



Meadow Matters

The newsletter of Fairy Meadow Demonstration School

Term 1 Week 11 – 5th April 2016

Principal's Report Week 11

“The only difference between try and triumph is a little umph.”

Thankyou for Your Support, Patience and Good Humour over Term 1:

As your new Principal I want to thank our amazing students, dedicated staff and supportive parents for making me feel so welcome in my first term at FMDS. It has been an absolute pleasure to be Principal of such a great school as FMDS and I thank you all for your support with our many new ideas and changes, your patience and good humour with the bells and new school times, as your teachers and non-teaching staff work very hard, on top of their normal busy day, to make FMDS an even better school. We are all so lucky to have so much here at FMDS compared too many other schools. We are excited to look forward to Term 2 and the remainder of 2016 for many more new and innovative ideas and programs to engage out students even more. On behalf of FMDS staff I thank all our children and families for your support and wish you all a safe and relaxing holiday.

Thankyou - 3 way Parent-Teacher-Student Interviews and Communication Survey:

Thank you to all the parents and students who were able to come along to our 3 Way Yr. 1-6 Conferences last week. It was so good to walk around the school and see each classroom with families both inside and outside waiting in the corridors, often looking at displays that teachers had prepared outside their classrooms. Wednesday, in particular, was a very long day for our teachers but a very worthwhile day for students to share their learning and achievements with their parents.

Thank you also to the many parents who were able to complete my “Communications Survey.”

NAPLAN 2016:

I enclose a letter from the Department of Education to inform parents of the upcoming NAPLAN tests in Week 3, next term.

Teachers and Stage Team Planning Days This Week:

This week each stage team of teachers from Kindergarten (Early Stage 1), Year 1 to Year 2 (Stage 1), Year 3 to Year 4 (Stage 2) and Year 5 to Year 6 (Stage 3) will be having a “Stage Planning Day.” This day at the end of the term is a very busy day when the teachers within each stage, interruption free from their class, use this valuable time as a team of teachers to evaluate Term 1 and plan for Term 2. The stage teachers share, plan and develop assessment tasks and resources to best support the teaching and learning in their classrooms. The day also gives me an opportunity to sit with my stage teachers in a smaller team, which is rare, to listen and to ask questions and learn more about FMDS.

Tell Them From Me Student, Staff and Parent Surveys 2016:

Year 4 to Year 6 students will be completing their online Tell Them From Me Survey this week while teachers are involved in their Planning Day. I trust that any parent who wanted their child to be excluded from the survey completed an "I Do Not Want My Child" to participate Consent Form which was attached to last week's newsletter and needed to be returned by last Friday, 1st. April.



Thankyou One Agency Real Estate Easter Colour Competition:

Congratulations to Tyler C. and Rayyan A. for their winning entries in our local One Agency Easter Colour Competition. Thank you Joanne for giving our students something extra for Easter.

Dream Cricket at FMDS:

This week we welcome children from support classes from Wollongong schools as they come to FMDS to play Dream Cricket. We also welcome Ms. Ashleigh Pike and some Year 9 and Year 10 students from Keira High School who will join us to help their younger primary age children. Keira High School is our feeder high school and it's great to have high school students supporting FMDS. Thankyou to Corrimal Rotary Club for helping the staff and students enjoy their day of cricket.

Thankyou to P&C Working Bee This Sunday, 3rd. April, 10.00 – 12.00:

Thankyou to the 23 parents and students who came along on Sunday for 2 hours to attack the overgrown mess of a garden along the Guest Park carpark off Balgownie Road. Just have a look at the garden now

and you will easily see the huge improvement and transformation. Hopefully with future working bees, we can concentrate on the garden in



A huge thank you to Max's dad bringing along cold watermelon and bananas.



front of our library and main concrete quadrangle. Did anyone find in their boot an extra pitch fork with green blades and black handle??

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 11

Tuesday	5th April	Stage 2 Nan Tien Temple Excursion 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 Happy, Safe Holidays everyone.

Term 2

Week 1

Tuesday	26th April	School Development Day (Pupil Free Day)
Wednesday	27th April	All children K-6 return to school Kinder Eyesight Screening
Friday	29th April	FMDS ANZAC Ceremony, 10.45 am.

Thankyou for your support
Paul Brightwell

Canteen News

We are running down the stock this week and we are out of orange fruit cups, so far. The milk might last until Friday; otherwise we have lots of juice and water.

As a special end of term treat, we are selling a limited number of showbags for \$5.00 each, they are only available at Break 2. They contain a popper, banana, 2 packets of chips or similar, lollies and a novelty item. Have a great break everyone.

See you next term.

Our wonderful helpers are:

Mon 4/4		Mon 25/4	Anzac Day
Tue 5/4	Coralie Easton	Tue 26/4	Staff Return
Wed 6/4		Wed 27/4	
Thur 7/4	Michelle Haigh	Thur 28/4	Simone Warburton
Frid 8/4	Lisa Springett	Frid 29/4	

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National Assessment Program - Literacy and Numeracy 2016

LETTER TO PARENTS

In May 2016 the National Assessment Program - Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) will be completed by students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9. NAPLAN has the support of all State and Territory Education Ministers and will assess the literacy and numeracy skills of students across Australian schools.

The results of the tests will provide important information to schools about what each student can do, and will be used to support teaching and learning programs. Parents will receive a report indicating their child's level of achievement. Each student's level of achievement will be reported against the national minimum standard.

Student background information (student name, gender, date of birth, language background and Aboriginality) will be collected as part of the National Assessment Program. This information is treated confidentially and held securely to ensure that every student's right to privacy is maintained.

The NAPLAN tests will be conducted from 10-12 May 2016.

TUESDAY 10 MAY	WEDNESDAY 11 MAY	THURSDAY 12 MAY
Language Conventions (Spelling, Punctuation & Grammar)	Reading	Numeracy
Writing		

In the Numeracy tests students do not require any measuring tools such as rulers or protractors. In Years 7 and 9 there will be two Numeracy tests: one where a calculator is allowed and one where calculators are not to be used. For the calculator test, the student should use the calculator that they currently use at school.

Friday 13 May - A 'catch-up' day is scheduled for students who missed a test or were absent on a test day. Students may be considered for exemption from the tests if they:

- are newly arrived in Australia (less than one year before the test) and with a language background other than English, or
- have significant intellectual disability and/or significant co-existing conditions which severely limit their capacity to participate in the tests.

All other students are expected to participate in the tests. Disability adjustments which reflect the student's normal level of support in the classroom may be provided. Large print, Braille, coloured paper versions and electronic tests are available to meet the needs of individual students.

Access to disability adjustments or exemption from the tests must be discussed with the school principal and a parent or carer consent form must be signed.

Students may be withdrawn from NAPLAN by their parent or carer. This is a matter for consideration by parents in consultation with the school principal. If you wish to withdraw your child from the tests, a parent or carer consent form must be signed.

Please make an appointment with the principal of the school your child attends if you would like to discuss your child's participation in NAPLAN.

Additional information about NAPLAN can be found at www.nap.edu.au/NAPLAN/ParentCaresupport/index.html.