



HIGHLIGHTS

NEWSLETTER OF FAIRFIELD HEIGHTS PUBLIC SCHOOL

May 2021

From the desk of Mrs Craig

I have been very proud of our students and school during the past weeks.

We had a number of visitors to the school for a Principals' conference and our students were well mannered, respectful and greeted our visitors happily.

Our playground was clean and tidy and students were wearing our uniform with pride. I very much enjoyed walking across the playground and having the students say "Hello Mrs Craig!" Many of our visitors acknowledged the quality of our gardens and playing areas. We are a very lucky school.

Mrs Benetel and I shared the Camden St crossing duty and appreciated the number of students and parents who said "Good afternoon" and "Thank you".

Our students are settled and working well and are participating in a wide range of exciting and challenging activities.

Year 4 and Year 6 students have completed their Literacy and Numeracy Check In and Year 3 and Year 5 students have completed NAPLAN testing. Their behaviour and effort were exemplary.

The Year 6 students are enjoying their gymnastics program. Years 3 – 6 teams have been training for PSSA sport and school based sport has begun for all grades K-6.

Year 5 students are visiting Minnamurra Falls in Week 7 and Year 2 students will be enjoying a Colonial Fun Day at school also during week 7. (More information to follow.)

Mrs Kumar is busy organising the Premier's Spelling Bee and I am looking forward to welcoming our parents to our Gold Banner Assemblies on Thursday 27th May.

I am also looking forward to watching the Year 4 chariot races on Wednesday and congratulating Mr Harris and the Year 4 teachers and students on their creative use of technology.

I would like to acknowledge the commitment and enthusiasm of our teachers and the support they give to our students enabling them to successfully participate across such a wide range of curriculum activities.

Mrs S. Craig, R/Principal

DATES TO REMEMBER

| MAY | | JUNE | | | |
|------|----------------------|------|---------------------------------|------|-----------------------------|
| 27th | Gold Banner Assembly | 2nd | Year 2 Colonial Fun Day | 18th | Reports Home |
| | | 3rd | Year 5 Excursion | 22nd | Parent / Teacher Interviews |
| | | 14th | Queen's Birthday Public Holiday | 23rd | School Photos |

From the desk of Mrs Benetel

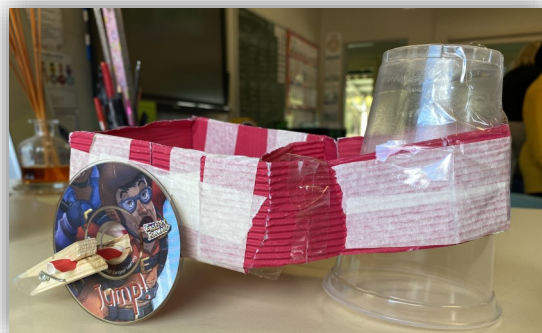
There are some amazing things happening with technology at our school. You may have heard your child talking to you about Spheros, Micro: Bits, chariots, coding, 3D printers and other things that you may have never heard of before. These are all part of our expanding technology resources and are currently being used in programs that have been designed by our specialist technology teacher, Mr Harris. He brings a wealth of ideas, expertise and enthusiasm to our school and is developing some engaging and challenging programs that encourage critical and creative thinking. To support these and other initiatives and programs, the school has recently purchased Spheros, Micro: bits, 3D printers and additional laptops.

Our new STEAMD (Science, Technology, English, Arts, Mathematics and Design) programs have commenced with Years 4 and 6. Year 4 is currently designing chariots that will be powered by the Spheros, which are programmed by the students. Students are currently in the design phase of this project and are learning to budget and plan as part of the process. Very soon, students will be testing their designs for speed and durability. Classrooms are abuzz with enthusiasm as children collaborate, plan and test their ideas. Year 6 is using the new 3D printers to bring their design ideas to life. This term, they will also be learning about the fundamentals of programming and coding and experimenting with Micro: Bits. These design programs integrate skills from Science and Technology, English, the Arts and Mathematics and are highly engaging. Not only are they enjoyable for both students and teachers, but they also teach students valuable problem-solving skills. As the year progresses, we will be expanding these programs into other grades.

Technology is being used in each and every classroom. Teachers design and deliver engaging lessons using interactive boards and students use laptops and Ipads to support their learning. We have recently purchased additional laptops to ensure that the students have access to the latest technology. Technology skills and experiences are integrated across the curriculum with students using a range of digital platforms and devices to plan, research, collaborate, design and edit.

We are also teaching Cyber Safety units across the school to ensure that students are taught about how to use technology safely, responsibly and ethically. In addition, we have scheduled a workshop, which is provided by the local Youth Liaison Police Officer for our older students. to build their understanding of good decision making when using technology.

We have plans for further expansion of our technology resources and programs. Stay tuned!



From the desk of Mrs Cooper

It has been a very busy term at Fairfield Heights Public School. The K-2 Department is very settled and I am delighted to see most students arriving at school on time ready to learn.

One of the most exciting things about my role is having the opportunity to visit classrooms and being involved in some engaging lessons. It is very rewarding looking at the amazing work that is being produced by our students. I regularly listen to children in Kindergarten, Year One and Year Two read and I am always thrilled when students develop a love for literature.

