From the Principal’s Desk

Dear Parents and Carers,

On Friday 21st March both Harmony Day and the National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence will be celebrated at Fairy Meadow Demonstration School. Classes are participating in activities related to these interrelated themes throughout the week.

Harmony Day celebrates our differences, our differences in culture, language and religion. Recent survey results indicate that the school has 108 students with a language background other than English. Of these 108 students there are a total of 30 different languages or dialects. We are a truly multicultural school and made stronger and better because of the mix of students that are enrolled here.

Staff Change

I have flagged the fact in previous newsletters that one of our Assistant Principals, Marion Lacey, will be leaving Fairy Meadow Dem. Once the school enrolment dropped below 420 students Ms Lacey’s position was placed on review. With the reduction in the number of classes this year this review was brought forward and becomes effective immediately.

Ms Lacey has worked at Fairy Meadow Dem for a number of years and has on numerous occasions relieved as Principal. Most recently she has taught a Year One class ensuring that these young students continue to grow as learners after their time in Kindergarten. We will miss Marion at the school and on behalf of the community I wish her every success in her career as she takes up her new position as Assistant Principal at Hayes Park Public School.

Reading Eggs and Reading Express

Fairy Meadow Dem is giving our students the opportunity to practise their reading for understanding at home using Reading Eggs for the younger students and Reading Express for the older ones. These programs have been paid for by the school and, once teachers have registered their class, students will be able to access the program on home computers as well as in the classroom. This registration process may take a while but you will be informed as soon as your child has access.

A few reminders relating to safety and wellbeing of students:

- At all times, the safety and wellbeing of students is of the highest priority at Fairy Meadow Dem. With this in mind a number of safety measures have been implemented at the school.
  Pool fencing and safety gates have been installed in the corridor outside LT01.
  Our school entrance gates are closed during the hours from 9am until 2.30pm. If you are entering the school or leaving please take a few seconds to ensure that the gate is closed and the slide bolt is across. This action may save a child.
- Accompanying the last newsletter was the Emergency Contact Details Report for your family. Each family is asked to read through the details and edit them as necessary. ALL of these reports need to be accounted for and returned to the school whether they have been edited or not. If you have returned the report, thank you. If you have not returned the report, they are now due.
- If your child has been flagged on our system as asthmatic, you have also received a copy of the Asthma Plan. Please complete this plan with the assistance of your family doctor and return it to the school as soon as you can.
- Driving onto the school grounds….. at times our families drive onto the school grounds to attend after school activities in the hall or to drop off or pick up children from the Out of School Hours facility, SchoolzOut! Please be aware that children
and adults are in and around the school grounds at all hours from 4.30am, when cleaners arrive, until after 8pm, all days from Monday to Friday. Again we are faced with the prospect of someone being seriously hurt or killed because of excess speed. Please slow down! I will also raise this issue with each of the companies that hire our facilities.

John Thorne  
Principal

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**Crazy Hat Parade!**

On Friday the 11th of April the school will hold their annual Crazy Hat Parade. This is the LAST day of school before the holidays. The children are encouraged to get creative with their hats. I wonder if anyone can make the tallest hat? Or if a beautiful hat can be made out of recycled materials? Fairy Meadow Dem School always has hundreds of colourful and creative hats and we can’t wait to see what the children will make this year. Start making your hats at home now. You have 3 weeks!

We will have an early lunch on the day at 12:30 and the parade will start at 1:30 sharp.

**When:** Friday the 11th April  
**Time:** Starts at 1:30 pm  
**Who can come:** Mum, Dad, Nan, Pop, family friends  
**Bring:** Your Hat! (Mums and Dads bring your camera!)

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**NEWS from Years 5 and 6**

The Stage 3 Canberra Excursion .......... deposit is now due  
Year 6 Commemorative polo shirt orders close on 28th March.

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**UNIFORM SHOP – Opening hours are 2.45 – 3.30pm on Tuesdays and Fridays**

Please remember the School Uniform Shop when it comes to purchasing school uniform items. Fairy Meadow Dem is one of the few schools where the P&C make available a wide range of quality clothing that meets both uniform and sun safety standards for our students. If your child needs items of uniform please make the school P&C Uniform Shop your first option.

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**CANTEEN**

We have had a few problems with kindy children using the token system recently. When ice blocks/pyramids are ordered for lunch we place tokens in the bag as obviously the actual item would melt before it gets eaten. Please explain to your child that after they have eaten their lunch they need to bring the token to the canteen and exchange it for their ice cream etc. If the token gets lost or thrown away we cannot give out more items. If this is a problem order something like a frozen fruit cup that doesn’t require a token.

Children with tokens do not need to line up but can come straight to the side of the counter where they will be served first.

If you are using reusable lunch containers please remember to keep them nice and clean to help prevent any cross contamination of food. At the canteen we use strict hygiene procedures and all our food is wrapped but it is better to be safe than sorry. It is also a good idea to teach and remind children how to wash their hands properly before eating.

Our helpers this week and next are:

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P&C FUNDRAISING

SUB COMMITTEE
The P&C and the newly re-established Fundraising Sub Committee have a silver box in the office for the school community to use as a communications/suggestions box. We are inviting everyone to participate, we are keen for your suggestions for Fundraising Ideas to utilise from Semester 2 through into Term 1 of 2015. We would also like to hear from you all about ideas/suggestions of where to allocate the existing funds we have helped raise and any future funds we are sure to raise together. Please put your thinking caps on, parents, and inspire us with your fresh ideas!

EASTER RAFFLE
The P&C are running an Easter Raffle. There will be 1st, 2nd & 3rd prizes. Tickets are available at the canteen and before school in the playground. Tickets are $1.00 each or 3 for $2.00.
The raffle will be drawn at the Crazy Hat Parade on Friday 11th April.
Thank you for your support.

HOT CROSS BUNS
We would like to offer you the opportunity to take part in our Hot Cross Bun fundraiser.
The hot cross buns are from Bakers Delight, and as the name suggest, are “delightfully yummy”.
The cost is $7.00 per 6 pack, and come in 4 delicious varieties – Traditional, Choc Chip, Fruitless and Choc Mocha.
Please find your order form on the back page of the newsletter.
Your order form and monies must be returned to the school canteen by Friday 4th April.
Extra order forms will be available at the canteen.
Your order of buns will be delivered to your child’s classroom during the morning of Friday 11th April.