Dear Parent/Caregiver,

Welcome back to all of the Faulconbridge Public School community. I hope everyone enjoyed the festive season and had an opportunity to relax with friends and family. May I thank the students, parents and staff who sent or gave me cards and gifts- your kindness and thoughtfulness are greatly appreciated. My family and I enjoyed the many edible gifts – they were delicious.

There were several end of year events that occurred after the last Intercom of 2012 that are noteworthy:

- **2013 Premier’s Sporting Challenge Diamond Award Certificate** arrived at the school on the second last day of the school year. Congratulations to all the staff and students for their outstanding efforts and to Mr Ray Edwards who was the coordinator of this fitness initiative. The certificate will be formally presented at assembly and then displayed in the front office.

- **The Year 6 Farewell function** was held on 17th December. The restaurant was beautifully decorated by a group of parents in a sophisticated palette of blue and silver. The boys and girls were stylishly dressed and looked very grown up and ready for high school. It was a delightful evening for the students and staff, and on their behalf I thank the parents and staff helpers who organised this successful ‘send off’ for the Year 6 students.

**Staff and Classes**

Students and staff have been allocated to classes, this has so far been on a provisional basis, as there are usually some unforeseen changes. Classes are initially organised at the end of the previous year based on that year’s enrolments and expected Kindergarten numbers. At the beginning of the year there may need to be adjustments if there are changes in enrolments. For this reason at Faulconbridge Public School and many other schools classes and their teachers are not finalised until the second or third week of the year.

Since the beginning of term the school has been informed that there have been a number of families who have moved out of the area and some parents have decided not to enrol their children in Kindergarten this year. I have also contacted four families whose children had not returned. Based on the updated enrolment figures, there will be changes to classes next week, as a school’s staffing allocation is based on enrolments. The proposed changes will be discussed with the School Education Director, and staff, students and parents informed as soon as possible.

Congratulations to Mrs Howard who received a permanent teaching position at Lawson Public School at the end of last year. Mrs Howard was a valued member of the staff as a temporary appointment. The Faulconbridge community has benefited from her commitment and while we are sad to see her leave, are happy that she was the successful candidate of the Merit Selection process and pleased that she is now a permanent Department of Education teacher.

**School Maintenance**

Painting of the Administration Block will begin next week. Representatives of the Asset Management Unit, the Maintenance Contractor, the painter and I met yesterday to finalise arrangements. The painters will be on site from next Wednesday. It is expected that there will be minimal disruption to normal school routines.
Kindergarten Union Early Child Care Centre – Connecting Path
During the holidays the path which will connect the new Child Care centre to the school was constructed. This was a building requirement, to provide access for people with a disability and for students and parents to be able to move easily between the two facilities. It is appreciated that the builder completed this work over the holiday period, so our students’ use of the oval was not disrupted.

Staff Development Day (S.D.D)
The last 2 days of the 2012 school year and first day of 2013 were designated School Development Days for staff. In 2012 the following priorities were addressed:

- Literacy – The Spelling Scope and Sequence developed by the literacy team was presented to staff to be implemented this year. Mrs Macky presented a session on how to use the study of a literary text as the basis for literacy teaching.
- Numeracy – All staff were introduced to the North Coast Maths Scope and Sequence, support materials and links. Teachers also worked in their stage groups to plan the initial 2 weeks Maths program. All staff are also timetabling Maths for the first session of the day this semester.

Mandatory Professional Learning (P/L) and updates
Staff participated in P/L updates for the Code of Conduct and Child Protection. On the 29/1/13 SDD the mandatory Anaphylaxis, Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation training was held and there was a presentation on Diabetes.

Dorothee Lean
Principal

Kindy 2013
Welcome to Kindy! Kindergarten students are settling in very well. They are busy learning the routines and expectations of their classrooms and playgrounds whilst making new friends. Thank you to parents and caregivers for collecting your child or children promptly at the end of the school day. It is much appreciated.

Best Start is a statewide Kindergarten initiative to identify the literacy and numeracy skills of children at entry to school. Information gained from the Best Start assessment supports teachers to develop effective learning programs that build upon students’ current knowledge and meet individual learning needs. Data is entered into software by week 7 (Friday 15 March). A parent feedback letter is generated shortly thereafter, by the end of week 8 (Friday 22 March). The dates are set by State Office.

