

GOODBYE MRS MCGUIRE

The end of 2017 we will say good-bye to Mrs Kerri McGuire as a permanent teacher at our school. Mrs McGuire has had a very long association with Yeronga State School as five generations of her family have attended this school, starting in 1880 with her Great Grandfather, Ernest Soden. Mrs McGuire has been kind enough to share some of her memories of when she was a student at our school.

Mrs McGuire started Grade 1 in 1967 and continued through to Grade 7 in 1973. She was in two sporting houses, Paterson and Evans. Mrs McGuire explains why she was in two houses: "I began as a Paterson student, but in Grade 6 an extra house was added (Kendall) and many students had to change houses. I became an Evans team member and was later Evans House Captain when I was in Grade 7".

Mrs McGuire lived locally and like many children of this era walked to school with her brother, cousins and some friends. Once the bell rang for the beginning of classes, Mrs McGuire probably studied in a room that you sit in today. The buildings have not changed much but the way the classroom looked has changed dramatically. "Our classrooms were pretty bare with very few posters on the wall. Our seats and desks were made of timber. In Grade 1, I used a slate and slate pencil as well as a lead pencil and paper. My first 'reader' was all about the characters Dick and Dora and their special pets Nip and Fluff."

As we know, school is not all about learning and all students look forward to lunchtime. If you walk around Yeronga State School at lunchtime today, you will see many games of handball and playgrounds with fantastic climbing equipment. In the late 1960's, the younger children liked to play 'houses' under the shade of the big trees. In the older grades, the popular games were chasey, marbles, hopscotch with lines scratched into the dirt, beam (throwing a ball on to the beams under the buildings) and skipping with a big rope. Mrs McGuire all-time favourite game though was elastics. Mrs McGuire was also a member of the softball and tennis teams in Grade 6 and Grade 7.

Many things have changed since Mrs McGuire's day. When Mrs McGuire was a girl, the tuckshop was under D Block (where the Art room is now located); the library was in A Block (current 5H and 5M classrooms) and the principal's residence was on the Dental Clinic land.

Upon leaving primary school, Mrs McGuire attended Yeronga State High School and the University of Queensland. After a time of travelling, being a PE teacher and taking time to be stay at home mum to her children Katie and Danny, Mrs McGuire came back to Yeronga State School as a classroom teacher in 2004. In 2004, the teaching method was rote learning but now students are taught through inquiry learning.

Over the last 13 years Mrs McGuire has taught a number of year levels and has been a strong supporter of Swimming Carnivals, Athletics Day and Gala Sports Days. The impact that Mrs McGuire has had on students' learning is immeasurable and her support shown to colleagues is appreciated.

From all of us at Yeronga State School, we wish Mrs McGuire the very best for her retirement. There is no doubt her involvement and commitment to Yeronga State School will continue well into the future.

