Reporting to Parents Survey Results Term 2 2018

Executive Summary

The school community received an online survey promoted through regular school newsletters, facebook and parent email which opened on the 7th of June and closed on 25th June. As part of the term 2 policy review of on reporting to parents we decided to seek more extensive feedback from families to identify specific focus for improvement.

Thank you for your feedback. There were 26 responses to the survey reflecting 18% of our families. Most respondents (46%) have only 1 child at school.

The survey asked for comment on reporting practices including:
- Written Reports
- Learning Conferences
- Seesaw
- Informal meetings with teachers arranged as required
- School Events and Celebrations

Survey comments were analysed and reviewed. Reflected in this report are:
- common themes
- snapshots of a range of comments
- future considerations for the school.

Summary of Findings

Written Reports

Overall the ratings and comments indicate that the written comments are informative for parents. The general comment was the most valued comment with 74% of respondents indicating this as informative or most informative. This was followed by the supporting your child at home comment and the next steps comment with 72% and 68% of comments ranking these as informative. The least valued written comments were the progress comments with only 56% of comments ranking these as informative.

Seesaw

72% of comments reflected that seesaw was a valued way to receive information about children's learning at school. Overall almost all of the comments on seesaw were very positive. It was clear from the comments that parents wanted to see more posts and have the school develop the use of this tool further.

Informal Meetings with Teachers

Informal opportunities to meet with teachers were overall seen as a very positive and valuable way to discuss information about learning. The comments reflected high value in the informal meetings arranged as required.

Student Learning Conferences

From the feedback received the student learning conferences were considered the least informative with only 58% of responses ranking the conferences as informative. Some comments reflected some concerns with meeting frequency and/or meeting with child in attendance. Comments indicating a preference for meetings without

student present were equally balanced by comments valuing the opportunity for teachers, students and parents to meet together.

School Events and Celebrations

86% of responses indicate these as informative. All comments were very positive with a couple of comments referring to length of assemblies and notice of school events.

Actions for Consideration

Written Reports

- Make the the personalised nature of the general comment comment more prominent in written reporting

- Include more in here in relation to skills for learning, behaviour, social, effort, key competencies, values.

- Progress comment could also include progress in relation to other areas of learning such as effort/attitude, behaviour and/or the key competencies of managing self, relating to others or participating and contributing.

- Space to write progress comments may need to be lengthened.

- Consideration for how best to balance the time required for written reporting against other demands on teacher time. (ie) planning and preparation for teaching.

- Ensuring there is clarity over how next steps are followed up within written reporting.

- Relate next step comments to aspects of the key competencies (eg) relating to others