K-2 Sport Early Stage 1 (Kindy) and Stage 1 (Years 1 and 2) will begin Sport on Tuesday in week 4 (19th Feb). Students should wear their Sports uniforms to school on Tuesdays.

Parent Information evening. Dates are currently being negotiated and will be confirmed shortly in an upcoming newsletter.

If you have any concerns about your child or children at any time, please contact the office to make an appointment with the classroom teacher.

Kind regards
Jo Fulham
Assistant Principal.

Wireless
The school’s ICT team had an extremely busy and productive 2012. The eT4L server was installed in term 4 affording us greater autonomy over the day-to-day management of our site and with increased technical support from our Regional ICT personnel. We are pleased to report the school has wireless capability in every block and the Library, as of the January school holidays. I would like to acknowledge and sincerely thank all members of our ICT team who have worked tirelessly.

Thank You
Jo Fulham
ICT Leader
**DRUMMING LESSONS**

This year’s drumming lessons will commence on
Monday of Week 3, Term 1
11th February 2013

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**BOOK CLUB**

Welcome back to another year of fantastic Book Club buying opportunities. Anyone wishing to make a purchase from the current issues, please place orders at the office in a sealed envelope with the correct money or cheque. Orders are to be in by Monday 11th February. All items purchased earn bonus points for our school which can be used to obtain valuable books for our library.

Thank you,
Annette Reynolds

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**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**

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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

BUS PASS CHECK
Blue Mountains Bus Company have advised that they will commence bus pass checks on all operated school services commencing Monday 11th February.
Drivers have been advised to be lenient with students in the short term and be conscious that new applications are still coming in to the office.

FPS Special Needs & Family Support Parent Buddy Group

Our next Coffee & Dessert Night will be on Friday 15 February 2012 from 8.00pm at the Ori Cafe. New parents & carers are most welcome!!

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Upcoming Workshops

Writing Social Stories
Social stories - helping individuals understand the social world. What are they? Why use them? How are they written? This training focuses on how Social Stories can help improve many social behaviours in individuals with communication difficulties.

Presented by: Dianne Leggott & Michael Caballero
Date: Thursday 28 February 2012
Time: 10am to 2pm
Cost: $Free! to carers & parents of a child with a disability ($40 for professionals)
Lunch is provided
Where: B2/11 Hudson Avenue, Castle Hill
To Register: Tel: 1300 668 123 - Michael Caballero or Dianne Leggott
Email: tabiss@interactiondisability.com
School Contributions

DN/11/00135
Memorandum to: principals, teachers and administrative staff

All schools are reminded that they can request contributions from parents and guardians to enhance educational and sporting programs. These contributions are voluntary and Principals must ensure that students are not adversely affected by non-payment.

In accordance with the Education Act 1990, instruction provided in government schools is to be free of charge. No student can be denied the opportunity to meet the minimum syllabus requirements because of non-payment of school contributions.

There are two types of school contributions – “Voluntary Contributions” and “Subject Contributions”. Voluntary Contributions are used to purchase general educational resources and are capped each year. Those schools which in 2010 set their voluntary contributions at or below the earlier assessed statewide averages of $86 for secondary schools and $40 for primary schools are permitted to increase contribution levels to $88 and $41 respectively. All other schools are permitted to increase their voluntary contributions by a maximum of 2.5% over 2010 levels.

Subject Contributions are charged for materials and resources used and consumed in elective subjects. If parents do not pay their Subject Contributions, schools can provide other means by which students can fulfil the minimum requirements of the curriculum. Alternatively, Student Assistance Scheme funds may be available for the purchase of subject specific costs. It is preferable that schools purchase the items on behalf of the students rather than reimburse the parents for the cost of the items.

The Principal must always adhere to the Department of Education and Communities' Code of Practice available at the intranet.

Students must not suffer any discrimination or embarrassment over failure to make a Voluntary or Subject Contribution. Confidentiality, privacy and dignity must always be maintained concerning the payment of contributions.

In line with the above guidelines our Voluntary School Fees for 2013 are

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In addition

$20 Material Contribution per child
Faulconbridge Children’s Centre – Update

Construction of KU Faulconbridge Children’s Centre is well underway, with the roof recently being completed and windows now installed. Excavation of the car park and storm water detention pit is continuing after several delays due to rain.

