



Meadow Matters

The newsletter of Fairy Meadow Demonstration School

Term 1 Week 2 – 4th February 2016

Principal's Report

"Success is the sum of small efforts –repeated day in, day out."

New Bells and School Day – 9.00 am – 3.00pm:

Starting next Monday, 22nd February, our school day will change. These changes, some small, some significant, are made for a number of educational and sunsafe reasons. I thank our dedicated staff and supportive parent community for the positive feedback to date concerning a number of changes made in these early weeks. I commend our FMDS staff and canteen ladies for being so willing to accept change and trial new ideas and directions in making a great FMDS an even better FMDS.

Monday to Thursday:

8.55 am. Bell/Music Children to go to the toilet and move to our large roof Covered Outside Learning Area (COLA) or cement Quad (Quadrangle) next to our Hall.
9.00 am. Morning assembly led by our Student Leaders
9.00 – 11.00 am. Morning Session (2 hours)
11.00 – 11.45 am. First eating and play session (45 minutes)
11.45 – 1.45 pm. Middle Session (2 hours)
1.45 – 2.15 pm. Second eating and play session (30 minutes)
2.15 – 3.00 pm. Afternoon Session (45 minutes)
3.00 pm. Children dismissed and end of school day

Fridays Only:

8.55 am. Bell/Music Children to go to the toilet and move to our large roof Covered Outside Learning Area (COLA) or cement Quad (Quadrangle) next to our Hall.
9.00 am. Morning assembly led by our Student Leaders
9.00 – 11.00 am. Morning Session (2 hours)
11.00 – 11.30 am. First eating and play session (30 minutes)
11.30 – 1.15 pm. Middle Session (1 ¾ hours)
1.15 – 2.00 pm. Second eating and play session (45 minutes)
2.00 – 3.00 pm. Afternoon Session (1 hour)
3.00 pm. Children dismissed and end of school day

Thankyou and Well Done Teachers and Students:

Congratulations to Mrs. Davis for giving up her playground duty this week and to 1T and 2/3P for having some extra play. Well done everyone. Enjoy, you all deserve something special!!

SRC Leadership Induction Assembly – Next Friday, 26th. February, 9.15 am. Mr. Gordon Bradbery, Lord Mayor of Wollongong, OAM:

FMDS is so excited to have our Lord Mayor of Wollongong, Councillor Gordon Bradbery OAM, attend our SRC Induction Ceremony. As you can appreciate, Mr. Bradbery has a very busy schedule but has been able to squeeze FMDS into his diary. Next Friday the children will leave the morning assembly and go immediately to our Hall for the Induction Assembly. Mr. Bradbery can only be with us a short time before he must leave at 9.30 am. To attend another meeting. It is something very special to have our city's leader attend our student leader's assembly.

Sydney Children's Hospital Pre-School and Kindergarten Screening – 27th & 28th April:

Free statewide eyesight screening (StEPS) of all pre-school and Kindergarten children will take place at FMDS on 27-28th April. Attached to this newsletter is a parent consent form which must be returned to FMDS ASAP. I urge all parents of this group of children to be part of this FREE program.

Safety and Welfare of Our Children – Your Children, Arrival at School – 8.30 am:

This week I continue to be concerned at some parents dropping off their children as early as 7.55 am, nearly one hour before school starts and even worse with the school gates still locked entering the school grounds via the most dangerous entrance – the staff carpark. The staff carpark entrance is always busy, especially in the morning, with staff cars, special transport buses, Before School Care buses and cars, as well as trucks delivering to the school and canteen.

The school gates are unlocked and opened at 8.30 am. To coincide with a teacher, who is usually a member of the school executive starting playground duty. With a very experienced and senior teacher on duty, then the children are directly supervised and their safety and welfare assured.

