

STUDENT VOICE SUMMARY

By Ashley
Student Voice Council (SVC) Leader
Athol Road Primary School (ARPS)

My name is Ashley, I'm in Year 6 and I am one of the 2017 SVC Leaders.

I have worked closely with Aiden this year (another Year 6 SVC Leader) to ensure all students at ARPS have the opportunity to have a voice and inform decision making in various areas of the school and their education.

This year we have used **Mini Student Surveys and ARPS Street Talk** to gather the thoughts, feelings and opinions of students. The Mini Student Surveys are focused on improving special programs within the school such as, Twilight School in Education Week, Excursion/Incursion and Camp programs as well as providing feedback and informing decision making around Canteen and Breakfast Clubs.

ARPS Street Talk is lots of fun and very entertaining because we are able to randomly interview students in the playground using our iPads to film their responses. We are very grateful for their opinions and their honesty. I am very proud of what we have done because this is something you don't really get to experience very often. I have learnt that everyone has different views on different topics. People like, dislike, love or hate some things, and there's nothing wrong with that. None of us are the same, we all want and need different things to make us happy or help us learn and grow.

Julie and Felix are the ARPS Year 5 SVC Leaders and this year they have been attending the City Of Greater Dandenong **Children's Advisory Group** Meetings. In the group, they discuss the various facilities in our community and talk about how we could make our city a 'child friendly city'. Julie and Felix find the role interesting because they get to meet other students from other schools and have the opportunity to share their thoughts outside the school community and influence decision making in the local community. Julie and Felix encouraged and promoted high participation from the students at ARPS to complete the community survey and have a say regarding the new development of the Springvale Library.

Julie, Felix, Aiden and myself attended the City of Greater Dandenong **Children's Forum**. We participated in many activities and we discussed the different environments around the world and how we could improve them. We also took a walk around Harmony Square and explored the surroundings; we participated in a library hunt and discovered the different things in the area. I feel very happy with the decisions we made together as a group because we all respected and valued each other's opinions which is an important aspect of being a part of a community.

In **Students Create the Future (SCF)**, we have talked about how we could promote anti-bullying and inform people about it through a creative and inspiring campaign.

Last year, we created a logo, t-shirts and a music video to help people understand and connect to our anti-bullying message. This logo is presented all over the schools in and out of buildings - the logo says 'We Stand Together'. As a team we decided this because we wanted to show everyone how important it is to take a stand against bullying instead of being a bystander. This year, the students (including myself) have been working on a website and an art mural to promote anti-bullying. What I really like about being a part of SCF is we are the drivers of the campaign and we can make a real difference in our work. Having the opportunity to make positive changes feels good and achieves a real sense of value and self worth.

Refer to news article – Students Create the Future attachment

Student Voice at ARPS is important everyday in Student Learning. Students have a say in how they learn or present their learnings. Students have opportunities to share their learning with their peers and families. This year, students have been using various forms of technology to present their work in a much more personalised way. The senior students have been using 'Google Sites' to showcase their achievements and celebrate their learning both at school and at home. Other students are using the ICT program 'SeeSaw' to capture their learning and reflect on learning goals. Nikith in Year 6 likes how we're using technology because it's faster to use and it's more efficient for our generation. Christina in Year 6 says it's more systematic than what we were using before (Word). Helena in Year 6 thinks it's a good way to present our learning because we wanted to move away from our paper portfolios which was limiting and uninspiring.

Personally for me, being a part of the Student Voice Council is very interesting because I get to be in a group that not only allows me to voice my own thoughts and opinions but also gather the thoughts of others and represent a true picture of student voice at ARPS.

Kind Regards,

Ashley
Student Voice Council Captain
Athol Road Primary School



Vinh and Helena stand together against bullying. 162092

Picture: STEWART CHAMBERS

Their anti-bullying future in safe student hands

By Casey Neill

Springvale students created their own anti-bullying campaign, complete with a music video.

Athol Road Primary hosted a launch for the Students Create the Future (SCF) project on Monday 28 November.

Assistant principal Carmel Nigro said the school had been working with Resilient Youth Australia, clinical psychologist Andrew Fuller and The Resilience Project to build resilience in students and promote positive mental health.

She said that according to Mr Fuller, strengthening student voice and increasing empowerment

planned and implemented their own SCF project, with the aim of making a difference to their school, community or world.

"Because SCF is a 100 per cent student-driven initiative - without any influence or steering by teachers - it completely opened the creativity of students and allowed them to explore diverse ideas which fostered an 'anything is possible' approach," Ms Nigro said.

She said it took a while for students to shape their ideas into a manageable project.

"After much rich discussion and exploration of wonderful possibilities, the students decided to

along with a film campaign to build the awareness and send a clear message to the community and beyond about creating a sense of belonging," she said.

Students engaged the school community in designing a logo and slogan for campaign T-shirts - we stand together!

"The important part of the SCF process was allowing students to truly steer and create a project in an authentic and meaningful way," Ms Nigro said.

"Sometimes, we need to step back, let go, and empower our students to take charge of their own