

Forest Focus

Term 1 Week 2, 8 February 2018

Principal's Message

What's happening at school?

- ✓ Check the school calendar on the app or website
- ✓ Read the notes via the app or email on a Thursday
- ✓ Read the Forest Focus (every second week)

Remember...

Friday 9 February 3-6 (eligible year 2) swimming carnival

Monday 12 February P&C meeting at 7.30pm – please enter through the Sorlie Rd gates

Friday 16 February Assembly at 2pm in the assembly hall – all welcome

2018 class organisation

| | |
|------|--|
| KH | Miss Lisa Huwaidi |
| KM | Mr Matt McCarron |
| 1D | Mrs Kylie Davidson (Assistant Principal K-2 team leader) |
| 1M | Mrs Jessica Murace |
| 1/2E | Mrs Elizabeth Davies |
| 2W | Mrs Kathryn Wickham |
| 3S | Miss Tana Stojanov |
| 3/4L | Mrs Lauren Larsen |
| 4S | Mrs Frances Separovich (Assistant Principal 3-4 team leader) |
| 5M | Mrs Lauren Morton |
| 5/6S | Miss Arkie Stelling-Wood |
| 6B | Mrs MJ Broomfield (Assistant Principal 5-6 team leader) |

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|------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Science | Mrs Sara Steiner |
| Music | Mrs Fiona Davy |
| Library | Mr Matthew Philips |
| School Counsellor | Mrs Julia Griffith |
| Administrative Manager | Mrs Linda Lyell |
| Administrative Officer | Mrs Annie Peake, Mrs Judy Wilkinson |
| SLSO | Mrs Jane McConnell |
| General Assistant | Mr Steve Condon |

Assembly

Our first school assembly for 2018 will be on Friday 16 February at 2pm in the hall. Parents and friends are warmly invited to join us for assemblies.

Every term we hold a **special awards assembly**. This is an opportunity to present special certificates and sporting awards. Allocating dates will give parents an opportunity to plan their

schedules to attend these special presentations. Please set aside the following dates for the *special awards assemblies*:

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| Term 1 | Friday 6 April at 2pm |
| Term 2 | Friday 29 June at 2pm |
| Term 3 | Friday 21 September at 2pm |
| Term 4 | Friday 30 November at 2pm (including kindy graduation) |

Student leaders 2018

School captains

Lucas Saxby and Megan Bartlett

School vice-captains

Ben Massey and Abby Hamilton

Acacia House captains

Gabriel Bertozzi and Zali Helsloot

Banksia House captains

Elleesa Cowan and River Whiston

Casuarina House captains

Chloe Dunne and Jamie Hawker

Eucalypt House captains

James Brown and Susie Taylor

Student with allergies

Please note that we have students with severe allergies to nuts at school this year **across most grades**. I am requesting students not to bring nuts or nut butters to school. I appreciate parents' support in keeping all our children safe and well.

Celebrating birthdays at school

There are two preferred options for celebrating children's birthdays at school. The first is to pre-order frozos from the canteen. This can be done by contacting Charlotte Nash through the P&C canteen email ffspandccanteen@gmail.com, giving 48 hours notice please. The frozos will be delivered to the classroom at lunchtime for the children to enjoy. The second option is to bring ice-blocks to school at 3.10pm. We ask that lollies and cakes are not brought to school as they do not fit within our school and P&C healthy eating strategy. For more information on the healthy eating strategy please see the canteen tab on the school website.

Learning support and enrichment

Learning support and enrichment will begin in week 4. Letters will come home to confirm student places in these groups. Please find information on the enrichment opportunities below.

Coding

Coding club will be run for interested students in years 1-6 by Mr Philips.

English and the Arts

The aim of this program is to develop creative and imaginative thinking by embedding the Arts into an English teaching and learning program. Students who have performed at a higher level in both English and the Arts will have the opportunity to access an added dimension to their learning. Diverse opportunities to explore and create written texts will be offered while developing problem solving skills and a personal creative flair. The program will run for one semester and children will be selected from years 4 – 6. The students will be chosen for the program based on their assessment results and teacher recommendation. The program will run

from the session following recess to the end of the day and the number of students attending the program will be limited. The smaller numbers will provide greater opportunity for individuals to respond to tasks diversely. A letter will be sent home inviting the selected students to participate in the program.