Thankyou to Teachers and Parents for Meet the Teacher:

Over this week, Week 4, a number of teachers across the school, in particular, Stage 2 and Stage3 (i.e. Years 3, 4, 5 & 6) have met with their student's parents to discuss what lies ahead in 2016. Other classes and teachers are planning similar meetings with parents next week, in particular Stage1 (Years 1 and 2) and Early Stage 1 which is Kinder. Thankyou to the many parents and our wonderful teachers who have given up their time for these very important meetings. I realise that the start of the day or end of the day is not always convenient for busy, working parents but the teachers have prepared Information Sheets for those parents unable to attend. I also ask parents, as no doubt has been asked by teachers at these meetings, should your child have a "difficult or unsettled night" or weekend for whatever reason, one simple phone call to the office will alert the school and class teacher to consider additional strategies to ensure the child has a happier and more successful start to their school day, rather than escalate a potential difficult conversation or situation, which could so easily have been avoided. Then the school doesn't have to phone home.

Our Fantastic New Facebook Page:

I hope all our children and parents are viewing our fantastic new Facebook Page thanks to all the hard work and dedication of Mrs. Fiona Scott. I would not like to count the many hours at home that Mrs Scott has given up getting our Facebook Page up and running. The photos, graphics, colour, comments, likes and stories all showcase to the world our wonderful FMDS students, tireless staff, and very supportive parents and families. An amazing new addition to FMDS. Thankyou again, Fiona.

Gardening Club:

Thankyou to those parents who have contacted me regarding our Green Club or Gardening Club. Attached to this week's newsletter is our FMDS Volunteers Policy and our FMDS Approaching the School Policy. These two policies are very important policies and clearly explain our expectations and legal responsibilities concerning people volunteering at school and procedures for parents to approach teachers and staff. I ask all parents and potential volunteers to carefully read both policies so there is no confusion and no difficult or embarrassing conversations in the future. I really don't want to put any parents on detention for not following school rules!!!! Although I was tempted after our excellent swimming carnival when one mum was too loud and boisterous at assembly!!!!

No Parents Parking in School Carparks – Damage to Parent Cars:

I remind all parents that only 2 families with prior Principal approval are permitted to park in the staff carpark area. All other families must park in the neighbouring council carparks. I also ask parents to be mindful and careful of other parent's cars and property when parking their vehicles. Some parent cars have been damaged and sadly no notice left on the windscreen or wherever. Unlike most schools, once again FMDS stands out from the crowd, as we are so lucky to have large carparks with plenty of space, so there should not be a problem parking so close to each other.

Congratulations Sharnee B. upon your selection into the Illawarra U12 Netball Team. Well done.

School Payments Made Easy on Skoolbag App:

Online school payments can now be made by accessing Make a Payment on our Skoolbag App. You will find this option on the App Homepage and it's called 'Make a Payment' – how easy is that !!!!

Upcoming Events:

(Also have a look at our Fantastic School Website, FMDS App, Electronic School Sign and our new Facebook Page for further information)

Week 5:

Tuesday 23rd February Brokers Swimming Carnival, Corrimal Pool, Mr. D and Mr N.

KM and KTS Meet the Teacher, 8.20 – 8.50 am.

1A and 1T Meet the Teacher, 8.30 – 8.50 am.

Wednesday 24th February Kinder & New Families P&C BBQ, Quadrangle, 5.30 – 6.30 pm.

Friday 26th February SRC Leaders Induction Assembly & Morning Tea, 9.15 – 10.00 am.

Week 6:

Monday 29th February Ryan Park, MP Keira visit FMDS, 10.00 am.

Assembly Year 3-6, 1.25 pm.

Tuesday 1st March Assembly K-2, 2.15 pm.

Wednesday 2nd March PBL Peer Support Groups K-6 start

Thankyou for your support

Paul Brightwell

Canteen News

Canteen has some big changes happening this week. We no longer have lunch and recess. We are now calling them Break 1 and Break 2.

Cheese on Toast, Scrolls and Spinach & Cheese triangles are no longer available.

When placing your order you must write Break 1 or Break 2 on your bag.

Hot Dogs will only be available during Break 1, Pizza's and Pasta's will only be available during Break 2.

A new menu is going home today with the newsletter.

Custard and Jelly has gone up to \$1.20, Lickstick's up to \$1.00.

