



Number 9 Wednesday 25 March 2009 Email: the.principal@ferngrovss.eq.edu.au Website: www.ferngrovss.eq.edu.au
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A WORD (OR TWO) FROM THE PRINCIPAL



HARMONY DAY



Last Friday, thanks to the organisation and leadership of Mrs Rose Abundo and Ms Anne Low, Ferny Grove celebrated Harmony Day for the first time at a special Early Years Assembly. This was driven by Anne and Rose and received terrific support from all teachers.

The program was extensive with a parade of flags, Scottish drum major and bagpipes, greetings in different languages, German song and dance, Mexican hat dance, counting in Spanish and German, Filipino candle dance, Harmony Day acrostic poem and concluding with "I am Australian" sung by the entire audience. The Prep students sang strongly "We'll Sing with the Same Voice" as they were well prepared by their teachers. There was a large audience of parents and I thank them for attending.

The students in the upper year levels were involved in a Harmony Day poster competition and there were many fine contributions. Teachers in these classes approached this important event in different ways.

It was a wonderful event. However, as I remarked at the opening, I feel that every day is a Harmony Day and that this is a way to celebrate. I find it difficult to comprehend how a person could be judged on their racial background, colour of skin, religious belief, age, height, weight or any other physical feature. I just don't understand that this could even come into ones thoughts even though I'm a realist and know it contributes to disputes within and across societies and countries.

I like to think that people are judged on such things as kindness, cooperation, politeness and good manners, being inclusive, positive attitude, tolerance, sharing and many others values that the individual has control over.

This event is one that I would like to think will become part of our annual school calendar where we celebrate together our differences which make this such a wonderful country and school.

NOMINATION FOR NATIONAL SCHOOL PRIDE PROGRAM

As I mentioned in previous newsletters, and discussed at the recent and previous P & C Meetings, the Commonwealth Government has committed special funds over the next three years to provide new facilities and refurbishments of Australian schools. The first of the two programs that this school will be involved in is the above. It is for minor capital works and maintenance projects.

The indicative funding cap for us is \$200 000. Submissions had to be completed before 9am Monday, 23rd March with a maximum of three projects allowed. This deadline was met.

As noted in previous articles and the meetings, the Prep playground upgrade and rebuild was the number one priority. With such a short timeline, and less than a week from receiving an email on the procedures to the deadline, it was fortunate that much preparation had been done. Thanks to the work of our prep teachers in coming forth with a design and Deputy Paul Cooke's persistence in following up contractors, an estimate of the costs was received last Friday leaving only a few hours to spare. This was very important in the selection of other projects.

The three submitted are:

- Prep Playground (Est \$150 000);
- White Boards for classrooms and removal of blackboards; (Dept Est \$2 000 each);
- Replacement carpets (Dept Est. \$2 500 per room)

I believe that a team will visit the school and I will be advised on how this will proceed and if the above selection is approved. The final outcomes will depend on the cost and, if our 1st priority is approved, movement in the price will determine the other two. The projects cannot be changed and I believe that no money will come to the school with all management and payments made from a central point.

While this and the next element of "Building the Education Revolution", has been and will be very time consuming for me and some of my staff, it will deliver facilities that would not have seemed possible or even dreamed about. It is worth the time and effort to 'get it right'.

ICT CONTRIBUTIONS

A circular that was to have been distributed on 18 February was unfortunately "lost in transit". It is attached with this Newsflash.




BARRY STARKEY (PRINCIPAL)



EARLY YEARS NEWS

DATE CLAIMER EASTER HAT PARADE

Parents and friends of Prep to Year 2 students are invited to come to our school hall for 12:00 on the last day of this school term. Please mark **12:00 Thursday, 9 April** in your diaries.



FLICK THE SWITCH FOR EARTH HOUR: ARE YOU TAKING PART?

For one hour, from 8.30pm to 9.30pm, on Saturday 28

March the whole of Australia is being asked to 'flick the switch' for Earth Hour.

Earth Hour, the World Wildlife Fund's global environmental initiative, aims to raise awareness of the climate change issue and makes it possible for individuals to take action and reduce greenhouse emissions. It is a global call to action to every individual, every business and every community – a call to stand up, to take responsibility and to get involved in working towards a sustainable future.