- Strengthen next step reporting in other areas of the curriculum (eg) Science

- Providing a collective repository of ways to support at home linked to school reporting.
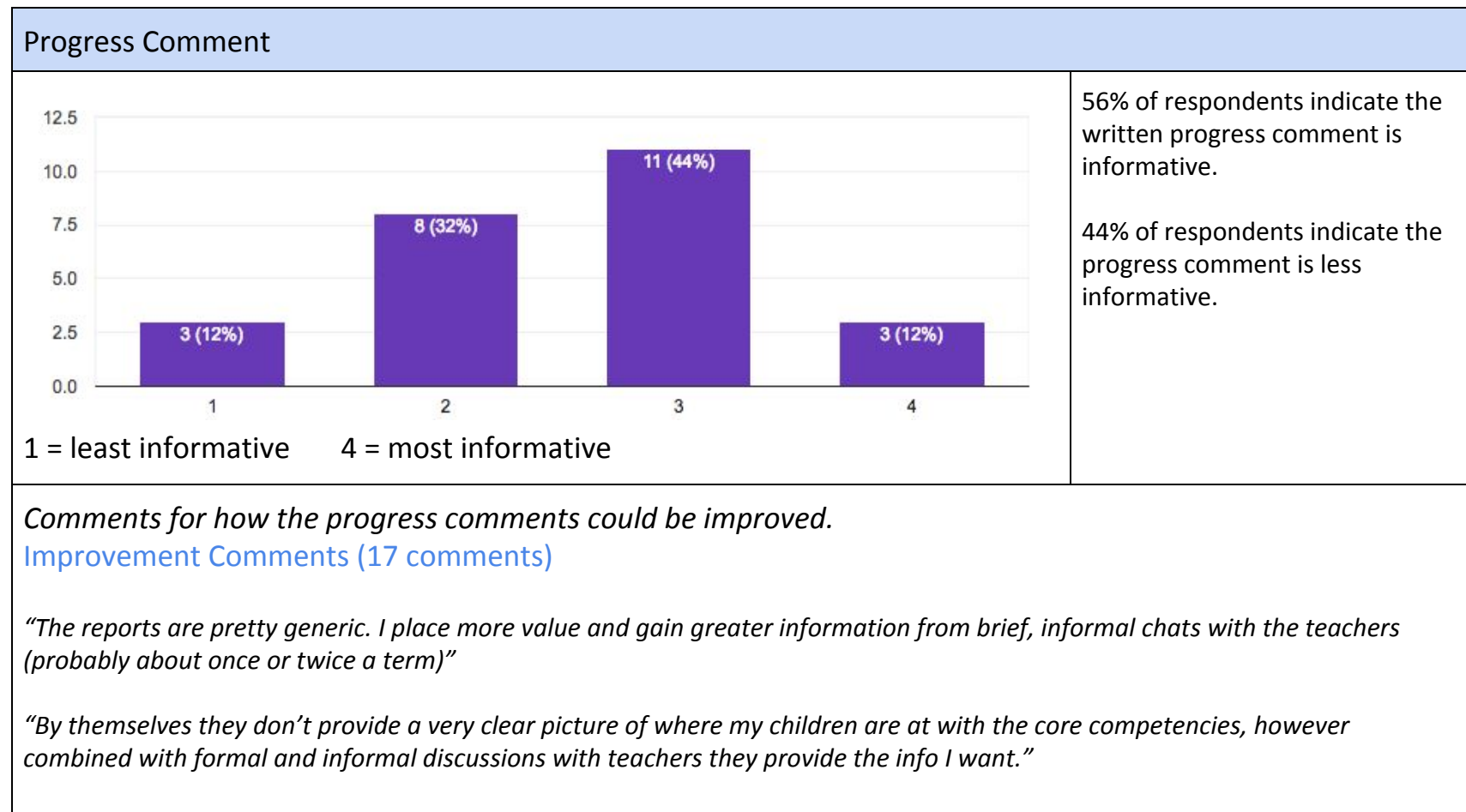
Student learning Conferences

- Consider the frequency of student learning conference balanced with written reporting requirements.

- Clarify student learning conference structure for parents and the research supporting children's involvement in these meetings.

Seesaw

- Strengthen guidelines for staff and students around content and frequency of seesaw posts.

- Capture more daily learning moments from the learning spaces.

- Continue to support students to use formative feedback to update seesaw posts.

- Ensure the SAMR model for school use of seesaw is strengthened.

- Build student agency and accountability through regular use of seesaw.

Written Reports

How informative to you find the progress comment, next step comment and how to support at home comment in the written reports for reading, writing and mathematics?

Progress Comment	
1 = least informative 4 = most informative	56% of respondents indicate the written progress comment is informative. 44% of respondents indicate the progress comment is less informative.

Comments for how the progress comments could be improved.
Improvement Comments (17 comments)

"The reports are pretty generic. I place more value and gain greater information from brief, informal chats with the teachers (probably about once or twice a term)"

"By themselves they don't provide a very clear picture of where my children are at with the core competencies, however combined with formal and informal discussions with teachers they provide the info I want."

"....Comments about how they are as a student/person as well as how we can support their learning at home is nice, and useful."

Common Improvement Themes

6 comments referred to other forms of reporting being more valuable than written reports. They indicated a preference for written reporting being supplemented by other reporting like examples of student work, informal meetings with teachers and learning conferences.

4 comments referred to more detail and that comments were too brief.

3 comments preferred comments which were more holistic and talked more generally about the student as a learner.

2 comments referred to improvement by referencing the previous written report

2 comments referred to improvement by increasing frequency of written reporting.

Considerations

Progress comment could also include progress in relation to other areas of learning such as effort/attitude, behaviour and/or the key competencies of managing self, relating to others or participating and contributing.

