



# Forrestfield Primary School Newsletter



Dear Parents, Students and Community Members,

It is with some sadness that I write my final Newsletter at Forrestfield PS.

Mrs Greenaway will be back on board next term and I will be returning to Curtin PS.



I have thoroughly enjoyed my time here and I have loved getting to know the children. Thank you for being so welcoming!

You have a lovely little school with a very dedicated staff that really care for your kids. Please get involved and support the staff in any way that you can. After all, we are all here for the same reason, improving outcomes for our kids.

I attended a Conference last week and a comment made by the Director General of Education, really resonated with me.

***Good teachers know that they don't have jobs.... They have responsibilities!***

In this weeks newsletter is nomination information for *WA Teacher of the Year Awards*. If there is a special teacher at our school that you would like to nominate, please read the leaflet.



Reports have been finalized and they will be coming home this week.

Teachers spend a great deal of time arriving at their grade judgements.

Students need to demonstrate consistent achievement in a range of criteria in order to achieve a C Grade.

As WA aligns itself with National Curriculum you will find that standards have been raised and more is required of students to meet a C.

In fact, to be allocated a B means that you are working a year ahead and an A means two years ahead.

On Monday you would have received an interview request letter. I strongly encourage you to come along to these interviews.

This is your chance to sit with your child's teacher and discuss your child's learning and see exactly what they do need to achieve to earn a C Grade.

## IMPORTANT DATES

### JUNE

28 Kindy Reports Home

29 Winter Lightning Carnival  
PP - Yr 7 Reports Home

### JULY

3 Parent Interviews

6 Last Day of School

31 School Photos

### AUGUST

1 WAGSMS—Burswood

3 Faction Long Distance

**Term 3 starts for Students on  
TUESDAY July 24**

This Friday our senior students will be representing our school in a Winter Lightning Carnival. We wish our Netball, Soccer and Football teams the very best of luck.

On Wednesday at 9am we will be having a short assembly to celebrate NAIDOC Week.

During music lessons with Mr Borbas, the children have been learning a song using aboriginal words and phrases that will form part of the assembly.

I hope you can join us.



Last Friday student's enjoyed a Free Dress Pyjama Fundraising Day, and they all enjoyed wearing their PJ's to school.

Maria Cook - Principal

## HELPING WITH HOMEWORK

I remember sitting at the kitchen table completing homework and answering my parents' questions about my day at school. Recently I was reminiscing with a friend about how my mother would quiz me on multiplication flashcards every night, so that I would receive a star on my class tracking chart. I even remember the time when she went away for two weeks leaving my dad to make sure that all my homework was finished. I did the work and he checked every night to see that it was not only done, but correct. Despite the fact that they were both very busy people, as I am one of 7 children, they were never too busy to support homework efforts. I recall them being very aware of what was going on in my classes, not by emailing my teachers (it didn't exist yet); but because they asked me.

Now, let's fast-forward about forty years.

That same little girl who worked at the kitchen table is now an educator. Over the years, I've frequently overheard parents ask their kids, "What did you do today at school?" And the children have responded, "Nothing." I've often hoped that the parent would follow this up and ask something like, "Are you telling me that you've been in school for 7 hours and didn't do *anything*?" I don't believe that. What did you do in Reading, Maths, or Art today?" And the child would then proceed to tell their parent about their day at school. However, much too often, this is not the conversation that follows. In fact, frequently, the conversation simply ends there. I know that increasing numbers of parents seem to be unaware of what's going on in their child's class and with many parents working this understandable. Yet, there must be something that we as educators can do to promote healthy parent-student conversations about school.