Maths enrichment

The maths enrichment group at Frenchs Forest has been established to challenge high performing students with problem solving and mathematical thinking beyond their regular curriculum. Students in years 4-6 may be selected for the group primarily on the basis of their performance in class, with assessment results and teachers input carefully analysed to determine the final grouping. Students who have been selected will receive a letter home inviting them to participate. Lessons generally take place at the same time as class maths lessons so that students do not miss out on learning in other areas of the curriculum. The number of students in the group is capped to ensure the aims of the group can be met, with a smaller teacher-student ratio allowing for more in depth discussions and a higher level of teacher support. Students in the group participate in competitions to challenge and engage them throughout the year, including the Australian Mathematics Competition (AMC), the Computational and Algorithmic Thinking assessment (CAT), and the Australian Problem Solving Mathematical Olympiads (APSMO). The group is determined early in Term 1 each year although students may be added or removed from the group if deemed necessary to better support their learning in mathematics.

Debating

Students are invited to try out for our school debating team early in Term 1. The team of 4-8 students will participate in the Premier's Debating Challenge, competing against other schools in a round robin competition for a place in a knockout tournament which eventually determines a state winner. Students who wish to trial are asked to prepare a short 1 min speech on a given topic, with a 10 min preparation time, and then deliver that speech to a panel of 2 teachers who will assess the outcome. The highest performing students are selected to be members of the team, which meets weekly to train and learn the required skills for the competition. The competition concludes in Term 3.

Students who are good at debating are generally good public speakers, with excellent critical thinking skills, able to analyse a problem and provide solutions and think on their feet. It is a fun competition to be a part of and, although intimidating for some, it can also help children to develop confidence and valuable public speaking and critical thinking skills.

Inter-school opportunities

The Forest High School enrichment program for selected year 5 students.

The Northern Beaches Secondary College enrichment program for selected year 6 students.

Please note there is a cost attached to both these programs.

Extra-curricular opportunities

Frenchs Forest School offers many extra-curricular opportunities for students. We aim to provide a stimulating school environment where all children can explore and develop interests and passions. Please find an overview of extra-curricular opportunities sent as a separate note this week.

Gail Smith

Principal

Respectful Responsible Learner

The focus for this term is:

| | |
|----------------|--------------------------------|
| Weeks 1 and 2 | I wear my uniform with pride |
| Weeks 3 and 4 | I am a good friend |
| Weeks 5 and 6 | I speak respectfully to others |
| Weeks 7 and 8 | I am a good listener |
| Weeks 9 and 10 | I make good choices |
| Week 11 | I take care of my belongings |

Administration News

Student absences

If your child is absent from school please inform the school as soon as possible. This may be done easily on the school app (go to eForms), via email to the class teacher/school, a written note or by telephoning the office. All late arrivals and early departures come through the school office.

Skoolbag App

There has been an update to the school app. Parents will have noticed some changes to the way you use the app. On the home page, 'Alerts' are now displayed as 'Notices'. If you have received a notification that notes have been sent, please look in the 'groups' icon at the bottom of the page. A blue indicator will show against the mailing lists you have selected when a new message is posted. Weekly notes are now found in 'groups' tab.

Administration Procedures

When visiting the school, please sign in at the front office and wear an identification lanyard. All volunteers in the school should complete a 100 point Working with Children Check. Paperwork can be obtained from the office and to complete the points either a passport or birth certificate together with a driver's licence is sufficient.

Please place all payments, permission notes and communications in the silver letterbox in the office foyer. This is cleared regularly and distributed.

Term accounts will be emailed home within the next few weeks.

Annie Peake

Administrative Officer

LRC News

Welcome back to another year of learning at Frenchs Forest. It's been an exciting start to the year for me being in a new role and I look forward to having the opportunity to teach students across all stages, encouraging them toward a love of books and reading throughout the year. In my role I will also continue to be involved in some of our enrichment programs and we will be establishing some groups for eager coders and technology enthusiasts early in the year which I know many students are looking forward to.

In response to suggestions from parents in the 'Tell them from me' survey conducted last year, this year we will trial opening up the library some mornings and afternoons. In Term 1 the library will be open on Mondays from 8:40-9:10 before school and Wednesdays and Thursdays 3:10-3:30 in the afternoon. Parents are most welcome to join their children in the library during those times to browse, borrow and read with their children. Please keep an eye on the notice board outside the library as times may change throughout the year.

Matthew Philips
Teacher/Librarian

P & C News



President's Report

ffpspandcpresident@gmail.com

Welcome back to 2018 and another exciting year here at FFPS! An extra warm welcome to all our new families who have joined us this year. It was lovely to see lots of smiling new kindy faces last Wednesday starting school for the first time.

As your P&C we have some terrific activities and initiatives planned this year. We start the year off with a much loved community event - the School Disco on Friday **March 2**. The fundraising team has been working extra hard to organise this event. Please read the additional notes for all the information you need.

