Dear Parents and Carers,

Term 1 ended in great fashion with the Annual Crazy Hat Parade. As the day progressed more and more arrangements were being made to hold this celebration of creativity and colour in the COLA. History tells us that this event attracts more family than any other at the school. As lunch time ended the skies opened and rain hit the school. An alternative venue was required…. the hall.

Somehow every student and teacher and a great number of family members were able to be accommodated still leaving room for a parade ‘runway’. Needless to say, the rain stopped as the parade began, the sun came out and did not disappear for the remainder of the afternoon.

Thank you to all of the families represented at the parade. It was another great afternoon and the presence of so many supportive mums, dads and grandparents creates that great sense of community that Fairy Meadow Dem is famous for.

A special thank you must go to Jessica Harris. Jessica continued to raise awareness and advertise the parade, liaised with the P&C, organised the event and was a remarkably cool, entertaining and effective host throughout the afternoon in trying conditions and a very hot school hall. Fabulous, Jessica! Thank you.

The Hall became a sea of colour for the Crazy Hat Parade

ANZAC Day for Schools

Another event in the last week of school for Term 1 was the ANZAC Day for Schools Ceremony at the cenotaph in Church Street, Wollongong. On Wednesday 9th April, Mrs Mawson and I transported 8 of our school leaders to represent Fairy Meadow Dem at this ceremony.

For the first time, the ceremony was run entirely by students representing secondary and primary, private and public schools from across the local district. The highlight for us was the opportunity Jack Green took to speak to the gathered students, teachers, parents, media and RSL members on what ANZAC Day means to him and his family. His honest, heartfelt and personal story resonated with the crowd and made both myself and Mrs Mawson extremely proud of him. Congratulations, Jack!

Jack tells his story of what ANZAC Day means to him and his family, watched on by friends from FMDS
NAPLAN

NAPLAN is an Australia wide assessment of students' skills and understandings in Reading, Writing, Language Conventions such as punctuation and spelling, and Numeracy. Students in Years 3, 5, 7, and 9 in all states and territories participate in these assessments.

This year the NAPLAN is scheduled for the three days in Week 3 of this term, 13, 14 and 15 May. Accompanying today’s newsletter is more detailed information for the students in Years 3 and 5 and their families.

ETHICS CLASSES

During 2013 I sought expressions of interest from families wishing their child/ren to participate in Ethics Classes rather than Special Religious Education (Scripture) classes or attend non-Scripture. I am now to the organisational point where two ethics class teachers are ready to begin at Fairy Meadow Dem. Unfortunately, I cannot offer these classes to all year levels.

The first intake into these classes will be offered to students in Stage 1 classes (Years 2&3) and students in Stage 3 classes (Years 5&6). Initially there will be only one class for each of these groups and priority will be given to those students whose families have them presently in non-scripture groups. Information and an enrolment slip accompanies this newsletter.

OPPORTUNITY CLASS PLACEMENT 2015

If you are thinking of applying for Opportunity Class (OC) placement for Year 5 entry in 2015 you are now able to access online applications. Please be aware that online applications close on FRIDAY 16 MAY. Although the preferred method of application is online, you may pick up a paper application form from either the front office or Ms Thorley at the school. Paper applications must also be returned to the school by Friday 16 May. Further information and online applications can be obtained at www.schools.nsw.edu.au/ocplacement

John Thorne
Principal

Important News and Reminders

- Photo envelopes were sent home with the last newsletter. If you did not receive one please contact the school. It is important to read the options carefully. School photos will be taken on Tuesday 20th May, Week 4 this term.
- The Canberra Excursion for students in Years 5 & 6 is fast approaching. Please continue to make those payments.
- The Greenaide fundraiser has been completed. If you find you still have unsold packets of bandaids at home, would you please return them to the school? Alternatively, if you still have money raised from the sale of the bandaids this also needs to be brought in to the office
- Stewart House Bags are coming home today. If you have any old clothes or clean rags please pop them into the bag and return them to school. Great chance here to clean out the summer wardrobe of clothes that won't fit when the weather returns to warm sunny days. Please support this charity.
- The P&C are offering an opportunity for families to purchase an Entertainment Membership. A flyer accompanied the last newsletter last term. A purchase of the Entertainment Membership entitles the member to great discounts and offers across many restaurants in Wollongong, the surrounding suburbs and Sydney.

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.

P&C Committee

CANTEEN

Welcome to term 2 everyone, we hope that you all had a nice break. The canteen is open and operating as usual. The only notification is that we don’t have any Spider Stix at the moment.

Please try and get your orders in before 9am if possible. Are you new to the school or misplaced your menu, just pick one up from the canteen. As you can see there are plenty of spots available on our canteen roster. If you would like to volunteer please call in and see us.

Our helpers this week and next are:

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BOTTLE TOP MURAL

You all have been doing such a fabulous job of collecting bottle tops that it shouldn’t be too much longer until we can start work on construction. Until then please keep them coming in, remember we need clean, round, plastic bottle tops of any colour. They can be dropped off into the special containers in the foyer or canteen area. Also a big thank you to all those families who have donated so far.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Yoga Bears Kids Yoga – Friday Afternoons 4-5pm at Fairy Meadow Demonstration School Hall. For more information please contact Simone on 0428 909 895.