



# Meadow Matters

*The newsletter of Fairy Meadow Demonstration School*

**Term 1 Week 2 – 4<sup>th</sup> February 2016**

## **Principal's Report**

**"Excellence is not a skill. It's an attitude."**

### ***Welcome Back Everyone:***

I hope you are all as excited as I am being at FMDS. 2016 will be a great year, action packed and full of new ideas and programs for students, staff and parents. We will all work hard together making a great FMDS even better for our students, staff and school community.

### ***Kinder – First Day and Congratulations Year 6 Buddies:***

Our new Kinders turned up on their first day at "Big School" and were welcomed by their wonderful teachers, Mrs. Toll and Mrs Mathers. Congratulations also to our amazing Year 6 buddies who showed great care, patience and a very genuine regard for their little buddies. In particular,



Kalani F is to be congratulated for showing extra care and attention to her Kinder Finn C. Finn's mother was so impressed with Kalani that she emailed me to tell me how Kalani also checked on Finn at the end of

his first day to see how he was. Above and beyond the call of duty, I think !!! Kinder start and finish times have changed and are now the same as the whole school – start 8.55 am and finish 2.55 pm. I remind new Kinder parents not to drive into the school or park in the school grounds as this causes increased traffic congestion and safety risks with the volume of staff cars, before and after school traffic and special transport buses. Thankyou for your understanding.



### ***Pre-School Week 1 off to a Flying Start:***

This week we saw our "very little people" enjoy their first days at our wonderful pre-school. Miss Bennie and Mrs White will be looking forward to a very busy year caring for so many "busy" little children so eager to learn about their new friends and new world of pre-school.



### ***Swimming Carnival – Fantastic:***

Congratulations to all the children who competed and all the parents who came along to our Swimming Carnival to support their children and or help out with timekeeping etc. The morning was sunny and warm and the children all tried their best. Thankyou to Mr. Dill for his excellent organisation, ably assisted by Mrs. Whalan, Mr. Napper, Mrs. Picton and Mr. Swan. We all had a fun time especially with the highly competitive and cut-throat Staff – Parent – Student Race. The staff team will be ready to defend their new champion title in 2017!!!

### ***Mr. Brightwell's Way to say Thankyou and Well Done to Teachers and Students:***

I have explained to the teachers and students that each week I will do a teacher's playground duty and give a group of students half an hour of extra play for doing something special to say thankyou and well done. This gives me an opportunity to get out of my office (which is a good thing sometimes!!) and get to know the students a little better. This week Mrs. Whalan's name was drawn by the student leaders and I have given extra play to our Year 6 Buddles for helping our Kinders.

### ***Congratulations – Full School Uniform, Looking Good:***

Congratulations mums and dads and boys and girls. I was so impressed to see most if not all of our 380 students all dressed in their full school uniform with black school shoes and black socks (and they don't show the dirt!!). The students all look so good and trendy!! Thankyou parents for your support with this very simple, but very important school matter.

Our school motto is "Learn to Live" which is an excellent motto and focuses on children at school learning many life-long lessons. One of these lessons is the clear expectation in life that wearing a uniform or a specific dress code is a part of employment. If you want a job you follow the dress code. Many years ago, when McDonalds had fewer outlets, my two teenage sons with long hair needed part-time jobs and had to wear hair nets as part of their McDonald's uniform. Many young people today in casual employment must wear their Woollies and Coles uniforms etc. That's life, and school is where children learn these valuable lessons first.

### ***Teacher Professional Learning:***

On Wednesday all teachers attended a Reading Eggs and Mathletics professional learning workshop after school to learn more about an exciting program to better support our classroom teaching and school-home partnerships. All staff including teaching staff, office staff and non-teaching staff also give up 2 hours on Wednesday evening to 7.00 pm to examine our School Plan for 2016. These additional hours after a long day at school are part of completing professional learning to replace the last 2 days of the 2016 school year. This year children finish school on Friday 16th December and staff are expected to return to school on Monday 19th and Tuesday 20th December. I believe it is a far better use of teacher professional learning to complete current and timely professional learning now during the school year, especially given I am the new Principal and we all need to be on the same page – early, in terms of planning the best possible year for FMDS in 2016. Unlike the School Development Pupil Free Day on the first day of Term 1, 2 and 3 this additional in lieu professional learning is undertaken outside the normal school day and does not affect the school day timetable in anyway, but it does impact strongly on and improves teachers' knowledge, skills and teaching practices for the benefit of our children's learning at school in the classroom and at home. I thank the staff of FMDS for giving up their free time and family time after a busy and exhausting day.

### ***Arrival at School – 8.30 am:***

I ask parents not to send or drop off their children at school until 8.30 am at the earliest. This week children started arriving as early as 8.10 am, nearly one hour before school starts. On Monday there were over 60 children under the COLA and 5 sitting in the foyer well before 8.30 am. Unlike my previous school which had buses and older siblings at the high school across the road, there is no reason for children to be at school so early. Teachers are not on playground duty until 8.30 am and I have concerns regarding supervision and student safety for children coming to school and then entering the school grounds before 8.30 am.

