**PRINCIPAL’S REPORT**

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Welcome back for Term 3, which promises to be another interesting and busy time with Athletics Carnivals, mini fete and Education Week Open Day, Pulse Concert and Dance Festival on the calendar.

**School Development Day (SDD)**

The week began with the SDD which this time was wholly presented and coordinated by our own staff. Thank you to the following teachers who took on leadership and collegial professional development roles on the day:

*Mrs Kowald* in her role as School Learning Support Coordinator presented the first session which gave the background of the Disability Discrimination Act and how this is being addressed by the Every Student Every School (ESES) policy. ESSE includes a strong focus on developing all staff members’ capabilities in supporting students with special needs. Our school has already trained a staff team in Functional Behaviour Assessment and is now presenting sessions on this process during staff meetings. Another team is currently attending ongoing Professional Learning addressing the needs of students diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder, which will also become the focus of whole staff development. And this term more than 20 members of staff will begin intensive Professional Learning about Dyslexia.

*Mr Earl and Miss Shand* presented the updated Maths Scope and Sequence to align with the new syllabus which was to be implemented next year. Because of their ongoing work and that of the staff, who began using the new Scope and Sequence we will be able to start implementing the new syllabus this term.

*Mrs Macky* as leader of the English team then moved staff into the next session, which was devoted to the ongoing development of the Stage based English units for the new syllabus implemented this year. By the end of the year the school should have comprehensive teaching programs with supporting resources aligned with the new syllabus.

*Mrs Thomas*, as coordinator of the NAIDOC activities outlined the organisational details of our school’s celebration of Aboriginal and Island culture.

As a school community we can be justly impressed by the expertise and commitment which was demonstrated on Monday.

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**Learning Support Team (LST)**

Tuesday morning began with the first meeting of the LST for this term. This weekly meeting coordinates the range of individual, class and group support initiatives for our students, appropriate staff development activities and other programs in the school that assist students with extra learning needs. Apart from the activities outlined in the School Development Day summary, this term the team will also oversee the following while continuing the usual management of Reading Recovery, the School learning Assistance Program and a range of other in-school support functions:

- Individual Education Program review meetings
- Therapy Games – a program supporting some students’ social skill development will be run in 3 groups every Tuesday by Mrs Kowald, the School learning Support Coordinator. Some students who are particularly empathetic and who can model well developed interpersonal skills will be included in the groups to develop supportive peer relationships for those students who have been identified as vulnerable or relatively socially isolated.
Preparing for the enrolment of students with support needs who are participating in the Transition to School program.

Mrs McArthur, the School Counsellor will continue to work with groups of students to develop resilience

A number of students have been put forward to participate in the Panthers on the Prowl program. We are waiting to hear if they have been accepted.

**NAIDOC Week Activities**

What a wonderful start to the term our students had on Tuesday. After Scripture the activities for NAIDOC began with a Welcome to Country from Uncle Graham. Students then rotated through a range of activities including painting, storytelling, dancing, listening to and learning about the didgeridoo and other traditional artefacts and instruments. The day culminated in a whole school performance by the presenters and a smoking ceremony from Uncle Graham.

Unfortunately one of the presenters was unavailable but Mr Edwards (who has worked with Aboriginal people for an extended time) and Uncle Graham stepped into the breach and as a result the day’s planned events, with a bit of modification and a great deal of flexibility, was a resounding and successful celebration and learning experience about the world’s oldest cultural heritage. On behalf of our students, congratulations and thank you to all who were involved and to Mrs Thomas for co-ordinating this event.

On Friday there will also be a NAIDOC focus during the K-6 Assembly, with some of our Aboriginal students presenting an historical overview of Aboriginal and Islander participation in the armed services during war.

**Sport Update**

While the Physical Education Release from Face to Face (RFF) lessons delivered by Mr Earl, are over for a term and the focus of RFF this term is Information and Communications Technology with Mrs Macky, it doesn’t mean there is not a lot on the sporting calendar.

On Wednesday of this week students were involved in House meetings in the lead up to the Athletics Carnival next Monday.

On Friday one of our students, Lily P from Year 6 is competing in the State Cross Country. We wish her well.

Today, (Thursday 17th) is the final game of the ‘School of Origin’ at 2pm here at Faulconbridge.

There is a girls Basketball Knockout at Blaxland High School next Wednesday, 23rd July.

Thursday 24th all students will be able to take part in 30 minute AFL clinics.

Friday 25th the PSSA competition recommences

Swim Scheme will run from 25th August to 5th September.

There will be a series of free tennis lessons for Stage 2 students on 15th, 22nd and 29th August.

**Donations to the School**

The school is very fortunate that many of our community members – staff and parents/caregivers, give generously of their time, gifts, donations and sometimes financial support.