Kindergarten have been working hard to learn their phonemes and camera words and this is having a positive impact on their reading. In Mathematics, students have been learning about patterns and shapes as well as continuing to explore counting forwards and backwards. In Science, Kindergarten have been learning about the weather and conducting fun experiments and creating beautiful pieces of art.

The Year One students look forward to their Science lessons each week. They have been exploring the changes that occur in the sky. Students have conducted investigations about why day and night occurs, how the sun creates shadows across the day and the changes in the shape of the moon.

Year One are working hard to improve their sentence writing skills. The students have had the opportunity to research a variety of animals and write information reports using interesting facts. In mathematics, they have learnt how to use a number line to solve addition and subtraction problems. We have some amazing mathematicians in Year One!

Year 2 have been learning to write imaginative narratives using rich vocabulary just like an author does in an attempt to engage the reader.

In mathematics they are continuing to learn about money and how to add Australian notes and coins. Some children are also able to confidently work out change. A mathematics consultant will be working in the Year 2 classrooms this term, providing Year 2 teachers with professional development to further improve students learning outcomes and teaching practices.

The Year 2 teachers are also extremely busy teaching the students how to use Google Classroom and are creating lessons to engage students and develop their ICT skills.

In History, Year 2 are studying the changes in technology from the past to the present day and the teachers have organised a special day on Wednesday 2nd June for all the students to experience what life was like in the past.

Congratulations to all of the students who are receiving a Gold Banner at this Thursdays presentation.

Looking to the future....

Year 2 Colonial Day

On Wednesday 2nd June 2021 Year 2 students will be participating in activities to explore life in the past. Don't forget to wear your play clothes.

Gold Banner Assembly

We will be holding an assembly for our Gold Banner recipients this term. We are looking forward to welcoming parents and carers back to our assemblies. Details will be provided soon. (Week 6)

Year 5 Excursion to Minnamurra Rainforest Excursion

Now that Covid-19 restrictions are easing we have booked several excursions for our students, with our first one being on Thursday 3rd June 2021 for our Year 5 students. They will take the trip to Minnamurra Rainforest Centre where they will be guided through the rainforest looking at the flora and fauna. (Week 7)

Permission notes can be found on our website.

https://fairfieldh-p.schools.nsw.gov.au/permission_notes.html

School Photos

School Photos have been organised for Wednesday 23rd June . Money envelopes will be sent home in the next few weeks with details of the packages available. There are 2 packages to choose from. A \$22 package or a \$32 package. (Week 10)

Queen's Birthday Public Holiday

All schools are closed on Monday 14th June due for the Queen's Birthday Public Holiday. Enjoy your long weekend! (Week 9)

Semester One Reports

Your child's semester one report will be sent home on Friday 18th June. (Week 9)

Parent / Teacher Interviews

You will be able to have a meeting with your child's teacher on the afternoon of Tuesday 22nd June. (Week 10). Notes will be sent home with your child closer to the day.

Police Liaison Officer

Our Police Liaison Officer has been booked again this year to chat to parents about Cyber Safety and the dangers of vaping in schools.

Did you know....

NSW Department of Education

Why attendance matters

When your child misses school they miss important opportunities to...



Learn

education.nsw.gov.au



Make friends



Build skills through fun



Minutes lost = days lost per year

A couple of minutes here and there doesn't seem like much, but...

| When your child misses just... | they miss days per year |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 5 mins per day | = 3 days |
| 30 mins per day | = 18 days |

Patterns of lateness can have a serious impact on your child's education.

education.nsw.gov.au

Days missed = years lost

A day here and there doesn't seem like much, but...

| When your child misses just... | they miss weeks per year | and years over their school life |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1 day per fortnight | = 4 weeks | = Over 1 year missed |
| 1 day per week | = 8 weeks | = Over 2.5 years missed |

COVID-19 TEST REMINDER

Reminder In accordance with advice from NSW Health, parents and carers are reminded NOT to send children to school if they are unwell, even if they have the mildest flu-like symptoms. Schools will make arrangements for students who are unwell or have flu-like symptoms to be sent home. NSW Health have requested that schools encourage anyone who is unwell or has even mild flu-like symptoms, to arrange to be tested through their local medical practitioner or one of the Covid-19 clinics. If your child is tested for Covid-19, it is imperative that you provide a copy of the negative test results to the school office BEFORE your child returns to school. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

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.

OUR SCHOOL WEBSITE

Don't forget to check our school website for latest updates and events that are happening at our school. Our website address is

<https://fairfieldh-p.schools.nsw.gov.au>



HEALTHY CANTEEN

Our school canteen is meeting the NSW Healthy School Canteen Strategy.

By having a healthy canteen we are supporting the health and wellbeing of our students.



STUDENT SAFETY MATTERS

Dear Parents,
Please be aware of the following safety matters.

SCHOOL GATES

- * The school gates are locked at 9.20am each morning.
- * One single gate in Station Street is accessible by a buzzer.
- * Other pedestrian gates are opened at 3.10pm.

PLAYGROUND TEACHER

SUPERVISION commences at 8.45am.

STUDENT TOILETS are only for use by our students.

Parents / visitors are not permitted to use the student toilets.