All households are encouraged to participate by switching out their lights and turning off non-essential electrical appliances. It is important to register your participation on the Earth Hour website in order to make your action count.

For more information on how to register and how to participate visit www.earthhour.org/

It's a fantastic way to support your child's creative development and also gain a special keepsake.

STUDENTS: NOMINATE YOUR FAVOURITE TEACHER

Students are now able to tell us all about what makes their teacher so special with the My Favourite Teacher program. This year, students are asked to nominate a teacher who has inspired them to become more creative as part of the Year of Creativity.

Students are encouraged to nominate their favourite teacher via the Education Department's website: www.education.qld.gov.au/community/events/edweek/favteacher/

All students need to do is write in 25 words or less why their favourite teacher is so special. Of course, parents of younger children are encouraged to give them a hand.

Entries close on **8 May** and the winning teachers will be announced during State Education Week, to be held from 1 – 5 June.

DISTRICT LITERACY TRAINING FOR TEACHERS

This week Mr Fraser, Mr Rainbow, Mrs O'Gorman, Mr Kurth, Mrs Paige, Mr Cooke, Mrs Edds, Mrs Begg, Mr Thorpe, Mrs Evans, Mrs Reid will attend training.

ELECTION DAY STALL & SAUSAGE SIZZLE: THANK YOU

Thank you to Fiona Deegan for coordinating the Cake Stall on election day. Thank you to Craig Sharp and members of the Parent Activity Group and P & C for your efforts to run the sausage sizzle.

*Paul Cooke
Deputy Principal*

YR.5 KENILWORTH CAMP

We wish our Year 5 campers a happy time at Kenilworth. Expected arrival time at Ferny Grove on Friday is 2.45pm at the Finvoy Street entrance.

*Belinda Evans
Deputy Principal*

YEAR 7S – ONE 2 ONE – RAFFLE

Thank you to all members of the Ferny Grove Community who supported this raffle at the school election stall on Saturday.

Thus far \$960 has been raised and the families of the children in this class will continue to sell tickets until 1 April with the raffle being drawn at Assembly on 6 April. This is held to support the School IT program.

A huge thank-you to Microsoft for donating \$2 400 dollars worth of software and hardware as raffle prizes. There are to be six prizes in total.

ICT NEWS

Smarter Classrooms:

Our school plan to install data projectors in every classroom is beginning to come to fruition. Along with the Computer 4 Teachers Laptop program, the use of ICTs in classrooms is really gaining momentum.

ICT Contribution:

Thank you to families who have paid their ICT contribution. Your assistance not only supports our ICT program, but provides a little extra for your child. Payments can be made at the school office.

Computer Speakers Wanted:

If you have a set of computer speakers that are no longer wanted, we could make great use of them in our classrooms. Donations of speakers can be made to Mrs Read in the library. Please place equipment and all cables in a small box or bag and drop them off at your earliest convenience.

*Wendy Read
Head of Curriculum and
IT Coordinator*

TELSTRA KIDS GRANT

\$1 200 is up for grabs for the school to obtain resources to assist the students. The Telstra Kids Fund gives grants to employees of Telstra or to a close relative to benefit an organisation your child is involved in.

There are many items on the school's wish list e.g. resources for early years, arts program, musical instruments, sports items, etc.

If you can assist FGSS, please contact Shannon on 3851 1312 or email: swoodrow@bigpond.net.au

The application opens in late April and we have a better chance the earlier we apply.



DATE CLAIMERS: The National Assessment Program in Literacy & Numeracy (NAPLAN)

The National Assessment Program Literacy & Numeracy will involve all Year 3, 5 and 7 students across Australia. Students will participate in assessment tasks on 12, 13, 14 May. Please endeavour to plan for your child to be at school on these days. Information for parents can be accessed: <http://www.naplan.edu.au/parents/parents.html> Information is also available on the Queensland Studies Authority website: www.qsa.qld.edu.au

ABSENCE LINE – 3550 5360 – FOR STUDENT ABSENCES – Phone any time , Wait for the BEEP, Slowly and clearly state – your name + your child's name + roll class + date of absence + reason for absence.



