PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Visit by the Minister for Education, Mr Adrian Piccoli

It was many hands to the wheel last week when the school was informed that the Minister would visit on Monday afternoon! Thank you to the helpful people who put on gardening gloves etc to pull weeds, mulch, whipper snip and generally tidy up the grounds. Thanks to everyone who helped including Mr Thompson, Mr Shawn Hull, Mrs Spinks, Mrs Seaman and Mrs Hyslop. Thanks also to the team from James Lawn and Garden Care who came in on the weekend to tidy the shrubby area abutting the highway, the bus bay and to weed the Pioneer Garden and other areas in the school grounds.

Postponing the Clean Up Day to this Monday was due to the rain on the 28th but it was a lucky coincidence – as by the end of the day the school looked very tidy indeed. Cheryl Shaw and Chris Furness, the cleaners, also did extra leaf blowing, vacuuming and dusting and Mr Ghilardi pressure cleaned the concrete areas. As a result everything looked very spick and span.

The Minister’s visit was scheduled for 4.30, shortly before 5pm I received a phone call asking me to go across to the KU Preschool, where the Minister, an aide and Mrs Roza Sage were meeting with KU representatives. After approximately half an hour discussing some of the issues related to the building and operation of the preschool and its impact on the school, the visitors left for another meeting in Penrith.

At least the school looked wonderful! And after the work of Mrs Jan Arndell this week on the areas outside our fence, it looks even better.

Band Update

On Wednesday morning it was very pleasing to see the number of students, many with their parents, who came to band. It augurs well for the future of instrumental music at the school. We are fortunate to have Mr Randall take over this extra curricular program and with the able assistance of parent supporters like Mr Hewitt it is certain to flourish.

Next Wednesday morning, right after band practice a ‘Blow In’ will be held in the hall for students in Yrs 2 to 4. It aims to encourage younger students to join the band. Parents are more than welcome also. There might well be an impromptu jam session involving some of the teachers included in the ‘Blow In’.

Faulconbridge Public School

13 March 2014
Blue Mountains Public Schools Sports Association – Touch Football

Congratulations to Liam S. of 6PB for being selected for this team. It is pleasing to see another of our students chosen to represent the Blue Mountains in a sporting team.

‘Tell Them From Me’ Survey

As one of the 50 NSW schools trialing this online survey of students, it will be interesting to see our students’ perceptions of school life. Mrs Macky is administering the survey with all Primary classes this week. I observed how responsible and mature students were while completing the survey when I came into the Computer room during a lesson. The school will receive the aggregated responses of our students and how that compares to state wide student responses, later this year.

PSSA and House Sport

We are hoping that tomorrow will be fine so that the inter house and inter school competitions can commence. Congratulations to all the students who tried out for the PSSA representative teams. We hope they try hard, work together as a team and display sportsmanship during the competition. Thank you to the teachers who are taking the teams – Mr Earl, Mr Pentecost and Miss Shand.

NRMA Road Safety Presentation/Ride Safely to School Day

Students and staff enjoyed the lively NRMA presentation about road safety last Friday. The timing of this incursion, approximately a week before Ride Safely to School Day, means that important road safety messages should be at the forefront of our students’ memories next Wednesday. Mr Earl and the Student Executive team is currently promoting participation in the Ride Safely to School Day at assemblies and with posters. We hope that the majority of our students will be able to participate by riding bikes, skateboards or scooters or walking to school next Wednesday 19th March.

Green Team News

The Green Team met on Monday afternoon to plan a range of activities for the year. Planting lists for the winter were compiled, plans for the building composting bays were discussed, as was including native bush foods in future plantings.

The purple composting bins and black composting buckets have been retired after seeing heavy service and at Wednesday’s assembly Mr Thomson introduced the replacement red wheelie compost bin – standing in the bin to play the ukelele and singing this ditty:-

Where have you really been
My wheelie bin, My wheelie bin
So red and bright
In everyones’ sight
Only vegies and fruit
Down your throat
So when you’re being green
Think red wheelie bin
Where have you really been
My wheelie bin, My wheelie bin
The new compost buckets were also on show – bright yellow, red and blue.

As a school it is very encouraging to see the increasing student awareness of caring for our school and the environment – it is our core value of Healthy Environment expressed in a practical form.

**Student Representative Council (SRC)**

The elections for these positions are currently being held in the school, with the announcement of our SRC and their induction to be held at the whole school assembly in Week 10.

---

**ICT Update**

The school’s ICT team and some of our staff members participated in a professional learning workshop in iMovie at the Apple store in Penrith yesterday. It coincided with our usual ICT team meeting on a Wednesday afternoon and was very well received by those in attendance. For those with an apple ID account the free apple store app details all professional learning workshops for four weeks in advance. Workshops are free and are suitable for beginners or those wanting to learn more. My thanks to the team who go ‘the extra mile’ to engage our students in digital technologies.

Jo Fulham, ICT Team Leader

---

**School Crossing Supervisor (SCS)**

Please be advised that there will be no School Crossing Supervisor (SCS) available at the crossing at **our school from 10 March to 19 March 2004 during the afternoon shift.**

To ensure your safety, please abide by the following:-

- Wherever possible, cross the road at a designated pedestrian crossing facility
- Stop! Look! Listen! Think! when crossing the road
- Take care whenever you cross
- Don’t run across the road

---

**Ride Safely to School Day**

Be part of the Ride2School fun on Wednesday 19th of March.