Our wonderful helpers are:

Mon 15/2		Mon 22/2		Mon 29/2	Gabe Skinner
Tue 16/2	Deb Neich	Tue 23/2		Tue 1/3	Coralie Easton
Wed 17/2	Rachel Melville	Wed 24/2		Wed 2/3	
Thur 18/2		Thur 25/2	Simone Warburton	Thur 3/3	Michelle Haigh
Frid 19/2	Jacqueline Boyston	Frid 26/2	Lisa Springett	Frid 4/3	



APPROACHING YOUR SCHOOL POLICY 2016

A parent and community guide for seeking information and expressing concerns

Teachers, parents and community working together for successful schooling and student learning

From time to time parents or other members of the school community may need to approach the school, Office Staff, class teacher, Assistant Principal, Principal, other staff etc in order to:

- Discuss the progress or welfare of their own child;
- Express concern about actions of other students; and
- Enquire about school policy or practice.

Procedures are in place to help solve problems as soon as possible so that a safe and harmonious school environment is maintained. The best results usually flow from working together.

School Policies and Procedures aim to:

- provide a guide in order that concerns are dealt with in an open and fair manner;
- ensure all matters are dealt with in a sensitive and confidential manner;
- ensure the rights of students, teachers and parents are respected and upheld;
- be supportive of all parties concerned; and
- help reach an agreed solution.

On occasion, concerns may cause frustration and anxiety. At such times it is always important to organise a time to talk with school staff in an unhurried and confidential atmosphere. This is best achieved by making contact with the school office to arrange a convenient meeting/interview time convenient to all persons.

- It is inappropriate to approach teachers, for example, at the start of the school day when they are organizing the class and or trying to teach, manage children, organize resources for the day's teaching and learning or when they are engaged in conversation with another parent or staff member.

Protocols for Approaching the School

CONCERN	APPROPRIATE ACTION
The learning/academic progress of your own child	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contact the child's teacher through the office, either by note or by phone to arrange a suitable time to discuss any questions/issues.
The welfare of your own child	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For minor issues contact the child's teacher through the office, either by note or by phone to arrange a suitable time to discuss any questions/issues and or to clarify information. • For more serious concerns, contact the child's teacher through the office, either by note or by phone to arrange a suitable time to discuss any questions/issues. State the nature of concern and arrange a suitable time to talk with the class teacher or appropriate staff member eg. Assistant Principal. • To convey information about change of address, telephone number, emergency contact, custody details, health issues etc. please contact the office.
Actions of other students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contact the child's teacher through the office, either by note or by phone to arrange a suitable time to discuss any questions/issues. • Contact the stage Assistant Principal for playground problems. • AT NO TIME SHOULD A PARENT APPROACH ANOTHER CHILD OTHER THAN THEIR CHILD TO ADDRESS AN ISSUE AT SCHOOL.
School policy or practice eg. safety, supervision, WH&S.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contact the office. Please state the nature of your concern/question and make an appointment to see the Principal and/or an appropriate member of staff.



Volunteers Policy

Throughout the school year, teachers, staff or P&C will ask for volunteers to support our children and teachers, in the canteen, classroom, excursions, sport or P&C events etc.

Parents, carers and volunteers assisting with school activities do so on the understanding that:

- teachers have the responsibility for students under their duty of care for the duration of their time at school and are responsible for programs within the school;
- they support the sensitivity and confidentiality of all students;
- they accept responsibility and supervision for pre-school age children under their care for the duration of their time at school;
- their conduct and manners should at all times be acceptable and an appropriate model for all students;
- smoking is not permitted on school grounds and they should refrain from smoking in the presence or sight of students;
- they should not have consumed alcohol prior to working with students;
- they should sign themselves in and out in the attendance folder at the school's front office when participating in school activities;
- they sign the FMDS Volunteers Policy and complete a Working With Children Check;
- they complete and sign off the Child Protection Induction with the Principal; and
- they report safety concerns, injuries or emergencies to a member of staff.

Confidentiality and Child Protection

Parents, carers and volunteers must be mindful of their special responsibility when in contact with children other than their own and must avoid being alone with any student or out of sight of other students and teachers.

Should a student share information of a personal nature with a parent, carer or volunteer, the Principal must be notified immediately.

Any parent, carer or volunteer not fulfilling these requirements will be excluded from the volunteer program by the Principal.

Paul Brightwell
Principal

I have read the FMDS Public School Volunteers Policy and agree to abide by the stated conditions.

Name: _____ **Signed:** _____ **Date:** _____