During the approaching school holidays the builders will install a new water tank adjacent to the existing tank near the front entrance to the school. There will be minor changes made to the entrance to ensure disabled access, and an accessible footpath will be installed between the school and the centre. These works will be completed in time for school to resume in 2013.

It is anticipated that the centre, an initiative funded by the Australian Government, will open in the first half of 2013. Construction is scheduled for completion in early May but the actual opening date will be dependent on the centre receiving Service Approval from the Department of Education and Children. KU will liaise with the Department early in 2013 to determine the anticipated timeframe for receipt of this Approval so we can set our opening date and subsequently advise families and begin the enrolment process.

The centre will operate Monday to Friday, 7.00am – 6.00pm, and offer a high quality, play-based early childhood education and care program for 48 children aged 6 weeks to 6 years old.

The fees will be $82 per day for children aged between 6 weeks and 3 years and $80 per day for children 3 years and over. This fee covers all meals and nappies and eligible families can reduce their fees by claiming the Child Care Benefit (CCB) and/or the Child Care Rebate (CCR). More information about the CCB and CCR can be found at www.humanservices.gov.au/customer/services/centrelink/child-care-benefit.

Families wishing to place their details on the waiting list for the centre can contact Lyla Irving, KU Area Manager, on 0458 301 187 or via email at ku.faulconbridge@ku.com.au. Those families on the waiting list will be contacted from April 2013 to commence the enrolment process.

KU wishes you all a peaceful and enjoyable holiday season.
DRAWING CLASSES
One hour per week – during school time!

Vanessa Joret has been teaching drawing in the Mountains for over ten years. Classes are now available for Faulco Stage 2 and 3 students during school hours!

- Topics include: Learning to draw something you can see, How to make things look 3D, Creating mood with colour & light, How to draw realistic animals, Landscape, Portraiture and much more.
- We use chalk pastel, oil pastel, charcoal, graphite, coloured pencil and watercolour pencil.
- Small class size (max 12) for individual attention. Limited places available.
- $12/hr which includes all art materials (artist's quality)

Vanessa is a full time artist and her artwork is available through The Argyle Gallery at The Rocks and will be at The Blue Mist Café, Wentworth Falls from 11/2/13

See some of Vanessa’s artwork, her students’ work & course info at www.vanessajoret.com.au

If you would like more information or would like to reserve a place for your child phone: 4758 8030

Some examples of artwork completed by primary school age students:
WELCOME TO TERM 1, 2013
On behalf of the P & C, we would like to welcome back all the staff & students of Faulconbridge Public School.

A special welcome to all the new Kindergarten children and their families, new teachers and any new families who have joined us for the first time this year.

MY SCHOOL LUNCH BOX HAS STARTED
‘My School Lunch Box’ is a local Springwood business offering great lunch options, online ordering and free delivery. The service is available to the students, staff and volunteers in our school community each Monday and Friday of the school term.
A hard copy of the menu and instructions has been sent home to all families (Year 1 – 6) last week.
For all the Kindergarten children, you will receive a note with a hard copy of the menu shortly. Should you wish to utilise this service, please click on the following link:

SIGN UPDATE
Special thanks to Graham Schilling and local community member Fred Hands for their efforts removing the old tree at the corner of Grose Rd and the Hwy over the holidays. Work will begin in the very near future to erect our electronic sign, thanks to Simon Ebbeling’s negotiations through the Christmas break.

GIVE A GONSKI
As part of the campaign to secure the Gonski funding reforms, delegations of parents, teachers and Principals from the Macquarie, Lindsay and Greenway electorates will be travelling to the city this coming Sunday (10 February) to have morning tea with Federal Minister for Education Peter Garrett to call for the immediate implementation of the Gonski recommendations.

Are you able to join the Gonski bus? The bus will be leaving Penrith Train Station at 8.30am sharp. The morning tea in Farrer Place will be between 10.30am and 12.00pm. We should be back at Penrith by 1.30pm.

If you are able to attend, or know of another parent or two who can, please reply ASAP to Sonia atcrozing.family@yahoo.com.au or call her on 0422 316 495.

NEXT MEETING
First P&C Meeting and AGM will be held Monday, 18th February 2013. Any member of our community is welcome to attend.

Thanks Julia Thurling – P & C Vice President