



Mount Victoria Public School Parents & Citizens Association

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To Whom It May Concern,

The community of Mt Victoria would like to express their frustration and dismay in recently discovering we are not going to receive a new brick classroom to replace the now non-existent demountable and a hard court cover as promised as part of the federal governments Building the Education Revolution scheme.

This school *has* recently dropped student population numbers due to a large outgoing year 6 cohort in 2009 followed by a small Kindergarten intake in 2010 (which we believe was a common issue across many schools). Keeping in mind all Pre-Schools in our local area are full due to baby bonus incentives, school numbers will increase over the next few years. Also, if you look at the history of student numbers for Mt Victoria Primary School, you can see it is now at the low end of the population spectrum which would indicate a natural rise upwards in the next few years. It is a rare year that Mt Victoria P.S. has only 3 classes. The Principal, staff, P&C, parents, students and community are working towards improving the schools' public profile and already the forecasted numbers for 2011 look great. Fluctuation in student numbers is a common occurrence within schools and it is highly likely by 2011 the numbers at Mt Victoria P.S. will warrant a fourth classroom. This school has had to endure a demountable classroom for too long(21years). We need a permanent suitable space to use as a fourth home base.

The school is also running successful music, art, dance, drama and kitchen garden programs which require suitable spaces to house and ensure their continuity.

Mt Victoria P.S. has a vibrant, enthusiastic school community. The staff work hard to create a caring, positive and dynamic learning environment for their students. Being a small school positioned on the edge of the district this school misses out on many opportunities and is often overlooked. Last year we lost a very popular teacher and a demountable classroom. This had a huge impact on our school community which resulted in the current positive attitude to revitalize what is already a fantastic school. We will be overlooked no longer! Why can't this hard working school community receive the same equity as private schools and other higher profile or more demanding public schools?

We were placed in the funding category of schools with 51 – 160 students and yes our numbers have dropped *but* they still, at 65, exceed the minimum requirement of 51 which

entitled us to a hard court cover and larger brick classroom, which would be more suitable to our harsh mountain climate than alternatives. The estimated 1.5 million dollars to build a brick classroom is outrageous and excessive. With this type of ineffectual budgeting and project mismanagement it is completely understandable that the money set aside for this scheme is running out. What is not understandable is why Mt Victoria Public School is yet again the last on the list and having to fight for a fair go.

Consider supporting the endeavors of our school and our community. Give us this classroom as a vote of your confidence in what we are trying to achieve at Mt Victoria Public School, as our public notice board proclaimed – Great School! Great Community!

Yours sincerely

President P & C