Principal’s Message

Grandparents’ morning
Grandparents are warmly invited to join us at school on Thursday 19 March. We will meet in the hall at 9.30am for a short presentation then grandparents will be escorted by Year 6 to the classrooms. Grandparents may like to visit the library to donate a book during the morning. We will finish with morning tea in the staffroom from 11.00 to 11.30am.

I would like to put together a photostory for the grandparents, so I am asking parents to send in a photo of their children spending time with grandparents. Please limit these to 2 photos per family. Photos can be emailed to me at gail.margaret.smith@det.nsw.edu.au or given to the class teacher.

NAPLAN
Every year in May, students in Years 3 and 5 sit NAPLAN tests. Information about NAPLAN has been emailed to all Year 3 and 5 families this week. Hard copies are available at the office.

Supporting our public schools
Leading up to the election, the NSW Primary Principals Association is going to call on the political parties “to acknowledge the value to our State and our Nation of a strong, well-resourced Public Schooling System”. They will be pushing for the funding principles of ‘Gonski’ to be embedded for the foreseeable future.

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 or chat to your class teacher. Thanks to parents who have volunteered. We are still looking for class parents for KV, 2L, 2/3H, 3W, 4S, 4/5M and 5/6D.

Gail Smith  Principal

Coming events
Monday 9 March    Zone Swimming Carnival
Tuesday 10 March  Interrelate 6pm and 7.15pm
Thursday 12 March Sundaes in the Canteen
Sunday 15 March   Grounds and Gardens Working Bee 2pm-5pm
Monday 16 March   P&C 7.30pm
Tuesday 17 March  Sydney North Swimming Carnival
Thursday 19 March Grandparents morning 9.30am – 11.30am
Monday 23 March  Young Leaders’ Day for Year 6
Mon-Wed 23-25 March  Parent teacher interviews
Thursday 26 March  School Athletics Carnival K-6
Friday 27 March  Sport patches presented at assembly
Saturday 28 March  Election cake stall
Sunday 29 March  Training Band “Jam In”
Thursday 2 April  Easter Hat Parade 2.15pm
Last day of Term 1

Focus for Parents

Handwriting
Teaching handwriting continues to occupy an important place in the new NSW English K-10 Syllabus. Writing by hand is an essential skill for supporting learning. Through the physical act of writing, children learn about letters, their shapes and sounds. The act of writing has clear links to enhanced, lifelong learning and memory retention across all learning areas. Reading, saying and writing is part of a trilogy of strategies and expectations that are used when teaching the development of literacy skills.

Handwriting provides benefits beyond communicating and expressing thought. The teaching of handwriting develops in children fine motor skills that they use throughout their lives. It also develops what is termed proprioception (the ability to control minute pressure and fine muscle contractions in the hand). This enhances body awareness and muscle control and it is this skill that enables users of digital technologies to control touch and apply fine soft movements. The act of learning to write promotes patience, perseverance and skill. The writing itself can also be viewed as an art form.

In 21st century classrooms, children need to be exposed to both handwriting skills and using digital technologies as set out in the Syllabus for English K-6. Students continue to use the written word in and beyond the school. It remains a vital and significant skill and means of communication across all societies throughout the world.

Respectful Responsible Learner

The focus for this term is:

| Weeks 1 and 6 | Am I prepared for school? |
| Weeks 2 and 7 | Politely greet and respond to all |
| Weeks 3 and 8 | Say please, thank you and excuse me |
| Weeks 4 and 9 | Uniform – am I wearing my uniform with pride |
| Weeks 5 and 10 | Accept differences and encourage others |

Assembly Award Winners

Term 1 Weeks 4 and 5

SILVER AWARD RECIPIENTS

GOLD AWARD RECIPIENTS
Heather M, Sophie Y
Absences
Parents are required to send a written note of explanation for children’s absences. Please email or send a note to the classroom teacher when your child returns to school.

Supervision of children
Supervision of children begins at 8:40am every morning. The on duty teachers can be identified by a bright red bag which they carry. Children who are at school before 8:40 should be enrolled in before school care. Band students must be accompanied by a parent until band begins.

Gail Smith
Principal

Statement of Account
The term 1 accounts will be mailed home this week. Please note the P&C voluntary tax-deductible contribution to the DGR (Library) appears as a separate figure on the school account. This voluntary contribution assists our LRC greatly. The funds are used to continually upgrade our library/computer resources as well as creating a pleasant environment for our children's learning. Thank you for making our library the “envy of the Forest”.

Linda Lyell
Administrative Manager

Sports News
Please note the following training times for PSSA sport:

Softball - Friday 8:40am
T-Ball - Monday 8:40am
Cricket - Friday 8:40am
Eagle Tag - Monday Lunch

Matthew Philips
Sports Co-ordinator

LRC News
The term is racing along and it's time to advise on two favourite programmes in the LRC.

