

# Forest Focus

Term 2 Week 10, 24 June 2021

## Principal's Message

### What's happening at school?

- ✓ Check the school calendar on SkoolBag
- ✓ Read the notes via the app or email on a Thursday
- ✓ Read the Forest Focus (alternate Thursdays)

### Remember...

Tuesday 13 July	Students return for Term 3 Bookings open for parent/teacher interviews
Thursday 15 July	Semester 1 reports go home via students
Friday 16 July	PSSA continues
Monday 19 July	Parent/teacher interview week
Tuesday 20 July	Assembly at 9.15am - Dance group performing
Wednesday 21 July	Choir rehearsal

### External Validation

Last week we completed our External Validation panel meeting where we met with a peer principal, a principal school liaison (principal in charge of a number of schools), our Director of Education and Learning and our school EV team, to discuss our school's progress in the areas of learning, teaching and leading. We have been working towards this submission since the beginning of the year and were able to present the panel with a comprehensive document which included our school self-assessments and supporting evidence.

Schools make judgements on key elements of high-quality practice which define the core business of excellent schools. By assessing our practice, we are able to inform our school planning and strategic directions. The panel were pleased to validate all our judgements and our proposed future directions.

In summary (this is the good part), the panel acknowledged that our school has seen incredible academic growth in our students since 2015 as our NAPLAN results show we currently sit above the state and statistically similar schools. They said our school culture is strongly focused on learning and building educational aspiration and that we should consider ourselves a 'lighthouse' school. We were also acknowledged as excelling in the areas of wellbeing, school planning, school resourcing and management practices and processes.

I look forward to sharing our 'future directions' in the next newsletter.

### Questions and suggestions

Thank you to parents who have been adding suggestions to this google form. Please find responses as follows

1. Can the uniform shop be open on a Saturday every so often?  
Yes, this will be commencing next term!
2. Can we have clarification of where the parents are allowed within the school?  
Yes, I will update the community whenever there are changes through the newsletter or Skoolbag. Currently parents are allowed on site, the uniform shop and canteen are open and parent helpers are allowed into classrooms. Parents are required to check in at the office first using the QR code if coming on site during school hours.
3. Can the kids be let out on time in the afternoons?  
Yes, this has been communicated to teachers. Sometimes there is a lot of 'chat' and some slow bag packing that occurs between children being let out and arriving at your pick-up point. We will try and hurry them along...

Please use the google form (link below) to make suggestions or ask questions.  
<https://goo.gl/forms/AO8xovhVp9tZ28EY2>

I would like to wish everyone a relaxing, safe and happy winter break. Keep warm and well. I am looking forward to some serious weeding and mulching in my garden!

**Gail Smith**  
Principal

## **Respectful Responsible Learner**

I will celebrate the achievements of others.

## **Assembly Award Winners**

**Term 2 Week 10**

### **GREEN AWARD RECIPIENTS**

Sabrina A, Indiana AC, Elsie A, Dylan N, Eason Y, Lola M, Taryn G, Asher R, Sophie P, Indiana D, Lucy B, Charlotte H, Mason H, Chantelle L, Maya M, Gia N, Sanika S, Oliver T, Noah Z, Hayley B, Arryn G, Roman H, Euan T, Hugo W, Liam H, Max B, Amelia B, Emma B, Alexander Y, Thomas C, Jessica C, Harry K, Toby M

## **School News**

### **GOLDEN TICKET incentive for using the library**

Everyone wants to win a golden ticket, don't they? At FFPS our Ambassadors have come up with an initiative to encourage library use and win a golden ticket.

Starting in Term 3 there will be golden tickets hidden in the books of our library. When the children borrow a book, there is a record that they have used the library. If the



book they have borrowed has a golden ticket in it, they are a winner. We are looking forward to seeing an increase in library use and to see the excitement on children's faces who have found a golden ticket.

