PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Congratulations
Congratulations to Lily P for representing Western Sydney Region in the State Cross Country last Friday. She competed against 90 students in her age group and achieved a creditable 32nd place.

Chicken Pox
A parent has notified the school that a child has been diagnosed with chicken pox. Please look for the possible symptoms of this infection in your children, in case they have caught the virus. Some of our students who have not been vaccinated and even students who have been vaccinated may become infected, but usually their symptoms will be milder. Information is included in this newsletter.

Education Week Open Day
What a busy time we are having, with another major school event occurring next Thursday. Included in this newsletter is an outline of the day’s events, beginning with the parent, student and staff breakfast at 8am., open classrooms, a joint Education Day/Grandparents assembly coordinated by Stage 1, Pizza lunch, Stage 3 Mini Fete and a Commonwealth Games/Faulconbridge Public School twist is coordinated by Stage 2 in the afternoon. Also included is a book fair in the Library.

Thank you to all involved in organising this celebration of learning including Rotary for preparing the breakfast and the Blackboard Café for opening all day.

Athletics Carnival
This Monday the early morning was chilly, but by the time our primary students and teachers had walked to Tom Hunter Park they and the weather had warmed up, ready for a competitive enjoyable day in the winter sunshine.

Congratulations to all the students who competed and tried their best, to Mrs Dalkeith and her staff, parent and High School student helpers who make it possible to run all the events on the actual day. The parents and relatives who come along to support and encourage our students in both the primary and Infants and those who assisted with the operation of the canteen added to the supportive atmosphere and enjoyability of the day.

NAIDOC Assembly
Faulconbridge Public School’s NAIDOC activities concluded with a recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men and women’s contribution to the defence of country. The students who presented this part of the assembly proudly acknowledged their Aboriginal heritage and outlined how Aboriginal and Torres Straight Islanders fought for their country in every conflict from the Boer War onwards.
Transition
Wednesday morning was busy with the commencement of the Transition to Kindergarten program. The buddies were helpful and courteous escorts as parents and students arrived and then they assisted Mrs Rooney in the Library while parents attended an information session with Mrs Jansons. The Blackboard Café was kept open so that the 2015 Kindergarten parents could have a relaxing cuppa while waiting for the Transition class to come out for lunch. It was very pleasing to see how settled and companiable the children were when they sat in the playground, having lunch with the buddies at the end of their first formal Transition session.

AFL Workshops
Today, 24th July, all of our students are fortunate to be participating in half hour AFL workshops. These have been coordinated by Mr Earl and should help our students maintain the skills they developed during the lessons last year.

Music Lessons with Mr Hewitt
We are very fortunate to have an extremely supportive parent body. Mr Hewitt, a very experienced music teacher and performer, has been working with some of our classes. This term he has a very full timetable working with classroom teachers during music lessons with Stage 1 and Stage 3 students.

Blue Gum Markets
The Blue Gum markets are an opportunity for parents to support their child’s class, as the money raised by the cake stalls goes directly into the class budget. This Saturday the cake stall is being held by 4T and 3D.

PSSA Competition – Term 3, Starting Friday 25th July
The Term 3 PSSA competition commences this Friday. Congratulations to the students who have made the Netball, League Tag and AFL teams and we wish them well in the upcoming competition.

Concert Band Performance
Yesterday morning, Wednesday 23rd, staff, students and a number of parents enjoyed an hour long interactive concert performance by the girls from Burwood Girls High School. What I found particularly enjoyable was seeing the students from our own senior ensemble playing a piece with the concert band, the attentive and courteous way our students behaved and how confidently some of our students took part in the question and answer component of the presentation, played and even conducted one of the musical items.

Professional Learning
The positive Partnerships course will continue on 28th and 29th July, with Mr Earl, Mrs Jansons and I attending. The intensive Dyslexia course commences on August 12th with the first two hour session. This course comprises 5 two hour online and face to face components, four of which will be presented this term.

Dorothee Lean
Principal

ASSEMBLY AWARDS

Gold Achievement Awards

Swim Scheme 2014

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

Notes were 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 were given to Year 3 students and the following Tuesday (29th July) the notes will be given 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

Girls Basketball
Our girls came to school fired up yesterday. We'd made it to the 4th round of the PSSA State Knockout competition and we were hungry for another win. Our parents picked us up at 11.30am and we met at Blaxland High School. Mr Earl took us through our warm ups and before we knew it the game was starting with a bang! Everyone put in 100%. St Marys scored first but we kept fighting. The ball went back and forth, we rebounded well and eventually scored. There were only a few Faulco parents but boy, were they loud. Before we knew it, it was halftime. Mr Earl spoke with us and we ran back out ready to give 110%. Faulco scored, St Marys scored and we could see the crowd sitting on the edge of their seats. We played really well but in the end we went down 24 - 16. We showed great sportsmanship and gave the opposition three cheers for their efforts. Congratulations to Sarah R, Caitlin E, Kirrily W, Maria D, Ava D, Laila D and Lily P. Thanks to our coach Mr Earl - it was a great experience and we all had so much fun.
By Lily P and Caitlin E.

