



Forrestfield Primary School Newsletter



Dear Parents, Students and Community Members,

This week's newsletter is a celebration of our **Spineless Wonders Incursion** which, as you can see from the photographs on page 3, had everyone captivated. All children enjoyed learning about these gentle invertebrates and their importance in the varied habitats in which they live. This incursion is a part of our whole school "Sustainability" priority.

Last week **Mr Matthew Pinkard**, Coordinator of our Darling Range Learning Community, visited our Year 6/7 and 5/6 classes to launch the **Darling Range Learning Community Citizenship Program and Award**. Our senior students will be focusing on how they can become good citizens at home, school and in the community. They will also focus on how to be safe and respectful learners. We look forward to Mr Pinkard revisiting each class next term to check on the progress our students are making.



Our **School Council** met last Monday to approve this year's School Operational Plan and Budget. Our School Council is a very important part of our school and meets each term to evaluate the performance of the school, review our objectives and priorities and to formulate and approve our general policies and procedures.

This year our School Council Representatives are;

Parents: Michelle Barnes, Aurora Abraham, Cheryl Cugini (*elected unopposed this year*) and P&C Rep Katie Grosser.

Staff: Leighanne Fowler and Stephen Matthews.

IMPORTANT DATES

MARCH

28	School Development Day Students do not attend School
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Friday 29th March—Tues 2nd April

Easter break

**Children resume Term 1 on Wednesday
3rd April**

APRIL

9	Staff Meeting 3.15pm
10	Parent Newsletter SERCUL Frog Incursion
11	SERCUL Frog Incursion
12	Summer Lightning Carnival
17	ANZAC DAY Ceremony
19	Last day of school for students.

Term 2 commences on Monday 6th May

My thanks to all parents who came along to the P&C AGM last Wednesday evening. Congratulations to –

Alex Woods - President

Julie Christensen - Vice President

Cheryl Cugini - Treasurer

Katie Grosser - Secretary and P&C Representative on our School Council.

Our next P&C Meeting will be held on Wednesday 22nd May, commencing at 6.00pm in the Library.

All parents are welcome to join us.

Diane Greenaway - PRINCIPAL

SCHOOL SECURITY

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

KALAMUNDA SHIRE COUNCIL VISIT

Last Friday, the Year 5, 6 and 7 students visited the Kalamunda Council Administration Building as part of their studies of governments in Australia. The students were given a tour of the offices and then provided with some delicious morning tea.

The students then took part in a mock council meeting to discuss and debate the possibility of building a new skate facility in Forrestfield. Students took on roles as councillors and engaged in a lively debate considering the pros and cons of the skate park. After much discussion, the final vote was a tie, 6 all. As Shire President, Ebonie was given the deciding vote and voted in favour of raising a loan for \$500,000 and building the skate park. Well done to all students who took part and a big thank you to the Shire of Kalamunda for making us feel welcome. This was the first excursion of this kind for the Shire of Kalamunda.



STUDENT ASSEMBLY.

Our Student Assembly was held this morning, with our Kindergarten and Pre-Primary students also attending for the first time.

Students made and wore a variety of Easter Hats for our annual Easter Hat Parade. The children looked amazing as they showed off their hats to the audience. It was obvious that a lot of time, effort and many hours of work had gone in to the preparation and design of the hats.

The Easter Raffle was also drawn, and congratulations to the lucky winners of Easter Prizes. The proceeds of the P and C Raffle will go towards refrigerated drink fountains for your children. Many thanks to all our parents who donated eggs and chocolates to make this one of our most successful raffles to date.

Congratulations also to our students who received Honour Certificates and to the classrooms who were awarded Attendance Certificates.

Our next Assembly will be our ANZAC Service, and will be held on Wednesday 17th April at 9.00am. All parents and friends are welcome to attend.

Honour Certificate Recipients

Rm 2	Brian Richards, Cody Polsen, Christian Bavadra
Rm 4	Jayda Abraham, Aiden Walters, All of Room 4
Rm 9	Yarren Jacobs, Saira Akbari
Rm 12	Naveed Juma, Tadiwa Ndabambi
Rm 13	Breehanna Lampard, Mervyn Woods
Music	Michael Russell, Katika Criddle

LITERACY NEWS—LEXILES

The Lexile Framework was introduced into the school early in 2009 has proven to be a great resource enjoyed by the children. The Lexile Framework is grounded in over 20 years of research and has been developed in consultation with the Australian Centre for Educational Research (ACER).

What is a Lexile? An innovative computer-based resource that motivates, encourages and monitors guided and independent reading.

