



Meadow Matters

Welcome to the newsletter of Fairy Meadow Demonstration School

Week 3, Term 3 – Monday 31st July, 2017.

Principal's Report

"What do we live for, if not to make life less difficult for each other." (George Elliot)

NAIDOC WEEK

This week is a very special week being NAIDOC WEEK. Mrs Mathers and Miss Scerri have planned additional activities every day this week in Break 1 and on Thursday. Mrs Picton told me her class would be studying our new Aboriginal mural and then writing a description and having a lesson to discuss the children's work, Aboriginal culture and history. Great idea for NAIDOC 3P.

Congratulations to Our Mrs Joann Kearns Again

Mrs Kearns was acknowledged for her leadership and dedication to FMDS in the last week of last term. Last week Mrs Kearns was again recognised at the Department of Education Wollongong North Staff Awards at Figtree High School. Congratulations Jo and thank you for all your tireless dedication and support for our students, our staff and our parents.

Congratulations Isabelle R

Congratulations Isabelle for being offered a position next year in Year 7 at Smith's Hill High School. FMDS is very proud of you gaining a position in a selective high school as we were last year when Lochie N also went to SHHS.

PBL Tips

Our PBL focus for this fortnight is 'Use Kind Words'. As a part of our three school values we constantly stress the importance of being respectful to one another and instilling an understanding of using kind words. Ask your children about this? What are some kind words they could use? How does it feel when someone uses kind words toward you? It may be as simple as using please and thank you or complimenting a friend. At FMDS we want to instil a love for learning and to set our students up for success. We want all of our students to always feel valued and respected and to show respect to others.

New Faces In Many Classrooms This Term.

As the staff work hard towards our Validation in October, there will be times during this term when a teacher or group of teachers will be taken off class. I will endeavour to maintain consistency as much as possible with the same relief teacher. Thankyou for your understanding and support during this very important process to showcase our amazing school.

What's happening @ FMDS!!

Term 3

Week 3

August

- 31 EDUCATION WEEK
- 1 K-2 Assembly, 2.15 (1/2T Class Lead)
Kinder 2018 Parent Info Evening, 7.00 pm
- 2 Choral Performance Evening FMDS
- 3 University of Wollongong 2nd Yr. DEMS start
- 4 Open Classrooms 1.00 – 1.30pm &
Lunch With the Children 1.30 - 2.00pm
House Sport commences 2.00pm

Week 4

- 7 Kinder to Botanic Gardens
3-6 Assembly, 2.15
- 8 P&C Pie Drive
Preschool PJ Day
- 9 P&C Meeting, 7.00
- 10 University of Wollongong 2nd Yr. DEMS
Preschool PJ Day
- 11 House Sport, 2.00pm

Week 5

- 14 Kinder Orientation Session 1, 9.10-10.30
- 15 K-2 Assembly, 2.15 (2HD Class Lead)
- 16 Preschool Photo Day
Whole School Assembly, 2.15
- 17 University of Wollongong 2nd Yr. DEMS
- 18 Stage 2 Spelling Bee
House Sport, 2.00pm

Road Safety Reminders

I ask parents and carers to remind their children about crossing the road safely, in particular busy Balgownie Road. Last week I reminded Year 2 to Year 6 about the traffic island on the bend of Balgownie Road opposite Guest Park NOT being a pedestrian crossing. I told the children that traffic will not stop as they expect children who have crossed half way to wait in the centre. Last week a very concerned driver just missed hitting one of our students who kept walking across the road. I told the students that the boy was lucky that the driver was a policeman who reacts quickly. I also ask that on the days the school does not have its crossing supervisor or 'lolly-pop' lady on duty, then all children should cross at the lights on the corner.

NAPLAN Online Trial

During Week 8 beginning the 4th September FMDS Year 3 and Year 5 students will be part of a state-wide NAPLAN Online trial. The NAPLAN Online is to trial the capacity of our schools and the Department of Education to undertake NAPLAN tests for Year 3 and Year 5 online using school computers. The trial does not contribute to the children's NAPLAN but is a case of "practice makes perfect." As part of the trial all Year 3 and Year 5 students will need a set of earphones for the Reading Test. As a matter of hygiene it is best that the children use their own earphones. I know most if not all children or homes these days have earphones for their phone, play stations, computers, iPads, tablets etc so I ask parents and Year 3 and Year 5 students to make certain they have a set of earphones or headphones by 4th September. More information about NAPLAN Online is attached.

A Note from Our P&C

Thank you to our school community for supporting the events that P&C runs. We are a small P&C committee trying to raise money to improve our school for our children. We manage the canteen which is currently running at a smaller capacity than earlier this year for various reasons. We ask for your continued support for the canteen during the reduced hours. Our canteen has been struggling a little over the last few months. We are asking for any suggestions on how to improve our canteen. We would really love your input as it is your children that we are running this for. Please let us know via email at fmdspandc@gmail.com if you have any suggestions.