Space to write progress comments may need to be lengthened.

Consideration for how best to balance the time required for written reporting against a wide range of other demands on teacher time.

Next Step Comment	
1 = least informative 4 = most informative	68% of comments indicate the next step comment as informative. 32% identify the next step comments as less informative.

Comments for how the next step comments could be improved.

Improvement Comments (12 Comments)

"They seem generic statements, as at home, my children show competency and a good understanding of the actions identified as next steps."

" Again, more frequent reports to track progress…."

" The suggestions sometimes seem overly basic and lacking stretch. They can feel cut and pasted, which is understandable given the workload but not necessarily useful as a parent…"

Common Themes

4 comments referred to the next step comment needing to be more personalised.

3 comments referred to the next step comment as thoughtful, useful, meaningful and great.

2 comments referred to frequency and wanted more regular comments.

2 comments referred to new parents who haven't received these reports yet.
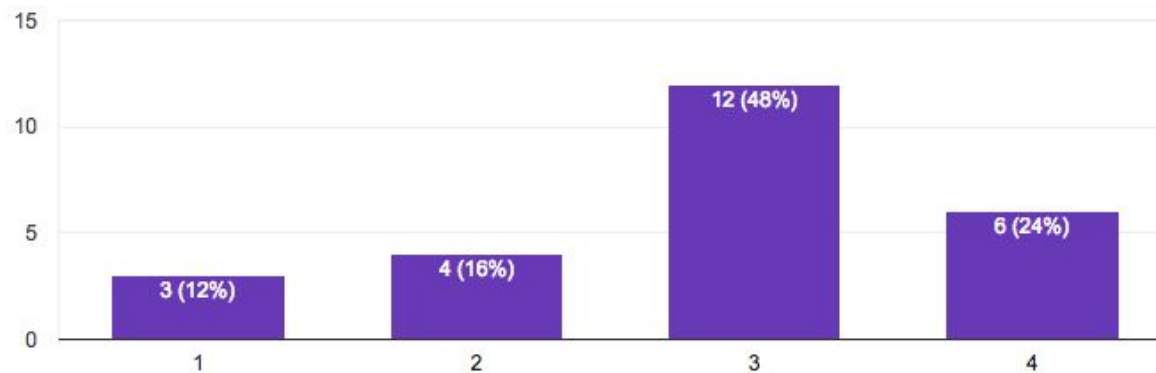
Considerations

Ensuring there is clarity over how next steps are followed up.

Relate next step comments to aspects of the key competencies (eg) relating to others

Strengthen next step reporting in other areas of the curriculum (eg) Science

Supporting your child at home comment

15

10

5

0

3 (12%)
4 (16%)
12 (48%)
6 (24%)

1   2   3   4

1 = least informative   4 = most informative

72% of comments referred to the support comments as informative

28% indicated the support comments were less informative.

Comments for how the ' supporting your child at home' comment could be improved.
Comments for how these could be improved. (14 comments)

"Provide online websites for math, English, problem solving…..."

"Any helpful tips from teachers on areas that need a little extra is very welcome."

"I have found this to be very basic and mostly includes things we are already doing. Teachers are such a great resource so tapping into some more diverse and in depth suggestions for the individual would be so much appreciated."

Common Themes
7 comments referred to the support comments as useful, good or valuable.

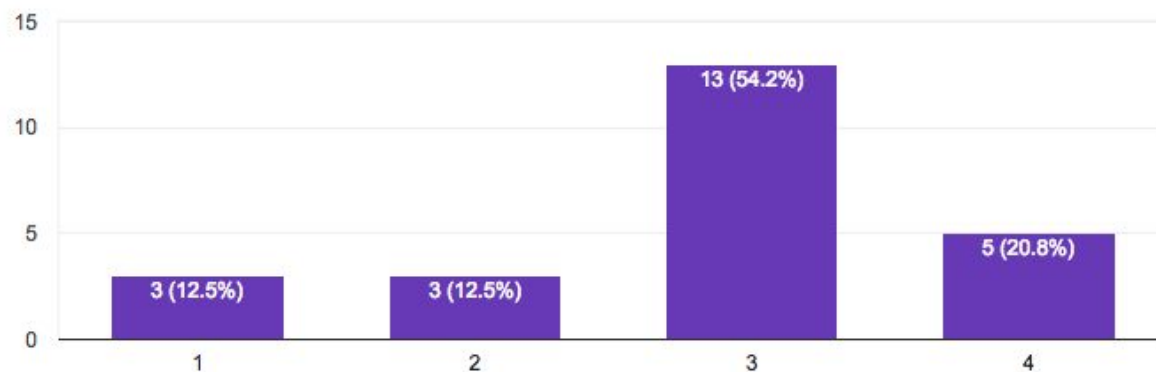2 of comments asked for more detailed support comments

