



# Forrestfield Primary School Newsletter



Dear Parents, Students and Community Members,

**Swimming lessons** commenced this week and I thank parents for the great support of our decision to schedule them again in Term 1. The weather hasn't been as warm as we would have hoped so please ensure that you include a warm top in your children's swimming bag.

Yesterday was **World Down Syndrome Day** and to raise awareness of people with Down Syndrome we held a Crazy Sock fundraiser. Our students had lots of fun showing off their colourful socks and colouring in blue and yellow butterflies. The cupcakes were delicious too!

Thank you Ms Young for organising our fundraiser. We raised \$275 for Down Syndrome WA. A BIG thank you everyone.



Over the last few weeks I have been visiting classrooms to help teachers during **Numeracy Block**. Numeracy Block is scheduled each day between 11.15am and 12.15am. I've enjoyed joining in time activities and working with groups of students to develop their understanding of place value. I hope you have enjoyed the pictures your child's teachers and I have posted on Class Dojo.



## IMPORTANT DATES

### MARCH

29	Room 1 TED Assembly
31	Swimming lessons conclude

### APRIL

5	Parent Newsletter ANZAC Day Ceremony
7	EASTER HAT PARADE Last day of term

## STUDENTS COMMENCE TERM 2

Wednesday 26th April

This year our **School of Instrumental Music (SIM)** guitar teacher is Mr Craig Butt. Mr Butt visits our school every Thursday to provide music instruction to our musically talented Year 6 students. I enjoyed visiting the class last week and listening to how well our students are progressing.



All parents are welcome to attend Year 5/6, Room 1's **TED Assembly on Wednesday 29th March** commencing at 8.50am in the covered assembly area and then join us for morning tea in the kitchen following the assembly.

*Diane Greenaway* **PRINCIPAL**

## STUDENT ASSEMBLY

Our thanks to all parents who helped us relocate last week's student assembly. It isn't everyday that we have a kestrel in our covered assembly area and I'm pleased to inform you all that the twenty eight parrot did fly away safely! Our Year 6 Student Councillors - Bradley, Alexis, Oliver and Jay did a great job running the assembly without a microphone. Congratulations to the following students who were awarded Honour Certificates.



### Honour Certificates

Rm 1	Wellington Chiwawa, Mitchell Petersen
Rm 3	Alista Mafile'o, Sarah Jafari, Blake Hill
Rm 4	Chris Pereira, Imogen Williams
Rm 12	Mia Dobie, Chelsea Fawcett
Rm 13	Hayden Flint, Louelle Tuckett
Rm 14	Ayesha Panthi, Aiden Vidich
Sport/Science	Killian Connors, Mikayla Mitchell

## Deputy's Diary

### It's not OK to have an Extra day Away

With the holidays approaching some parents are inclined to give their children an extra day or so off school as many don't see the harm in it. Unfortunately this is not the case. Regular school attendance is a fundamental but often overlooked factor in the community. Students who are chronically absent and miss just one month of the school a year are missing out on critical learning opportunities. It is difficult to understand how students who are severely chronically absent can keep up with their studies. Recent research has documented that poor attendance is a primary driver of failure in the secondary school and that failure is at the root of high dropout rates.

If chronic absenteeism is widespread it will also impact students who are not absent. When significant numbers of students in a class are missing a great deal of instructional time, a teacher has a no-win choice. Either instruction can be slowed down for the whole class to provide time and opportunities to help absent students catch up when they return to school or a teacher can maintain normal instructional pace and soon end up with large numbers of students who fail to grasp the new learning concepts. These students, in turn, may respond in frustration by withdrawing and giving up, or acting out and causing further missed instructional time. As parents we know that you want the best for your children so please ensure that they attend every day.

