



HIGHLIGHTS

NEWSLETTER OF FAIRFIELD HEIGHTS PUBLIC SCHOOL

December 2020

MR GERARD IS RETIRING

After almost 47 years of teaching, including nearly 30 years as Principal at Fairfield Heights Public School, I have decided to take leave at the end of this school year leading into retirement.

I have thoroughly enjoyed being Principal and part of the Fairfield Heights community. We have a wonderful school with creative, enthusiastic, motivated and beautifully behaved students. We have dedicated, caring and passionate teachers and a supportive, respectful parent community.

I love coming to school every day and I will greatly miss everyone at Fairfield Heights Public School.

The local Director of Educational Leadership has commenced the process of appointing a Relieving Principal for 2021. I will keep you informed.

Best wishes,
SJ Gerard



KINDERGARTEN ENROLMENTS FOR 2021

We are now taking enrolments for Kindergarten 2021.

Any child turning 5 years of age before the 31st July, 2021 can start Kindergarten at the beginning of 2021.

To obtain an enrolment form you can :-

- ◆ Collect an enrolment form from the school office and return it as soon as possible
- ◆ Ask an older brother or sister to bring one home.
- ◆ Submit your enrolment online from our website

Documented evidence of date of birth and proof of address will need to be shown when the form is returned.

Please tell your friends / neighbours about 2021 enrolments.



DATES TO REMEMBER

DECEMBER

1	Yr 6 High School Orientation Day
7	Reports sent home
16	Last Day of Term 4 - 2020 for students
17/18	Staff Development Days

SCHOOL RESUMES for Years 1-6
Friday 29th January 2021

RESPECTING OUR NEIGHBOURS

We request that parents / carers respect our neighbours when choosing where to park before school and at the end of the school day.

- * Please **DO NOT** park in or across driveways.
- * **NO** double parking - this is dangerous for our students.



SCHOOL CAPTAINS' REPORT

It definitely has been an unusual year for Fairfield Heights Public School, especially Year 6. What a year it has been, an experience we will never forget.

Year 6 have represented Fairfield Heights Public School as leaders and great role models during 2020. Their resilience and flexibility has been outstanding in meeting the challenges of COVID 19. The year has flown by so fast and many great things have occurred this term and there are many more exciting events to look forward to before the year ends.

Year 6 leaders have been library monitors during Term 3 and 4. This was a great opportunity to demonstrate ongoing responsibility and commitment.

At the beginning of the term, the Year 6 leaders had the opportunity to help out the school photographers. Everything ran smoothly and efficiently on the day. Students will have wonderful memories of their peers and teachers.

Book Week was held during Week 2. Students and teachers from K-6 had the opportunity to dress up as their favourite book characters and each grade held parades to celebrate Book Week. The students and teachers looked fantastic on the day.

Our final Gold Banner Assembly for 2020 was held in Week 3. Students received their Gold Banners with pride and had their photo taken which they were able to share with their families.

On November 11th, Years 3-6 students and their classes participated in a Remembrance Day formality. A wreath was laid and students wore red poppies to help us remember those who gave their lives and represented a symbol of commemoration. The one minute silence was a time to reflect and remember service men and women.

NAIDOC Week celebrations were held from 8-15th November this year. NAIDOC Week is a celebration of the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Kindergarten participated in a Kinder Fun Day during Week 6. The Year 6 leaders were very excited to be involved. All the students had an amazing day filled with fun and creativity.

Mr Guy Zangari MP has organised for each Year 6 student to receive a graduation certificate which recognises the completion of their primary school education.

Mr Frank Carbone, the Fairfield Mayor, visited the Year 6 students during Week 6. He presented Year 6 students with certificates and Aquatopia passes to celebrate their special milestones.

During Week 8 most of the Year 6 students will attend their High School Orientation. All the students are excited to visit their 2021 high schools and ensure they successfully transition in preparation for next year.

Annual Presentations will be held in Week 8. This is an event that showcases students' personal achievement. Year 6 captains and prefects will play an important role in organising and presenting at this important event.

This year, Year 6 will be celebrating their graduation in a slightly different way to previous years. Their graduation assembly will be held at school. It will be a perfect way to honour each student as they mark the end of one journey and the beginning of another.

This year has definitely been a challenging year. We couldn't have managed without all the wonderful teachers at Fairfield Heights Public School. We would like to thank them all, including the administrative staff, for all their great work. None of this would be possible without their hard work, commitment and dedication.

Lida and Benjamin

FROM MRS CRAIG'S DESK

I would like to take this opportunity to celebrate the achievements of 2020 at Fairfield Heights Public School. Our students have demonstrated a commitment to learning and the flexibility and resilience required to meet the challenges of the unexpected and are ready to move forward in 2021.