3 comments referred to providing support like links to online resources and other learning activities as useful.

2 comments related to new parents who hadn't seen support comments yet.

Considerations

Providing a collective repository of ways to support at home linked to school reporting.

General Comment

1 = least informative   4 = most informative

74% of comments indicated the general comments as informative.

25% indicate the general comments as less informative.

Comments for how the general comment.
Comments for how these could be improved. (11 comments)

"More details, it would be great to get a sense the teacher really 'gets' the individual. I think a general comment mid year would be great too." ."

"We really enjoy the personalised 'summary comment' - and realise this must take a lot of time and thought. To us, this is the most important part of the report as it recognises the child as a whole. Not sure it needs improvement."

"More detail. What aspects of learning has the teacher noticed have been particularly engaging for the student, what areas do they not engage in well."

Common Themes

2 comments related to more detail and/or personalised content.

2 comments related to including comments about how child are doing socially and how they are engaged.
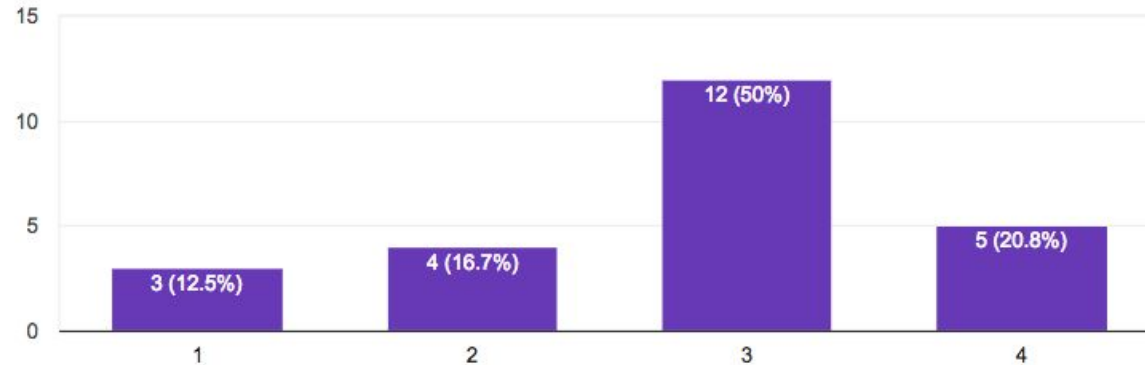
3 comments indicated the general comments as thorough, valuable, and useful.

Considerations

Make the general comment report comment more prominent.

Include more in here in relation to skills for learning, behaviour, social, effort, key competencies, values.

Child Self Reflection on School Values

15

10

5

0

3 (12.5%)

4 (16.7%)

12 (50%)

5 (20.8%)

1   2   3   4

1 = least informative   4 = most informative

70% of respondents identify the self reflections as informative

28% of respondents identify the self reflection comments as less informative.

Comments for how informative are the self reflection comments.
Comments for how these could be improved. (10 comments)

"School values are not prominent, lack visibility and adherence. A stronger focus and commitment to school values across all levels."

"Going well here with recognition and awards." "I like this. It gives them an opportunity to express how they see things."

"More detail. What aspects of learning has the teacher noticed have been particularly engaging for the student, what areas do they not engage in well."

Common Themes

3 comments indicate value and usefulness in children reflecting on school values in the written report.

1 comment indicated these were more informative as children got older

3 comments referred to the reflective comment as pc box ticking or needing to be more focussed or the values not being visible enough.

Considerations

Continue to ensure there are effective ways to capture 'student voice' when reporting on their learning.

