*SCHOOL VALUES AND VISION, PATHWAYS AND TRANSITIONS*

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We wanted all staff to have a shared understanding of learning within the new Utopia. We have detailed our journey with developing our new school values and vision and improving the pathways and transitions within the new Utopia.

We began this journey by firstly inviting the expertise of Muffy Hand to assist us as a staff to develop a shared understanding of learning within the new Utopia and to also facilitate the process of developing a new vision and values for our school. This process occurred during one of the three curriculum days at the beginning of the school year. All staff were involved in workshops which identified a shared understanding of the factors which will build positive and effective relationships between our students, parents, staff and our community.

Following our work with Muffy Hand, we invited all stakeholders to our school for a twilight gathering to celebrate the beginning of the new Utopia and to meet with the new leadership team. Students, parents, school staff and community members attended this night. We had an overwhelming attendance and enthusiasm at this event which was fantastic.

We then developed a range of opportunities for all stakeholders to have input into Utopia’s future vision and values. A note here is that Utopia’s previous vision and values were acknowledged and shared to honour Utopia’s history. Students, parents, school staff and community members were invited to contribute their ideas to the vision and values of our school. They were all asked the question, ‘What should learning at Utopia look like/feel like/sound like? Clarification for each of these questions was provided to all areas. Ideas were communicated through the school newsletter, parent and student surveys, think tanks, discussions and a ‘vision box’ located at the school office.

Data was gathered, sorted and prioritised with representatives from the student, parent, school staff and community groups and our school’s leadership team. This information was presented to staff and with the support of Muffy Hand; we developed a vision and values statement for Utopia.

We worked on ‘living the vision’ to communicate our new vision and values. This was done through the newsletter, letterhead, banners, the media and having a ‘value of the week’ in all classrooms.

Improving transition and pathways was an area that we also needed to improve as a school. Our goal in our strategic plan was ‘to improve year to year transition Prep-6’.We worked on building a seamless approach to teaching and learning, including building positive and productive relationships between all stakeholders. Some examples of this is teachers greeting our students at the door, teachers making the effort to really know and value their students and students being given opportunities to buddy up with students from different year levels.

*By building better relationships at Utopia we are ensuring a positive pathway for our students at Utopia in their learning.*