



Forrestfield Primary School Newsletter



Dear Parents, Students and Community Members,

Last week we held our **"Meet the Teacher"** meetings and I thank all parents for attending. These meetings early in the year are so important as they provide parents with an opportunity to meet their child's new teacher(s) and to learn about new class routines and procedures. We hope that you found the class handouts informative. If you wish to discuss any aspect of your child's education with the teacher during the year, please arrange this directly with them before or after school or make an appointment through the office.



Photos: Parent Meetings Kindy and Room 2

I am delighted to inform our school community that Mrs Wisson and our children in Year 1/2 have been selected to take part in the **Early Childhood iPad Initiative**. This innovative project will focus on improving student engagement and achievement in phonological awareness, phonics and reading through the use of iPADS. I will keep you all informed in future newsletters as to how this exciting project is progressing.

IMPORTANT DATES

FEBRUARY	
29	Room 2 TED Assembly—all welcome
MARCH	
2	Clean up our school day
5	Labour Day Holiday
7	Parent Newsletter
14	Student Assembly Zero Waste Lunch Day P & C Meeting 7.00pm
21	Parent Newsletter Staff Meeting 3.15pm SERCUL Incursion
22	Camp Quality Puppets Incursion
30	Summer Lightening Carnival
APRIL	
4	Parent Assembly Parent Newsletter

Our first **TED Assembly** will be held next Wednesday commencing at 8.50am. The children from **Room 2** will be hosting the assembly and presenting the item. We hope that parents will join us for a tea or coffee in the Breakfast Club after the assembly.

Our first **P&C Meeting** for the year will be held on **Wednesday 14th March at 7pm in the Staffroom**. An invitation is extended to all our parents to attend.

Diane Greenaway - PRINCIPAL

SCHOOL SECURITY

We ask parents to ring **School Security on 1800 177 777** if you see suspicious activity after school hours.

Please help us look after our school.

GARDEN NEWS

Have you seen all the rockmelons and watermelons that are growing in our melon patch next to the music room? All children have been eating rockmelon at recess this week and it's yummy!

A big thanks to all our parent helpers who looked after our garden in the school holidays.

All our classes have been visiting the garden and planning is underway to replant our garden beds with seasonal produce.

With sustainability a key focus at Forrestfield Primary School, the garden is a great way for students to learn, experience and enjoy the benefits of a healthy and positive lifestyle.



The Darling Range Learning Community (DRLC) had our official launch on the 31st January 2012 at the Elizabeth Jolly lecture theatre, Curtin University. Staff from all eight schools attended and we were welcomed by the Education Departments Assistant Regional Executive Director, Eirlys Ingram. Mrs Ingram informed all staff that the educational journey we had commenced was an integral element in our partner schools determining our own future.



Mr Peter Noack (Principal of Darling Range Sports College) and Mrs Julie Roberts (Network and Wattle Grove Principal) then gave the staff a broad outline of the DRLC strategic plan which will guide our collaborative through the next two years. There are

some exciting and innovative programs and projects to be rolled out, all aimed at improving standards and outcomes for students and staff alike.

The unveiling of our new DRLC logo followed along with a presentation of a brand new 42in HD 3D LCD television to the Lockwood family of Forrestfield who designed the winning logo. This vibrant corporate logo encompasses the vision and values of excellence, learning, innovation and partnerships as set out in the DRLC strategic plan.

A special thankyou is needed for our key note speakers on the day, Amanda Cook and Janice Azzopardi. Amanda and Janice were on loan from Sydney NSW where they are instrumental in the coordination of the Plumpton Education Community (PEC).

The ladies were very generous with their time, expertise and resources and have given great support in enabling the Darling Range Learning Community to begin this exciting journey. Keep an eye out for future developments and events in upcoming newsletters.

Joe Isaia

DRLC Coordinator

Right: Network Principals, Keynote Speakers and DRLC Coordinator.



GIFTED AND TALENTED PROGRAMS

Applications are now open to all Year 6 students for Gifted and Talented programs in Year 8 in 2014. Applications are also open to students currently in Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 wishing to apply for available vacancies in 2013.

These programs offer Western Australia's brightest students the opportunity to study selective academic, languages or arts curriculum at one of 17 public secondary schools.

All applications must be lodged online on the [website](#). Parents can also learn more about Gifted and Talented programs and view the application guidelines and key dates on this site.

The information brochure, ***Behind every gifted and talented child is a parent who saw their potential***, has been distributed to schools with Year 6 classes and secondary schools with eligible students this week.

This brochure can also be downloaded from the Gifted and Talented [website](#)-

<http://www.det.wa.edu.au/curriculumsupport/giftedandtalented>

Parents seeking further information are invited to telephone the Gifted and Talented Selection Unit on 9264 4307 or email gate@det.wa.edu.au.

STUDENT ASSEMBLY

Our first Assembly for 2012 was held on Wednesday 15th February. The Assembly was hosted by our Year Seven students who did a fantastic job.

Room 1 were the winners of the award for best Attendance and Happy Birthday was sung to all students who had recently had a birthday.

Congratulations to all our Year 7 Students who were presented with their Year 7 badges and to the winners of Honour Certificates.

Our next Parent Assembly will be held on Wednesday 29th February when the children from Room 2 will be presenting an item. All parents and families are welcome to attend.

Honour Certificates	
Rm 1	Jack Elsdon, Chelsea Batty, Lisa Walker
Rm 2	Mary Solimen, Brendan Schiller
Rm 4	Kobe Dann, Lloyd MacArthur
Rm 9	Timaya Dann, Bradley Mills
Rm 12	Senugi Rodrigo, Kia Adi Sijaya
Rm 13	Tadiwanashe Ndabambi, Elizabeth Milsom

THE EFFECTS OF BEING ABSENT FROM SCHOOL

"School is more demanding for my kids than it was when I went to school." How many times have you said this or heard this said?

