PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Last Friday was a very enjoyable day for anyone who was able to be at the school. The showers that were forecast did not fall so the Mothers Day breakfast did not have to be moved inside – we could sit in the sun, drink our tea and coffee and enjoy the croissants and other treats. With the tablecloths, flowers and market umbrellas it looked more like an outdoor café than a school playground. Thank you to Mrs Emmanuel and Mrs Peterffy for their initiative and the other helpers who made it happen.

Thank you also to the Ebbeling family for the wonderful ‘Barber of Seville’ performances which also occurred on Friday. Not only did they contact the P.I.E Oz Opera, it was their generous donation that enabled every child at the school to attend. Without their financial support almost 90 children would have missed out on a delightful performance. I was able to watch the first part of the Stage 1 performance, and caught up with the last part of the Stage 2 and 3 performances in the afternoon. The children, staff and visiting parents were enthralled. For most of the audience this was their first taste of opera, and what an enjoyable experience it proved to be.

Relieving Assistant Principal
After considering the Expressions of Interest submitted by members of staff for the Relieving Assistant principal position, it is pleasing to announce that Mrs Kristy Jansons will be taking the role while the process of filling the position substantively proceeds.

Band Workshops and Hills Sports High School Information
This intercom includes information about 2 opportunities open to our students which arrived in the last week:-
Good instrumentalists can apply to participate in the annual Department of Education Western Sydney Region Band Workshops.
Students who are talented athletes can apply to the Hills Sports High School for Year 7 enrolment.

Grounds Update
Mrs Jan Arndell has again been working her magic, weeding and pruning along the Grose Road verge and the staff car park.

Mrs Pat Ainslie and her team from Rotary were in over the weekend, continuing with the upgrade of the garden areas around the quadrangle. They pruned, mulched and prepared for further plantings. Sadly they had to move some plants that have been trodden on too often and quite a few will have to be replaced for the same reason.

Mr Ghilardi, the school General Assistant has whipper snipped the verge on Meeks Crescent and cut branches overhanging the bus bay. He was understandably upset by some negative comments from people who complained to him about the work he was doing on the Meeks Crescent verge.

Members of the community complain when the verges become untidy or overgrown. I have enquired at the Council about whose responsibility it is and been informed it is the school’s, which is why I ask Mr Ghilardi to tidy these areas. So we are in a bit of a lose/lose position – if the verge is not tidied there are
complaints, when the necessary work is being done there are complaints. Please direct both sets directly to me – it is not fair to direct these negative comments to a member of staff doing their job.

**Brief Reminder** “Grounds Working Bee” – If you can help on Saturday morning 31st May from 9-12 it will be greatly appreciated.

**Roll Marking and Leave Explanations**

A new online roll marking system is being implemented at the school this year. Miss Shand’s class has been the trial class for this system. It will be possible to send a text message home about your child’s attendance and you will be able to respond by text. A message will be sent to all parents/caregivers asking for a response so that they may be included in the process. We hope that you will participate in this as it will remove the necessity of writing absentee notes. The system will start in the near future, commencing 20th May, 2014.

As this new electronic roll marking system is being introduced at the school, it is timely to include a reminder about types of leave explanations and how they are recorded in our rolls.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Symbol</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>The student’s absence is unexplained or unjustified. This symbol must be used if no notice has been provided by parents within 7 days of the occurrence of the absence.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| S      | The student’s absence is due to sickness or as the result of a medical or paramedical appointment. In these cases:  
- a medical certificate is provided or  
- the absence was due to sickness and the Principal accepts this explanation. Principals may request a medical certificate in addition to explanations if the explanation is doubted or the duration of the absence is more than 4 days. |
| L      | Principals may record up to 15 days in a school year for students of compulsory school age who have provided an explanation of the absence which has been accepted by the Principal. Additional days for students not of compulsory school age may be recorded at the principal’s discretion. The symbol is recorded where a student’s absence is due to reasons accepted by the Principal. This may be due to:  
- misadventure or unforeseen event  
- participation in special events not related to the school  
- domestic necessity such as serious illness of an immediate family member  
- attendance at funerals  
- recognised religious festivals or ceremonial occasions |

The day a student returns after an absence it is expected that there is either a note, or with the new electronic roll marking, a text message to give a reason for the absence. In the past teachers have sent home reminder slips when a student has returned from an absence without a note. This will continue for those families who are not able to receive the electronic absence notices.

Dorothee Lean  
Principal
BOOK FAIR THEME: “READING OASIS: A COOL PLACE TO DISCOVER HOT BOOKS.”

Our first book fair for the year arrived today Thursday May 15 and will continue until the following Thursday, May 22.

Book fairs offer a wonderful variety of books and are eagerly anticipated by our students. They provide an opportunity for purchasing books to build a student’s personal reading collection and to add to the school’s library and reading resources.

Students will browse through the books during their library time so they can choose up to three items for their “Wish List”. They will bring this home with a pamphlet/order form which you may like to use. With each purchase students will receive a free bookmark and the chance to win a free book from the fair.

Payment can be cash, cheque (made out to Faulconbridge PS), credit card or eftpos.
Parents, grandparents and carers are invited to attend the fair during the times below:

Thursday May 15 – afternoon only, 2.55 to 4.00 pm
Monday May 19 – 8.30 to 9.00 am and 2.55 to 3.30 pm
Tuesday May 20 – 8.30 to 9.00 am, 2.55 to 4.00 pm
Thursday May 22 – 8.30 to 8.55 am (morning only).