I encourage all community members to consider joining our newest committee – **the Environment committee**. This committee, led by Julie Figgs, is very new and needs parent support to get some of the terrific initiatives planned up and running. I also encourage you to consider working in the **canteen, uniform shop and band** events as often as your schedule allows. We truly appreciate as much parent support as possible. All funds and time given positively impacts the most important people at school – your children.

We have a Frenchs Forest Public School Facebook page
<https://www.facebook.com/frenchsforestpublicschoolpandc/>

This is an excellent and quick way of keeping up to date with P&C activities so be sure to send a "like" our way.

Please see below for a list of key P&C contacts for 2018.

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|-----------------------|------------------------------------|--|
| President | Samantha Donnan | ffpspandcpresident@gmail.com |
| Vice President 1 | Kerryn Moulds | ffpspandcvicepresident1@gmail.com |
| Vice President 2 | Louise Reeson | ffpspandcvicepresident2@gmail.com |
| Secretary | Amanda Morey | ffpspandcsecretary@gmail.com |
| Treasurer | Nicole Kroger | ffpspandctreasury@gmail.com |
| Canteen Convenor | Charlotte Nash | ffpspandccanteen@gmail.com |
| Band Convenors | Sally Postma & Di Turner | ffpspandcband@gmail.com |
| Uniform Shop Convenor | Deb Hishon | ffpspandcuniform@gmail.com |
| Fundraising Convenors | Kelly Ann Ferrie & Nicole Christie | ffpspandcfundraising@gmail.com |

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|-----------------------|---------------|--------------------------------|
| Environment Convenor | Julie Figgis | ffpspandcenvironment@gmail.com |
| Website Administrator | Shelley Allum | shelleyallum@optusnet.com.au |
| Sponsorship & Grants | VACANT | |

Lastly, our first P&C meeting for the year is Monday 12 February at 7.30 pm in the staffroom. We would love to see you there.

Samantha Donnan

P&C President



Canteen

ffpspandccanteen@gmail.com

Please check our new menu when you are ordering as some items and prices have changed.

School24 are in the process of updating their website – please read the notice when you start your order. Their website is very easy to use and we are hoping more parents will register as it streamlines the ordering process in the canteen. If you have any issues with registering, please call their helpline.

We are always ready to welcome new volunteers to the canteen. If you can spare a couple of hours whether it's once a week or once term, we would love to have you. It's not hard and it's a great way to meet other parents and find out more about FFPS. Please email the roster co-ordinator (ffpspandccanteenroster@gmail.com) if you are interested. If you can't actually make it in to help in the canteen, we also have a laundry roster and a baking list and our Committee meets once a term. Please join our wonderful team.

Charlotte Nash

Canteen Convenor



Uniform Shop

ffpspandcuniform@gmail.com

A big welcome back! We have already had a very busy start to Term 1 and it was lovely to meet all the new families to our school and welcome back the familiar faces.

The Uniform Shop will be open **every Friday** for the term from **8:30am to 9:30am**.

Our Uniform Shop is run by the P&C and is staffed with volunteers. Unfortunately, we are running very low on helpers. If you are able to help one or two Friday mornings a term for one hour or as much as you can manage, it would be greatly appreciated! Younger siblings are always welcome too – we have a play corner with toys! If you are interested, please contact me via our email ffpspandcuniform@gmail.com or leave a message at the front office.

If you are not able to get to the shop on a Friday, you can complete an order form which is available from the office or download from our FFPS website and place it in the silver box in the front office. Orders are filled each Friday and can be sent to your child's classroom or available for collection at the office.

Deb Hishon
Uniform Shop Co-ordinator



Fundraising

ffpspandcfundraising@gmail.com

Happy New Year! We are really excited about the year ahead and have lots of fun things in the pipeline to raise money for our fabulous school.

To kick things off, there will be a school disco on Friday 2 March so lock the date in your diaries. Further details will follow in letters home shortly.

Also, please note that your 2018 Entertainment Books will be available from 14 February. These books offer fabulous savings on restaurants, theme parks and sporting activities, among other things, and are available either as a hard copy book or on an app for your smart phone. At only \$70 per book, they offer \$20,000 of value so get in quick to make the most of this year's offers. Please contact us on the email address below to order yours.

Details regarding our planned events for the rest of the year will follow shortly so watch this space....

In the meantime, our first committee meeting of the year will be on Tuesday 20 February at 7pm in the Parent Room (opposite the Uniform Shop) so please come along and see what we're all about. New members and ideas are always welcome!

Kelly-Ann Ferrie & Nicole Christie
Fundraising Conveners



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