FOREST FOCUS  Issue No. 2 Week 4 Term 1 2013

Principal’s Message

Your school, your community

Strategic planning is an essential element of a school that is focussed on continual improvement. Planning at FFPS is driven by data and continual reflection on what makes an outstanding school.

Dr Brian Stecher, in a discussion about “cultivating thriving schools”, talks about 6 things a thriving school will produce; students who know things (academics, general knowledge), students who can do things (music, art, sport), students who are healthy individuals, students who play (socialise) well together, students who are resilient and self-confident and students who become good citizens. A thriving school will measure these things and tell our community that we value these things.

School planning involves the whole school community – the children, staff and parents. As we begin the school year I would like to invite parents to join me in considering the findings and recommendations of our school evaluations and offer input into the school’s strategic directions. Please join me at our P&C meeting on Monday 4 March 7.30pm for an overview and discussion around our 2013 strategic plan. I have attached our initial plan as follows.

Strategic direction 1: Organisation, leadership and culture
Purpose: To build stronger relationships as an educational community by leading and inspiring a culture of collaboration, engaged communication and shared organisational practices.

Strategic direction 2: Educational quality
Purpose: To provide a high standard of education through a combination of curriculum resources, ICT infrastructure, quality teaching and learning programs that ensure every student is given opportunities to reach their full potential. Teaching and learning programs will be personalised and differentiated.

Strategic direction 3: Student engagement and achievement
Purpose: To ensure engagement in learning for all students, through a school-wide focus on well-being and innovative teaching and learning programs. To give students the knowledge, skills and experiences to achieve their personal goals and lead successful lives in the 21st Century.

An inspirational teaching team
An invitation is extended to all families to join us as we thank and farewell Mrs Angela Helsloot as she takes up her new role as Principal of Allambie Heights Public School. Angela was a most valued teacher and assistant principal at FFPS for many years and will be greatly missed. Angela will be attending our school assembly on 1 March at 2pm when there will be presentations from the school and the P&C.
School reviews

Homework
Many thanks to our parents who have been patiently waiting for the outcome of the homework review. As a staff we are currently reviewing the parent responses and homework committee recommendations and developing a policy which we will be ready to trial shortly. Over the year I will invite parent feedback in response to the new policy.

Mathematics
As we look to implementing the new maths syllabus over the next 2 years, it is timely to review our approach to maths both in classroom teaching programs and maths enrichment. We will continue to offer senior students the Maths Olympiad Challenge over the year but will suspend the maths enrichment program that has been running in past years. I will be inviting parents to offer input into these programs later in the year.

Birthdays at school
If you would like to celebrate your child’s birthday at school may we offer the following suggestions:

- Frozos can be pre-ordered at the canteen for the whole class
- Small muffins or cupcakes are suitable
- Ice blocks purchased by parents may be given out at 3.10 (there is not enough room in the staffroom freezer for ice blocks to be stored)
- Large cakes, lollies and candles are not appropriate for school

Gail Smith Principal

Coming events

Friday 22 February Scripture lessons begin
Wednesday 27 February Class parent meeting 2.30pm in the staffroom
Thursday 28 February Dance lessons begin (Years 3-6)
Friday 1 March Chess lessons begin (Years 2-6)
Friday 1 March P&C welcome picnic – please note change of date
Monday 4 March Zone swimming (selected students)
Monday 4 March P&C meeting 7.30pm in staffroom
Wednesday 6 March Sushi Day in the Canteen

Congratulations to our Assembly Award Winners in Term 1, Week 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CLASS</th>
<th>BLUE AWARD RECIPIENTS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1M</td>
<td>Lucas H, Noah B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1R</td>
<td>Isaac L, Samantha H, Carl H</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2R</td>
<td>Lauren B, Angus J, Jack N, Asenaca L</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/3P</td>
<td>Mikayla H x 2, Emily C, Halle S, Kathlyn R, Tamara A, Cameron B, Emily O</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3S</td>
<td>Erin L, Jackson B, Austin M, Gabrielle L x 2, Katelyn G</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4S</td>
<td>Caitlin A, Jack B, Amy H</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/5D</td>
<td>Max C, Grace D, Jordon D, Kelly S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/5Y</td>
<td>Jacob W, Ben W-B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/6M</td>
<td>Lucy P, Jonathan C, Harry B, Ammad A</td>
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<tr>
<td>5/6W</td>
<td>Mitchell J, Ethan B, Cameron T, Sarah C, Nicholas L</td>
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SILVER AWARD RECIPIENTS
Isaac L

