Principal’s Message

A very warm welcome to all families to the 2015 school year at Frenchs Forest Public School! We are delighted to have a number of new families joining us across the grades and I know our school community will make them welcome.

Meet your teacher – Wednesday 11 February
- Kindergarten and Year 1 – 5pm in classrooms
- Years 2 and 3 – 5.30pm in classrooms
- Years 4,5 and 6 – 6pm in classrooms

This is an opportunity for teachers to give parents an overview of the class routines, the merit award system, the behaviour expectations and some school administration. Parents who are unable to attend will be emailed a class newsletter with this information.

Please note that this evening does not allow for individual parent chats – please make a time that is convenient to have a meeting with your child’s teacher about any concerns you may have. Teachers email addresses will be on the class newsletter.

2015 class organisation

KD  Mrs Elizabeth Davies
KS  Mrs Aleen Stepanian
KV  Miss Lauren Van Weeren
1D  Mrs Kylie Davidson (Assistant Principal K-1 team leader)
1W  Mrs Laura Wilkinson
2M  Mr Matt McCarron
2L  Mrs Lauren Morton
2/3H Miss Lisa Huwaidi
3W  Mrs Kathryn Wickham
4S  Mrs Frances Separovich (Assistant Principal 2-4 team leader)
4/5M Mr Matthew Philips
5/6D Mrs Sushma Dua
5/6P Miss MJ Peel (Assistant Principal 5-6 team leader)
5/6Y Miss Philippa Yeats & Mrs Kate Fraser (SLSO)

Science  Mrs Sara Steiner
Music    Mrs Fiona Davy
Library  Mrs Claire Peters
Learning and support  Mrs Robyn Cliff
School Counsellor  Mrs Denise Hardingham
Assembly
Our first school assembly for 2015 will be on Friday 13 February at 2pm in the hall. Parents and friends are welcome to join us for assembly. At our first assembly, badges will be handed out for
- Year 6 Leaders (those students who do not hold an elected position)
- School Representative Council (SRC) Years 2-6
- Class Captains Years 2-6
Our student led assemblies are a time when we acknowledge student achievement through our blue, silver and gold awards and school medals.

Communication at FFPS
Ongoing and timely communication across the school is important. Please do not hesitate to contact your child’s teacher or myself if you have any concerns at all. Thursday is ‘note’ day, so please check your email for weekly notes and the fortnightly Forest Focus. Any notes that require a return slip will go home in hard copy as well as email. All written correspondence and payments should be placed in the silver letterbox in the office foyer. The school calendar on the website is updated weekly and has important school dates.

Curriculum – teaching and learning
We are well underway with the implementation of the new English and mathematics syllabi and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the teachers who last year and over the holidays put a great deal of time into planning engaging teaching and learning programs. We will be continuing professional learning around English and mathematics and will also implement the new science curriculum this year.

Mrs Steiner, who has been our science co-ordinator for the last few years, has taken up the opportunity to focus on teaching science across the school and will be implementing a hands on science program for all classes every week. In order to facilitate a successful program, we have moved art teaching back to the classrooms and have converted the art room into a science room. Mrs Steiner will be leading the teachers in professional learning around the new syllabus and would be very happy to chat to parents about the new curriculum and what she is planning for the children.

Extra-curricular opportunities
Children are invited to participate in the following extra-curricular activities:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Teacher</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Choir</td>
<td>3-6</td>
<td>Tuesday lunchtime</td>
<td>Mrs Davy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Garden Club</td>
<td>K-6</td>
<td>Wednesday recess</td>
<td>Miss Yeats</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guitar group</td>
<td>3-6</td>
<td>Wednesday lunchtime</td>
<td>Mrs Davy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dance (cost involved)</td>
<td>3-6</td>
<td>Thursday lunchtime (TBC)</td>
<td>Mrs Smith</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chess (cost involved)</td>
<td>2-6</td>
<td>Friday lunchtime</td>
<td>Mrs Dua</td>
</tr>
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Student with allergies
Please note that we have students with severe allergies to nuts at school this year. I am requesting students and staff not to bring nuts or nut products to school. I appreciate parents’ support in keeping all our children safe and well.

Class parents
One of the many ways our parents help at school is by taking up a class parent role. This is primarily a social role and one very much valued by our community. If you are interested in this role, please email me at gail.margaret.smith@det.nsw.edu.au.

We are looking forward to a busy and happy year!

Gail Smith Principal

Coming events
Tuesday 10 February P&C meeting at 7.30 – all welcome
Wednesday 11 February Meet the teacher evening
Thursday 12 February School swimming carnival (years 3-6 and eligible year 2)
Friday 13 February PSSA round 1 (Years 3-6)
Friday 13 February Chess lessons begin (Years 2-6)

Respectful Responsible Learner
The focus for this term is:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Weeks 1 and 6</th>
<th>Am I prepared for school?</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Weeks 2 and 7</td>
<td>Politey greet and respond to all</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weeks 3 and 8</td>
<td>Say please, thank you and excuse me</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weeks 4 and 9</td>
<td>Uniform – am I wearing my uniform with pride</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weeks 5 and 10</td>
<td>Accept differences and encourage others</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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School News
Sports uniform
Class newsletters, with weekly routines, will be emailed next Thursday following the meet the teacher evening. In the interim please note sport uniform should be worn on the following days.

