PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

Dear Parent/Caregiver,

Classes and Staff

As outlined in last week’s Intercom, some class changes have needed to be made at the school. This restructure has been greatly facilitated by the whole school staff. When I contacted Mrs Baxter she said that she would retire at this time. This means it has not been necessary to have a nominated transfer of a permanent staff member. As a staff we greatly appreciate her thoughtfulness in this matter.

All members of staff have been consulted about possible class structures, and overwhelmingly chose the option which will result in the least class disruption to our current class structures and classrooms. On your behalf, and their students, I thank them for their professionalism at this time.

Classes have been restructured and staff allocated as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Kindergarten</th>
<th>Mrs Jansons</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kindergarten</td>
<td>Mrs Rooney</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kindergarten/Yr1</td>
<td>Mrs Atwood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 1</td>
<td>Mrs Fulham</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 1</td>
<td>Mrs Kowald and Mrs Lundqvist-Hayes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2</td>
<td>Mrs Zordoumis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2</td>
<td>Mr Thomson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 3</td>
<td>Mr Taylor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 3/4</td>
<td>Mrs Dalkeith</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 4</td>
<td>Miss Shand and Mrs Tafe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 5</td>
<td>Mrs Poulson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 6</td>
<td>Mrs Macky</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 3/4/5/6</td>
<td>Mr Earl</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

It was a conscious decision by us to maintain Kindergarten to Year 2 classes. However we will have one staff change in infants. Mrs Graham worked over the holiday period to prepare for this class and has established a focussed and settled environment for her students. We look forward to her continued presence and assistance as needed in the future. Mr Paul Thomson is available due to the restructure of the primary classes and is happy to take the class. We are fortunate that he is already in the room adjoining the other Year 2 class, as it is likely the demountable building will be removed by the Department in the near future, and now both Year classes will adjoin each other.

Swimming Carnival

How fortunate that the Faulconbridge Public School swimming carnival was held last Friday, a beautiful sunny day for this event. I feel for the schools whose carnival was scheduled for this week, the weather has been far less pleasant.
Thank you to the supportive parents who were there early, but not as early as Mr Earl, to ensure everything was in place and who helped as timekeepers and judges. Also, special thanks to Mrs Poulson, Miss Shand, Mr Earl and Mrs Reynolds for their organisation. Unfortunately I was unable to stay for the carnival, as the School Education Director, Mr Paul Cole, and I were scheduled to discuss the staffing changes at the school. However it was clear that the day had been a success when the buses arrived in the afternoon and tired but cheerful students and teachers emerged.

**Gonski Review**

Included in Intercom is information about the Gonski Review and its recommendations for Education funding reform. The letter by the Principal of Emu Plains Public School, Mr Tony Best clearly expresses what so many supporters of Public Education feel. The support of the P&C and parents in ensuring that the voice of Public Schools is heard is invaluable.

**Painting of A Block**

Due to the inclement weather this week, the start of the painting of the Administration block has now been postponed. The subcontractors have said they would now aim to start next week.

**Gates and Early Arrivals**

Due to safety issues, the Meeks Crescent gate is locked during school hours. Locking and unlocking gates is one of the roles carried out by senior students. For that reason, the gate on Meeks Crescent is locked right after the morning bell. Please keep this in mind if you use this gate in the morning as we would not like anyone to be inadvertently locked in and have to go the long way round. The gate is unlocked at approximately 2.30pm.

Early arrivals continue to be an ongoing safety concern. Some students arrive early for band, choir or drumming practice – these students are then appropriately supervised. Playground supervision commences at 8.25am and there is no teacher on duty before that time.

**Appointments**

All of us at Faulconbridge Public School value the partnerships between teachers and parents which are such a powerful factor in our students’ learning. If there is something you wish to discuss with a member of staff, please contact the school to make an appointment. This enables the teacher to set aside time for the discussion to be held at a time suitable to both of you, and uninterrupted by other responsibilities.

