Dear Parents and Carers

The school has been a busy place over the last few weeks.

After successful school and Brokers swimming carnivals, we had six students participate in the South Coast PSSA Swimming Carnival at Dapto. Congratulations to our swimming champions Memphis Johnston, Isabel Tegart, Caleb Trotter, Houston Johnston, Oscar Steven and Lochy Neich. We are proud of you all.

Last Wednesday and Thursday the school had students attend a debating camp. The students had the opportunity to attend each day but unfortunately it clashed with the Stage 3 excursion to the Minnamurra Rainforest. Ms Alexander attended the debating camp with three students on Wednesday and six students on Thursday. We look forward to seeing the team in action as Fairy Meadow Dem participates in debating later in the year for the first time in a few years.

Stage 3 students and teachers attended an excursion to the Minnamurra Rainforest last Wednesday. The excursion was able to lend weight to the learning already completed in class. From all reports the excursion was a successful experience for all that attended and, as is the usual practice when students from this school are out in the community, I received glowing reports regarding student behaviour.

The school held a Crazy Hair Day on Friday. Both staff and students demonstrated the art of crazy hair to raise money for the Leukaemia Foundation. A brief report is presented by Peta Whalan over the page.

The School Cross Country Carnival was held yesterday. Again Mrs Picton and her team produced a fabulous day for the students. It was great to see students from Kindergarten to Year 6 getting out, having fun and competing in such a friendly way. Congratulations and good luck to all of those students who will represent the school early next term.

The highlights of the Cross Country for me are those occasions when I see either senior students, or staff, assist the youngest students, or those with a disability, to participate. These are the times when Fairy Meadow Dem shows its true character.

John Thorne
Principal

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Other things happening around the school from LT4 and their teacher Peta Whalan:

**Crazy Hair Day**
On Friday, Fairy Meadow Dem celebrated Crazy Hair Day to raise money for The Leukaemia Foundation. Mrs McCrimmon, with the support of her family and Hayley Rydquist, shaved her hair off in front of the school. FMDS dug deep and as of today, we have raised an impressive $1035.

Thank you to everyone who supported Mrs McCrimmon and Hayley. They both did an amazing job and look fabulous with their new haircuts.

Thank you LT4 for sharing some of the work you’ve been doing in your class......

FMDS celebrated Close the Gap day. Throughout the school many classes learned about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island culture and took part in many activities. LT4 enjoyed learning the numbers 1-5 in Pitjantjara Dialect and also learned the art of dot painting.

Last week was also Harmony Week. Each class took part in various activities and in our whole school PD groups, we gained an understanding of and celebrated Diversity.

**CRAZY HAT PARADE**
Please look out for the separate note going home with today’s newsletter with all the information about our Crazy Hat Parade being held next week.

Hats are to be made at home and the children bring them in on the morning of the parade.

Thank You

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UNSW INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS & ASSESSMENTS
Applications to participate in the annual University of NSW International Competitions for students in Years 2 to 6 are now due. The examinations cover academic areas including Spelling, Digital Technologies, Mathematics, Science, English and Writing. They are held at school, during school time.
Notes have already been sent home with the children and they need to be returned with correct money to the school by Thursday 2nd April.
Extra copies of the note are available from the school office.

P&C NEWS
Our Election Day BBQ has been listed on Snag Votes. Look us up at http://www.electionsausagesizzle.com.au/ and spread the word to family and friends! Everyone who votes at FMDS on Saturday will have a chance to buy a delicious sausage sandwich, a drink and some Easter eggs. We will also be selling raffle tickets for the GIANT Toblerone - $1 each or 3 for $2. Thank you to everyone who has volunteered to help with the BBQ. If anyone has an hour or two free on Saturday after they vote, we could still use a bit more help between 9am and 12pm. Raffle tickets are also available before school each day, and from the canteen during the day. The GIANT Toblerone and 2nd and 3rd prizes are on display at the canteen to tempt you!
If you have ordered hot cross buns or Easter eggs, they will be coming home on Monday. If you elected to pick yours up from the Uniform Shop, please do so between 2pm and 3pm. If you forgot to get your order in, it is too late for hot cross buns, but we do still have some Easter eggs left. See the canteen to order them before the end of the week.

UNIFORM SHOP NEWS
The size 6 and 8 second hand boxes are looking reasonably full at the moment, but coming into winter we don't have enough warm clothes to meet demand. We currently only have a couple of long sleeve polos and long black pants. If your child has grown out of their jumper, jacket, long pants or long sleeve shirts, please donate them to the Uniform Shop! And don't forget to check the second hand boxes when buying the next size up. Everything is only $2!

Early in Term 2 we will have black jumpers available in all sizes from 4 up to 14. For a number of years these have only been available new in size 4 or 6, so come in and have a look if you've been wanting jumpers and unable to get them! We are still stocking the black and yellow school jackets as well as the warmer Dry & Cosy jackets. Whether your kids feel the cold, or not, we have something for everyone for winter!

CANTEEN NEWS
This Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday we have been selling some special Easter treats. Bird nests $1.00ea (crunchy noodles covered in chocolate with tiny Easter eggs) and mini hot cross buns $1.20ea (choc chip and original). They will be available again next Monday and Tuesday. However due to limited numbers they are only for sale over the counter, not for pre order.

As next week is the last before the Easter holiday we will not be ordering our usual amount of stock. Make sure you keep an eye on the white boards at canteen for any items that may be out of stock.

We don't keep a lot of cash on the premises, and therefore have only a small amount of change on hand. Please try and get as close as possible to the exact money when ordering.

Our wonderful helpers this week are:

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Good Friday

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