School of Origin
The School of Origin was very exciting for the teachers, the crowds and the parents, but I think it was even more exciting for the players. We got better as a team every time we played and we only lost game three by 2 points! We improved a lot and showed great sportsmanship throughout the series.

Game One
Before the game, we got really pumped. We got even more pumped when we ran out onto the field in front of a huge crowd. Tom H scored our first try which was good because we were losing at the time. Then, when it looked like Springwood was going to score, Liam S took advantage of an error and scored in the corner. Sadly, at the end of the day, we lost 26 - 12.

Game Two
For game 2 we walked to Springwood High School to meet our rivals. Stage three students accompanied us to balance out the numbers in the stands. We played a lot better than the first game but we felt like there was still room for improvement. One of our best players, Owen M, hurt his back in a tackle but that wasn't going to stop us. We fought hard until the very end,

Game Three
We were very confident going into this match because we came so close in game two. It was nerve-racking because we didn't want to lose to them 3 - 0. At halftime we were down 8 - 6 but we were not giving up. Out of nowhere Jack H scored and we hit the lead, 14 - 12. With 40 seconds left on the clock Springwood PS kicked off and received a favourable bounce. They scored in the corner and we went down 18 - 16. Overall, the School of Origin was a very fun and exciting experience for all of us. It was something that we will never forget. On behalf of Faulconbridge PS we would like to thank Springwood PS for three great games. Good work to them for winning this year, but don't worry Faulco fans - it's on like Donkey Kong next year!
By Liam S and Jack T.
LIBRARY NEWS

BOOK FAIR for Education Week

Theme: BOOK FAIR GARDEN - CATCH THE READING BUG!

Our "mini" book fair in a box has arrived and will be organised by displaying the books on tables and attaching "Last Copy" labels.

There will be a special table of books put aside as the library's "Wish List" for those who would like to donate a book in their child's or family's name.

Donation slips will be available for students or parents to fill in before attachment to the selected books.

Payment can be cash, cheque, credit card or Eftpos (available at the office only). Receipts will be issued for taxation purposes.

Parents are welcome to attend the fair Monday, July 28 and Tuesday, July 29 before and after school - 8.25am to 8.55am and 2.55pm to 3.30pm. The library will be open throughout the day on Thursday, July 31, our Education Week Open Day.

Volunteers to help at the fair would be greatly appreciated.

BOOK COVERING

Multiple copies of new books chosen by the teachers for classroom use have been purchased and are ready for home covering. Please contact me if you are able to help.

Many thanks in anticipation for your support.

Diane McKay
Teacher Librarian
EDUCATION DAY
AT FAULCO    THURSDAY 31ST JULY

Education Day Breakfast Orders must be in by 25th July….don’t miss out

No orders after this date can be taken due to catering requirements. Orders can only be placed on line. An email was sent to you last term regarding ordering. This was sent by Enews and included an order form. This has been resent today. Web address is below. If your order is not placed by Friday 25th July, 10am, unfortunately we cannot supply breakfast for you on the day. Cross references will be necessary to ensure those people who have ordered do not miss out.

When: Thursday, 31st July
Where: Under the Big Top
Time: 8 – 9am
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1QKg1TPIlh6EUyYNK039zvC6AvGEYqorC729rP1HBATs/viewform?usp=send_form

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

Kind regards,
Mrs Macky

MINI FETE

ROLL UP…….ROLL UP !!!

To the Year 6 Mini Fete on Education Day
31st July at our school
FABULOUS GOODS ON SALE
11.35 AM – 1PM

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.

EDUCATION WEEK BOOK FAIR

28TH July – 31st July
In the Library
NAIDOC Day was a great experience. We had the opportunity to learn more about the people who lived here before us (Aborigines) and their culture. As well as listening to stories, we danced and sang. We also painted hand prints or dot paintings on canvases which we get to hang up around the school.

Overall NAIDOC Day was a great Success.

Sarah R 5/6S
BLUE GUM MARKETS THIS WEEKEND

OK 3D and 4T, it’s your turn to show us what culinary delights can be whipped up in your kitchens! Put on your aprons and have some fun baking 😊 If there are any other parents / carers who are able to assist on the stall this Saturday please complete your form and return it to the office or email myself on ginettmills@yahoo.com.au. All baked goods can be taken to the office on Friday afternoon or direct to the stall by 9am on Saturday morning. Please ensure that a full list of ingredients along with your child’s class is displayed on the container.

P AND C MEETING

Many topics were covered at the P & C meeting on Monday night. Please try and come along to any future meetings. Meetings are held on the 3rd Monday of every month at 7pm in the teachers staffroom.

COOL KIDS MUSIC COMPANY

After further research, the P & C are introducing the “Cool Kids Music Company” to stage 1 students in Term 4. Sessions will be held on Monday afternoons from 3pm on the school grounds. The “Cool Kids Music Company” comes with a higher reputation and a lower cost! They still offer the same 4 programs – guitar, keyboard, drums and singing (subject to numbers). A note will go home this week with students in Stage 1. Further information can be found at www.coolkidsmusic.com.au

WALK-A-THON DONATIONS

Just a reminder that all money raised from the walk-a-thon is due back to the office by Friday, 25th July. Even if students have not collected any sponsors could you please ensure their forms are returned.

