PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

Dear Parents/Caregivers,

I hope everyone had an enjoyable long Easter weekend and is ready for the last weeks of term.

Education Support Team Reviews (EST)

The EST Review began this morning, with the 6 members of the team beginning the process of reviewing Mathematics teaching at the school to make recommendations for future direction. The terms of reference for the review are included below. Thank you to Mrs Tafe for coordinating the interviews with students and parents, drawing up the timetables and for organising staff and materials. Thank you also to those parents who agreed to participate themselves and who have allowed their children to be a part of the process. The recommendations will form the basis of future planning for the teaching of Mathematics and be reflected in the schools management plan.

Faulconbridge PS Education Support Team 4, 5, 8 April 2013

Mathematics
Draft Terms of Reference

1. To examine the programs, practices and procedures relating to the teaching and learning of Mathematics at Faulconbridge PS to determine the extent to which:
   - Assessment, teaching and learning programs reflect the NSW Quality Teaching Framework, DEC policies and BOS syllabus requirements (Q)
   - Mathematics teaching and learning programs address the needs of individuals across the full range of students (I)
   - Teaching and learning programs and classroom practices engage the full range of students (E)
   - There is alignment between programming, assessment and reporting (A)
   - Mathematics teaching and learning programs and practices are informed by regular professional learning for staff (P)
   - Communication and reporting procedures address the needs of staff and parents (C)

2. To make recommendations to inform the ongoing delivery of quality Mathematics teaching and learning programs to improve outcomes for students.
Congratulations Lachlan L
This week the school was notified that Lachlan has been selected as a Sydney West Region AFL representative. He will participate in the State Championships next term, and we congratulate him on his selection and wish him well.

School Fees
Earlier this year parents were sent an invoice for school materials. The invoice looks like this:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Inv Date</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8/2/12</td>
<td>Materials</td>
<td>20.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The school requests these fees to cover the cost of students’ materials. At the beginning of the year class teachers purchase resources for their class, including exercise books, pencils, paint, coloured pencils, textas, glue sticks and so on. The fees are part of that class’s budget, which is made up of a per capita budget, and the fees paid by parents. If you have not already paid this year’s fees, another invoice will be issued before the end of term as a gentle reminder to do so. Currently 179 student’s materials fees are outstanding – more than half of our school’s enrolment.

Mrs Zordoumis’ Maternity Leave
We are all very pleased about Mrs Zordoumis imminent happy event. The staff is having a baby shower for her and her soon-to-be-born baby this week, as her maternity leave commences at the start of next term. Mrs Jacquie Thomas has agreed to take 2Z for the remainder of the year, and will be coming to meet the class this week to discuss handover arrangements.

Milson Island Excursion
Thank you to Mrs Macky for her successful coordination of this activity, and also to Mr Earl and Mrs Curzon for agreeing to accompany our Stage 3 students. Their work and support made this experience possible for students, and it is timely to acknowledge that they give up their time with their families, friends and other community roles to enable such activities. It is not part of the expectation of many professions to make such commitments voluntarily.

Demountable Building and Electronic Waste
This week most of the remaining equipment and furniture was moved out of the demountable. The Interactive White Board was moved into the Creative and Performing Arts room, and Miss Theoharis is very happy to also have this resource for her teaching. Thank you to the members of the ICT team, particularly Mrs Fulham, for coordinating with the electrician (Mr Powers), Electroboard and the DEC support staff to make this process happen in such a short time frame. The General Assistant Mr Ghilardi has removed notice boards, purchased by the school, which can now be used in other classrooms. Unfortunately there was a misunderstanding about the piano, it is still available to a good home, please contact the school if you would like to have it. The ICT team has also coordinated the removal of a large amount of old electronic waste which had been stored in various spaces around the school. This material was picked up on Wednesday this week. This is part of the process of consolidating teaching resources in central locations. The Reading Resource room reorganisation is nearly complete, the Maths resource room has been established, the ICT storage area reorganised and currently MindMatters/BounceBack and Science resources are being reviewed.
Ethics Classes
On Tuesday, the Ethics presenters Mr Ron Suller, Mrs Lyndal Edwards and the coordinator Mrs Howells, met with Miss Theoharis (the Scripture Coordinator) and me. We discussed the starting date for Ethics classes, room allocation and other organisational details. We are pleased that classes will commence on May 21st. The presenters have also agreed to attend the P&C meeting on Monday 20th May so parents can have an opportunity to find out more about the content of the Ethics course.
Please complete the attached form if you would like your child/ren to attend the Ethics classes when they commence next term.

Permission for Ethics Classes/ Return to Office

My child/ren……………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………….
Class…………………………………………………………

Currently attend Non Scripture. I would like him/her to participate in the Ethics class, which will be held at the same time as the Stage 2 and 3 Scripture classes.

Signed…………………………………………………………  Date……………………………………

Blue Mountains Crossing Bicentenary
On Wednesday afternoon I attended a meeting at Springwood High School to discuss planning for the Bicentenary of the Crossing of the Blue Mountains by Blaxland, Wentworth and Lawson in 1813. Mr John O’Sullivan has been a prime ‘mover and shaker’ in the organisation of the crossing re-enactment. At a school level we are planning a local event on Friday 17th May. More information about this will be forthcoming in the near future. At this stage the presentation of the commemorative Holey Dollars is scheduled for a special assembly at 2pm on 17th May.
See more information about this on Page 5.

Harmony Day
Included this week are 2 photos taken by Mr Earl on Harmony Day. As I write this it is a wet, grey and cold day and the photos vividly recall the bright clothes, weather and ambience of our celebration of Australia’s harmonious community.