GOLD AWARD RECIPIENTS
Halle S
and Term 1, Week 3

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>CLASS</th>
<th>BLUE AWARD RECIPIENTS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>KD</td>
<td>Tyra T, Rohnan M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KM</td>
<td>Caitlyn E, Flynn T</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KS</td>
<td>Semi L, Alex S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1M</td>
<td>Susan T, Lucas H, Nate H, William C, Oliver M, Thomas G</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1R</td>
<td>Sam F, Andrew S, Ruby B, Thomas O</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2R</td>
<td>Oscar C, Callan W, Kirra G</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/3P</td>
<td>Eva B, Amelia M, Toby P, Lucy U, Fraser McC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3S</td>
<td>Brooke C, Tahlia S, Fahad A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4S</td>
<td>Nathan R, Charlotte G, Gabriel G, Zed D, Keeley F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/5D</td>
<td>Max F, Saim A, Jake C x 2, Xavier R, Danielle DB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/6M</td>
<td>Elena B, Mitchell D, Mika N</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/6W</td>
<td>Isabel R, Taine W, Phoebe H, Cameron T, Maddi D, Lucy E, Charly W, Mitchell A</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SILVER AWARD RECIPIENTS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Eva B, Alexandra L-S, Isabel R, Ivy S, Xavier R</td>
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Congratulations to our Class Captains for Term 1

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>CLASS</th>
<th>NAME</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1M</td>
<td>Nate H, Jamie H</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1R</td>
<td>Thomas O, Zali H</td>
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<tr>
<td>2R</td>
<td>Tom B, Amberley H</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/3P</td>
<td>Justin W, Halle S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3S</td>
<td>Jackson B, Katelyn G</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4S</td>
<td>Willem S, Caitlin A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/5D</td>
<td>Jan B, Kelly S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/5Y</td>
<td>Jacob W</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/6M</td>
<td>Mitchell D, Tessa E</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/6W</td>
<td>Mitchell J, Mia M</td>
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And congratulations to our SRC representatives for Semester 1

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>CLASS</th>
<th>NAME</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2R</td>
<td>Liam O, Ashleigh B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/3P</td>
<td>Jonathan D, Jasmine C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3S</td>
<td>Harvey S, Erin L</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4S</td>
<td>Roderick D, Sophie W</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/5D</td>
<td>Xavier R, Hannah G</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/5Y</td>
<td>Benjamin W-B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/6M</td>
<td>Harrison B, Julia H</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/6W</td>
<td>Cameron T, Phoebe H</td>
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**Sports News**

Summer sport trials have now concluded and students have been informed whether they have made a team. A list of teams and the draw for the season can be found on the sport notice board outside the kindergarten classrooms.

Training sessions will be held during lunch times each week as follows:
- Eagle Tag As and Bs – Monday 2nd lunch with Mrs Wickham
- Eagle Tag Cs and Ds – Wednesday 2nd lunch with Mrs Steiner
- Cricket – Tuesday 2nd lunch with Mr Philips
- T-Ball & Softball – Thursday 2nd lunch with Miss Yeats

Children should bring joggers to school on days they are training.
The first round of PSSA sport is against Wakehurst at Lionel Watts Oval this Friday 22 February. Our Eagle Tag teams play each week at Millers Reserve.

Matthew Philips  
Sports Co-ordinator

**P & C News**

It was lovely meeting so many of our new families at the morning tea. I know it can feel a bit overwhelming at times but if you ever have any questions or wonder why something happens the way it does, just ask your child's teacher or Mrs Smith.

