

Maureen's Term Two Highlights

Hi Sonja, Hiranthi and fellow Hubstars,

Thank you for hosting the Coffee and Chat sessions, I think these sessions have shown how important keeping engaged with the wider network is. People with similar ethical values are drawn together and the buzz of conversation is seen whenever our Hub leaders get together.

Sonja you have often remarked at the depth of skill and knowledge base within the Hub leaders and this is something that has been highlighted by Hub Central. We are such a socially diverse group bringing together different skills and alternative approaches. Hub Central has become the "broker" for sharing these ideas and allows activities from one area to be taken up and applied in another.

Within our Meadows Hub team we value the diversity of skills each person brings, but also the depth of understanding from the different cultural groups in our community which often generates interesting conversations.

We can be challenged by seeing situations differently, but in the team are encouraged to embrace broader viewpoints that may be outside of our personal comfort zone.

One of the highlights for me this term has been the flexibility of our Hub team to respond and create new relationships outside of their comfort levels. Learnings happen when we encounter change. We respond to new situations and are challenged to adapt and find new ways of working. I believe by sharing parent communication records in a reflective environment has enabled our team to grow and develop quickly in response to the COVID restrictions.

Like many, our community struggle with IT communications, no internet access, broken phones, high cost of replacement, suspicion of unknown or private numbers and a lack of confidence to learn new platforms. The school response was to ring families to assist with online learning, to provide internet connections or deliver personal laptops, but many families still did not respond to home learning.

To accommodate those needing home language support our Hub team decided to divide our families by language, but this required a "cold call." We introduced ourselves in a letter delivered home. Hi I'm Sabra from the Hub I will call at.....

This has taken some individuals longer to engage with than expected, particularly those women who only respond to the school phone number or connect via the parent app. and required perseverance and understanding.

However these weekly phone calls have seen deeper relationships made with families, many who have responded enthusiastically saying how much they look forward to their weekly link up (for some their only engagement outside of the home.) Personal information from families who would not normally share unless deemed a crisis, has enabled us to provide links to our wider service agencies. We have fielded enquiries on safety, schooling issues, parenting issues, health concerns, isolation, food shortage, unemployment, volunteering, kindergarten enrolments, and readiness for school issues.

I was recently delighted to hear that one of our team is now looking at completing her teaching studies, inspired by her success in supporting a family caring for a child with a disability.

Our Garden group are soaring, connecting via video and our Hub team members have learnt the zoom platform to deliver weekly remote playgroup sessions, but to date we have 3 families using this option. Our English teacher stepped out of her comfort zone to develop and present Cook and Learn videos on-line and then followed up with an English lesson on zoom, again with limited numbers.

We are now looking at how we can support our community to take the next steps to join with internet platforms and are relying on our relationships to encourage new learning in term 3.

I look forward to hearing highlights from across all the network, it has been quite a term for everyone and I am so very proud to be part of the Hub's response strategy.

Kindest Regards
Maureen