Results of the P&C elections at the AGM last week:

- P&C President: Tara Stevermuer
- Vice President: Nyrone Coulton
- Vice President: Sue Swindells
- Treasurer: Cath Chisholm
- Secretary: Jo Trotter

On behalf of the FMDS community I’d like to thank the outgoing executive committee of the P&C for the work they’ve done over the last 12 months for the students at the school. Personally, I thank them for their friendship and their support of me. I wish the new committee every success in their endeavours throughout 2015.

Student Elections for 2015

The Student Representative Council at Fairy Meadow Dem also has a new leadership group. Elections were held a few weeks ago and students from Year 2 to Year 6 had to choose from a most worthy group of 13 students (below). Results are over the page.
Congratulations to Fairy Meadow Dem School’s SRC executive 2015:

Presidents: Houston Johnston and Poppy Zvargulis
Vice Presidents: Alana-Shae Anderton and Kane McIntyre

Swim & Water Safety Program

Be safe around water during the holidays.

A report and some photos from our awesome swimmers October/November ‘14

Congratulations to all the swimmers who attended The Swimming and Water Safety Program this year. The Program helped students develop water confidence and improve basic skills in water safety and survival. I was impressed with the enthusiasm, behaviour and effort of FMDS students and was proud of everyone’s achievements.

A few words from some of our swimmers:

Jack LT21 “Swim School is fun and you get to interact with other people”.
Reese LT5 “I love that we get to go in the big pool”.
Adil LT22 “Swimming is fun and it is a great life skill”.
Shanae LT5 “I like Swim School because we get to learn new stuff about swimming and we get to go under the water and have fun”.

A big thank you to Mrs McCrimmon, Mrs Foerstner and Mr Napper for your diligence in helping to foster a happy, fun and above all, safe experience for our students.

Thank you,
Peta Whalan (Swim Program Coordinator)
Congratulations to all of the students that participated in the Christmas Concert last week. It was a wonderful performance of songs and dance and I'm sure the audience appreciated it. The youngest of our students were able to perform a second time on the same day when the concert re-run was performed for the rest of the school. It was great to see the older kids join in the songs. It was yet another example of the tremendous spirit that thrives at FMDS among our community, the kids and staff.

CANTÉEN VOLUNTEERS FOR 2015 NEEDED

We would love to have your assistance as a volunteer in the school canteen next year. Ideally we would like two volunteers per day. All necessary training, tea, coffee and lunch are provided. Main duties include serving the kids, shopping at Woollies, packing lunch bags with orders and some light cleaning.

Hours are 8.30am until 2pm; you choose the day. Not every week, but one day a month would be awesome. If you can help please contact the school’s Admin Office or speak to one of the canteen supervisors, Sharon or Cheryl.

We live in a safe, caring country. Sometimes events can cloud our view of the world and they can affect our kids.

The following is an excerpt from an article from the Trauma and Grief Network: Supporting Families website following the siege in Sydney yesterday. It has been recommended, this morning via email, by the Department of Education:

“When distressing events, such as this siege, are shown on TV, or covered on the radio or internet, parents need to be mindful of how much exposure their child has to this. The medic can tend to focus on some of the more frightening aspects and images. Seeing this type of media coverage can cause distress or worry for children and young people. Children may also discuss these events amongst themselves, so even though children may not see image on TV, they may still be exposed through their conversation with others.

Some of the ways this sort of media coverage can affect children and young people includes:

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• It can lead to children and young people thinking a lot about the event, which can impact on their sleep and can also impact on their concentration when they are at school.
• It can cause worry and anxiety that the same thing may happen to them or their family.
• It can lead them to feel generally unsafe and worried and that some other bad event may happen to them or their family.

Families can help to support children at this time by:
• Restricting the amount of media coverage children see of the event.
• Watching media coverage with your child so that you are there to answer any questions they may have.
• Helping to remind your child that they are safe and that you are there to answer any questions for them if they feel unsafe.
• Giving support to your child if they are upset and comforting them.

Please visit the Trauma and Grief Network: Supporting Families website if you need more information.

Retirement

Next year will be my last year of working for the Department of Education and Communities and as Principal of Fairy Meadow Demonstration School. I will retire in November 2015.

My final duty, in the final newsletter of 2014, is to wish everyone within the Fairy Meadow Dem community a very Merry Christmas and a happy and safe beginning to the New Year.

John Thorne
Principal