Continue to support children with the learning they need to reflect and comment on their learning effectively.

Other feedback on the written reports

Other feedback for how these could be improved. (17 comments)

"We found the written reports with the National Standards not particularly informative. We would value the teacher who is with them the most commenting on learning as well as other aspects of their life at school."

"More frequent updates incorporating the students view of progress and feedback. Feedback is not always captured or reflected in two reports across all school terms."

"Thank you for taking the time to see our children as individuals, and to write about their achievements and personalities as articulately as you do. It means a lot to us."

Common Themes

4 comments referred to the reports needing to present a wider view of learning including.

3 comments referred to more detail

4 comments referred to the usefulness of the comments and appreciated the written reports

2 comments referred to wanting more frequent reports

2 comments referred to wanting effort scores and test results.

Considerations

Ensure reporting balances the aspirations from parents for reporting on curriculum content against reporting on the child more holistically as a learner (strengths, skills, attitude, effort…)

Seesaw

Comments for how informative is the information received from your child via seesaw.

"Of all the reporting tools, this provides me with the most tangible understanding of my child's activities at school, and enables me to have two way discussions rather than just asking how he is doing."

"Really value what my child is putting on seesaw, a great constructive way for technology to be used in association with written work and practical abilities. We enjoy sharing this together at home too, and as parents we value being able to comment back. Great collaboration and feedback opportunities, as well as the chance to get a feel for what learning is happening is class."

"There is nothing I have seen on seesaw that warrants the time that it would have taken for the teacher to take and load the photos….I would like to see the books that my children work on brought home so they could show me that. Or a small amount of homework."

"This is a good initiative in its early days. IUt will be good to see children become more familiar with it and therefore more natural. Great to hear them explain their work…would like to see more of this as we see very little evidence of the planning and strategy that should be going on behind things like 'wheke' time. Good to see some evidence of this for writing/math too."

Common Themes
13 comments were positive or very positive about seesaw. Many of these indicated wanting more posts

16 comments referred to wanting to see more seesaw posts.

2 comments referred positively to seesaw and the need to develop seesaw to help parents understand the context for the posts and the learning.

3 comments indicated a preference for seeing work in children's books, on paper or through homework.

Considerations

Strengthen guidelines for staff and students around content and frequency of seesaw posts.
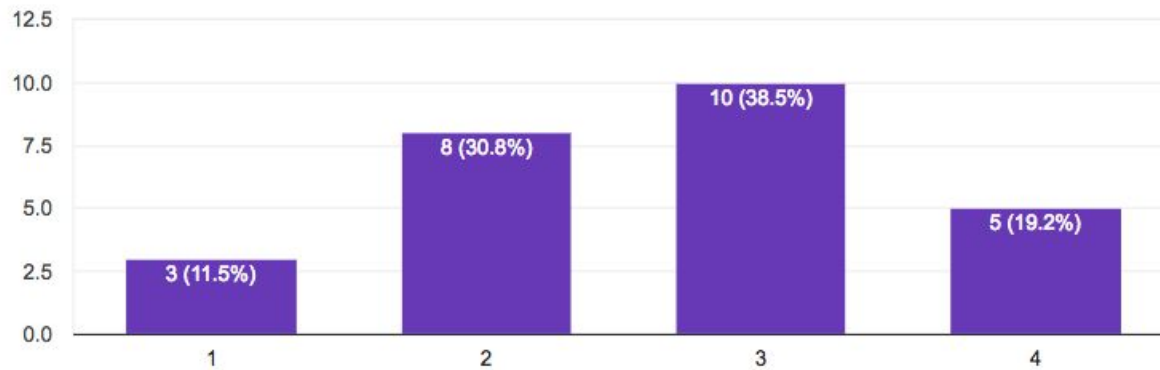
Capture more daily learning moments from the learning spaces.

Continue to support students to use formative feedback to update seesaw posts.

Ensure the SAMR model for school use of seesaw is strengthened.

Build student agency and accountability through regular use of seesaw.