Kids need to be at their best in order to do well and enjoy school. It seems that never before has it been more important have [healthy school kids](#) and to avoid absences from school.

With the focus on the early years of schooling and the importance of not being late for school I can not stress the importance of ensuring that your children arrive at school on time.

It's the initial instructional lesson that is so important. (Not written work that can be made up.) Repeated absences and lateness can cause a child to miss an important part of sequential learning. Two things can happen:

Children fall behind because they are missing an important piece of instruction.

Or, chronic absences can sometimes force teachers to slow the pace of instruction, in order to review lessons for children who missed crucial skills. This ultimately affects the entire class."

Learning builds on previous learning, you can never truly make up for an absence. The hands-on activities, discussion, and interaction in class cannot be made up. At best, each teacher can meet with the child to go over what was done in class. You can even have them do the activities they missed, but **they do not hear** other student's questions and interact with classmates.

If a child misses one day, they have to make up ALL their work in ALL their classes. Plus, they have to keep up with their current work. It is too difficult for them to do. So you have to hope that whatever they missed won't leave too large a gap in their knowledge-base for the next learning to occur. If a student misses 1 day of school in a week, they missed 20% of what was taught that week. The net effect may be 30% loss in learning overall because of the scaffolding effect." That's a lot to think about.

Like all parents, teachers also want the best educational outcomes for students so it is very important that we work together to ensure that every child attends every day.

Janine Mason, Acting Deputy Principal

SCHOOL OF INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC (SIMS) PROGRAM

In addition to regular music lessons with Mr Borbas, selected students in Years 6 and 7 are offered the opportunity to take part in our specialist music program with visiting teachers from the School of Instrumental Music. This year Mr Sprogowski is teaching clarinet and Mr Kingham is teaching electric guitar. We look forward to performances from our talented students this year.



UNDER OUR INFLUENCE, AT HOME

Here are some thoughts from Dr. Kevin Leman about the importance of our role as parents and carers in the lives of our kids, taken from his book *Home Court Advantage* (2005).

During the spring of 2000, Bill Cosby and I were asked to participate in a presentation to 10,000 people in Oklahoma City on preventing violence. Before the program, after we'd hammed it up for photos and handshakes, I spent about half an hour backstage alone with Cosby. We hit it off by talking about basketball, and after a while our talk turned to the topic of the evening – the influence of families on today's youth. Cosby, whose son had been violently murdered, wanted to know what I thought about what was happening to families in our society today. The answer we discussed backstage emerged time and again that evening in our interaction with the audience. Parents – not drugs, not movies, not peer groups – are a child's number one influence. It came as no surprise to me. But in a culture in which we complain about all the influences on a child's life, it's important to remember that parents *are* what make the difference. Our words, our silence, our presence, our absence, our example – both good and bad – all matter more in the life of our child than we may ever realise.



Home ought to be a refuge, a place our children return to again and again because it's where they feel most secure. The word *parent* comes from the Latin word *parentis*, which means "protector." I'm speaking not only of physical protection, but also protection from conforming to the outside world's cookie-cutter selfishness. To do so, both we as parent and our children have to spend plenty of time at home. For example, I recommend celebrating significant events such as birthdays *in the home*. By making home the centrepiece of family life, we're creating positive memories for our kids in a place they can return to for the rest of their lives. A home is a place that's familiar, that we've been to many times, that we know like the back of our hand and can call up by memory whenever we want to go back there, even if only in our mind. Such an advantage takes years to build – and the most important memories of our life to maintain.

"Hanging out with their families" was the top choice given by today's teenagers for where they would most like to spend more time. Everyone wants their child to succeed, but not everyone defines success. True success is built on affirmation, relational involvement, and a sense of belonging.

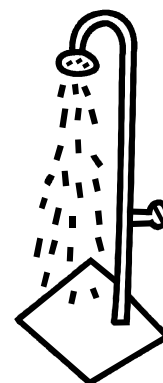
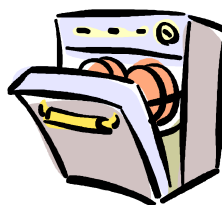
Wishing you and your family a home full of shared fun and good memories this week, from our School Chaplain, Paul Johnston, here for you at Forrestfield Primary on Mondays and Tuesdays.

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.

WATERWISE TIP OF THE WEEK— How waterwise is your household?

Take this simple test to find out. Do you:

- take short showers?
- run your dishwasher with full loads?
- mulch your garden?
- regularly check your reticulation system?
- know if your toilet is leaking?
- use a glass of water to brush your teeth?
- have a rain sensor in your garden?
- catch the warm up water in the shower?
- rinse your dishes in a container?
- turn your sprinklers off during winter?



The Water Corporation has lots of ways you can save Water.

Visit www.watercorporation.com.au or call the 131039.

COMMUNITY NOTICES:

Kalamunda Districts Rugby Union Club: Registration Day, Season 2012. Saturday 18th Feb, Clubrooms Hartfield Park. Forrestfield. 11 am—2pm. Start from Under 6 Ph Debbie 0429 910 877.

Swan Suburbs Rugby Union Club: Registration Day, Stratton Oval, Saturday 18th Feb, 10am—1.30pm. Contact Jodie 0419 955 271.

Tangos Netball Club: Registrations for 8-17 year olds. Ray Owen Centre, Lesmurdie. Sun 26th Feb 9-11am, Wed 29th Feb 4.30 – 6pm. Chantal Read 0431 527 024.