When the children return the book, they can hand the golden ticket to Mrs Brandt and receive a voucher for a mini-frozo. The golden ticket will then be placed inside a new book for another lucky reader.

However, there is more – once they have handed in the golden ticket, their name will go into a draw to win a new book! This will be drawn in Term 3, week 4. So, we encourage all our students to experience the joy there is to read from our library and they might be lucky enough to find a golden ticket.

### **Liz Davies**

Ambassador Co-ordinator

## **LRC News**

### **Author Visit**

We had a hugely successful visit from the author Deborah Abela during week 9. She has written 27 books so far and spoke with great passion and humour about her books as well as how to come up with great story ideas. The children responded so well to her talks, asked excellent questions and many even queued up during their lunchtime to get an autograph! There is now a waitlist for books of hers that we have in the library and I have been told by many eager children to buy her other books ASAP.





### Scholastic Book Club

Thank you to those who ordered books this term. The orders from Issue 5 have been delivered. There will be another opportunity to buy from the Scholastic catalogues in Term 3.

### Term 3 Plans

Term 3 is my favourite term at school as the focus on books and reading is keener than usual. We will be celebrating Book Week from 23 - 27 August. Linked to that we will once again hold our annual book fair that we missed out on last year and we will be holding a book character dress-up. More details of all these events will be shared closer to the time.

Happy holidays, I hope you find lots of time for reading.

**Nicola Brandt**

Teacher/Librarian

## P & C News



### Band

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

It's been a busy few weeks for the FFPS bands.

### Performances

All bands took part in the Northern Beaches Instrumental Festival and put on some fantastic performances at Cromer and Pittwater High Schools. This was the first external performance for the Training Band and they did an amazing job. Thank you to all students for taking part. The Intermediate Band also had the opportunity to perform at The Forest High School last Friday at the Forest Festival of Lights – another great performance. Thanks to all the parents, Kinsey and Mrs Smith who helped get the students and their instruments to the venue.

## **Band Committee - we need your help!**

Are you looking to get more involved in school activities? Then why not come and help out with the FFPS Band program.

We are looking for parent volunteers to help us organise and run the band program. We understand that everyone is busy, so have split out the band responsibilities into smaller roles that hopefully fit better with people's busy schedules. We have indicated the time commitment and when each role is required.

All of these roles work closely with each other. Band Committee meetings are held online in the evening and will be twice a term from Term 3.

A brief summary of the roles is below - if you are interested, please feel free to contact me for more information.

<b>Role</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Time commitment</b>	<b>Status</b>
Band Convenor	Oversees all aspects of the Band Program.	Busy at beginning and end of year and band events. 1 hour a week during the year.	Currently filled by Wendy Hinks
Band Secretary	Management of the band email and communications to parents regarding band.	1-2 hours a week.	Vacant
Instrument Co-ordinator	Co-ordinating hire of band instruments.	Busy at the beginning and end of year. Minimal/ ad hoc during the year.	Vacant end of 2021 (currently filled by Nicole Quirk)
Band Liaison	Onboarding new band members at the start of the year and managing any updates during the year.	Busy at the beginning and end of year. Minimal/ ad hoc during the year.	Vacant
Event Planner	Planning and delivering of band events.	Band weekend – term 2. Music in the forest – term 3. Concert under the stars – term 4.	Vacant

**Wendy Hinks**  
Band Convenor

# Live Life Well @ School

## MINDFULNESS MEDITATION

### *Mindfulness Meditation*

is a helpful tool to help children manage the heightened emotions they may be experiencing.

It gives them time to breathe and imagine, be quiet and still and know that it is ok to have feelings.



Check out **Smiling Mind** for:

- Free meditations to use with your child & the family
- Digital care packs to support children through the current times and beyond

[www.smilingmind.com.au](http://www.smilingmind.com.au)



Developed by Northern Sydney Local Health District



**Frenchs Forest Public School**

Young Minds Bright Futures

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