**Rotary Donation**

On Monday evening Mrs Brown, Mrs Kowald and I were the guests of Mr John O’Sullivan at the Springwood Sporting Club, where Rotary holds its weekly meetings. Mr O’Sullivan has always been very supportive of the school, and was instrumental in organising a donation from Rotary for materials to assist students with extra learning needs. Mrs Kowald had written asking for funding to purchase voice recognition software for students who will be able to ‘write’ for longer using this program. Mrs Brown requested funds to replace worn out cassette players and cassettes which are used by students on the Rainbow Reading program.

Due to the generosity of Rotary, both these applications were accepted. The cheques were presented on the evening, and on behalf of the students who will benefit from these resources we extend our thanks.

**Tawny Frogmouth Owls.**

For the last two days we have been happy hosts to a pair of Tawny Frogmouth Owls. They have taken up a temporary roost in the trees in the Pioneer garden. If you are in the playground, please come and have a look at our feathered visitors.

Dorothee Lean  
Principal
Students who catch the early bus should return permission forms as a matter of urgency.

ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term 1 Wk 2</th>
<th>HEALTHY ENVIRONMENTS</th>
<th>POSITIVE RELATIONSHIPS</th>
<th>LEARNING</th>
<th>PERSONAL GROWTH</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>KJ</td>
<td>Shaelee B</td>
<td>Tiana H</td>
<td>Peter R</td>
<td>William T</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KR</td>
<td>Jessica M</td>
<td>April M</td>
<td>Oscar Q</td>
<td>Lucas W</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K/1A</td>
<td>Caleb C</td>
<td>Isabella M</td>
<td>Lachlan H</td>
<td>Oscar M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1D</td>
<td>Ella B</td>
<td>Zane P</td>
<td>Aiden C</td>
<td>Sarah B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1F</td>
<td>Genevieve M</td>
<td>Harry H</td>
<td>Mia S</td>
<td>Connor R</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2Z</td>
<td>Emma H</td>
<td>Grace M</td>
<td>Julian S</td>
<td>Louie O</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2G</td>
<td>Hannah W</td>
<td>Lachlan J</td>
<td>Joel P</td>
<td>Addison B</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SICK BAY
If your child has an accident or we supply replacement underwear or clothing, please wash and return to the school.
Supplies of extra clothing are short.
Thank you
Office Angels

Intercom Distribution
Each family has the option of receiving your Intercom from our website or by a printed copy. We are encouraging families to use our website as this saves resources for the school and the planet. We will not be emailing reminders this year as the newsletter is posted onto our website every Thursday and it needs to become part of your weekly routine to download a copy.

If you still require a printed copy supplied to your child please return the form below to the office, before 20th February

Last chance this week
We require a printed copy of school newsletter each week.

Child’s name ..............................................

Class..............................................

Signed ..............................................
**WHOLE SCHOOL PHOTOS**
Photos will be taken on Thursday 21st February 2013
Envelopes for Family Photos will be available at the office.

**SCHOOL SPORTS DAYS**
Stage 1 Tuesdays, will commence Week 4
Stage 2 Thursdays
Stage 3 Fridays, will commence Week 3

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**School Trivia Night**
**Saturday 11th May**
7.00pm
*Bring your friends and make a table*

Meanwhile, test your knowledge on this….
**Question:** What was the former name of King’s Cross in Sydney?
**Answer in next week’s issue.**

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**School Contributions**
In line with the DET guidelines our Voluntary School Fees for 2013 are

- $40 per child
- $65 per family

*In addition*
- $20 Material Contribution per child
School Banking News

Where: Under the Big Top
When: Fridays from 8.30am-9.00am

School Banking starts tomorrow, Friday 15 February 2013 from 8.30am to 9.00am under the Big Top. Look for the ladies with the black hats and start collecting tokens for the new 2013 rewards!!

If you can, please leave a note in the deposit wallet with your 2013 class name. This will help us update school banking records for the 2013 classes.

New bankers will be allocated their FPS school banking student ID number on Friday during the morning. Deposit Books will then be returned to the class pigeon holes for teachers to return to students on Monday.