### ***P&C Meeting – Next Wednesday, 10th February: All Welcome:***

I warmly invite any parents to come along to next week's P&C Meeting and be a part of our dedicated P&C parent group who work so hard to benefit our students. We have some new faces in the P&C Executive who would dearly appreciate some other new faces coming along to our meeting.

### ***Meet the Teacher and 2016 Information Evenings:***

These very important meetings with all the teachers are now being planned and notice will be given in the next School Newsletter, so watch this space!!

### **Library News:**

Just letting you all know early that FMDS Library Bags are now available to purchase from Mr. Prior in our Library for \$10.00 each.

### **Gardening Club:**

Could I ask if we have any parents or grandparents with a green thumb who may have a spare hour or whatever time at their Fairy Meadow Demonstration School to work in our school gardens to make them a blaze of colour and make our school look even better? I spent most of the holidays in our gardens near the main foyer entrance door, breaking in our new push mower and using our brush cutter along the very long fence line. Please introduce yourself to me so I can organise a timetable or working bee so we can work in some of our many other gardens and so make FMDS the best it can look to the world. As one of only 5 demonstration primary schools in NSW, FMDS has hundreds of university student's visit regularly and this year will also have 30 – 40 Principals training here every day from Term 2. I want them, as well as our own children and families to be so proud and so impressed with FMDS and think about our school with very favourable memories. I want the university students to be so enthusiastic about their career as teachers after they visit FMDS and all our visiting Principals to be green with envy of our school. Together we can make a great looking school look even better.

Thankyou for your support

Paul Brightwell

### **CANTEEN NEWS**

Welcome back everyone. We are still finalising the new price list but can tell you now that most menu items and prices will be the same as last year. There are a few exceptions that we know of at the moment and there may be others as we get current prices from our suppliers. An updated menu will be sent home with the newsletter in the coming weeks.

Most notable are price increases to Nachos up to \$4.50, torpedo rolls up to \$4.00, hotdogs up to \$4.00 and mini puddings up to 30c. Due to very slow sales Chicken and Veg pies have been deleted.

We have also changed our milk supplier from Dairy Farmers and so no longer stock Moove milk. A directive from Dairy Farmers management requires customers to purchase \$1000.00 worth of stock per week to qualify for a fridge we have had for the last 10 years or so. They did offer a small counter fridge which we declined. It's very disappointing that after many years of loyalty to this company they would treat a school this way.

Needless to say we have a new milk supplier – Oak. They have delivered a new fridge and the 300ml school range of flavoured milk comes in three flavours – Chocolate, Strawberry and new Vanilla Malt, the price remains the same at \$2.50. However they do not make small cartons of plain milk so this item is unavailable at the moment.

Unfortunately Hot Kid rice crackers are out of stock at the moment.

Below is the canteen volunteer roster for the next few weeks. There are plenty of spots available for anyone wanting to help and you would be more than welcome. Pop in and see us if you would like to volunteer.

Mon 1/2	Brooke Ward	Mon 8/2	
Tue 2/2	Coralie Easton	Tue 9/2	
Wed 3/2		Wed 10/2	
Thur 4/2	Michelle Haigh	Thur 11/2	Kaylene Roach
Frid 5/2		Frid 12/2	Lisa Springett

## COMMUNITY NEWS

### ***Looking for some extra cash***

Kids are back to school.....maybe now you have some time on your hands and would like to earn some money. A locally owned cleaning business is looking for workers – The Cleaning Crew would love to hear from you if you are looking for some part time work during school hours or after hours. Please call or SMS Kelly on 0401 330 044 if you are interested.

### ***Mt Ousley Physical Culture Club***

Physical Culture is modern and dance based routines for girls and ladies from 3yrs to 60yrs! It is an inexpensive activity that helps co-ordination and fitness. Routines are performed to modern music that is fun and age appropriate. First three lessons are free for new members to try. Pre-schoolers to 8yrs on Tuesdays, 9yrs to senior girls on Mondays and ladies classes on Monday evenings. All local venues are used for classes. Registration; Sat 6<sup>th</sup> and Sun 7<sup>th</sup> February 12-2pm at Fairy Meadow Demonstration School Hall

### ***Illawarra Sports High School Open Night***

Year 5 & 6 Open Night, held in the Illawarra Sports High School on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> February commencing at 6pm. Flyers are available from FMDS office for those interested in attending.

### ***Techtah Rugby Union Family***

Registration Free, Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> February from 5pm at Wollongong TAFE, Saunder's Oval, Foleys Lane, North Wollongong.

Under 5's to 7's, two handed touch to prepare for tackle from Under 8's up. For more information contact Dan Read 0414 628 926 or Paul Jeremijenko 0413 268 007.

### ***AFL***

Soar like the Sydney Swans and play AFL with the Wollongong Lions.

Registration on line at [www.wlionsjuniors.com.au](http://www.wlionsjuniors.com.au) or in person on Sat 13<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> February from 1-3pm at North Dalton Park Clubhouse.

For more information contact Hatem 0414 753 755 or Wayne 0425 317 809

### ***All That Jazz***

All that Jazz dance classes held at Fairy Meadow Demonstration School Hall every Thursday afternoon. If you would like to call in and talk to one of our instructors please come along any Thursday from 4.00pm.