After all, parents are indeed a child's first teacher. Improving literacy rates is currently a hot topic. Although all of this is important, much focus seems to be placed on what schools can or should do. Yet parents are also accountable for their child's learning. Ensuring your child attends school every day, making regular contact with your child's teacher to check their progress, showing interest in what your child has done at school and giving plenty of praise and support to them, are all ways you can help your child succeed. Our children grow very quickly and it is important that schools and parents work together to ensure children get all the support they need. By listening to your child read, helping them with their home work, attending assemblies, getting involved with the P&C, helping in classes and the canteen, assisting with sporting activities and carnivals, the list is endless. Any time you can offer no matter how small will be repaid tenfold as you will witness your child blossom. School needs to be seen as a three way partnership, working together in your child's best interest.

Janine Mason - Deputy Principal

## SCHOOL PHOTOS 2012

Midland Photographers will be taking our 2012 School Photographs on **Tuesday 31st July 2012**.

Order envelopes which outline the variety of options were sent home a few weeks ago. Please return the envelope with payment to the Office by Tuesday 24th July 2012.

If you have any questions about the process this year, please don't hesitate to contact the school on 9453 6277.



## HELP NEEDED

The Canteen re-opening is proving very popular on Fridays, with orders increasing every week, and we would love to expand the menu, however, in order to do this we desperately need more volunteers.

If you can spare a Friday morning to help, it would be very much appreciated. Remember that the Canteen is run on a volunteer basis, and without more helpers, we may be forced to close again.

Please call in to the Office and give your name and contact details if you can help.—Thank You

## WORKING WITH WA POLICE TO SUPPORT STUDENT ATTENDANCE

The West Australian Police will be commencing an initiative with all schools in the metropolitan area to help improve school attendance and increase the safety of students in our communities. Any students located by police during school hours, outside school grounds, who are not accompanied by an adult, or do not have a leave pass, will be returned to their enrolled school.

If your child is collected by police and returned to school, a staff member from the school will call to inform you. Parents will be given the location where their child was found and the details of the police officer who returned them. There will be a police contact number for parents if there are any concerns.

This initiative will commence at the start of Term 3, 2012. We encourage parents to support schools and the police in improving student attendance and ensuring all children are safe.



## PARENT ASSEMBLY

Congratulations to all our Honour Certificate and Virtue Certificate winners at this weeks assembly.



### Honour Certificates

Rm 1	Chelsea Batty, Calib MacArthur
Rm 2	Sean Brockman, Aurora Clifford, Brendan
Rm 4	Trinity Stacey, Sian Lopez, Leah Wright
Rm 9	Katelin Holland, Junior Tu'avau
Rm 12	Blake Godfrey, Steven Little
Rm13	William Tondut, Carlisha Bennell
Music	Shayla Walsh, Jordan Woods

### Virtues—Tolerance

Rm 1	Chelsea Buswell, Courtney Darcy
Rm 2	Kuini Bavadra, Bianca Batty
Rm 4	Michelle Gillies, Isaiah Solimen
Rm 9	Brian Richards, Shenali Rodrigo
Rm 12	Mitchell Blake, Steven Little
Rm13	Ilaise Tu'avao, Carlisha Bennell

## LITERACY

Celebrate the Olympics at local libraries in the July School Holidays.

- \* "Full of Beanz" Olympic Games fun through music and dance for ages 5-10 at the Forrestfield Library Tuesday, 10 July at 11am.
- \* Jesse the Wind Wanderer.....enjoy the stories and myths of how the Greek Olympic Games first started. For all ages. Friday, 13 July at 10am. at the Kalamunda Library.
- \* Aussie, Aussie, Aussie-Oi, Oi, Oi !... a craft activity making shaker streamers and medals for ages 5+ on Monday, 16 July from 10am until 11.30am. at the Kalamunda Library.
- \* West Coast Eagles Storytelling – a mystery Eagles player is visiting Kalamunda Library. Come dressed for the occasion. Ages 5+ Tuesday, 17 July at 10am.

It is necessary to book for these events as soon as possible.