Student Learning Conferences

1 = least informative   4 = most informative

58% of respondents indicate the conferences as informative

41% indicate the conferences a less informative

Comments for how informative are the student learning conferences.
Comments for how these could be improved. (23 comments)

"We suggest each term, rather than only term 1 and 3"

"Only as good as the teachers. Whatever is discussed needs to be followed up."

"The learning goals are a bit nebulous as we don't refer to them again."

"...it is often difficult to have a frank and open conversation about an issue with the child present..."

"At the conference I have learned where my child needed more assistance, this was not evident from the written reports, then over a few months I was able to address the issues at home."

Common Themes

4 comments indicated a preference for meetings with just teachers

2 comments referred to concerns with follow up from discussions at the meetings

4 comments valued the opportunity for children, teachers and parents meeting together

2 comments referred to more frequency

2 comments referred to more freedom to share information in general discussion.

2 comments referred to poor communication or conferences not helpful.

Considerations

Consider the frequency of student learning conference balanced with written reporting requirements.

Clarify student learning conference structure for parents and the research supporting children's involvement in these meetings.

Informal Meetings with Teachers

Comments for how informative are informal meetings with teachers arranged by parents and.or teachers as required?

Informal Meetings (20 comments)

"We totally appreciate any extra time the teachers put aside to speak to us and have always felt success relating to our children has always stemmed from them."

"These are pretty good although it would be good to sit somewhere private and quiet without interruption…"

"These are very good. Being able to discuss things, whether its a concern or a clarification of something is very beneficial. Things at school impact at home and of course the reverse is also very true."

"Very informative, I don't see that anything needs to change, teachers are quite open and freely give their time, it's great."

"Could be more personal"

Very informative, appreciate the teachers being available for impromptu dialogue."
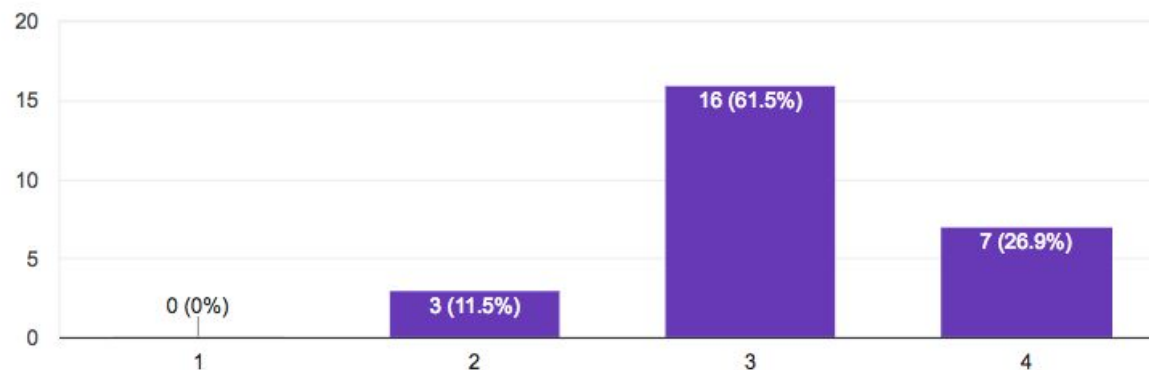
Common Themes

12 comments were very positive about informal meetings with teachers arranged when required indicating that these meetings achieved good results.

3 comments referred to difficulties making a time when teachers are busy, wanting a more private space.

Considerations

Clarify for parents opportunities for quick catch ups with teachers and share examples for how this has been effective.

School Events and Celebrations

20

15   16 (61.5%)

10

5   7 (26.9%)

0 (0%)   3 (11.5%)

0

        1   2   3   4

1 = least informative   4 = most informative

86% of respondents indicate the school events and celebrations as informative

11% indicate these as less informative

Comments for how informative are school events and celebrations.
Comments for how these could be improved. (15 comments)

"Assemblies are a great way to discover what is happening in a more general sense at the school."

"In assembly each class could do a short report of main learning activities for the two weeks prior…"

"Always great when you attend. Turnout is always low."

"Assemblies are fantastic."

Common Themes

12 comments were very positive about school events particularly the school assemblies.

2 comments referred to more notice for school events

1 comment referred to shortening the school assembly.

Considerations

Maintain and extend opportunities to celebrate learning through school assemblies and events.