This has again been demonstrated recently:

- Mrs Tafe has donated a number of plants to the ongoing beautification of the school grounds
- An anonymous donation (has been received) of funds to cover the cost of 300 plus copies of the Jamie Oliver Garden ‘Grow, Cook and Share’ books, one for every student. These will become part of the Stephanie Alexander program at the school.
- Mr Mal Hewitt, a parent, is sharing his expertise as a music educator with our students and staff by presenting lessons this term to Stage 1 and 3 classes. The number of classes he works with has increased since last term as teachers become aware of the wonderful asset he is in broadening our students’ musical experiences.
- The AFL clinics, tennis program and the musical presentation by Burwood Girls High School students next Wednesday morning are also free because of the generosity of the people and organisations involved.
- The goods starting to arrive for the mini fete this term are also donated by our community. Thank you to everyone who help to enrich the educational programs and experiences of our students and staff.

**School Maintenance Update**

Over the holidays, all the heat banks (40 years old approximately) and unflued gas heaters which were still using up valuable teaching and learning space in classrooms and offices were finally removed. Teachers have commented positively about the extra space this has made available. This was made possible by the support from in school fundraising to supplement the school’s maintenance budget.
Late Payment of Fees and Monies
Over 55 students NAIDOC notes and monies were presented at the office after the due date. The late payment of monies is unfair to the administration staff and to the staff coordinating a range of events and activities. We all try to ensure that our students have a rich range of learning, sporting, cultural and social experiences but courtesy and consideration in paying for these is requested. It is not fair to swamp administration staff with large numbers of payments on the actual day and it is also not fair to people who are organising things, as those arrangements cannot always accommodate extra students or orders. We ask all members of the school community to be aware of and be timely in their payments and return of permission notes. There is always a due date on the notes.

Dorothee Lean
Principal

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School Athletics Carnival K-6
The school carnival will be held on Monday 21st July 2014. All parents are cordially invited to attend. The K-2 carnival will be held on the bottom oval at Tom Hunter Park and the Years 3-6 Carnival will be held on the main oval. If your child turns 8 at any time this year they are eligible to compete in the 3-6 carnival. Please read the information below. Any parent who would like to assist with events please contact me.

**ATTENTION YEAR 2 CHILDREN**
Children who turn 8 in Year 2 and who wish to run in the 800m, will walk down with the primary children to participate in the 3-6 carnival.
All other children in Year 2 who turn 8 and are participating in the 3-6 carnival, will come down with K-2 children by bus and will walk back to school with years 3-6.
Year 2 children who turn 8 are asked to return the blue and the green note as it gives permission for bus and walking to the venue.

*Linda Dalkeith*

**Mini Fete Donations Please**
Year 6 will be holding a Mini Fete on Thursday, 31st July, (Education Day). The community is asked to donate any goods or non-perishable items (to be part of the raffle) to the White Elephant Stall.
If you have any toys, books, DVDs, pictures or funky items, please send them in. Buyers, on the day, will pay for tokens. Each token will be 25c and 4 tokens will be on a single strip of cardboard.
Each stall will have its own price for goods or activities to be purchased.
Thank you in advance,

*Janine Macky*
*Assistant Principal*
Drumming Group
Please note there will be NO drumming this term. Apologies from Mr John May. Drumming should resume in Term 4.

Education Day Breakfast Orders
We would like to invite you to share breakfast with the staff for Education Day. Could you please click on the link below and fill out the form to help us order the correct amount of food?

When: Thursday, 31st July
Where: Under the Big Top
Time: 8 – 9am

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1QKg1TPlh6EUyYNK039zvC6AvGEYqorC729rP1HBATs/viewform?usp=send_form

Delicious espresso coffee and tea will be available from the Blackboard Café on the day.

Kind regards,
Mrs Macky

Swim Scheme 2014
This year Swim Scheme will be at Springwood Pool from Monday, 25th August until Friday, 5th September.

Notes will be given to Year 2 students on Tuesday, 15th July and payment must be made to secure a place in the program. On Tuesday, 22nd July notes will be given to Year 3 students and the following Tuesday (29th July) to the other year groups. Please note that each year group has been given a full week to pay. Payment may be made after that but if the Swim Scheme fills up quickly your child may miss out. There are only 50 places. Notes will not be available online or at the office.

Preference is being given to Year 2 as it is the first year they can participate in Swim Scheme; it also prepares them for our primary swimming carnival in 2015.

Linda Dalkeith
Swim Scheme Organiser

Pizza Day
Thursday 31st July Education Day at School
Orders and money to be in by
Monday 28th July – Sorry no LATE orders will be accepted.
2T responses to NAIDOC week (Compiled from several different students’ writing)

I learned that aboriginal people used boomerangs as weapons to catch birds and there are lots of different types of them. **Ella.**

I learned that aboriginal people speak different languages. I learned a song in an aboriginal language. I thought it was really fun. **Ashton**

We celebrated aboriginal culture. We learned that only boys can play the didgeridoo because of something to do with health. Michael taught us about his culture and told us stories and Uncle Graeme told us about himself. Later we had a smoking ceremony. I was amazed how much I didn’t know about aboriginal culture. **Rosalie**

I learned that another name for didgeridoo is yidiki. I feel happy now I know more about aboriginal people. **Mia**

We learned that an aboriginal person’s handprint was their signature. It is to say “I am here.” I felt happy. **Chloe**
Welcome back to Term 3!

