PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Staff Car Park and Bus Bay
While running late for the school drop off might be stressful, parking or stopping in either the Staff Car Park or the Grose Road Bus Bay is too dangerous an option for our students. Staff, delivery vans and tradesmen use the staff car park and the morning is the busiest time. None of these car park users would expect students and their parents to also be there, as the sign is very specific. It is actually illegal to stop or park in the bus bay between the specified times of 8.30 - 9.30am and 2.30 – 4pm. This is for the safety of all our students so I would ask all parents and caregivers to consider whether an extra five minutes is worth endangering a child’s life.

School Uniforms
While the majority of our students now show their ‘pride in ourselves and appearance’ by wearing their school uniforms, a considerable proportion forget about their feet. The number of brightly coloured sneakers being worn, especially in the primary classes, is increasingly noticeable. While the fashion for neon coloured sneakers and laces is fine on the sporting field it is not part of our school uniform. The uniform policy at the school was devised and endorsed by the parent body so I am encouraging parents and caregivers to support it by reminding their children to wear black shoes that are listed as expected footwear.

This morning I spoke to 3 students who were wearing sneakers - and it is not a sports day. I asked if they owned school shoes and all of them said yes. So it is not an issue with these students of not having the expected items, but of choosing not to wear them.

If for some reason, including financial issues, parents can only afford one pair of shoes, it is strongly suggested that they buy black sneakers, which will then be appropriate footwear for all occasions. In the past the combined focus at home and at school on wearing school hats has been extremely positive. So I am asking that as a school community we again address the issue.

P & C Donation
At the P & C meeting on Monday night I accepted a cheque for $2000.00 for the English Team with gratitude. So far the purchase of sets of novels used to implement the new English syllabus has come to more than $17,000, so this donation is a very welcome addition to the English team’s budget. Mrs Macky, English team leader, was very pleased indeed when I showed her the cheque on Tuesday morning.

The P & C has also allocated the Farmers Market commission to the English team. This will be an ongoing additional source of funds for the future and will possibly be used to replace lost or damaged books or to purchase more sets when needed.
Aprons
Also at the P & C meeting Mrs Monique Commins donated a whole class set of aprons for the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden cooking program. She and her mother, Mrs Yvonne Roe, donated the materials and their skills and time to make the aprons- and they were in immediate use the following day when 2/3T had their cooking class. They looked very smart and served their intended function protecting their uniforms.

Other Donations
This school, as demonstrated by the 2 examples of generosity outlined above, is extremely fortunate in having generous and thoughtful community support. Further examples come to mind:

- On one of my many walks around the school a few weeks ago I saw a beautiful blue glazed bird bath in front of the library, which had arrived unannounced as far as I knew. I considered the usual suspects and asked Mrs Jan Arndell if this was again an example of her work in the school grounds and she admitted that this was again a gift from her. Mrs Arndell started her work in the staff car park garden, moved to Grose Rd and the Highway school perimeter and has now focused on the area outside the library and all these areas have really helped to beautify our school grounds.
- Today I headed down to Hall 2, the music room, Mr Mal Hewitt was working with Stage 3 students. Mr Hewitt is very generously giving the school a day of his expertise in music teaching to provide an outstanding series of lessons to classes. In this way he is also providing the teaching staff with a professional learning opportunity in music education which is otherwise unavailable. Our students and staff are receiving the benefit of this outstanding musical education free of charge.
- Gardening gloves arrived at the school one morning last week, donated by Mrs Karen Scaramuzzi. Her husband is involved in a project and these gloves were excess to its needs. As a result our students have received a new class size set of gardening gloves to be used during the Friday classes. As we are moving into Spring they will be useful for planting and weeding.
- We now have a potato patch, prepared with much hard work from Mr Thomson after school over several days, using a mattock and spade to prepare the furrows. In his classroom the pots of seedlings have been prepared and in the vegetable garden carrot seeds have sprouted their first ferny leaves.

Uniform Shop
One of our valued School Learning Support Officers, Mrs Reynolds, has for many years donated her time to ordering, sorting and running the uniform shop as a volunteer. Recently she was on leave and there was no replacement to take over her role and some parents contacted the school when the shop was temporarily out of action as a result. When I discussed this with Mrs Reynolds and the Administrative staff a more streamlined process was proposed, which will be implemented from now on.
All new uniform item including hats can now be ordered and paid for at the front office, using the orange ordering form. The order form is also on line. Orders placed by Friday will be filled and given to the student on Monday. This will make it much faster and more convenient for Mrs Reynolds as she will not have to deal with money or receipts, just fill and hand out the orders. Every Thursday the Uniform Shop will be open for the pre-loved items only. Again this will be a much more manageable work load for Mrs Reynolds to manage before she begins her work as a School Learning Support officer.
To assist parents and caregivers of our 2015 Kindergarten students the shop will be open on the morning of December 3rd, the full day of attendance for Transition to Kindergarten students.

