Opinion Surveys 2014

Changes in opinion surveying enabled the leadership team to scrutinize the previous Opinion Survey questions and feedback to produce a batch of questions that students, staff, and parents could respond to: a sample of 14 questions was chosen. There was similarity between staff student and parent questions but the three surveys contained minor variation in response to past survey points of focus.

Sectional leaders were asked to provide a representative list of parents to receive a mailed copy of the survey. In 2014 we must allow for more distribution and return time as the postal system did impact on the timeframe set.

The ultimate goal of the survey process is to maximise return rates especially in the parent cohort.

The following information is also included in the Annual Report:

STUDENT SURVEY R-12

To get broader student input 240 students were surveyed (the last DECD survey involved only 77 students).

Using the “unsure” data the student survey highlights several areas for improvement: they are:-25-30% of our students have expressed uncertainty about their safety at school, opportunities to be involved in decision making, tailored learning programs which provide all with the chance to be successful, enthusiasm for learning and holding high expectations of themselves as learners.

To assist in addressing these areas in 2014 all staff will work with students to

- establish a more consistent approach to developing a safer school environment and consistent SBM follow up with support from leadership and the student counsellors;
- promote classroom meetings, student led assemblies and feedback from the SRC more vibrantly for all students at MCC
- take a strong position as staff on having higher expectations for all students and staff engaging actively in the TFEL framework to build student engagement
- investigate with a view to implementation: the “Positive Behavior for Learning” Professional Development program to benefit staff and students
- Foster recognition of student achievement at assemblies and in the Newsletter
STAFF SURVEY –

all staff were given the opportunity to respond:- 35 staff returned their survey (29 returns in 2012)

Using data which shows uncertainty by approximately one third of the staff including SSO’s who responded to this survey there are four areas which need to be targeted for improvement:- two areas show similarity with the student surveys;

Concern has been raised about the procedures to address bullying (particularly by staff in the Junior School), school organization, teacher enthusiasm about their teaching and the expectations we hold about student achievement. The surveys did not identify teachers but did identify sections of school and some of the responses indicate the need for stronger leadership and accountability by all members of the leadership team as they work with staff. Staff however are also responsible for the manner in which they lead their classrooms and interact with their students.

To assist in addressing these areas in 2014 leadership will work with staff students and parents to:-

• promote “excellence” as desirable and achievable by all of our students and hold higher expectations for all students. Use assemblies as the forum to share publicly and diaries as the communication with parents.
• engage actively in the TFEL framework to build student engagement and capacity building
• participate actively in Professional development
• work collegially on SBM procedures and set a standard for consistency and fairness for all students to ensure better learning outcomes and a safer school environment and communicate in a timely way with parents.
• take shared responsibility for organisation in the school and make better use of all the tools for communication and organization that exist: clarify uncertainties at staff meetings, in line management and performance development sessions
• share the commitment to making MCC a safe, tolerant and vibrant place in which to teach and learn and build stronger connections with families of our students.

![Staff Survey 2013](image-url)
PARENT SURVEY –
84 families were given the opportunity to respond: 14 returned their survey this is approximately 17%.

It is our intention to survey same families (adjusting for any who leave the school) so that we can better gauge opinion and build the % responding: DECD’s previous random surveys had a return rate of about 9%. By issuing the 2014 survey earlier we hope to build the response rate. Consistent from parents with previous survey feedback is the need for a safe learning and playing environment for their children, enthusiastic and communicative staff, good relationships with the school and good management of the school. It is pleasing to note that these parents report that they feel welcome in the school as this is an area where staff and Governing Council have made a significant push over several years now and that effort is shown to be valued and the welcome mat more evident.

For the future
• stronger leadership and communication from teachers reassuring parents about teaching programs and expectations as parents clearly want their children extended and educated to their capacity as learners
• stronger partnerships with parents to ensure that the decisions made around their children’s learning are informed and agreed upon
• support parents through clear processes and good communication that their issues will be responded to effectively and appropriately
• work consistently as a staff team and with the active engagement of students in the ongoing development of a safe environment for all enabling students to learn and play and staff to teach and work.

What has emerged from 2013 for the future is incredibly similar: the questions sorted from the larger survey batch are relevant and the areas to address are consistent. Leadership and staff will continue to work together on building a better MCC. One key to this is better communication and regular contact with families. We shall reinforce this throughout 2014. The TFEL document, a renewed website, class newsletters, the school newsletters and welcoming classrooms will be the main stay of our endeavours to move forward.

Time will be set aside at a Governing Council meeting to analyse the data and recommendations: In future we hope that Governing Councillors be more involved in the surveying process and analysis.