plan policy that is more likely to result in full payment of fees by the end of the year, has had a positive impact on our finances. We would like to see ongoing improvement in the amount of outstanding fees and continued discussions with the Department for Education to improve the financing structure for dual-stream schools.

Finally, I'd like to finish by acknowledging those Governing Council members whose term has finished. I'm grateful for your contribution to our school, council and committee meetings, and if you have chosen not to re-nominate for council, I have no doubt you will continue to have a positive impact on our school. I'd also like to thank other parent volunteers who contribute to our committees and vibrant school community.

I am excited to see the recent positive changes at Sheidow Park School embedded this year to create a strong foundation for future initiatives and wish all continuing and new council and committee members a productive and successful 2024.

Naomi Ford

Governing Council Chairperson



**A thriving and proud
school community**





Government of South Australia
Department for Education

Respect, Responsibility, Persistence



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