PRINCIPAL’S MESSAGE

Welcome back everyone to 2013 at Fairy Meadow Demonstration School. A special welcome goes out to those families new to our school.

New Staff

Over the first few days of the year you will have noticed some changes around the school. Some of those changes include new teaching staff. On behalf of our school community I’d like to welcome Ms Karen Wyers, who is an experienced Assistant Principal. Karen brings excellent skills and knowledge to the Early Childhood area of the school and will be the Team Leader for the Preschool and Kindergarten in 2013.

Mrs Jessica Harris is a new teacher to our school and will take one of our Kindergarten classes this year. Jessica is well suited to this role with previous experience on Kindergarten and the L3 (Language Learning Literacy) Program which has provided our youngest and newest students with such a great start to their formal education over the last few years.

I would also like to welcome Miss Kirli Saunders to our school. Kirli brings excellent teaching skills to the school and will teach a Year 1 class this year. She has begun her teaching career in a fabulous way. She loves the children in her class, they are settled and engaged after only a few days and ready to learn.

I’m sure you will join with me and make these new members of our staff feel very quickly at home at Fairy Meadow Dem.

Parents’ Points-of-Contact at FMDS

We pride ourselves on being approachable, friendly and professional in all our dealings with the students and families of the school community. If you need to discuss any matters concerning your child’s education and their engagement in their learning please make the first point of contact your child’s teacher. This can be done in writing, by arranging an interview through the admin office or, in the case of a very short chat, by catching them on the run in the afternoon.

If your concern needs to progress to another level an Assistant Principal will assist. Each Assistant Principal is leading an area of the school. They are as follows:

- Preschool and Kindergarten Mrs Karen Wyers
- Years 1 and 2 Ms Marion Lacey
- Years 3 and 4 Ms Sue Thorley
- Years 5 and 6 Mrs Kris Mawson
- Support Unit Mrs Sue Swindells

The Assistant Principals are each experienced in their area of teaching and the students stage of learning and are only too pleased to help.

As is always the case, the next level is my office where I may be busy but the door is always open. Meetings with the Principal may be arranged through Joann or Nadine in the Admin Office.
2013 Classes

As I write this the classes are pretty well settled. We have some new enrolments in classes other than Kindergarten and Preschool scattered throughout the school. It gives me great pleasure to follow up on these students and find that I’m greeted with smiles and contented faces as they settle into their new school.

Because we are a part of, what I believe, is a great public education system our classes can never be settled right from day one each year. New students in our area must be catered for within our school.

Multi-aged classes, or what many know them as ‘composite classes’, will always need to be formed. May I say that in over 30 years of teaching I have not witnessed students being disadvantaged by being in a multi-aged class. In many of these classes, the only difference among the students is their age. No matter what the class there will be a range of abilities among the students. It is just as likely that a Year 3 class will have the same, or greater, range of abilities as a class made up of Year 3 and Year 2 students or Year 3 and Year 4 students.

ALL students move along a continuum of learning. These continuums are displayed in every classroom in the school and specifically target Literacy and Numeracy. At any given time students are spread along the continuum and it is the teachers challenge to cater for every students need. Please be assured that our aim at Fairy Meadow Dem is that every student, in every classroom will be challenged in his/her learning, will make progress along the continuum of learning and will have their needs met when they falter or have difficulty in making this progress.

Staff Development Day

Having said that, I think it is appropriate to mention the key message delivered by me to all staff on the first day back this year. During 2013 each classroom should exhibit:

- Focused teaching
- Engaged learning
- High expectations

Teachers will: CHALLENGE EVERY STUDENT and REFLECT ON OUR TEACHING PRACTICE

Swimming Carnival

Yesterday I had the privilege of attending the Swimming Carnival for our school at Corrimal. I must firstly congratulate Michael Dill and his team for the amazing organisation that went into staging the event. Secondly I must congratulate the students from Fairy Meadow Demonstration School for their enthusiasm and participation. It was great to spend some time away from the office and catch up with some of the terrific kids we have at the school. Lots of smiles, lots of fun… well done everyone.