Lexiles use real books from major children's publishers...Australian and international, including classical and popular titles, many of which will already be in the library. The huge, over 7,000 book data base is updated constantly. To quote Scholastic Australia, the distributors of Lexiles, "Lexile is a measure of prose text difficulty. It is based on semantics (vocabulary) and syntax (grammatical complexity as measured by average sentence length). It was originally designed to be used on texts of 500 words or more, not beginning readers.

MetaMetrics has refined the way it analyses beginning reading books....for some books, the illustrative support is taken into account, if MetaMetrics believe it contributes to comprehension of the text.

The children take the new Lexile test starting on 750L and depending on correct or incorrect answers are stepped up or down to their Lexile level.

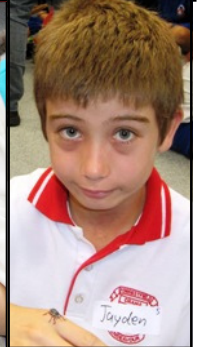
When children have read a Lexiled book and taken a Lexile Quiz on that book, they take a new Lexile test which will generate a new improved Lexile level. A quiz can be taken at home on the family computer, and certificates printed out; see www.scholastic.com.au/lexileframework.

All classes Year 4—7 will have Lexiled Library books to read for homework. Please encourage your child to read at home each night.

Leone Schreuders (Literacy Co-ordinator)



SPINELESS WONDERS



EASTER EGGS, EASTER BUNNIES, HOT CROSS BUNS, AND EASTER HOLIDAYS!

It is a rather strange Easter this year. We usually have Easter during the break between Term One and Term Two, but this time we have these full five days off to celebrate Easter, near the long end of Term one. The aisles of chocolate eggs have almost taken over some of the shops, and the cardboard bunnies with their baskets stand guard on every corner. Meanwhile, the children have been hoarding up chocolate gifts for their friends and family, and the parents have been selecting carefully from the myriad of exotic eggs of all sizes on offer, ready for the big weekend. It is every chocoholic's dream come true, and even if you're like me and you don't like chocolate, we all indulge in a little treat or two for the special occasion. And now the buns are in the oven!



With all this fuss and talk about animals - the eggs and the rabbits – our spotlight can seem to miss the elephant in the room! We will shortly be commemorating Anzac Day, the truly significant and solemn reminder of the cost of our freedom as Australians and New Zealanders. We are so grateful to the people of our defence forces who have sacrificed and served to maintain our right to liberty. And I think part of that hard-won liberty includes the freedom to celebrate annually the goodness of the historic Easter. Otherwise, our chocolate eggs seem rather hollow, and our hot cross buns seem to lose much of their significance.

Now I am not suggesting that we change our personal beliefs or convictions. I just think it strange when we seem to divorce Easter from its obvious source. Just as we acknowledge the traditional owners of this land, and pay our respects to the Elders past and present, so we can also acknowledge other aspects of our communal past and our national heritage. So this Easter, maybe we could take a moment to think past the things we do to celebrate, and see some of the significance of the person and the event behind our holiday. At least then this strange long weekend break we have here and around the world would make more sense.

This is Paul Johnston, Forrestfield Primary's school chaplain, wishing you and your dear family a safe and enjoyable Easter season for 2013.

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— TAKING BATHS

Baths are great for a relaxing soak but they use a lot of water. A standard bath uses on average 160 litres of water, however a 7 minute water efficient shower uses approximately 60 litres, a saving of 100 litres.

If you are renovating or buying a new home look at fitting a deep, narrow bath and have it fully insulated to retain the temperature. This will reduce the need to top up the bath if it starts to cool.

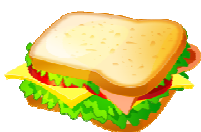


ZERO WASTE LUNCH DAY

Every Wednesday this year our School is holding Zero Waste Lunch Day !!!!!

We encourage all children to bring their lunch and recess in a re-usable container— like a lunch box or takeaway plastic food container. Please try not to use any plastic wrap like Gladwrap, plastic wrappers, plastic bags etc.

Zero waste lunch days are linked to our Sustainability Focus for 2013 and makes kids and parents aware of what we throw out and our need to recycle as much as possible.



VIRTUES AND BEHAVIOUR FOCUS

Over the next five weeks we are learning about being **responsible** and our focus behaviour is on how to eat properly.

We ask all parents to support and reinforce these points at home.



When we eat we . . .

1. Sit in the correct area.
2. Eat with our mouths closed.
3. Put all rubbish in the bin.
4. Pick up any other rubbish we see lying around.