We had a very successful Fundraising Committee meeting last week, with the Fundraising Plan to be brought to the P&C Meeting on Monday 4 March for final agreement. Our first event is a tradition now at FFPS and happens every year – the always popular School Disco, scheduled for Friday 22/3/13 in the Hall.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>P&amp;C DATES FOR YOUR DIARY THIS FOCUS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Monday 25 February - Forest Kids Extra Ordinary General meeting has been postponed</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Friday 1 March – P&amp;C Welcome Picnic on the Oval 3.10pm onwards</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Monday 4 March – P&amp;C Meeting 7.30pm Staffroom</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Friday 22 March – School Disco in the Hall from 5pm for K-2 6.15pm for 3-6</strong></td>
</tr>
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The reason for the postponement of the Forest Kids Extra Ordinary meeting is that many of you have expressed an interest in having your vote in the decisions facing Forest Kids and if the Extra Ordinary Meeting proceeded on Monday you would not be able to do so. Although an Extra Ordinary Meeting would normally be held within one month of being called, after discussion with P&C Federation representatives, the decision was made to postpone the meeting in order to give our community the right to have their say on such an important issue.

In order for you have your say officially by voting on any motion raised you need to be a financial member of the P&C and you only become a financial member of the P&C (50c) at the close of the first General meeting attended. So those who paid P&C membership at the Subcommittee meeting and anyone who pays their membership at the General meeting on 4 March 2013 will become financial members of the P&C at the close of this meeting enabling them to vote at the Extra Ordinary General Meeting.

To add an agenda item for the P&C meeting it must be submitted to the P&C secretary with your name, by the Friday before the Monday preceeding the P&C meeting in order for the Agenda to be sent out 7 days in advance of the meeting. The deadline for the next P&C meeting on 4 March is 22 February. We will discuss the whole process further at the P&C Meeting on 4 March. If anyone has any questions in the meantime, please contact me either on the P&C email address ffpspandc@gmail.com or 0424 958 515.

Mishell Currie  
P&C President  
0424 958 515  
ffpspandc@gmail.com
New Summer Menu

An updated summer menu was sent home to each family last week and is also available on our school website, under ‘Parent Resources’ – Canteen.

The Summer Menu for Term 1, 2013 contains a number of menu item and price changes. Please refer to the current menu for available items and correct prices when placing orders. Thank you!

Lunch Order Tips

1. **Menu variations** – Our menu is revised each term and we aim to provide a broad selection of items to suit a variety of tastes. While we will do our best to accommodate variations of standard menu items, this is not always possible as we work with available seasonal produce and a number of items are prepared in advance. Thank you for your understanding.

2. **How to collect frozen items** – if your child orders a frozen item as part of their lunch order (eg. a frozo, moosie, or smooze) they need to come back to the Canteen after the seated eating period finishes with their lunch order bag to collect their frozen item.

3. **SCHOOL24** - We offer an online lunch ordering service “SCHOOL24”. Online orders can be made days or weeks in advance, but no later than 8:15am on the day required.

   A general information sheet and registration details are available from the Canteen section under ‘Parents Resources’ on the school website.

For more information on the Canteen, days of operation, how to place orders, and how to volunteer, please refer to our Canteen Handbook in the Canteen section within ‘Parents Resources’ on the school website.

Volunteers

The canteen at FFPS is staffed by a dedicated, but small band of volunteers. However, we are in need of more volunteers so we may continue to offer this much utilized service. Please check the note going home today outlining the available shifts for Term 1 and contact us if you are able to help. Thank you.

Upcoming Food Event

Sushi Day - Wednesday, 6 March.

A list of special food events and key dates for Canteen service during the term are advised in the Forest Focus. Please check this section regularly for updates.

Thank you for your continued support.

Neroli Greenland
Canteen Coordinator
Email neroli.g@optusnet.com.au
**Fundraising**

Thank you to the parents who attended our recent fundraising meeting. We have produced a list of dates and a fundraising plan that will be taken to the next P & C meeting for approval. Once again, we are assigning fundraising events to year groups and we still need volunteers to head up the events. We would like one or two volunteers from each year to coordinate the events. It is not a scary task when you have friends to share it with! Subject to P & C approval our events are as follows:

Disco night - 22nd March. To be co-ordinated by Years 2 & 4. We still need a Year 4 volunteer to help co-ordinate.

Trivia night - 18th May. To be co-ordinated by Years 5 & 6. We still need a Year 5 volunteer to help co-ordinate.

