

# Public School News by Katrina Weir

## Jan Cohen takes up role of Principal at Belrose Public School

After 23 years of service to Artarmon Public School, Jan Cohen has left to assume the role of principal at Belrose Public School. Jan held a range of positions during her time at Artarmon Public School including time as a teacher and assistant principal before being appointed to the role of deputy principal several years ago.

Jan was a well-known and widely respected educator who was involved in almost every aspect of Artarmon Public School life. She made immeasurable contributions to the band, choir and creative arts programs, involved herself in all the local community events and was an energetic photographer who has played a large part in keeping a photographic history of our school and its community.

The entire staff, parent and student body of Artarmon Public School would like to publicly thank Jan for her enormous contribution to the school, and wish her all the very best for her new role.

## Artarmon Public School Embraces Cultural Diversity

Artarmon Public School is proud of its rich cultural diversity which the staff, parents and students believe enhances the children's learning and understanding of their world.

This diversity provides benefits for all children

and parents as they are exposed to a range of perspectives about life and a deeper understanding of the many different cultures and traditions that exist in our community.

Some interesting statistics about the cultural mix at Artarmon Public School include:

- 62% come from language backgrounds other than English (LBOTE)
- 38 languages are spoken, other than English
- 11% of students have been in Australia less than a year
- The majority of children not originally from Australia come from China and Korea
- School families have cultural links to over 83 countries.

According to Principal Louise Green, families are attracted to Artarmon Public School because of its proximity to the city, Chatswood and St Leonards.

"Many families have heard what a wonderfully diverse and culturally rich school we have and deliberately choose to live close to our school," explains Louise.

In recognition of the diversity of the school population and the need to facilitate the integration of new parents into the school, Artarmon Public School has recently established a Multicultural Committee which consists of parent and school representatives.

The Committee aims to develop an inclusive and supportive school community. Specifically, it is working to improve home/school communication and to encourage parents to participate in the life of the school by:

- inviting new parents to school functions and using class parent coordinators to personally contact new families
- inviting parents to participate in focus groups to discuss school-related issues
- developing a glossary to explain school terminology
- establishing small social networks for new parents
- helping organise social activities that showcase the diversity of the school and encourage a broad range of families to participate.

"The Multicultural Committee is a wonderful initiative to help parents from different cultural backgrounds develop a sense of connectedness and belonging to the school community," said Louise Green.

"Although most families have someone close to them who is comfortable with the English language, we are keen to encourage parents to directly engage with the school and its staff, and to have the confidence to embrace the school's open approach to communication," she explained.



Parents and children from various cultural backgrounds gather for the annual Welcome Picnic at Artarmon Public School

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