Whether you ride, scoot, skate or walk, Faulconbridge Public School and the Getting Around in Community (GAIC) sustainable transport project want to encourage students to travel to school actively. Stay tuned for more information.
BIKE TO SCHOOL DAY

On Wednesday the 19\textsuperscript{th} of March, we are celebrating National Ride Safely to School Day. We are trying to encourage everyone to walk, bike, scooter, or skateboard to school. The Captains and Prefects have been collecting data lately and the most common way of transport is by private car, and the least common is by scooter or skateboard. In Stage 1, most people are coming to school by car. In Stage 3, more people are starting to come by self-transport. So, on Wednesday, let’s have everyone come to school or at least the last little bit by bike, scooter, skateboard or their own two feet if possible. If you participate, there will be a lovely fruit platter waiting in the hall, and remember, wear your beautifully decorated helmet!

Sarah R and the Prefects

School Fees 2014

This year the cost of Materials and Voluntary Contributions will remain the same as last year

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Materials</td>
<td>$20.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Voluntary Fee 1 child</td>
<td>$40.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Voluntary Fee Family</td>
<td>$65.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Canberra Excursion

\textit{Monday 31\textsuperscript{st} March to Wednesday 2nd April}

The Canberra trip is almost here and we are reminding parents about the final payment, which is due on 14\textsuperscript{th} March. – \textbf{TOMORROW!}

Mrs Macky

Beginner Piano or Flute Lessons

\textbf{Grace Rheinberger}

Year 10 Winmalee High School

Currently studying grade 7 flute and piano (AMEB)

Available Saturdays and Sundays

$15 for a 30min lesson (Springwood)

Phone: 0481307697
AUTHOR VISIT – FRIDAY, MARCH 21.

Classes have been enjoying books by author, Aleesah Darlison, in preparation for her visit next week.

We look forward to 2 interesting sessions with her in the library:

| Classes K – 2: | 9.00 – 9.45am |
| Classes 3 – 6: | 10.00-10.45am |

Books will be for sale on the day.

Pre-orders, with payment, in a clearly labelled envelope can be sent to the office by Thursday morning, March 20th. I will collect and phone orders through for you.

Please see list of titles and prices below. To help you choose, visit the author’s website – there are book trailers etc. to view.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Price</th>
<th>Qty</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ash Rover 1: Keeper of the Phoenix (Novel)</td>
<td>$15.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(NEW!)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Little Meerkat (Hardcover Picture Book)</td>
<td>$25.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(NEW!)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Warambi (PB picture book) – bats</td>
<td>$15.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Puggle’s Problem (PB picture book) – echidnas</td>
<td>$13.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bearly There (HB picture book) – teddy bears</td>
<td>$26.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unicorn Riders 1: Quinn’s Riddles (Fantasy Adventure Series for girls 7 plus)</td>
<td>$10.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unicorn Riders 2: Willow’s Challenge</td>
<td>$10.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unicorn Riders 3: Krystal’s Choice</td>
<td>$10.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unicorn Riders 4: Ellabeth’s Test</td>
<td>$10.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unicorn Riders 5: Quinn’s Truth</td>
<td>$10.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unicorn Riders 6: Willow’s Victory</td>
<td>$10.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unicorn Riders 7: Krystal’s Charge</td>
<td>$10.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unicorn Riders 8: Ellabeth’s Light</td>
<td>$10.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I Dare You (Lightning Strikes Series) Novel</td>
<td>$13.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Totally Twins 1: Musical Mayhem (Diary Series for girls aged 8 – 12 years)</td>
<td>$15.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Totally Twins 2: Model Mania</td>
<td>$15.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Totally Twins 3: Tropical Trouble</td>
<td>$15.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Totally Twins 4: Birthday Bonanza</td>
<td>$15.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Parents are welcome to attend. I am sure you will see students being inspired to write their own stories and lots of excitement when lining up for books to be autographed!

Diane McKay  
Teacher Librarian
Taking Care Of Our School
P&C NEWS

BLUE GUM MARKETS NEXT SATURDAY
Next Saturday it’s time for 2J and 2T to show us their culinary skills! Please come along to the Blue Gum markets and support these classes. If you are a parent or carer of a student in one of these classes, we still need more helpers on the day from 10am onwards. If you are able to spare some time please return your forms to the office as soon as possible so we can organise the time slots. Remember, baked treats can be taken to the office on Friday afternoon or taken up to the markets on Saturday morning (by 9am). A full list of ingredients must be displayed on the container. Money raised from these markets will go back into the classrooms for 2J and 2T 😊

FROZEN ORANGES AND ICE-BLOCKS
Ice-blocks and frozen oranges are on again this Friday!!! Ice-blocks are only 50c each (or for 2 orange quarters) and all money raised goes towards the schools P & C to support various projects within the school. Please remind students NOT to purchase ice-blocks or oranges for any other students due to health and dietary reasons.

P & C MEETING
The next P & C meeting will be held on Monday, 17th March at 7pm in the teachers staffroom. EVERYONE is welcome to attend. This is a great opportunity to discuss various matters within the school. Please don’t be shy… just come along!!!

PARKING REMINDER
Just a friendly reminder to note the correct parking signs around the school. Some are no parking and some are no stopping. Thank you 😊

G. Mills – P & C President
The kids can do it themselves!

Money can be quite a complex thing for children to get their head around. Getting the kids involved in preparing their own deposit for Fridays can really help them get a better understanding of what banking is. It's a great chance for them to practice counting coins and adding them together. The kids are also encouraged to fill in their own deposit slips. These are double checked by the banking team and the handwritten slips actually stay at the school. With a little guidance, the kids soon start to know where to write their name, the date and to write in the amounts.

Support our entry in the school competition

If all of our banking kids deposit a small amount each week we will increase our chances of being successful in the school competition. This is also the best way to encourage great saving habits that will last a lifetime.

See you Friday,
The Banking Team