Movie night - 16th August. To be co-ordinated by Kindy & Year 1. We still need a Kindy volunteer to help co-ordinate.

Election BBQ - 14th September. Co-ordinated by Leanne Broadhead and Deb Hishon with volunteers throughout the year groups.

School Fair - 3rd November. To be co-ordinated by Year 3.

The Entertainment book will be sold again this year with a limited timeframe for purchase. Please remember that we have partnerships with Stuck on You Fundraising and the Kidstuff chain of toy stores. When shopping at any of the Kidstuff toy stores - mention our school when you purchase and we will receive points towards gift vouchers to be used for our school. They have stores local to us in Chatswood Chase, Manly, Dee Why and Mona Vale. Visit their website at: [www.kidstuff.com.au](http://www.kidstuff.com.au)

Stuck on You Fundraising give up to 20% of your purchase back to the school. You can purchase your school labels and all sorts of personalised presents through their website. You must log on through this URL for your purchase to be credited to our account: [http://www.stuckonyou.com.au/ffpublicschool](http://www.stuckonyou.com.au/ffpublicschool)

We would love any volunteers to contact Leanne Broadhead at [leanne.broadhead@bigpond.com](mailto:leanne.broadhead@bigpond.com)

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**NORTHERN BEACHES SECONDARY COLLEGE ACADEMIC PLACEMENT TEST**

Students who are interested in applying for placement in the academic extension classes at Balgowlah Boys, Cromer or Mackellar Girls Campus can pick up an application form from Mrs Peake in the office.

Campuses are conducting their placement test on the following dates:

- NBSC  Cromer Campus – Tuesday 19 March 2013
- NBSC Mackellar Girls Campus – Tuesday 19 March 2013
- NBSC Balgowlah Boys Campus – Thursday 21 March 2013

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**DAVIDSON HIGH SCHOOL OPEN NIGHT**

When: Tuesday 5 March
Time: 5.30pm - Presentation in school hall  6.30pm – School tours
Where: Mimosa Street, Frenchs Forest
Enquiries: 9451 0022
[www.davidson-h.schools.nsw.edu.au](http://www.davidson-h.schools.nsw.edu.au)
MOSMAN HIGH SCHOOL  
Military Rd, Mosman  
OPEN NIGHT  
Thursday 7 March  
5pm – 8pm  
Displays & student performances  
Information on Special Programs  
Sausage Sizzle & drinks provided  

KILLARNEY HEIGHTS HIGH SCHOOL  
Stanley Street, Killarney Heights  
Kylla Jackson (Principal)  
Excellence, Creativity and Leadership  

INVITATION TO OPEN NIGHT  
Tuesday 12 March 2013  
6.00pm – 8.30pm  
OFFICIAL WELCOME BY PRINCIPAL IN HALL AT 6.20pm  
FOR PRIMARY STUDENTS AND THEIR PARENTS  

Our school has many features we are proud to promote:  

- An excellent academic reputation for some of the best results in theCommand and Control  
- ICT skills in the Command and Control  
- Breadth of curriculum  
- Caring welfare structure, student leadership programs, strong discipline and students proud to wear our uniform  
- Extensive co-curricular activities, 39 extracurricular activities, drama, debate, Duke of Edinburgh, glee club and talent  
- And much more!  

Come along: meet the Principal, the staff and students. View displays and find out about the full range of special programs on offer. Refreshments available.  

Year 7 Extension Class 2014  
Students will have the opportunity to sit for selection tests for our  
extension class on Tuesday 26 March 2013  
in the Crossley Hall  
4.00pm – 7.00pm  
To register for the test, phone the school on  
9451 7005 by Tuesday 12 March, 2013  
(Christina Gaylard)  
Or email killarney.k.science@det.nsw.edu.au  
More details available on Open Night.
Please note that the advertisements appearing in this newsletter do not necessarily carry the endorsement of Frenchs Forest Public School. The credentials of advertisers have NOT been checked by the school. For reasons of child protection, interested parents are strongly advised to closely check the credentials of any person or group advertising activities that would directly involve the participation of their children (e.g. camps, coaching classes, etc.)