John Thorne
Principal

CANTEEN NEWS

Hi everyone, welcome back. The canteen is open 5 days a week, is fully stocked and available for lunch and recess orders. For those new to the school, you may place an order for lunch or recess (please use a separate bag for each) by buying a bag from us for 5c ea or you can supply your own but please make sure it’s big enough to hold everything you want. Next write lunch or recess along with the child’s name and class on the bag followed by the order. The correct money would be appreciated as we don’t keep a lot of change.

For various reasons some food items that are ordered for lunch need to be collected from the canteen instead of being delivered to the classroom. When this happens we use a token system. The student will receive a token in their lunch order bag and must return it to the canteen where it will be exchanged for the relevant item. Please explain this system to your children if ordering the following items Noodle cups, Nachos, Pyramids, Licksticks, Caesar salad, Billabongs, Vanilla cups, Custard & jelly, Apple & yoghurt and Pizzas. Feel free to bring children up to the canteen to see the different tokens before ordering if you wish.
We are still in the process of finalising the menu. While there will be some slight changes most items won’t change. When the menu is available it will be sent home to each family. I can tell you now that we no longer stock small water and large water has increased in price to $1.50.

There are also plenty of spaces available on our volunteer roster. If you would like to help out in the canteen we ask that you commit to 1 day per month or ½ day (morning). Please come and speak to our canteen supervisors Sharon or Cheryl for more information. All those lovely people who have already put their names down, your roster will be going home to you soon.

Our helpers this week are:

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Healthy tip

Six items to put in a healthy lunch box: Fresh fruit, Crunchy vegetables, A dairy food such as cheese, milk or yoghurt, A protein food such as a slice of lean meat or hard-boiled egg, Starchy food – a bread roll, flat bread, crackers and finally water.

P&C NEWS

Welcome back to school and a warm welcome to all the new families starting at FMDS. The P&C is looking forward to a productive year, aiming to provide support for the school and assist in strengthening ties with the local community.

2012 News- In December the P&C ran a BBQ at Bunnings in Wollongong. This was a very successful event with around $1500 being raised. We would like to thank the following families that helped out on the day: Emily Francis, Tim Jones, Mark Mawson, Sharon Rooke, Nicole Lynch, Martin Silins, Cheryl Tselonis, Steve Tselonis, Sharon Pusell, Cath Chisholm, Nyrene Coulton, Angie Knight and Daniel Farnan. A special thanks also goes out to the teachers that gave up their time. Mrs Mawson, Mr Prior, Ms Thorley and Mr Swan your help was greatly appreciated.

Late last year the P&C was also able to present Mr Prior with a cheque for $1000 to go towards resources for the library. This money came from funds raised at the last disco. Can't wait to see what books the kids bring home!

The next P&C meeting will be held on Wednesday 13th February at 7pm in the staff room. Everyone is welcome. We encourage you to come at least once to see exactly what it is the P&C do. This week we will be discussing ideas on major fundraising for the year and events we can hold that will bring together families, the school and the local community.

Delphine McLachlan
P&C President

CLOTHING POOL NEWS

The school year has started with a busy time in the Clothing Pool. We have currently sold out of size 6, 8 and 10 polo shirts, as well as caps. We are also running low on some other items. New stock is due in a couple of weeks. If you would like to order anything, please submit an order form at the Clothing Pool or the school office - with correct payment by cash or cheque made payable to FMDS P&C - and we will let you know as soon as your items arrive.
Order forms can be collected from the Clothing Pool during opening hours (2.45-3.30pm Tue and Fri) or from the document stand outside the office during school hours. You can also request a pdf copy, or place an order, by emailing fmdsuniforms@gmail.com.

A set of new uniforms can be quite expensive, so we offer a layby service and have a selection of second hand items. Second hand uniforms can also be a good choice as an emergency spare, or if your child tends to make new uniforms look second hand within a week! At $2 per item, this is a great way to buy your uniforms. We also have some hats, socks and a FMDS library bag available.

Speaking of second hand uniforms, if your child has grown out of their old uniforms over summer, and they are still wearable and clean, the Clothing Pool would be very grateful for any donations. We always have lots of families asking for second hand items, and all sales go straight into P&C funds to support your kids and the school. Thank you to the families who have already brought in donations!

Cath Chisholm
Clothing Pool Co-ordinator