New prizes which are now available this term include the Dollarmite money box and the Swimming bag.

You can also still order the Penguin or Shark plush toy keyring, and Whale Shark pencil case.

If you have 10 tokens and would like to claim a prize then put your tokens in a zip lock bag together with a note stating your name, class, student ID number and a description of the prize that you would like. Hand this in together with you banking on Friday.

Term 2 Bank Commissions have been received – Thank you!

Each quarter the Commonwealth Bank pays the school a commission based on the amount deposited by our students during term. At the end of term 2 the bank paid our school $283.90 which will be used to help purchase maths materials to use in our classrooms.

It’s great that our students have the chance to learn more about money by building up their own savings, while raising funds to help in the school at the same time.

See you Friday,
The Banking Team
Thank you to everyone who donated some time and baked goods for the Blue Gum Markets which were held during the school holidays. It was a fantastic result from KBC and 1F which saw an AMAZING $330 raised towards their classes. Well done 1F... it was close!

1F  $168  51% of money raised
KBC  $162  49% of money raised

The next P & C meeting will be held on Monday, 21\textsuperscript{st} July at 7pm in the teachers staffroom. Everyone is welcome to attend. The P & C are involved in a number of projects in the school and this is a great opportunity to become involved in the school community 😊

Just a reminder that all money raised from the walk-a-thon is due back to the office by Friday, 25\textsuperscript{th} July. The first class to return all of their sponsorship forms WINS an afternoon tea provided by the P & C.

The P & C have nearly completed work on their dedicated webpage which will assist everyone in all P & C related matters. Watch this space! In the meantime, if you need to contact the P & C please feel free to contact myself on ginettmills@yahoo.com.au

Ginett Mills – P & C President
What is Kik Messenger?
Kik Messenger (Kik) is a free smartphone messenger application that allows users to send texts, pictures, videos and sketches. Kik uses a wireless connection or mobile data to send and receive messages.

What is the age classification for Kik?
The age classification for the messenger function is 13 years old. Kik also have a feature called 'Kik cards' which allows users to find images, videos and play games. This feature is restricted to users 17 years and older due to the inappropriate nature of some of the content available. It is important to know that these classification are set by the apps creator and are not oversee by an independent body.

What are the potential problems with Kik?
Kik is a popular application amongst young people of all ages. Issues arise when this app is used to transmit messages that are menacing, harass or offensive. In some cases this can see young people in breach of State and Commonwealth legislation. Ethically, young people need to be aware that the messages they send can have a significant impact on other people.

As Kik also has the capability for users to share images, it is important that your child is aware of the legal and ethical ramifications of sharing sexualised, provocative and nude images.

It is extremely important that parents and carers are aware of the issues associated with various apps and websites so that they can openly communicate with their child about their safe and responsible usage of Kik.

How can I limit who can contact my child on Kik?
Kik has a setting that allows users to ignore new people who may communicate with them. It's a good idea for your child to enable this feature before they start using Kik to prevent people they don't know from communicating with them.

To enable this feature select Settings > Notifications and turn Ignore New People to ON. This will hide any messages sent to your child from people who aren't on their contact list.

How can I block someone on my child's Kik account?
It is really important that children know how to block and report on every social networking site or app that they might use. To block a user in Kik select Settings > Privacy > Block List, click the + to select the username of the person you want to block and select Yes or Block to confirm. This will make sure that all messages from this user will be hidden.

Note: A user will not be notified when they have been blocked.

How can my child delete a user on Kik?
We recommend that you monitor your child's use of Kik and be aware of who they are communicating with. This might mean going through your child's contact list together to identify who they are talking to. It is important to ensure that their contacts are people whom your child has met in real life, trust, and want to communicate with on a regular basis. Consider deleting contacts that do not fall into the above categories. A step-by-step guide on how to delete a contact on Kik is available at http://www.thinkuknow.org.au/kids/howtosn.asp

How do I delete my child's Kik account?
If after talking with your child about the ethical use of Kik and your family's rules around technology, you may think it's appropriate to delete the Kik account.

To delete a Kik account you require your child's username and password. To delete the account select Settings > Your Account > Reset Kik Messenger. You then need to delete the Kik application from your child's device. Ask a friend with Kik to send a message to your child's old account and within a few days your child will receive an email (sent to the email address used to sign up for the account) from Kik saying you have unread messages. At the bottom of this email will be a deactivation link - click on this and within a few days your account will be deleted.

Note: If your child logs into their Kik account before you have clicked on the deactivation link the request will be cancelled and the account will remain active. It is important that you and your child agree to delete the account and understand the reasons behind that decision.

Open and supportive discussions around technology usage are vital in ensuring your child understands their responsibilities when using technology. Simply removing the technology is not the best response as it could potentially drive your child's usage underground where there are fewer opportunities for you to support them.

For more information visit www.thinkuknow.org.au