Tuesday: Kindergarten, 1D, 1W, 2M, 2L
Wednesday: 2/3H, 3W, 4S, 4/5M, 5/6D, 5/6P, 5/6Y
Friday: Year 3-6 students

P & C News
President’s Report
I’d like to welcome (back) all Frenchs Forest families to FFPS for 2015. It is sure to be another exciting year and the P&C are looking forward to the year ahead. The canteen is in full swing,
the bands are rehearsing, the uniform shop has been very busy and ideas are already flowing for fundraising and working bees.

For those of you who don’t know just what the P&C does, well, among other things we
* operate and staff the canteen
* organise and manage the 3 school bands
* operate and staff the uniform shop
* organise fundraising events to fund the purchase of extra equipment and resources for our children to use
* help keep the grounds and gardens tidy
* work closely with the school on all matters above so that together we can provide services to our school families and enriched opportunities to the entire student body
* act as the parent voice within the school

If you’ve never been involved in a P&C before, now’s the time. We depend on volunteers and can always do with an extra hand. **Our first meeting for the year is on Tuesday 10 February at 7:30pm in the staffroom.** I hope to see you there.

Sandie Docker
P&C President
ffpspandc@gmail.com

Welcome to 2015 and a special welcome to all new families to the school.

The canteen re-opened on Monday 2 February and is open each Monday, Wednesday and Friday during the term at recess and lunchtime.

Our canteen offers an over-the-counter service at both recess and lunch and a lunch order service is available at lunchtime. Produce is also picked from the “food forest” in our school garden which is run by the garden club.

An updated summer menu will be available on the school website very soon (under ‘Parent Resources’ – Canteen) and a hard copy of the new menu will be sent home to each family. Keep an eye out for some exciting new handmade specials coming in the next few weeks!

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.

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.

**SCHOOL24 Online Lunch Ordering**

*Existing families* – please remember to check your accounts and top-up as needed. Please also update your child’s class details for 2015.

*New families* – 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.

**Volunteers**

Welcome back to all of our wonderful volunteers and thank you for once again putting your hand up to help out during the term.

If you would like to volunteer or just find out more about what is involved we would love to hear from you. Just one shift (2 ½ hours) here or there makes a huge difference to our volunteer operated canteen. Contact Kelly-Ann Ferrie at paraplanning.australia@gmail.com.

The FFPS Canteen Committee looks forward to another great year of happy and healthy eating at FFPS.

Thank you for your continued support.

**Charlotte Nash**
Canteen Co-ordinator

**Uniform Shop**

Welcome back. A busy couple of opening days for the start of Term 1 and it is lovely to see all the new families starting school. We will continue to be open every second Friday and we will have two Saturday opens this term. Our opening times for the rest of Term 1 are:

- Friday Feb 13 from 8:45am to 9:15am
- Saturday Feb 21 from 3:45pm-4:15pm
- Friday Feb 27 from 8:45am to 9:15am
- Friday Mar 13 from 8:45am to 9:15am
- Saturday Mar 21 from 3:45pm-4:15pm
- Friday Mar 27 from 8:45am to 9:15am

If you are not able to visit at these times you can complete an order form which is available from the office or download from our FFPS website. Orders are filled each Friday and can be sent to your child’s classroom or available for collection from the office.

Please note that at the uniform shop or, if using the order form, payment is by cash or cheque only. Please make the cheque payable to FFPS Uniform Shop.

**Helpers needed!!** For all parents, current and new, if you would like to help out in the uniform shop please let me know (I can be contacted via the office). You would only be required for 30 minutes on a Friday, a couple of times a term or even on a Saturday if that suits you better. Younger siblings are always welcome too – we have a play corner with toys!

**Deb Hishon**
Uniform Shop Co-ordinator
**Band News**
Welcome back to band for 2015.
I would like to start with a plea to our school community to help the band committee find a treasurer as our previous treasurer has left the school. The band uses the MYOB system for invoicing.
I would also like to invite any others who may be interested in joining the band committee to contact me either by email or phone.

For those members who would like to “upgrade” their band shirts, or those in Training band, our order of new band shirts has arrived – again, if you contact me, I can arrange to supply a new shirt!
I hope to get the group tutorials up and running next week – I will email out the schedule when I can.
Please check the band room door for any vacant supervision days that you are able to help out with – you can just pencil your name in.

**Sally Tate**
0411 288 335 or sallytate66@iprimus.com.au

**Fundraising News**
Welcome back to another wonderful year at FFPS. We are going to have our first fundraising meeting on Monday 16 February at 7:30pm in the P&C parent’s room. So, if you are interested in being a part of the fundraising (trivia night, school fair, disco, cake stalls, etc....) at our school, please come along. We will be locking in the fundraising activities for this year!

If you can’t make the meeting but would like to be involved, please give me a call or send me an email with any ideas you would like me to discuss at the meeting! I look forward to seeing you all there.

**Tonya Richards**
0410 297 557
wifie.richards@gmail.com