

## **Community Coordinator**

### **Florey Primary School**

Florey Primary is fortunate to have a Community Coordinator, Maureen Howe.

Maureen's role is to provide family support as needed, and to strengthen links between the community, school, families, and carers.

#### **Focus areas**

1. Family support
2. Early intervention in building parenting capacity and confidence.
3. Strengthen links between home, school, and community
4. Enhance student health and wellbeing by facilitating access to programs which are not available within the school

#### **Programs**

The following are just some examples of activities organised by the Community Coordinator.

Maureen welcomes suggestions for additional programs that provide family and carer support and strengthen links between the community, school, families, and carers.

#### **Focus Area 1**

- Assist parents to access family support services – eg counselling, housing, community health, legal services and child development services
- Facilitate access to Smith Family's 'Learning for Life Program' – providing financial and family support
- Support parents to navigate the NDIS, through 1:1 sessions with parents; group information sessions in partnership with EACH and Feros Care; and attending Plan Review meetings to support families.
- Assist families to access informal community organisations – eg sourcing sports scholarships from Variety Children's charity so children can participate in weekend sport, linking families into recreational/social groups

#### **Focus Area 2**

- 'Tuning into Kids' and 'Circle of Security' parenting programs. These programs assist parents and carers to understand their children's behaviour, build resilience and emotional regulation.
- Multicultural Playgroup in partnership with Capital Region Community Service
- Parent discussion groups on topics of interest, such as 'Raising Anxious Kids'
- 'URFab' program in partnership with Child and Adult Mental Health Service (CAMHS) – which aims to build emotional regulation and coping strategies for children.

- 'Cool Kids' - a parenting program for children experiencing anxiety delivered in partnership with Capital Region Community Service

### **Focus Area 3**

- 'Early Links to Learning' program co-facilitated in partnership with Capital Region Community Service for parents and their children who are starting preschool the following year
- Story/Music time facilitated by the Community Coordinator for parents of children under 5 after they drop their school age children to class
- 'Starting School Expo' – for families of children starting Kindergarten at FPS. This involved presentations from early childhood specialists, education and family support personnel. There were also stalls providing information and links to external services as well as informal community groups.
- Inaugural Community Fair in 2019, in partnership with Neighbourhood Watch – with the aim of building community 'spirit' and strengthening connections between families and their local community organisations. The Fair attracted over 50 stalls - from sport/recreation groups through to music, dance, special interest groups, as well as formal support organisations.
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander gathering – host a BBQ with support organisations to link families with local agencies

### **Focus Area 4**

- 'Cyclabilities' - a program for children with additional needs to learn to ride a bike. It is delivered by a team of physiotherapists, teachers, and volunteers.
- Engaging volunteers to work with students on extra-curricula activities - eg Men's Shed bike building/restoration program, the Meccano Club, mentoring programs.
- Nutrition program delivered to students, parents and carers and staff
- Dental Health program for all students to have access to dental check-ups, fillings and cleaning program on school grounds and delivered by ACT Health
- Transition to High School program, delivered by The Smith Family
- Silence is Deadly program, delivered by Menslink

**NB – although many of these group programs have been placed on hold due to the covid restrictions, Maureen is very happy to have remote meetings and catch-ups on the phone; and in the not-too-distant-future (we hope!) ... face to face meetings can resume. Please contact on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesday by calling 6142 2730, 0403 653 662 or emailing [maureen.howe@ed.act.edu.au](mailto:maureen.howe@ed.act.edu.au)**