Dear parents,

WOW! While updating the calendar of events for What's happening @ FMDS? to the right, I’ve realised that the answer to the question is ‘LOTS’. October is full for both staff and kids and somewhere in there are great things happening in classrooms across the school as well.

Term 4 is the time of year when we reflect on achievements across the school. As a community, we also plan for what we want the school to look like going forward into 2015 and beyond. Over the next few weeks you may receive a survey. Please take the time to complete it with your thoughts. All information will help to inform the school plan 2015-2017.

In the last newsletter I mistakenly wrote that the results printed there were for the final ICAS competition of 2014. Of course, Mathematics results were still to arrive. The results have now arrived and the highest achieving students in ICAS Mathematics are listed below:

**Year 3**
- Adil Shaikh – Credit

**Year 4**
- Rachel Barnes – Merit Award
- Anabella McKinnon – Credit
- Aleks Silins - Distinction

**Year 5**
- Kalib Ismail – Credit
- Lochy Neich – Distinction
- Tahlia Ganassin – Credit

**Year 6**
- Aiden Checklin – Credit
- Jaimee Molkentin – Credit
- Joel Trotter – Merit Award
- Caleb Trotter – Credit

The School Swimming Scheme commences on Monday 27 October. May I recommend this program to you? We live in a country surrounded by water and we live very close to its edge. It is most important that our children can feel safe in the water. If your child cannot swim 25m confidently and with good stroke, tread water and then return to the side of the pool all in deep water then this program is for them.

The program targets students from Years 2 – 6 with a priority for students in Years 2 and 3. The lessons are provided by swimming instructors employed by the DEC and are free. The cost of $75 is to pay for bus travel and pool entry ($7.50 per day).

If you would like your child to participate please contact the school for an information and consent form.
The loudest day of the year, ‘LOUD Shirt Day’, is fast approaching! Loud Shirt Day is committed to changing the lives of deaf kids across Australia by providing vital funds to First Voice Centres in every state. First Voice Centres such as our local Shepherd Centre, only receive a portion of their funding from State and Federal Governments, and so rely heavily on corporate and community support.

Raising funds through Loud Shirt Day generates the money necessary to deliver intensive therapy services to those families who need them. Your donation will help us give these children the gift of speech and sound, changing their lives forever. We invite everyone at FMDS to search the depths of their closet for the loudest, most outrageous shirt they have! Whether it’s fancy stripes, floral, polka dots or paisley, as long as your clothes have colour and pizzazz, it will be perfect for Loud Shirt Day!

We ask that everyone bring a $2 coin to donate to ‘The Shepherd Centre’. For more information see http://www.loudshirtday.com.au.

UNIFORM SHOP – Opening hours are 2.45 – 3.30pm on Tuesdays and 8.45 – 9.15am on Wednesday

Our Winter Sale has finished and all uniform items are now back at their usual prices - until the end of the year. In 2015 we will have to put a couple of prices up due to our costs increasing in July this year. The only items to change are:
- Adult size sports shirts will increase from $32 to $34.
- Dry & Cosy and child size jackets will increase from $35 to $37.
- Adult size jackets will increase from $38 to $40.

As always, we are requesting donations of clean, wearable uniforms for the second hand boxes. The 2015 Kindergarten kids have been buying lots of size 4 and 6 at orientation, and we are always in need of larger sizes.

Cath Chisholm
Uniform Shop Co-ordinator

NEWS from the P&C Committee

A bit about FMDS P&C

Our by-laws state that the FMDS P&C Association is formed for the benefit of the students of the school. The objects of FMDS P&C, as stated in the constitution, are:
- to promote the interests of the school by bringing parents, citizens, students and teaching staff into close co-operation; and
- to assist in providing facilities and equipment for the school and in promoting the recreation and welfare of the students at the school.

Membership is open to all parents and guardians of pupils attending the school and to all citizens within the school community. Membership fees are set at only $1, and give you the right to vote at meetings. You do not need to be a member to attend meetings, though! And you do not need to be able to attend meetings to be a member.

Meetings are held on the second Wednesday each month, at 7pm in the staff room. Regular reports given at P&C meetings include Treasurer, Uniform Shop, Canteen and Principal’s reports. We also discuss fundraising ideas and matters such as insurance for the P&C and its volunteers, and insurance for the students. Fundraising is also discussed at separate Fundraising Committee meetings – usually held during the day on Tuesdays, as required.

One of the most important things we do is talk about ideas for addressing the statements in bold above – and we would love to have parent representatives from all year levels, and from the wide variety of backgrounds present amongst families at the school. It is difficult for us to represent and consider your views and ideas if you do not tell us what they are! You can do this by getting in touch with the P&C via email or by leaving a note at the school office, by speaking to someone you know to be a member of the P&C, or by attending meetings yourself – though it is best to let us know in advance what you would like to discuss so that it can be added to the agenda.

Phone: 4284 2009
fairymeado-p.schools@det.nsw.edu.au
Our AGM will be held in the second week of December. All positions will be open for nominations - President, 2 x Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer - and we also need people for our informal fundraising and events subcommittee.

Read-a-thon for the Sensory Playground Project

We hope the kids have all spent the holidays reading lots of books and collecting sponsors! There is now less than a month to go - all books must be read, and money collected and handed in by October 31. If you missed the form that went home in the last week of Term 3, please see the canteen or office. Meanwhile, here is the school’s vision for a fabulous sensory playground for all students to enjoy. We are really excited to be supporting this project!

There is a vacant strip of land at the front of our school (along the highway) that is not being used and seems wasted. We would like to put this, well-shaded and potentially beautiful plot, to better use. We would like to create a sensory garden to encourage different aspects of learning and development for all the students at Fairy Meadow and in particular the students in our support unit. The aim would be to focus on aspects of:

* personal, social and emotional development;  * communication, language and literacy;
* creative development and  * personal fitness and physical development.

We envisage an open plan play area that provides an alternate and structured play environment. A place for both rest and play. The area may include some of the following features:

* bike and scooter track;  * play equipment;  * crawling obstacle course;
* shade from the trees;  * trampoline area;  * sound garden;
* scented garden;  * tactile garden.

This would be an inclusive playground. A playground to include all students and to challenge them at their own level.

Canteen

Hi everyone, Welcome Back!
The canteen is almost fully stocked. There are a few items we were unable to get from our suppliers this week, they are: vanilla cups and beef patties for the cheeseburgers. Hopefully they will arrive by next week.

Please try and remember all your lunch and recess orders by 9am.

Our wonder helpers are:

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We really need someone to fill in on Friday 17/10. Any help would be greatly appreciated.