Together with the other members of the executive team I have enjoyed greeting parents and students at the gate each morning and appreciated the number of parents who took time to say hello and the courtesy of students who "Good Morning Mrs Craig". It is a lovely way to start the day for both teachers and students. I would like to acknowledge and thank the executive staff who have given up their time before and after school to ensure that our students are welcomed and farewelled each day.

Congratulations to our Year Six students who have been excellent role models on our playground and are showing great enthusiasm and support for all school based activities as the year draws to a close. The dignity and respect they are giving to our school tells me that they are going to have a very successful transition to High School in 2021 and I wish everyone of them every success.

We have celebrated student leadership in 2020 with special assemblies throughout the year and I hope everyone enjoyed the individual photos that we sent home since social distancing meant we could not have parent visitors to our assemblies.

The Captains, Prefects and SRC members have supported Book Week, Sports Fun Days, K-2 Fun Days by actively working with teachers and students so that everyone could enjoy and participate in all of the events. Their help was very much appreciated.

Year Six leaders have worked with our teacher-librarians to re-shelve the books after borrowing. Mrs Ryan and Mrs Currao told me that they have been very impressed by their behaviour and have valued their contribution to the presentation of the library.

I am looking forward to next week when we will be holding a Presentation Assembly for each grade, K-6. We will be taking the time to acknowledge, celebrate and recognise the achievement, effort and success of many of our students and as always I would like to congratulate the teachers for working so hard to ensure that every child achieves their very best.

I would like to take the time to say thank you for the support that you continue to give our school and I look forward to seeing everyone back at Fairfield Heights Public School next year.

*Mrs Craig
Deputy Principal*

Talk to your kids before a stranger does.

No matter what their age, if your kids are online, now's the time to talk about online safety.

It can be hard to know how and when to talk to kids about staying safe online. While they might know a lot about technology, they don't always know as much as you do about life.

To better understand the issues and start the conversation, you need the right tools, tips and advice. Through our eSafety website, you can learn how to talk to your kids about cyberbullying, online predators, sexting and other inappropriate content.

Visit [eSafety.gov.au](https://www.esafety.gov.au)

FROM MRS LIND'S DESK

This term has been extremely busy and exciting for our students and teachers. The students are to be congratulated on their commitment to learning in such an unusual year. We are very proud of them!

I have had the pleasure of working with many classes across the 3-6 this semester, in the use of technology. Year 6 students have been learning to use block code to program Makey Makey then connect it to make a simple circuit. They have been able to make music play on a cardboard guitar using this equipment. Over the year, other grades have had experiences with the STEM kits and Dash robots, as well as with the Lego WeDo. All of the students love participating in technology lessons provided by their teachers and enjoy watching the robots run around, doing what they have coded them to do. Our 3-6 students have also become skilled at using Google Classroom as part of their work routine, using Docs, Slides and Forms to complete tasks.

Students have had the opportunity to participate in school-based fun days that included games, art, technology and sporting activities. The children really enjoy these days and we have a few more planned before the end of the year. We also had a wonderful Book Character Parade to celebrate Book Week. The students look fabulous dressed up as their favourite characters and, as always, the library displays were amazing!

Last year we had a mural designed for our stage by a local Indigenous artist. Our indigenous students have been helping to paint this mural on our primary stage area. Although we have had a lot of interruptions to this process, it is starting to take shape. Each side tells the story of how girls and boys travelled from a long way to meet up at the meeting place. The front of the stage will have the meeting place symbol on it, as well as two of our local indigenous animal totems. These symbols are meaningful to this area of the school because it is the place where we come to meet and discuss school events. All of the students are enjoying watching the story develop.

Earlier in the year, I took a team of Year 4 and 5 students to Fairfield High School to participate in an Academic Challenge between local public schools. The students had a wonderful day and solved many STEM based challenges. Our team was awarded 3rd place on the day and we were very proud of their achievements.

In sporting news, our students have been participating in many excellent school-based sporting activities. There has been a school-based soccer tournament being played at lunchtimes, which has been extremely popular, both for those students playing and those cheering on their favourite teams! We also had the opportunity for students to participate in a local Gala Day event. Students left the school for a day of fun sporting games against other schools in the area. It was a really hot day but the kids had a great time.

As the year draws to a close, we prepare to farewell our wonderful Year 6 students as we send them on their way to high school. They will be practising using a timetable, changing classrooms and teachers, as part of our in-school Year 7 Transition Program – they are really excited about this! We also have many fun things planned for them over the coming weeks.

Good luck Year 6, we will miss you! Have a peaceful holiday.

Samantha Lind
Deputy Principal