Our CBA representative, Gail Anderson will be at FPS for our first morning collection and she may .... shhhh... bring one of her Dollarmites friends. Please come & say hi @ and bring your camera/phone for photos.

If you have any questions or would like to open a new account, Gail Anderson (CBA) will be on hand to help. You will need to bring ID (ie driver's licence) if you would like to open a new account (& a birth certificate for any child not yet at school).

The School Banking Team!!

Letter written by Mr Tony Best
Principal, Emu Plains Public School
EDUCATION IN THE NEWS

I’m sure parents are aware of the media focus on education funding in recent days and weeks but many may be wondering what it is all about. In contrast to reporting the wonderful achievements of our students, schools find themselves “front and centre” in an economic debate about the funding of education in NSW. In short, the state government’s decision to reduce education funding by $1.7 billion will impact on all schools, Catholic, Independent and Public.....but it appears that the public system will be particularly affected. The removal of 1800 staff and reduction of funds will impact on everything we do in schools. From supporting children with learning needs to the hygiene and cleanliness of classrooms, schools are being required to “do more, with less”.

Clearly, this is nonsense. Less means less and this will surely have a negative impact on the education of the children of today .... and the children of tomorrow. As a teacher and a parent, I believe education is one of the three most important services a “government” can provide for the community. This is what we elect our representatives to do, to provide for the community’s common good. Together with Health and Community Safety (Fire brigades, police, ambulances etc) education is about the well-being of society.

Since the time of Sir Henry Parkes (the father of Federation), the Public Education system has provided education for all, regardless of their circumstances, and should be the first priority of all governments. I know that a “good education” for their child is the desire of all parents, and I am sure that a good education is more important and should have a higher priority than other current government projects such as a new convention centre, another harbour crossing, poker machine tax breaks for clubs or a $5 million dollar refurbishment of Treasury offices!

As many Premiers and Prime Ministers have noted over the years, education is the great leveller in society. It reduces disadvantage and poverty, it provides opportunity and it ensures national productivity. Ongoing OECD research confirms the importance of investing in human capital. Their studies show that citizens in an educated society are healthier, live longer and contribute more to their community. Without a strong education system, Australia could not be counted as a modern “First World” country with all the advantages that such membership brings. Without appropriate funding, we will not have a quality education system. This is what the recent “Gonski Report” is all about. Studies have shown Australia spends less of its GDP on education than most developed countries (we are ranked 58th) and, after a thorough and comprehensive evaluation led by the respected and well-credentialed businessman David Gonski, the clear and unequivocal recommendation was that Australia needs to spend more on education, a lot more .......and certainly not less!

Unfortunately, our current experience in NSW schools is just the opposite of what the Gonski Review recommended. As government policy, $1.7 billion less funding will be provided for the education of children in NSW.

Those of us concerned about the future of our children, and of our nation, find these cuts very difficult to understand or justify. They fly in the face of common sense, research and the findings of high profile reviews.

Let’s hope that there is a change in priorities to adopt the Gonski recommendations in NSW before it is too late!

Our Children, Our Future
Why governments must act on Gonski

Schools across the nation would benefit

The Gonski Review found Australia is investing far too little in schools and that the way the money is currently being distributed to schools is inefficient, ineffective and unfair.

It recommended $8.5 billion a year in additional funding be targeted towards addressing student needs. The biggest beneficiaries would be public schools, which would get at least 75 per cent of the money.

More funding would make a difference in the classroom

Funding increases would vary school-by-school according to need, but the average increase in public schools would be over $1,500 per student per year. That’s enough to pay for 7 extra teachers in a school with 500 students.

More teachers would mean smaller class sizes and more individual attention for students.

Funding could also be used for new programs, teacher training and to better assist students with disabilities or special needs.

The need for change is urgent

Funding shortfalls are stopping too many students getting the education they deserve.

Half of all principals say that resource shortages are affecting the teaching of the basics such as reading, maths and science. These can be a lack of appropriately trained teachers, a lack of textbooks or library books, or even calculators. Too many students are at risk of falling behind.