Ethics Classes
Please read the request from Mrs Abby Howells, included in this week’s Intercom for volunteers for the Ethic’s classes. These classes are also an example of the generous support, by Mrs Abbey Howells and Mr Ron Fuller, who completed the free training and now hold the classes every Tuesday. If you have the time and interest to support this program, it would be greatly appreciated.
Poetry Competition
What a wonderful range of poems students have selected for this competition! From Year 6 to Kindergarten I have been able to see students practising their poems. ‘Snowflake Kisses’ and poems extolling Winter and cold weather have been particularly suitable at the moment. Remember to put the date 19th September on your calendar, when the Stage finalists will be presenting their poems to the whole school assembly, in the Hall. More information on this competition on times will follow soon.

Dorothee Lean
Principal

Gold Achievement Awards - Week 5

Book Club
The latest issue of Book Club has gone home. Please have your orders and money in NO later than Friday 29th August.
Please ensure that your name is on every order form to avoid confusion when orders are returned.
SORRY - NO LATE ORDERS CAN BE ACCEPTED.
Thanks
Mrs Reynolds

Faulconbridge Public School
Year 6 Farewell Organising Committee
To all Year 6 Parents and Caregivers,
I would like to hold a second Year 6 Farewell meeting to further organise the night. This year, the Year 6 Farewell will be held on the 3rd December, 2014 at the Springwood Sports Club, Macquarie Road, Springwood. The night will commence at 4.45 and conclude at 7.30 pm. Arrangements for photographs, a theme for the night and other organisational details will be further discussed.

If you would like to be part of the organising committee to help plan this evening, could you please meet in Mrs Macky’s classroom on 10th September, 2014 at 3.10pm.

Yours in Education
Year 6 and Mrs Macky
The District Athletics Carnival scheduled for tomorrow (22\textsuperscript{nd}) has been postponed until next Friday 29\textsuperscript{th} August because of wet weather.
ICAS (International Competitions and Assessments) Results

Each year students at Faulconbridge Public School are invited to participate in these independent evaluations of students’ skills and knowledge in core learning areas. The results provide insights into students’ understanding and detailed feedback provides direction for future learning. This year twenty five students from years two to six sat the Science paper and seventeen students from years three to six sat the Computer paper. We extend our congratulations to all students who will be awarded participation certificates and celebrate the high achievements of the following students:

**Science:**  
Distinction – Oliver S, Liam S  
Credit – Ashton D, Harding P, Joel A, Connor Mc, Darcy T, Alyssa D, Chloe N  
Merit – Taniora H, Hallam B, Jasmine C

**Computer Skills**  
Credit – Taniora H, Oliver S, Monique R, Liam S  
Merit – Abigail B, Alex M

More results will be published as they are received.  
Jacqueline Thomas

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**UNIFORMS**  
The Uniform Shop will **no longer** be open on Mondays.  
All orders for new uniforms, including hats, are to be placed and paid for at the office by Friday each week from now on. They will be distributed to the children on the following Monday.

**THURSDAY 8.15am - 8.45am**  
The uniform shop will sell Pre-loved uniforms ONLY.
Dear Parents and Carers,

**VOLUNTEER ETHICS COORDINATOR & TEACHER NEEDED**

Ethics classes commenced in 2013 at Faulconbridge and have been running successfully so far. We need to find a new volunteer ethics teacher for the new kindergarten curriculum. We are also still looking for someone to replace the Ethics Coordinator.

**ETHICS COORDINATOR**

Coordinating involves liaising, usually by email, between the school, Primary Ethics and the volunteer teachers. Coordinating can mostly be done by email in your spare time and would take approximately 1 hour per week. Ethics Coordinators are vetted by Primary Ethics and are given training and support, they are required to have the Working with Children check.

**ETHICS TEACHER**

Ethics teachers are required to undertake two days training in the ethics curriculum. Teachers need to be able to commit to half an hour – three quarters of an hour teaching time each week of term. Teachers will also need some time to prepare for the classes each week. Teachers are given full support by Primary Ethics. Teachers are vetted by Primary Ethics and are required to have the Working with Children check.