Premier's Reading Challenge
The school is now registered for the PRC and all older students can start entering their books on their online reading logs. These are accessed via the childrens' DEC Portal where there is a clear link to the PRC site and each child's individual log. We will give each class a refresher on how to enter books this week.
For younger children it is probably easier if parents enter the books for their own children. To do this you can simply navigate to [https://online.det.nsw.edu.au/prc/home.html](https://online.det.nsw.edu.au/prc/home.html) and logon using your child's DEC portal username and password. Please don't hesitate to come and see me in the LRC, Monday to Wednesday, if you need assistance. All classroom teachers are able to help as well.

**Grandparents' Day Donate-a-Book**
The LRC is a great place to be on Grandparents' Day! All our new books are on display and, for a modest donation of $5 for most paperbacks or $10 for hardbacks or super thick paperbacks, your child has a donation sticker placed in the book and is also the first person in the school to borrow and read that particular item. It is a lovely way of recognising a child's passage through the school and all funds raised go straight back into buying more resources for our gorgeous library. Looking forward to seeing you on Thursday 19th!

_Claire Peters_  
Teacher Librarian

---

**P & C News**

**President’s Report**

On Tuesday night, the P&C executive and convenors met and had an inspired and productive discussion covering aspects such as the strategic direction of the P&C for 2015, how to streamline meetings, how we can provide the best services possible to the school community and how to better engage parents in what the P&C does. Over the next few months, we’ll be implementing these ideas and we are looking forward to working with you to make your P&C the best it can be. If you’ve ever thought about getting involved, or wondered what your P&C does, now is the perfect time to get involved.

_Did you know?_  
In 2014 your P&C funded the purchase of 16 iPads and 10 document cameras to enhance and extend your child’s learning experience.

Next meeting – Monday 16 March, 7:30pm, in the staffroom.

_Sandie Docker_  
P&C President

---

**School24 update**

We will be switching on the credit card top up service in School24 in the near future. This incurs a small transaction fee each time depending on value paid, payable by the parent. This facility will allow for immediate credit within your School24 account. The current direct deposit method will continue with top ups reconciled and processed on Tuesdays.

**Sundae Thursday reminder**

Don’t forget to return your slips to the office for Sundae Thursday on March 12. The canteen will be open at morning tea and lunch for the sale of over the counter snacks.
If parents wish to see when their child's class is coming, there is a list outside the canteen with the class times.

Charlotte Nash  
FFPS Canteen Convener

**Uniform Shop**

We only have three remaining open dates between now and the end of Term 1 so it’s time to start thinking about winter uniforms for next term (students are required to return in winter uniform for Term 2). The FFPS winter uniform is…

For the girls:  
Winter tunic with either the summer short sleeve blouse **OR** the long sleeve blouse  
- Black tights or short white socks

For the boys:  
- Long grey trousers with either the short sleeve polo **OR** the long sleeve polo

We stock everything above except for the short white socks. We also have bomber jackets and sloppy joes for those cooler days, FFPS raincoats for rainy days and have some lovely warm FFPS scarfs.

Last week, every student should have brought home a note regarding the purchase of a polar fleece jacket for winter. This is a one-off order. If you are interested in purchasing one for your child, please complete the form and return it to the office (silver letterbox) by **Thursday 12 March** at the latest. The cost is $45, cash or cheque payment only please. Unfortunately, we are unable to accept orders after this date.

Opening dates for the remainder of the term are:  
- Friday Mar 13 from 8:45am to 9:15am  
- Saturday Mar 21 from 3:45pm to 4:15pm  
- Friday Mar 27 from 8:45am to 9:15am

As always, new helpers are also welcome. If you are interested you can let me know via the front office.

Deb Hishon  
Uniform Shop Convener

**Grounds Working Bee**

Please join us on Sunday 15 March from 2.00pm for our school working bee followed by a sausage sizzle. Any help you can give will be greatly appreciated.

Anyone interested in a spot of weeding before drop off and pick up: this month’s focus - the garden beds as marked on the grounds & gardens plan that is displayed on the notice boards by the hall and canteen.

Judy Gombos  
Grounds & Garden Convener
**Centenary Celebrations**

Next year is going to be a very exciting year for our school as we will be celebrating our 100th birthday with some Centenary celebrations.

We will be holding our first meeting on Thursday 26 March at 7.00pm in the staff room and everybody is invited to come along. At this first meeting we will be discussing what shape the celebrations will take during the year and also asking for volunteers to help with planning, preparations and organisation.

Please come along and share your ideas.

**Sue Walsh and Lisa Clegg**  
Centenary Conveners