Kalamunda Library 9257 9969      Forrestfield Library 9257 9975

### Congratulations to the last Writers of the Month for this term.

Room 1 Calib MacArthur, Stanley Henney, Yosuf Juma, Matt Harvey

Room 2 Saira Akbari, Brittney Cugini

Room 4 Angeline Powner Humble, Jessica Robson

Room 9 Ebonie Kickett, Joseph Solimen, Billy Peters

Room 12 Aidan Walters, Halle-Rose Abraham

Room 13 Anastacia Smith, Oliver Gilbert

Next Term Book Week is Monday 20<sup>th</sup> August to Friday 24<sup>th</sup> August. The theme this year is

**"Champions Read"** and there will be a special assembly on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> August when students can dress as their favourite book character, or champion.

Have a happy holiday everyone.

Leone Schreuders (Literacy Co-ordinator)





## Our Children, Holidays, and Discipline!

What can we do to keep our children busy, happy, and out of trouble when school is out? Sometimes our kids are almost impossible to motivate, especially as they get older and the "I'm bored" chorus is playing. It can be hard enough on some weekends, but becomes a major challenge over the two weeks of school holidays. There is no correct method to solve the problem of kids stuck at home for hours, no matter where they are on the scale from idle to hyperactive. The only way to make life more bearable for the family together is to involve the kids in what you are doing around the house (by offering appropriate incentives) or by doing interesting things that will use up some energy (such as going to a different park if its fine, or playing a favourite or invented fun game around the house).

The trouble is, kids will be kids, and they generally don't do what they are told all the time, especially when their normal routine is broken, such as during school holidays. So, what can we do to keep them on track? Again, the best persuader is the incentive of a small reward for obedience, and the loss of some privileges for not following what you have asked. However, sometimes these methods will not work, and our patience with the children can be worn quite thin over time. What often happens then is that we can lose our tempers and start yelling. Although it may relieve some tension for us, this doesn't help most situations. It certainly won't help us communicate with our kids, and they may also lose their tempers in self-defence.



Whatever the situation of defiance at home, we need to step back and take a deep breath. Consequences of discipline are most effective when we can remain as calm as possible and explain what will happen and why to our guilty child. Threats of punishment lose their effectiveness unless they are kept to. For example, if we tell one of our children they will lose a privilege if they disobey us, and then keep letting them off, we are working against ourselves and against helping our child do what is right. As soon as we deviate from the rules we have set for our children, we make it very hard to be just and fair in the future.



In any case, we must try never to lose it with our kids and resort to violence. If we think we may be tempted to physically hurt our child in anger or utter frustration, we need to get help from someone who can calm us down. Even if we were disciplined with violence when we were growing up, it is not an excuse for us. Yes, training up children is a very heavy responsibility, and they are to be protected and cared for no matter what they may have done wrong. After all, they are the children and we are the adults. Hopefully they will not send us around the twist. Meanwhile, whether the going gets tough or not, it always helps to chill out and have a good laugh together, any chance we get!

*Wishing you and your family a minimum of fuss and a maximum of good times together each day – especially over the holidays, from your School Chaplain, Paul Johnston, here for you at Forrestfield Primary on Mondays and Tuesdays each Term.*

The Chaplaincy position at Forrestfield Primary School is funded by the Australian Government Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations under the National School Chaplaincy and Student Welfare Programme. The views expressed herein do not necessarily represent the views of the Australian Government Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations.

## ZERO WASTE LUNCH DAY

Parents and students are reminded that every Wednesday is now Zero Waste Lunch Day. We have seen a significant reduction in the amount of waste generated at this school since the introduction of Zero Waste Lunch Day. It's a fantastic effort—Keep It Up!!



## WATERWISE TIP OF THE WEEK—Install an in-tap flow regulator

Installing an in-tap flow regulator can help to save water by taking the place of regular tap washers and allow water to flow at predetermined rates. These could save up to



## CYBERSAFETY TIPS FOR PARENTS AND STUDENTS

Know their Passwords, screen names, and the friends they are communicating with online.