To find out more about Primary Ethics and becoming an Ethics Teacher or Coordinator, please go to [www.primaryethics.com.au](http://www.primaryethics.com.au) or contact our school’s Ethics Coordinator, Abby Howells abhowells@hotmail.com.
P & C DEDICATED WEBPAGE
The P & C dedicated webpage is now all up and running. The P & C are a connection between the school community and Faulconbridge Public School. We are hoping you all use this page as a source of communication. There are links to contact the P & C direct, dates outlining P & C related activities, minutes from past P & C meetings and the agenda for the upcoming P & C meeting should you like to come along. The P & C is for everyone in the school and community. We encourage as many people to come along to help with the schools growth. You don’t need to be a member of the P & C to join us. The P & C webpage is www.fpspandc.org.au

APRONS FOR OUR LITTLE CHEFS
Thank you to Mrs Monique Commins and her mother Mrs Yvonne Roe, for donating not only their time but the material required to make over 30 aprons for the students to use in the kitchen. This should see the students uniforms remain a little more “splatter free” 😊

HELPERS NEEDED FOR DISTRICT ATHLETICS CARNIVAL
Thank you so much to the following members of our school community who offered some time to assist with running the canteen at the District Athletics Carnival – Sharon Trueman, Naomi Rosso, Lyndal Boyce, Dellana Talbot, Sarah Spinks, Lauren Harris and Melissa Nicholas. As the carnival has now been changed to Friday, 29th Aug there is still some time to contact the P & C if you are able to assist. You can email me direct on president@fpspandc.org.au. Many hands make light work 😊

NEXT BLUE GUM MARKETS
The Blue Gum Markets are being held this weekend (23rd Aug) and we will be treated to some delights from 1ZR and 2/3T. Baked goods can be taken to the office on Friday afternoon or brought up the markets on Saturday morning. Please ensure that a full list of ingredients is displayed on your container along with the students class. Containers will be taken to the office and are to be collected early next week.

FATHERS DAY WRAPPING NIGHT
If you enjoy wrapping gifts and feel like sitting and having a chat, please come along to the teachers staffroom on Monday, 1st September at 7pm to help wrap all of the Father’s Day gifts.

Ginett Mills – P & C President
On Thursday 14th August I had the absolute pleasure of accompanying 12 very excited Choir students and 1 Dance student from our school to the Sydney Opera House for their performance at the 2014 Pulse Concert.

Our children were outstanding!

Our students left school in the morning and travelled into the city for their final combined rehearsal with other children from across the Sydney Region before performing at their concert which took place later that evening. It was a long, tiring yet rewarding day for all involved.

I am sure that everyone who attended Pulse would agree that this production was an amazing and exciting extravaganza for all concerned.

The performances by our State School students were absolutely wonderful …..from the beautiful voices of the Combined Primary Choir to the harmonies of our Combined Secondary Choir.

Sarah R sang a beautiful solo in the song “Ordinary Miracle”. Verity H also danced with energy and style in one of the evenings dance group performances.

There were also amazing performances from the Hawkesbury Schools Drum Line, recorder soloists, vocal soloists, Combined Schools Primary Massed Choir, Combined Schools Secondary Massed Choir, Western Sydney Vocal Ensemble, Nepean High School Drama, Western Sydney Junior Dance, Western Sydney Senior Dance Ensemble, Western Sydney Dance Off! Troupe, Western Sydney Public Schools Concert Band, Western Sydney Big Band, Western Sydney String Ensemble and the Western Sydney Combined Instrumental Ensembles.

WOW! Over 1000 students! What talent and what a night!

The energy and excitement that could be seen in our students was obvious from beginning to end.

However, wonderful concerts such as these don’t run themselves. I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all of the parents, caregivers, family members and friends of our students for their help and support leading up to the evening performance. Without you this wonderful experience would not have been possible for the children.

Concerts like these also require vision, lengthy organisation and a lot of hard work from a great team of people. I would like to thank and congratulate the teachers and volunteers from the schools and regions involved who worked tirelessly before and throughout the concert to help create a memorable experience for all of us.

Yours Chorally
Miss Theoharis
School Banking News

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

Calling all parents of kids who bank

...we are still looking for some helpers. You don’t need to be there every week or for the whole banking session, even half an hour every second week will be a big help.

Check your Tokens

We have lots of kids who have enough tokens to claim a prize. If they put in an order this week it should arrive by the end of term.

Choose from -

- Penguin or Shark plush toy keyring
- Whale shark pencil case
- Dollarmites moneybox
- Swimming bag

New Kindergarten Students

Any kids coming to transition are very welcome to start banking, they just need to open an account online or thru the Bank. Come and see us if you have any questions.

Please note that there might be a delay in getting the books back this week due to the District Athletics carnival.

See you Friday,
The Banking Team

The Art Club
After School Art with Liz

FREE FIRST LESSON
Tuesday 26th August

BOOKINGS ARE ESSENTIAL
- a different Tuesday can also be considered if need be
TERM 3 Tuesdays 3.05 - 3.45pm Kindergarten & young Yr 1
4.00 - 5.30 pm Older children

If you need your child to attend straight after school for this term but they are not in K or Yr 1, please mention it

Offering a wide range of media including clay & printmaking
All enquires welcome;- Liz 0432 956 786 theartclub@yahoo.com