As we are getting closer to the end of the year, we also ask you to think about whether you can spare any time to come to our meetings. You will not get a job simply because you are there. We are asking for people to come to our meetings to see what happens and be more aware of what is happening in our school. Please contact Jo Trotter on 0438859317 if you would like to know more.

Parent Payments

Just a reminder to all parents/carers that the Parent Online Payment option available to you on our school website is only for payments for any school related business.

Any payments for school uniforms or P&C related business need to be deposited into the P&C account there details are:

Account Name: FMDS P&C Account Number: 200192058 BSB: 641 800

Canteen News

Just a reminder that the Canteen is closed all day Mondays and 2nd break on Wednesday & Thursdays.

Tue 1/8		Tue 8/8	
Wed 2/8		Wed 9/8	
Thur 3/8		Thur 10/8	
Frid 4/8	Lisa Arang	Frid 11/8	Reena Kumar

Pie Drive

Thanks to everyone who has ordered pies. They will be available for pick up from the school hall on Tuesday 8th August from 2:30pm.

We have about 600 individual pie/slice orders that will require a large amount of plastic shopping bags to fill. If you have any spare bags at home could you please drop them into the canteen or office.

We will also need a team of helpers on the day to make up the orders. If you are able to offer any assistance could you please let Sharon know in the canteen and she will provide you with further information. Thank you for your support.

Phone: 4284 2009

Email: fairymeado-p.schools@det.nsw.edu.au

Delivering excellence, success and opportunity

Library News

Term 3 is my favourite term of the year. It is the term we celebrate the Children's Book Council Awards with Book Week and culminating in our Book Character Parade. This year's Book Week theme is "Escape To Everywhere" and our parade will be held in the middle session of Tuesday 29th of August from 11:45am. Students, staff (and parents) are invited to dress up as their



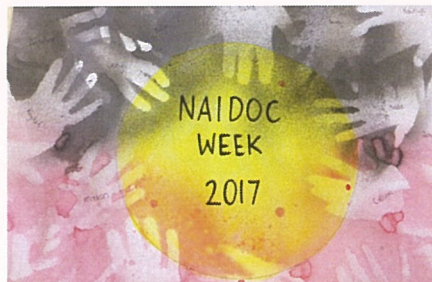
favourite book character and join in the parade. If you are stuck for ideas you can look here

<https://au.pinterest.com/marcitate/book-character-dress-up-day>

for some inspiration or have a look at the school website in the Galleries section for costumes students have worn in the past. Students from preschool to year 6 will be attending and our older students have always been mindful not to dress in a way that might scare the younger students. We hope to see you celebrating Book Week with us at the Book Parade.



Naidoc Week



Fact sheet for parents and carers

The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) is an annual national assessment for students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9. Planning has begun to move NAPLAN from a pen and paper assessment to an online assessment.

What are the benefits of NAPLAN Online?

Results will be faster and more precise

- Your child's individual results will be returned to you within just a few weeks of the NAPLAN testing.
- Online assessment will reduce the time it takes to mark and provide feedback to schools, teachers and parents.
- Improved precision and timing of results will help teachers to tailor their teaching more specifically to address students' learning needs.

Tailored tests will provide better assessment

- The online format allows for 'tailored testing', where the test adapts to a student's performance and asks questions that match their achievement level.
- Students in each year level start with the same set of questions which can then branch into a different set of questions based on their responses to the first set of questions.
- This means that students will be directed to questions that may be easier or more challenging depending on their responses.
- This test design will allow students to better demonstrate their literacy and numeracy skills.
- Students find online assessment is more engaging*, which means they are encouraged to persist longer and try harder.

* Research by the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) into online assessment has shown that students have engaged well with electronic tests.

NAPLAN Online School Readiness Test

NSW schools will participate in a school readiness test between 14 August and 22 September 2017.

The school readiness test is a 'practice run' for schools to assess their technology ahead of NAPLAN Online. The readiness test is not an assessment of student ability. The readiness test allows schools to:

- become familiar with the NAPLAN Online test format and processes
- check whether they have the technical capacity, rooms and devices to administer NAPLAN Online
- provide students in NAPLAN years 3, 5, 7 and 9 with the opportunity to experience the online test question types and format by completing a practice NAPLAN online test.

For more information

Parents, students and schools interested in familiarising themselves with the NAPLAN Online format can access the NAPLAN Online demonstration site that includes sample tests for each NAPLAN year. Use the following link:

<http://www.nap.edu.au/online-assessment/naplan-online/naplan-online-public-demonstration-site>

Further information about NAPLAN Online is available on the national ACARA website:

<http://www.nap.edu.au/online-assessment/naplan-online>

Contact your school principal or visit the ACARA NAP website for more detailed information:

<http://www.nap.edu.au/online-assessment/online-assessment.html>