Our school receives a commission from Scholastic for holding the fair. If sales reach $4,500 we will receive an additional bonus - all the books shortlisted for the Children’s Book Council Book of the Year awards for 2014!
**** FOR THOSE WHO LIKE A BARGAIN THERE WILL BE A TABLE OF $2.00 AND $5.00 SPECIALS !!!!!!!

I look forward to your interest and support.
Diane McKay
Teacher Librarian
Sports Update

PSSA Competition:
PSSA Sport and Mother Nature did not see eye to eye last term. We will attempt to catch up on some of these cancellations in weeks 5 and 6 of this term. Students will leave school at 1pm and travel to Summerhayes Reserve for their soccer, AFL and netball matches.

Winmalee Cup:
This year’s Winmalee Cup is fast approaching. Teachers are in the process of selecting children for this exciting event. Junior and Senior teams will be participating in soccer, netball and newcombeball competitions.

Mr John Patterson has kindly offered to coach the senior soccer team. Training will commence next Friday from 3 – 4pm on our oval. Please contact me if you have any questions: peter.earl2@det.nsw.edu.au

School of Origin:
That’s right! Faulconbridge vs Springwood in a 10 a side, best of 3, rugby league competition. Game one will be played on the 29th of May here at Faulconbridge Public School. Senior boys have the opportunity to trial for this team at lunchtime tomorrow.

NSW PSSA Basketball Knockout Competition:
Congratulations to the boys and girls that were selected to represent our school in the NSW PSSA Basketball competition. Our first round match will be against Hazelbrook Public School on Wednesday, 28th May. Best of luck to the following students:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Senior Boys (team 1)</th>
<th>Ethan E, Tom H, Jack H, Liam S, Nic S, Rhys W, Jack H, Jack T.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Senior Boys (team 2)</td>
<td>Jordan S, Jedd D, Alex S, Sam M, Bailey C, Andre B, Isaac S.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior Girls (team 1)</td>
<td>Laila D, Caitlin E, Lily P, Ava D, Maria D, Kirrily W, Sarah R.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior Girls (team 2)</td>
<td>Lucy B, Eden A, Zoe S, Jade J, Sophie J.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Hills Sports High School – Information for Parents and Students – Year 7, 2015

Talent Identification Trials for students with a strong interest in sport are encouraged to apply to this co-educational High School. Sports offered are AFL, Athletics, Baseball, Cheerleading, Cricket, Football, Golf, Netball, Rugby League, Rugby Union, Rugby 7’s (Girls), Softball, Swimming, Tennis, Touch Football (Girls) and Water Polo.

- A TSP Information Night for parents and students seeking 2015 enrolment will be conducted in The Hills Sports High School Assembly Hall on Monday, 12th May, 2014 at 6.30pm.
- Talent identification Trials for 2014 Enrolments will be conducted between 19th May and 6th June, 2014.
- Application Forms can be downloaded from our school website (hillssport-h.school@det.nsw.edu)
- Closing date for the Return of Application Forms 16th May, 2014
- Enquiries: Robert Hawkes (Director of Sport) 0425 288 481

APPLICATIONS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE AT Faulconbridge Public School Office

Showtime Band Workshops

This is a program offered to primary (Stage 2 and 3), secondary and tertiary Concert Band students to workshop, tutor and perform together in a series of 3 workshops, held at Minchinbury Public School.

When:    Monday 16 June (Week 8 Term 2) 9.30am - 1.45pm
         Monday 21 July (Week 2 Term 3) 9.30am -1.45pm
         Monday 1 Sept (Week 8 Term 3)  9.30am - 1.30pm

Venue:   Minchinbury Public School

Cost:    $40 non-refundable participation fee. This covers all three workshops.
         $10 non-refundable dress rehearsal bus fare, (if required) paid at a later date.
         $10 concert tickets.

Applications close 25 May (first 80 applicants will be accepted)

APPLICATIONS ARE AVAILABLE AT Faulconbridge Public School Office
Happy Mothers Day
P&C NEWS

ANOTHER THANK YOU!!!!
It’s so nice to be able to thank people in the school community. Firstly thank you to the Fundraising Committee for organising the Mothers Day Stall and all of the wonderful gifts which the students were able to purchase. The continuous work by the Fundraising Committee results in funds being raised to provide so many extra resources and facilities to the school. Thank you also to those who came to help with the stall last Thursday. Without your help everything wouldn’t have run as smoothly 😊

THE MUSIC BUS
The P & C is looking at having The Music Bus commence an “introduction to music” program in term 4 for students in years K-2. As there are a number of musical groups provided at the school for students in stage 2 and 3, we thought this would be an opportunity for the younger students to become involved in music. An expression of interest form will be sent home with all Stage 1 students.

P & C MEETING
Just a reminder that the next P & C meeting is on Monday, 19th May at 7.0pm. This is held in the teachers staffroom. Everyone is welcome to attend!

P & C CONTACT
The P & C page on the school website is currently “under construction”. If you need to contact someone from the P & C please forward any correspondence to myself, Ginett Mills – ginettmills@yahoo.com.au

G. Mills – P & C President
School Banking News

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

We are always keen to speak with parents who might be able to help out as part of the banking team on Friday mornings between 8.30 and 11.00. You don’t need to stay the whole time – all help is appreciated.

If you are interested in seeing what we do please come along on a Friday and say hello. After we have collected the deposit books from the kids we usually go to the board room at the office. The office ladies will be happy to tell you where to find us.

See you Friday,
The Banking Team

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Pizza Day
Friday 30th May
all orders to be in by 23rd