



Meadow Matters

The newsletter of Fairy Meadow Demonstration School

Term 1 Week 6 – 3rd March 2016

Principal's Report

"If nothing changes, nothing changes."

NEW BELLS AND SCHOOL DAY – 9.00 AM – 3.00PM:

Last Friday we had some concerns from staff and students who were not sure about what to eat, when to eat and how much to eat. Therefore Friday will now be the same as Monday to Thursday. All five school days will now have the longer 45 minute Break 1 as Break 1, the first eating and playing break of the day, 11.00 – 11.45 am. The second Break 2, the shorter break of 30 minutes will be on Monday to Thursday from 1.45 – 2.15 pm. On Friday to accommodate sport Break 2 will start 15 minutes earlier at 1.30 – 2.00 pm., still only 30 minutes. Therefore the afternoon session, only on Friday, will be 1 hour to enable a longer session for sport. Hope everything is now "clear as mud."

START OF THE DAY AND MORNING ASSEMBLY:

I apologise to parents who may be a little worried or confused about when the school day starts. My frustration is unfortunately a "technology" matter with our bell system which sometimes has a mind of its own and doesn't do what, and when it is supposed to do. I have already organised but am waiting for a bell technician to fix and explain our system to me (and others!!).

What we have at the moment is music at 8.50 am which tells students to go to the toilet and/or move towards the large covered area (COLA) for our morning assembly. The music should play for 3 minutes and then the children settle and sit in their class lines. I have asked our wonderful student leaders not to address the assembly until the music stops, when either myself or an Assistant Principal is at the front of the assembly to support them. I ask parents to have their children at school by 8.50 am so they can move to the COLA, be settled and seated for the morning assembly. Should the announcements be few and brief, then the assembly will end and the classes will move to their classrooms to start the school day, maybe while the music or bell is sounding at 9.00am.

Monday to Thursday:

8.50 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.
8.53 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:

8.50 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.
8.53 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 – 1.30 pm.	Middle Session (1 ¾ hours)
1.30 – 2.00 pm.	Second eating and play session (30 minutes)
2.00 – 3.00 pm.	Afternoon Session (1 hour)
3.00 pm.	Children dismissed and end of school day

NIT INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TO HOME:

From time to time unfortunately in schools children have nites. Teachers and the school will communicate to parents using a note sent home asking parents to treat their children's hair and so avoid the spread of nites within a class and more importantly to avoid children being embarrassed or ostracised by other children. Children then become very sad should they not have other children to play with in the playground, especially when parents do little to treat and control their children's nites. Sometimes parents tell their children not to play with particular children. I ask parents to leave the communication of this matter to the class teacher and school and children (who are more forgiving than adults). The parent's role is to have their child's hair treated. Parents should not involve themselves with other parents, adult to adult. This can create awkward situations!!!!

EASTER HAT PARADE, THURSDAY, 24TH MARCH, 2.00 PM. UNDER THE COLA:

Towards the end of this term, with Easter early this year in Week 9, FMDS will enjoy an Easter Hat Parade and P&C Easter Raffle, to raise funds for our students. Two Mufti Days will be held on Thursday, 10th March and Thursday 17th. March. On these mufti days, students will be asked to bring in a chocolate Easter egg to donate to our wonderful P&C who will then organise Easter Baskets to sell in the raffle. The chocolate eggs will be collected at morning assembly by our very reliable student leaders. I ask parents to have a look around the house and should you have any old baskets which you do not need anymore, these can be brought into our canteen to be used in the raffle. Our Easter Hat Parade will be great fun and a great fundraiser for our school. Mrs Jessica Harris and Canteen Sharon are working hard to make this day a great success for everyone.

SKATE PARK CONCERNS AT START OF SCHOOL DAY:

Our children are so lucky to have the skate park nearby and it's a great energetic leisure activity which the children can enjoy after school, on weekends and on holidays. With recent accidents at the skatepark before school and some "interesting" locals who also visit the skate park, as a parent, I would not allow my children to go to the skate park on their way to school, this is also causing problems with students arriving late to school. The proximity to local public toilets is also a concern. When children leave home they should come directly to school.

THANKYOU AND WELL DONE TEACHERS AND STUDENTS:

Well done and thankyou to Mr. Napper and 5/6N, as well as Ms Dirou and 3D this week.

POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR FOR LEARNING (PBL) FOCUS FOR THIS WEEK 6:

PBL is a very successful program at FMDS thanks to a very active PBL Staff Team led by Mrs. Fenwick. PBL explains structures and expectations to students, teachers and parents which clearly outlines acceptable and inappropriate behaviour at FMDS. PBL helps to make FMDS the happy, settled school it is in terms of student behaviour with clear consequences for both positive and "not so positive" behaviour. This week, especially with the hot, humid weather, is wearing a hat in the playground. Should a child not have a hat, then they will be instructed by the teacher on playground duty to sit under the COLA. Before leaving the classroom to go eat and play, all children are reminded by their teacher to take their hat, lunch box and drink.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR SCHOOL LEADERS, MRS. MAWSON AND MS DIROU AND THANKYOU TO OUR LORD MAYOR, COUNCILLOR GORDON BRADBERRY OAM:

Last Friday our student leaders, our teachers and parents were all proud to be a part of our special SRC Leaders Induction Assembly. We thank Mr. Gordon Bradbery for finding the time in his busy schedule to be part of our assembly. I congratulate our amazing student leaders and thank Mrs Mawson and Ms Dirou for their outstanding and well-rehearsed assembly and organisation.