What now?

State and territory leaders are yet to sign up – help us make sure they do!
The Federal Government is onboard with Gonski but all governments must commit to paying their share of the extra money. A deal needs to be done by April this year so new funding arrangements can start in 2014.

You can make a difference.
The support of tens of thousands of teachers and parents across Australia helped convince the Federal Government to act on Gonski. We need to keep the pressure up until all our political leaders (Labor and Liberal) are onboard.

Register your support for better funding today at www.igiveagonski.com.au

Authorised by Susan Hopgood, Federal Secretary, Australian Education Union
120 Clarendon Street, Southbank, Victoria, 3006
Our **Coffee & Dessert Night** is on this **Friday 15 February 2013** from **8.00pm at the Ori Cafe.** New parents & carers are most welcome!!

If you haven’t RSVP’d yet and would like to come, please send a text message to 0450 122 886 so that we can increase our table size.

Missed this one, but interested in coming to the next one? Pencil in our next Coffee & Dessert Night on your calendar now ... **Friday 22 March 2013** (not 15 March as previously advertised, due to a clash with another great event being held at the School that night).

**********
Upcoming Workshops

ASD (Autism/Aspergers)
by World Expert Dr Tony Attwood and Dr Michelle Garnett

Campbelltown (Thursday 7th March) & Hornsby (Friday 8th March)

Workshop - Autism Spectrum Disorder – A different way of thinking, learning and managing emotions.

Content will include:
• Cognitive Abilities: A different way of thinking and learning
• Managing Challenging Behaviour
• Managing Feelings: Cognitive Behaviour Therapy and its role in providing greater strategies to manage emotions and behaviour
• The Emotional Tool Box – what it is and how to use
• Strategies to Improve Social Understanding and Friendship Skills
• Special Interests: Origins and constructive strategies
• Girls with Asperger's syndrome
• Sensory Sensitivity

A clinical psychologist from Brisbane, Dr. Tony Attwood has over thirty years of experience with individuals with autism, Asperger's Syndrome, and Pervasive Developmental Disorder (PDD). He has worked with several thousand individuals, from infants to octogenarians, from profoundly disabled persons to university professors.

Michelle Garnett is a clinical psychologist and founder and Director of 'Minds & Hearts: A Specialist Clinic for Asperger's Syndrome and Autism.' Michelle thoroughly enjoys working in this area as a diagnostician, therapist, consultant, mentor, clinical supervisor, workshop presenter, and researcher. She has specialised in autism spectrum Condition for the past 18 years, developing expertise in all subtypes of autism across all ages. Michelle created the first screening instrument for Asperger’s Syndrome, the Australian Scale for

For the WORKSHOP Flyer & REGISTRATION see link below:
P & C MEETING – THIS MONDAY, 18th FEBRUARY 2013
Do you have skills in...
Event Management; Sales/Marketing; Fundraising; Administration; Finance/Accounting/Budgeting; Networking; Grant Research and/or Applications; Public Speaking/ Advocacy; Computers; Writing; or have other skills not listed here?
If you can answer yes to any of the above;
There is an opportunity for you to become an active member within your child’s school community by participating in activities organised by Faulconbridge Public School Parents & Citizens Association (FPS P&C), and perhaps becoming a member. We welcome you!

What does FPS P&C do?
The main focus is to:
- Promote communication between FPS staff and the community and encourage participation in activities that will benefit our children and build positive relationships.
- Raise funds to help enhance facilities and school equipment: some examples being the ‘Big Top’ shade cover, electronic whiteboards, literacy and numeracy resources, financial donations (school choir, concert band, sporting representatives and vegetable garden) and our soon to be erected electronic noticeboard.
- Advocate for local educational improvements: examples being the building of the current library, participation in staffing selection panels and our current campaign to improve education funding (information regarding the Gonski campaign is included in this newsletter. Contact Bronwyn S directly if you wish to get involved ns.bs@bigpond.net.au ).

