

# Forest Focus

Term 3 Week 10, 24 September 2020

## 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 25 September

Last day of Term 3

Monday 12 October

Students return for Term 4 in full summer sport uniform

### Planning for 2021

If you know your child will be starting school in 2021 please let the office know and complete an enrolment form as soon as possible. We have started a kindy 2021 Facebook group so everyone can ask questions and begin to get to know each other.

If you know your child will not be returning to FFPS in 2021 please also let the office know.

### Academic update

Throughout the year teachers use a range of assessments of students' learning to inform their planning and teaching programs. As well as class based assessments, we use a suite of PAT assessments across the school from kindergarten to year 6 to give us objective norm-referenced information about children's skills and understandings in mathematics and English.

Assessments are conducted at specific times over the year and I plan to share the results as they come through. This will give parents an overall picture of how the school is tracking academically, outside the NAPLAN years (years 3 and 5). It will also give parents an understanding of whether our current academic programs are rigorous and where we may need to make improvements.

In 2019 Frenchs Forest made the decision to refresh our approach to teaching spelling across years K-6, and began implementing the Sound Waves program in all classes. Sound Waves incorporates teaching of phonics and word study into an evidence based explicit teaching program. Using our PAT (progressive achievement test) data, we have been able to track the yearly growth of our students in years 3-6 in spelling and are beginning to see some excellent results. Students have completed their spelling assessment over the past couple of weeks and we are pleased to say that 82% percent of students from Frenchs Forest have achieved a result that places them above the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile when compared to students in their grade across Australia. Looking at the growth of our students in years 4 to 6, we are seeing our students developing at a faster rate compared with the norms over those periods. It is pleasing to see our new program appears to be having a positive impact. (Matt Philips)

### Term 4 school COVID guidelines

The department of Education plans to release further information to schools in early term 4. This will include information around end of year events and kindy orientation. As soon as I have information I will pass it onto families.

### Social Contact Facebook groups

It's great that parents can chat online in our social Facebook groups, particularly during this COVID period when parents are not on site. Please remember that Facebook is not the school's primary source of communication and if anything pops up that is concerning or confusing please contact the office or me. It would be great if the Facebook posts could remain as positive as possible – I think we need to focus on being kind and helpful to each other during this difficult time.

### Spring holidays

Wishing all our families a safe and restful spring holiday. School returns on Monday 12 October. All children should wear sports uniform as we begin our gymnastics program on that day. Please take some time to check and rename your children's belongings over the break. It saddens me to send nearly new unnamed jumpers back to the uniform shop to sell as second hand. If items are named I can get them back to the children. The easiest and clearest naming system seems to be the iron on coloured labels. I am sure your FB group will know where to purchase these.

Gail Smith  
Principal

## ***Respectful Responsible Learner***

I am responsible when I keep my space tidy

## ***Assembly Award Winners***

### Term 3 Week 10

#### SILVER AWARD RECIPIENTS



## GOLD AWARD RECIPIENTS



## MEDAL RECIPIENTS



## LRC News

### Premiers' Reading Challenge

Congratulations to all the students who completed the PRC this term. We were so pleased that 90% of our students finished the challenge, such a fantastic achievement. Certificates will be sent from the PRC to us towards the end of Term 4.

## **Book Fair**

We have made the hard decision to cancel the book fair for this year. We are obviously disappointed but are planning a fabulous fair in 2021 instead!

Mrs Wilkinson and I hope the students have a fabulous and relaxing holiday - with plenty of extra time to read, read, read!!

**Nicola Brandt**

Teacher Librarian

## **P & C News**



### **Canteen**

[ffpspandccanteen@gmail.com](mailto:ffpspandccanteen@gmail.com)

We are excited to announce that we will be able to welcome volunteers back to the canteen in term 4 – we will be needing one volunteer only on a Friday afternoon from 12-2pm. If you would like to volunteer for a shift, please contact [ffpspandccanteenroster@gmail.com](mailto:ffpspandccanteenroster@gmail.com)

We are still experiencing a high number of children presenting to the canteen on a Friday with no lunch order. Please make sure you have received a confirmation email for your order and double check that you have ordered recess/lunch accordingly. Orders also need to be processed by 8.30am, particularly if they wish to have Sushi, as we can only offer a sandwich to those children who present with no lunch.

Please be mindful of the amount of money you give your children to spend at the canteen. We do not carry a large amount of change so cannot change big notes and we worry about the potential loss of large amounts of money. A few dollars should be sufficient.

For any urgent enquiries, or to order Birthday Frozos, please contact the canteen directly by calling the school.

As I am stepping down as Canteen Convenor, I would like to thank Carrie and the canteen committee – Neroli, Claire & Alysia – for all their hard work in the canteen and behind the scenes. We cannot do it without the dedication of these people. We are still looking for a new convenor, so please get in touch if you would like any more info.

**Charlotte Nash**

Canteen Convenor



## Live Life Well @ School

### KEEPING KIDS ACTIVE AT HOME



*Looking for ideas to  
keep your kids active  
at home?*

Download a copy of our  
'Keeping Kids Active' guide:  
[nshp.com.au/KeepingKidsActive](http://nshp.com.au/KeepingKidsActive)



Developed by Northern Sydney Local Health District

## Live Life Well @ School

### GET ACTIVE: NATURE SCAVENGER HUNT

- Write a list of things kids might find outside.

- Try to find them all and tick them off the list.

- Some items may be found in your backyard, but for others you can try your local outdoor areas.

- Encourage children to not touch or collect all items, but record their findings on their hunt sheet.

<input type="checkbox"/>	1	A heart-shaped stone
<input type="checkbox"/>	2	An animal's footprint
<input type="checkbox"/>	3	A bird's nest
<input type="checkbox"/>	4	A clover (find a 4 leaf clover for good luck!)
<input type="checkbox"/>	5	The perfect climbing tree
<input type="checkbox"/>	6	The Southern cross
<input type="checkbox"/>	7	The name of a neighbour you haven't met yet
<input type="checkbox"/>	8	Paper bark
<input type="checkbox"/>	9	A mushroom or fungus
<input type="checkbox"/>	10	Spot a creature that lives underwater
<input type="checkbox"/>	11	A sunrise or sunset over the horizon
<input type="checkbox"/>	12	A large feather
<input type="checkbox"/>	13	A gumnut
<input type="checkbox"/>	14	Driftwood
<input type="checkbox"/>	15	A water call
<input type="checkbox"/>	16	A herb garden
<input type="checkbox"/>	17	Nature pushing through concrete
<input type="checkbox"/>	18	A farm animal
<input type="checkbox"/>	19	A tree that reminds me of me!
<input type="checkbox"/>	20	A geocache

For more tips & resources (including this list), visit:

[www.natureplayqld.org.au/nature-play-scamenger-hunt](http://www.natureplayqld.org.au/nature-play-scamenger-hunt)

For health benefits,  
children aged 5-12 years need at  
least **60 minutes** of moderate to  
vigorous physical activity every day.  
Variety is important.



Developed by Northern Sydney Local Health District



**Frenchs Forest Public School**

Young Minds Bright Futures

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