On that note our attendance rate in the normal category has dropped to just 80% since the beginning of term when our attendance rate was above 95%. Many of you will receive a letter home today indicating that your child's poor attendance at school over the past 8 weeks has triggered an Attendance Report in the Department's Student Attendance monitoring system. Thank you to all parents whose children have attended regularly over the past 8 weeks. If you are a parent who has received a letter from me it indicates your child has been classed as being in the At Risk Attendance Category. I am asking you to ensure that from this point on unless **your child is genuinely sick that they attend school every day from now on as we all want**





# Crazy Sock Day



# World Down Syndrome Day





## News from the Chaplain

### TRADITIONS!!!!

This week starts a new season of the AFL season. The 12pm game, with a meat pie and a can of cool drink, shouting at the TV for your favourite team to win. Or a 7:30pm game and sitting with some fish and chips in front of the TV. I remember when I was a young boy our family used to do this on a Friday night. We would have Fish and Chips or Pizza and watch the Footy or the Basketball.

This was our family tradition. We loved it as kids. I know for myself I looked forward to a Friday Night, because it meant I got something special. Traditions are an important part of family life. Kids will create memories and remember them for the rest of their lives.

What are your traditions? Do you have any? If the answer is no, can my challenge to you this year is to start one. Create those positive memories that will last a lifetime, so that your children can pass them on to their children.

If you have questions about this or anything else, feel free to contact me at the school or via email

[chrisj@youthcare.org.au](mailto:chrisj@youthcare.org.au)

*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*

### URGENTLY REQUIRED

Has anyone any unwanted towels, tea towels and even old sheets that can be used in the art room for drying hands and cleaning down desks.



Thank you! Mr Gear

## P & C News

The P & C AGM was held last week with the same team being returned for another year.

### Your P & C for 2017 are:

President - Sarah Sheffield

Vice President - Katy Grosser

Treasurer - Jade Fahy

Acting Secretary - Emma-Jane Grierson

EJ has agreed to stay on as Secretary until a replacement can be appointed. If you know someone who has the skills to take on the job - maybe it's you! - please let us know. Chelle Stone is the P & C's new representative on the School Council. She takes over from Jannah Fawcett. Thanks Jannah for your commitment to the role in 2016. The next P & C Meeting will be in Term 2.

### Easter Eggs-travaganza Raffle

By now, you should have received your raffle tickets to sell in the 2017 Easter Raffle, as well as a note asking each family to donate a raffle prize, such as Easter Eggs or Chocolate Animals

The note also includes a colouring competition, which all students are welcome to enter.

All entries - and raffle ticket stubs - are due back to school by **5th April**.

For more information visit the Forrest field Primary P & C Facebook page.

### Canteen Day is Friday

Back to the normal menu in the Canteen on Fridays.

Don't forget to order your lunch before school!



## WATERWISE TIP OF THE WEEK—Early in the morning is best

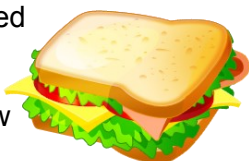
Water only once on your watering day, ideally early in the morning (plants do not absorb water during darkness), so that gardens are charged with the water they need during the warmest part of the day. During autumn and spring our gardens only need to be watered once a week. With cooler nights, morning dew and low evaporation, your garden will retain the moisture it needs. When rain is forecast or if it has rained, remember to turn off your reticulation. During the cooler winter months, lawns and many European plants are dormant so they need very little water. Usually the rainfall received during our mild winters are enough and any more just tends to promote weed growth.

## 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 2015 and makes kids and parents aware of what we throw out and our need to recycle as much as possible.



## VIRTUES AND BEHAVIOUR FOCUS

Our focus virtue is currently

### RESPONSIBILITY

and our focus behaviour is

**“When we go swimming we...”**

When we go swimming we...

- 👂 Look after our belongings.
- 🗣️ Talk quietly on the bus.
- 👂 Listen to, and follow instructions given by the swimming teachers.
- 👂 Follow the rules of the pool.
- 👂 Respect the privacy of others when we change.
- 👂 Are responsible in the change rooms.



We ask parents to reinforce these behaviours.