There are many advantages to attending P&C meetings
The P&C is open to everyone: parents, caregivers, grandparents, teachers, students and all other interested members of the community. Regular attendance is the best way of finding out what is happening in all areas of the school, as well as the opportunity to contribute ideas and participate in the development of plans and policies for the running of the school. The annual cost of membership is $2.

When do we meet?
FPS P&C typically meets on the third Monday of each calendar month.
You are invited to attend our first meeting on Monday 18th February, 2013 starting 7pm in the teachers’ staffroom.
Everyone is welcome, whether you wish to be a P&C member or not. At this meeting, we will conduct our AGM, followed by a general meeting. All positions will be vacated and open to nominations. If you would like further information about the positions on the P & C please click on the link: http://www.pandc.org.au/
Topics for discussion at this general meeting include the Gonski campaign, fundraising activities for 2013, the kitchen garden and the FPS 50th Anniversary in 2014.

MY SCHOOL LUNCH BOX
We trust that everyone is having positive experiences with the online ordering system and quality provided by this great local business. Please feel free to pass on feedback regarding the service via email info@myschoollunchbox.com.au

SCHOOL SIGN UPDATE
The footings for the school sign will go in this coming week! We are looking for some capable helpers to assist with erecting the sign on Sunday, 24 Feb. If you can be available, please contact Simon 0407 932 475 for further details.

UPCOMING FUNDRAISING EVENTS
BLUE GUM MARKET STALL – Saturday, 23 February...FPS P&C will hold a cake stall at the next Rotary Blue Gum Markets on the school site from 9am-12:45pm. Donations of home-made cakes, biscuits and other goodies are requested from our school community. All profits are donated to the school. A class roster will be available in the near future for the 2013 stall dates.
If baking, please ensure
- all ingredients are listed. Items should not require refrigeration.
- boxes, tins needing return are clearly labeled with your name. Containers will be available from the school office for collection the following week.
- whole cakes are wrapped ( e.g. cling wrap).
- items can be delivered to the school office by 3pm Friday 22 Feb or to the stall at the Hall on the day.
**Individual items such as muffins, cupcakes, slices and small packs of biscuits sell best!**
CHEFS TOOLBOX MASTER CLASS – Friday, 15th March...notes will come home shortly explaining this fantastic evening to raise money for our school. Tickets will include a night of entertainment with cooking tips, games, prizes and food sampling, recipes and entry into a lucky door prize!
It looks like an exciting year ahead! See you all Monday 😊
Happy Valentine’s Day

Andrew McLeod
Accredited Club Professional NSW TCA Coach
Previously coached in USA and Germany
Qualified PDHPE Teacher

GROUP & PRIVATE LESSONS
ALL AGES – beginners to elite players
SCHOOL HOLIDAY COACHING CLINICS
PRO SHOP, RACQUET SALES & RESTRINGING

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Mobile: 0416 08 34 72
Email: springwoodworldoftennis@hotmail.com
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PO BOX 139 SPRINGWOOD NSW 277

Singing Tuition

All Ages
Beginners to Experienced Welcome
Cost: Half Price for Students
Studio: Portobello Business Centre
20 Ferguson Rd Springwood

Tutor: Nicole Giuzekamp
Nicole’s references include Dame Joan Sutherland and the Julliard School of Music New York City. Nicole studied as an actress before travelling to the US to teach children’s drama. On her return she began singing tuition with some of Australia’s greatest classical interpreters of music. Molly Mccork, Florence Taylor AM and John Main (France). Nicole was the young artist for the West Australian Opera Company and was signed by the then Australian Opera. She was a finalist at two young performers’ awards and performed regularly across Australia. Nicole is undertaking her Masters degree in Performance Art at Charles Sturt University.

Scope of Styles: Pop, Blues, Jazz, Contemporary, Musical Theatre, Cabaret, Opera etc. Specializing in the bel canto vocal technique.

Contact: Nicole on 0418 413 880
Nicole@ananda.com.au

MODELS REQUIRED
Ladies and Men
For
‘Free’ hair colouring and cuts
At Winmalee

Phone Aleisha on
0425 309 604