Hat Survey
This motion was passed at the last P&C meeting “Parents are asked to indicate their preference for the style of hat which is worn at school. Parents would tick the style of hat with an image of a bucket hat and a cap”
Moved Cath Adams, Seconded Megan Simpson
Please indicate below your survey response.

HAT PREFERENCE/ Return to Office

I……………………………………………………………………………(name), prefer the hat worn at school is a
School Trivia Night
Saturday 11th May
7.00pm

Bring your friends and make a table
Please register names at the office
$15 per person, maximum 8 persons per table

Question: As the crow flies, is Darwin or Perth closer to Melbourne?

Last week’s answer: 1957
This Friday 5th April is the last day for banking in Term 1.

Rewards ordered on 22 March will be returned with bank books to the class teachers on this day (to hand out during the last week of Term 1).

Important dates for Term 2:

Friday 3 May 2013  First day of School Banking for Term 2
Friday 14 June 2013  Term 2 Token Redemption Day - start saving your tokens again!!

See you all Friday!

The Banking Ladies

Dear Parents,

To mark the Bicentenary of the Crossing of the Blue Mountains in May of 1813 by Blaxland, Lawson and Wentworth, Businesses Supporting Bicentenary P/L has created replica Holey Dollar and Dump sets as a lasting memento. The original coins were struck from Spanish coins by Governor Macquarie also in 1813.

These coin sets will be presented free of charge to every one of the 11,500 schoolchildren on the Blue Mountains, in April and May of 2013, by descendants of the Three Explorers.

The coins come in a clear plastic clamshell containing an informative pamphlet, with a short history of the Holey Dollar, a letter from the NSW Governor, Marie Bashir, and the story of the Three Explorers. This is a wonderful Event that we are celebrating and we want our young people to remember the significance of this coin when reflecting on who we are, and the part taken by many of our ancestors in building this nation. Tom and I have spent many hours and dollars on this project, because we believe in the value of this lasting memento.

An advertising panel is available on the pamphlet, to enable business sponsors of the coins to publicise their tax deductible support. You can personally support part or all of a school, and your name will be read out by one of the descendants at the presentation ceremonies. If you would like to sponsor some of the coins, please go to www.bluemountainscrossings@bicentenary.com.au, to download the school list, or send an enquiry email to sponsorship@bicentenary.com.au.

Regards
Philip Hammon and Tom Colless
Directors BSB P/L
Woolworths Earn and Learn

The school is in the process of registering for Woolworths Earn and Learn Promotion which begins on 8th April and runs until June 2013. Last year we were able to order wet weather games, strategy games and beebot robots for K-6. The sticker cards are available from Woolworths but the charts will also be available at the school office. The box for collecting the cards or stickers is located in the office area. Thank you in advance for supporting our school.
Linda Dalkeith

PS Thank you to the office angels who put up with all these schemes!

Piano Lessons

Grace Rheinberger ex-Faulconbridge student
Year 9 Winmalee High School
Currently studying grade 6 AMEB piano
Offering piano lessons for beginners
$15 for half an hour
Saturday mornings in Springwood
Contact number: 0481307697
Urgent - Do you think that our children could benefit from a share of $5 Billion per year in extra funding for schools?

If you do, then you support the Gonski Report recommendations.

David Gonski headed a 2010/2011 review panel that found Australia lacks a logical, consistent and publicly transparent approach to school funding. On April 19 this year, at the COAG (Council of Australian Governments) meeting, the future of school funding will be determined as each State and Territory will announce whether or not they support the Gonski reforms. Please register your support for the $5 billion increase by going to http://igiveagonski.com.au. While you’re there, hit the ‘Email your Premier’ link and use the pro-forma to let Barry O’Farrell know that you think the Gonski review and its recommendations are valid and important and that NSW should support the extra spending. Your voice can make a difference. Act before April 19.

FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE MEETING
The next Fundraising Committee Meeting will be held on Monday 8th April commencing at 7pm in the staff room. Everyone is welcome.

P&C ANNUAL CONFERENCE
The P&C Federation are holding their annual conference on July 27-29 2013. If anyone is interested in attending please contact Heather Murray heatmuzz@gmail.com

MY SCHOOL LUNCH BOX
The “My School Lunch Box” program will be reviewed at the end of Term 1. Give yourselves a break from making lunches and try this wonderful service, which is only offered on Mondays and Fridays at our school. Remember all orders must be in by 9pm the day before. Please pass your feedback on via email info@myschoollunchbox.com.au

IMPORTANT: SPECIAL AGM / P&C MEETING
The next P&C meeting will be held on Monday 29 April at 7pm in the Staff Room.

It has been brought to the attention of the Faulconbridge Public School P&C by the P&C Federation that due to a delay in finalising the audit for 2012 prior to holding the 2013 AGM, the election of the Office Bearers at that meeting was invalid. On advice from the Federation we will be holding a Special AGM on Monday 29 April prior to the April General Meeting. At this Special AGM all Office Bearer positions will be open for re-election. Only financial members are eligible for a position and to vote.

Further information on the position within the P&C can be found at www.pandc.gov.org/faq.seo
If you have an issue you would like discussed at the next P&C meeting please email Kerry Doyle at Kerry.Doyle6@det.nsw.edu.au.

Remember everyone is welcome to attend the P&C meetings. Another great way to stay abreast of P&C issues is to join the “Faulconbridge Public School P&C” Facebook page.

N Schofield - P&C Executive
Do you have children 7 to 13 years old? Are you worried about their weight? Would you like some FREE information and support about healthy lifestyles?

TO REGISTER PLEASE CALL 1800 780 900
www.mendcentral.org/go4fun