P & C WEBPAGE

This is soon to be launched!!! 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
Bank Statements for the kids

You should receive bank statements for your Commonwealth Bank Youthsaver Accounts in the mail. These will show the amount of interest earned during the quarter and the closing balance on the account. You can use this information to update the current balance amount in the yellow deposit book.

Adding in the interest earned to the weekly total helps kids see how putting money in the bank really makes it grow.

Opening accounts for younger or older siblings

You can open an account for children who don’t attend the school. Their deposit books can be handed in weekly together with the school banking. These will then be returned to their siblings class in a bundle.

Please note though that we are not allowed to give banking tokens to children who are younger than 5. The bank has this rule in place because most of the prizes are not suitable for children under 5. We like to reward the littlies with stickers whenever we can to help make up for this.

Come and speak to a school banking volunteer if you have any questions.

See you Friday,
The Banking Team

Chicken Pox

The Department of Health Fact Sheet about chicken pox/shingles is available on line or a copy is available at the office.

Symptoms:

- Chicken Pox (varicella) begins with a sudden onset of light fever, runny nose, feeling generally unwell and a skin rash.
- The rash usually begins as small lumps that turn into blisters and then scabs.
- The rash appears over 4 days. At any one time, the lesions of the rash vary in stages of development.
- Symptoms usually occur two weeks after exposure to the virus.
- Most people recover without complications, but sometimes the infection can lead to serious complications, such as pneumonia and inflammation of the brain. Rarely, the infection can be fatal.
- Persons who are previously vaccinated can still get chicken pox. If chicken pox occurs in a vaccinated person it is usually mild and less contagious than in a vaccinated person.
What is Snapchat?
Snapchat is an application which is free to download on iOS and Android devices that allows users to send images ('snaps') to each other. Operating the app requires use of the device's data plan or wireless internet connection. Images can be drawn on using a whiteboard-style tool and can be given a caption. Images can be sent to other users for up to 10 seconds before they 'dissolve'.

What is the age classification for Snapchat?
The age classification for Snapchat is 13 years old, although much of the content may be inappropriate for that age group. If children under the age of 13 sign up for an account they are given access to 'SnapKidz' which is a limited version of the app where users are not able to send images to other devices. It is important to know that these classifications are set by the apps creator and are not overseen by an independent body.

How are kids using Snapchat?
Snapchat is used by many young people to communicate with their friends and to send photos to each other. Snapchat can, however, be used for inappropriate purposes and it is important to sit down with your child and explain to them that it is not okay to share images that are rude, offensive or sexualised.

Should I be worried if my child is using Snapchat?
Any application when used incorrectly has the potential to cause harm. It is important that you communicate openly with your child about how they may be using an application and the legal and ethical ramifications of inappropriate use. Children also need to be aware of the dangers when communicating with people they don't know via any mobile application.

Does an image really delete on Snapchat?
There are many ways an image can be saved, even on Snapchat. iOS and Android devices have a feature which allows the device to take a photo of what is on the screen ('screencapture'). Snapchat notifies the sender if an image they have sent has been captured, however you are not always notified. There are also many other ways images can be saved without the sender being notified so it is important to encourage children to think before they post.

What are the privacy settings on Snapchat?
Snapchat has very limited privacy settings and it is important to monitor your child's usage of the application. One privacy setting that is available is the ability to restrict who can send your child's snaps. This can be enabled by going into the Settings menu, under Who can... Send Me Snaps, select My Friends. This will ensure that only users on your child's contact list can send images.

Is Snapchat a ‘safe sexting’ application?
It is important to know that there is no such thing as ‘safe sexting’ and Snapchat is no exception. Young people need to be aware that as soon as they send an image they have lost control over who can see it and what they will do with it. Sending sexually explicit images of someone under the age of 18, with or without their permission, could be an offence under State and Commonwealth legislation.

What are the potential problems with Snapchat?
Sharing images that are rude, offensive or sexualised can see young people in breach of State and Commonwealth legislation that carry serious legal consequences. Ethically, young people need to be aware of the impact that their online behaviour has on others as well as their own reputation.
Sexting is commonly defined as the sharing of sexualised or naked images via the internet or mobile phone, this includes mobile applications like Snapchat. Children need to realise that as soon as that image is sent they have lost control of it. Quite often we see images uploaded to the internet, including on various social networking sites, that have been shared between two people privately. Taking, sending and saving these sorts of images can also constitute child pornography offences and can have long term legal ramifications on a child’s future.
If these images become public, the child in the image can, and often is, subject to bullying and harassment. This may happen face-to-face at school or even online with people posting and sharing the image. 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 safe and responsible usage.

How do I delete my child’s Snapchat account?
If after talking with your child about the ethical use of Snapchat and your family’s rules around technology, you may think it’s appropriate to delete the Snapchat account.
To delete a Snapchat account you can go to https://support.snapchat.com/delete-account and enter your child’s account username and password. If you do not have your child’s password you can put a deletion request into Snapchat.
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 few opportunities for you to support them.

For more information visit www.thinkukknow.org.au