Attention all Year 5 parents and carers

Applications for entry to Selective High Schools in 2016 will close on Monday 17th November

Student growth data

Last week, I received a phone call from the Centre for Education Statistics and Evaluation, a unit within the DEC. The purpose of the call was to request that Fairy Meadow Demonstration School be part of research highlighting the “factors that have been pivotal in bringing about improved student outcomes, at a school level, from 2010 to 2014”.

Improving student outcomes as they move through the school has always been a priority at the school. Data indicates that since 2010 the percentage of students attaining greater than, or equal to, expected growth has risen. Examples of this include:

- in reading 33% of students attained better than or equal to expected growth between Years 3 and 5 in 2010. By 2012 this figure had risen to 65%, 2013 58%.
- In Numeracy 18% of students attained better than or equal to expected growth between Years 3 and 5 in 2010. By 2013 this had risen to 60%.
- in the same time frame, the average scaled score growth has been equal to or greater than the NSW average score every year since 2010 in Reading and the last two years in numeracy.
- This growth continues to improve in the data from Years 5 to 7.

The fact that the Evaluation Unit of the DEC has made this approach to the school is a validation that this school improves student learning outcomes in literacy and numeracy better than many schools. It is also recognition of the hardworking staff at the school who are working with these fabulous kids.

CONGRATULATIONS!!

The school looks forward to sharing our ideas and strategies with interviewers from the Centre for Education Statistics and Evaluation next Friday morning 21st November.
**Attendance**

Below, I have placed the first of a series of articles/guidelines regarding attendance. This one relates to the provision of notes by families on each occasion a student is absent from school.

Parent/s or caregivers are required – by law – to provide a written or verbal explanation to the Principal within seven days of any absence as to why their child was not at school.

It is important that the school receives a written or verbal explanation because:

1. It is a parent’s legal obligation to explain their child’s absence within seven days
2. It is a requirement that the school investigate all unexplained absences
3. It avoids the school and the School Attendance Officer from making unnecessary investigations
4. It is the way the school knows that your child was legitimately absent and not truanting from school

If you have any difficulties in providing a written explanation for your child’s absence, please contact your school principal.

**Permission to post student images (photos)**

During a computer software upgrade by the DEC recently all data related to permissions to publish photos of students has been deleted. By far the majority of families had granted consent to publish photos, but some have not.

If you do not wish to have your child’s photo published for example in the newsletter or on the school’s webpage would you please contact the school’s Administration Office.

**Teddy Bears’ picnic**

**Double gold winners**

Phone: 4284 2009

Email: fairymeado-p.schools@det.nsw.edu.au

**Making use of the fabulous grounds**

Delivering excellence, success and opportunity
Mikey, Alex, Magnus, Jason, Marcus and Kaycee have been working really hard this term with the Illawarra Woodworkers volunteer group led by Mr Rick. They have made a toolbox, tea light holder and a birdhouse. Mrs Fenwick and the students involved continue to thank the men from the group for their continued effort. We are pleased to announce that the program will continue into 2015.

Thankyou the Engagement for Learning Committee.

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

CAiente

After months of absence mini JJs are finally back in stock this week. We really need more people to put their names down to help in canteen next year. At the moment we only have about six people who have volunteered one day per month. Please consider helping out, it’s a fun day and the kids really appreciate seeing their parents behind the counter. Even if you could just spare a morning, it would be very helpful. Call in and speak to Sharon or Cheryl if you’re interested.

Our wonder helpers are:

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<th>Mon 10/11</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tue 11/11</td>
<td>Maria Howarth</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 12/11</td>
<td>Alicia Brookes</td>
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<td>Thur 13/11</td>
<td>Lisa Springett</td>
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<td>Frid 14/11</td>
<td>Lisa Springett</td>
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<td>Tue 18/11</td>
<td>Rachel Melville</td>
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<td>Wed 19/11</td>
<td>Cath Chisholm</td>
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