Dear Parents and Carers,

Wednesday 25 February was a great day at Fairy Meadow Demonstration School.

The day began with the Induction of Student Leaders in the school hall. In front of State Member of Parliament for Keira, Mr Ryan Park, Director Public Schools NSW, Ms Debbie Lowe, student families and staff, the Student Representative Council received their badges and took the oath to uphold the values of Fairy Meadow Dem. This is always a favourite ceremony of mine. Students are proud to be acknowledged as school leaders voted by their peers. Parents are proud and have the opportunity to share this acknowledgement with their children and see them recognised by the school for the wonderful young people they are. The student body recognise the importance of the ceremony and respond with outstanding behaviours and genuine pleasure to see their leaders rewarded.

Congratulations to the students receiving badges and to all the students who are leaders in the school but never receive a badge.

Later that same day the Parents and Citizens Association at the school welcomed the new families with a sausage sizzle and an opportunity for the new, and the not-so-new, to mingle with the many staff members there. Congratulations to the P&C who provided the sausages free of charge as well as lucky door prizes. Rain during the day may have kept some families from attending but it was a great evening. Thank you to all of those staff members who gave freely of their time.

KEIRA HIGH SCHOOL INDUCTION OF CAPTAINS

Along with the four SRC Presidents and Vice-Presidents, I was proud to be invited to the Induction of Captains at Keira High School on Thursday 26 February. In a new initiative, I was able to introduce Houston, Poppy, Alana-Shae and Kane (our student leaders) to the other schools in our Community of Schools during the induction. They looked fantastic in their blazers and were wonderful ambassadors for Fairy Meadow Demonstration School.

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Delivering excellence, success and opportunity
TELL THEM FROM ME STUDENT SURVEY

I am delighted that this term, our school, like many others in the state, will participate in a Department of Education and Communities initiative: the Tell Them From Me student feedback survey. The survey aims to help improve student learning outcomes and measures factors that are known to affect academic achievement and other student outcomes. The focus of the NSW-wide survey is on student wellbeing, engagement and effective teaching practices.


The survey is a great opportunity for our students to provide our school with valuable and quick feedback on what they think about school life, how engaged they are with school and the different ways that teachers interact with them. Schools in Australia and around the world have used the Tell Them From Me survey to help improve how they do things at school.

I want to assure you that the survey is confidential and school staff will not be able to identify individual students from their responses. The survey is conducted online and will typically take less than 30 minutes to complete. It will be administered during school hours between 9 March and 2 April. Participating in the survey is entirely voluntary.

A consent form and FAQs for parents/carers about the survey is being sent home with students. If you do not want your child or children to participate, please return the form to school by Friday 27 February. Copies of the form and FAQs are available from the website above.

SCHOOL PLAN 2015-2017

Throughout the last term of last year and the first six weeks of 2015 the school has been involved in a totally new method of planning. Staff has been surveyed and we have actively sought the input of students (in surveys such as the one mentioned above) on what we want Fairy Meadow Demonstration School to be like in December 2017.

The community would like to see Fairy Meadow Dem as a vibrant teaching and learning facility where high quality teaching is demonstrated in every classroom every day, where learning is inclusive and caters to the needs of each student in each class across the school. The community wants parents as real partners in the education of our students in a thriving learning environment where they grow to be active, reliable and contributing members of Australia’s society.

In order to deliver this, the school plan is built on a foundation of three strategic directions:

QUALITY TEACHING PRACTICE  INCLUSIVE LEARNING  ENGAGED COMMUNITY

As the plan is developed over the coming weeks the school will continue to present drafts within the newsletter and on the website. I will be available next Thursday 12 March for two sessions where I invite parents and carers to take the opportunity to provide further feedback and input to the planning process. The first of these forums will be in the school hall commencing at 9am. The second will be in the classroom directly above the library commencing at 5.30pm. You may also contact the school by email at the address on the bottom left of this page, or send in written feedback and input to the Admin Office.

John Thorne
Principal
P&C NEWS

The Welcome BBQ was a fun night, and the rain went away just in time. Thanks to all the parents who helped organise and run the night, to the teachers and SRC students who came along, and a big thanks to all the new kids and their families for making the night a success!

Our Hot Cross Bun and Easter Egg fundraiser has begun - there is an order form with this newsletter. Orders are due at the canteen, with correct money, by Friday 20 March. There are only a limited number of packets of easter eggs available and orders will be filled on a first come, first served basis - so get your orders in quick! We will also be running an Easter raffle towards the end of term. First prize is a 4.5kg Toblerone! Second and third prizes are baskets of easter eggs. Keep an eye out for raffle tickets, which will be available soon.

We still need more helpers for the Election Day BBQ on Saturday 28 March. We are running 2-hour shifts from 7am until 3pm. If you can help, please fill in the Election Day BBQ Helpers slip in this newsletter and return it to the office or the canteen.

Don't forget we would like to hear from anyone with an interest in the Playground Sub-committee. This committee will be working on a masterplan for reinvigorating the playground over the coming years. Meeting times will be arranged around the availability of those who are interested. We would also like to hear from anyone who has ideas about what they or their children would like to see in the playground, even if you aren't able to join the sub-committee. Just leave a note at the office or email fmdspandc@gmail.com.

UNIFORM SHOP NEWS

Our new stock has arrived, so we have plenty of polo shirts again.

Cath Chisholm
Uniform Shop Co-ordinator

CANTEEN NEWS

Please remember to guarantee that yummy scroll or piece of cheese on toast at recess it’s best to place an order before school. We only make a set amount over and above what is ordered and they sell out very quickly.

Just giving you a heads up that the canteen workers will be attending a training day on Tuesday March 24th and so consequently canteen will be closed for the whole day. Reminders will be placed in the newsletter, on schoolbag and at the canteen.

Our helpers this week are:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mon 2/3</th>
<th>Jessica Dynes</th>
<th>Mon 9/3</th>
<th>Donna Butterworth</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tue 3/3</td>
<td>Kate Callinan</td>
<td>Tue 10/3</td>
<td>Maria Howarth</td>
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<td>Wed 4/3</td>
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<td>Wed 11/3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thur 5/3</td>
<td>Gabe Skinner</td>
<td>Thur 12/3</td>
<td>Kate Callinan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Frid 6/3</td>
<td>Cath Chisholm, Renee Jones</td>
<td>Frid 13/3</td>
<td>Lisa Springett</td>
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WOODWORKER GROUP NEWS:
Glen, Jake, Kairyn, Hayden and Jack have been working hard over Term 1 with the fantastic volunteers at the Illawarra Woodworkers Group.
As Glen says "I love learning new things like using a hammer and a drill."
All staff and students value the commitment the woodworkers Group have to this initiative running in 2015.
Thankyou
Mrs Fenwick

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Election Day BBQ Helpers - please return slip to school office or canteen, or email details to fmdspandc@gmail.com

Name:________________________________________________   Phone Number:_______________________

Child's Name:________________________________________________  Child's Class:___________________

Preferred Time to Volunteer:   7am-9am   9am-11am   11am-1pm   1pm-3pm