THANKYOU MR. RYAN PARK, MEMBER FOR KEIRA VISIT STAGE 3:

This week our Stage 3, Year 5 and Year 6 students and teachers were visited by Mr. Ryan Park, Member for Keira. Once again FMDS is so lucky to have Mr. Park squeeze into his very busy diary, the opportunity to talk to our senior students. Thankyou Mr. Park and well done Stage 3.





CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR SCHOOL LEADERS AT KEIRA HIGH SCHOOL LEADERS ASSEMBLY:

Last Thursday, the day before our own SRC Leaders Assembly I had the pleasure to take our four School leaders, Tyler, Abby, Lochy and Tahlia to Keira High School to be part of the Keira H.S. Leaders Assembly. It was a very impressive high school assembly with an older generation of school leaders and a great opportunity for our four leaders to see what happens in high school, which for them is not too far away. Our four students looked equally impressive in their FMDS Blazers. Well done.

SYDNEY CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL PRE-SCHOOL AND KINDERGARTEN SCREENING – 27TH & 28TH APRIL:

Free state-wide 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.

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!!!!

Clothing Pool New Order Form now on Skoolbag App, Website and visit our School Office.

MR. BRIGHTWELL'S WEEKLY QUOTATION AT THE START OF HIS PRINCIPAL'S REPORT:

Each week I begin my Principal's Report with a short quotation or saying. This quote has significance for something that is happening at FMDS that week or over a number of weeks or months. I have asked the staff to reflect on these few words each week. I now ask students and parents to also reflect on the words I use. To this end I will run a competition each week and one student will win a prize from me each week. I want students to write briefly in their own words (not parent's words) what they think Mr. Brightwell is thinking about or referring to whatever is happening at FMDS. They can give their words to their teacher, the ladies in the office or to me when they see me. I will congratulate the winning student and explanation on morning assembly each week. Good luck.

NEW FACEBOOK PAGE, NEW-LOOK FMDS WEBSITE AND AUTHORITY NOT TO PUBLISH STUDENT DETAILS:

I hope all our children and parents are viewing our fantastic new Facebook Page and new look FMDS School Website thanks to all the hard work and dedication of Mrs. Scott and Ms Dirou. With all the electronic and IT communication used by FMDS, given photos, stories and comments are uploaded daily to showcase our amazing students, staff and their achievements, I ask parents to carefully consider that should you NOT want your child's face and abbreviated name included in any of the school's publications and profiles, please, as a matter of urgency, come to the office and complete an "Authority Not to Publish," no later than Friday, 4th. March, 2016.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

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

Week 6:

Thursday	3rd March	Woodwork Student Group
Friday	4th March	PBL PD Groups start

Week 7:

Thursday	10th March	Mufti Day for Easter Hat Parade (bring a chocolate egg)
		Woodwork Student Group
Friday	11th March	PBL PD Groups

Week 8

Thursday	17th March	Easter Hat Green St. Patrick's Mufti Day
		Woodwork Student Group
Friday	18th March	PBL PD Groups

Week 9

Thursday	24th March	Easter Hat Parade, 2.00 pm. COLA
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Week 10

Tuesday	29th March	Cross Country FMDS
Thursday	31st March	Woodwork Student Group
Friday	1st April	PBL PD Groups
Sunday	3rd April	P&C Working Bee, 10.00 – 12.00

Week 11

Tuesday	5th April	Dream cricket, Support Classes
Wednesday	6th April	Stage 3 Observatory Sydney Excursion P&C Meeting, 7.00 pm
Friday	8th April	Last PBL PD Groups Last day of Term 1

Term 2**Week 1**

Tuesday	26th April	School Development Day (Pupil Free Day)
Wednesday	27th April	All children return to school

Thankyou for your support
Paul Brightwell



2016 Swimming Carnival

ATTENTION: THERE WILL BE NO P&C MEETING HELD NEXT WEDNESDAY 9TH MARCH

CANTEEN NEWS

Everyone seems to be settling into the new break times with the majority of students now eating their lunch at 1st break. Keep writing Break 1 or 2 on your order bags.

This week we have chocolate and strawberry milk bits for sale only 20c each.

Our reusable order bags are currently available at canteen for \$15.00 each.

Tickets in our Easter Raffle are now available at canteen and before school at the COLA, tickets cost 50c each or 3 for \$1.00.

If you have my spare baskets at home we could use for the raffle, they can be dropped into canteen.

Canteen helpers for the next few weeks are:

Mon 29/2	Gabe Skinner	Mon 7/3	Brooke Wood	Mon 14/3	
Tue 1/3	Coralie Easton	Tue 8/3		Tue 15/3	Deb Neich
Wed 2/3		Wed 9/3		Wed 16/3	Rachel Melville
Thur 3/3	Michelle Haigh	Thur 10/3	Kaylene Roach	Thur 17/3	Melissa Hellmund
Frid 4/3		Frid 11/3	Lisa Springett	Frid 18/3	Jacqueline Boyton

Our Welcome Families BBQ