PARENTS AND CAREGIVERS OF YR. 4 STUDENTS

Please bring the children and come join us for a play and morning tea in the park on Wednesday, April 15 at the Upper Kedron Park.

Time: 9:30 -12:30
Bring: Some morning tea, balls, Frisbees etc.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Year 4 CPRs

YEARS 3 - 7 CROSS COUNTRY

On Thursday 2nd April, children will be competing in our inter-house cross country event. Each class has been preparing for the day building up their fitness and motivation for the effort to come.



Some keen students have been doing extra training in their own time with the volunteer help of Mr Garry Thompson – Many thanks.

12/13 years 9.00am
11 years 10.00am
10 years 12.00pm
9 years 12.35pm
Yr.3s 1.50pm

Students will be competing for House points towards the trophy, and possible selection for the District event on Tuesday 5 May. **Good luck to all!**



Kent Rainbow P.E.Specialist

DEFENCE NEWS



At the Defence Afternoon Tea, I had a display of defence children's comments. I had such a great response from the display, from both parents and children that I have decided to share some of these thoughts with you each week. These comments were spoken by the children while their Mum or Dad was on deployment or away for service reasons. Here are two for this week.



"I miss Daddy listening to me read. He used to snuggle next to me in bed and give my teddy a hug. Teddy misses Daddy too."

"Mummy misses Daddy cause she said she needs a holiday!"

Exercises and training have commenced for the rotational deployments due to occur later in the year.

Many members will be absent from home for several weeks only to return home for a week or so and be off again for further training. Most units will be affected by this increase in activity.

Please let me know if you will be involved with this as many children and families will require support over this very busy period.

Have a great week. Until next time take care.

Marilyn Young DSTA

myoun178@eq.edu.au



RECEIVE THE NEWSLETTER ELECTRONICALLY

To minimise our environmental impact and to ensure you receive the weekly newsletter electronically, please forward your child's name, class and email address care of

newsflash@ferngrovss.eq.edu.au

GOTCHAS: Well Done!



These children were caught **'doing the right thing'** and are rewarded with an ice block voucher from the tuckshop.

- Chelsea C 4F
- Liam C 4JM
- Liam J 6P
- Shania W 4L
- Thomas F 4S
- Miriam M 7M

CLASSROOM NOTICES



- CPR Letters, telephone trees
- Yr.1 Teddy Bear Activities
- Yr.7 Planetarium excursion

FORTHCOMING ATTRACTIONS



Thu 26 Mar	• Yr.5 Camp • Prep - Easter Bilby
Fri 27 Mar	• Early Years Assembly • Yr.5 return from Camp
Mon 30 Mar	• Senior Parade
Tue 31 Mar	• School Council 7.00 pm
Thu 2 Apr	• Inter House Cross Country



LOST PROPERTY

Lost property is building again, and will continue to pile up after camps.

Please come and check for your child's lost property, which is accumulating

Unfortunately, most of these items are **unnamed**, which makes tracking down owners impossible.

We hope you will search through the overflowing bins and reclaim your lost items.

\$\$\$ MONEY BOX PAYMENTS \$\$\$ TUES, WED & THURS ONLY			
Class and Activity	Date of Activity	Cost	Latest date to pay
ICT Contribution		\$35.00	
ART Contribution		\$10.00	
R. E. Contribution		\$3.00	
Yr.4 Mt. Coot- tha	Mar/Apr	\$6.00	ASAP
Yr.6 Camp	6 April	\$265	26 Mar
Yr.7 Planetarium	8 April	\$235	2 April

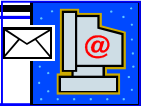
Would you like your Newsflash delivered using 21st Century technology?

Email your request to Newsflash@ferngrovss.eq.edu.au

Please include the name and class of the eldest child in your family. e.g. Susan Allen 4A



All items for inclusion in the current Newsflash should be emailed to Newsflash@ferngrovss.eq.edu.au by **3.00 pm on Mondays.**



MOTHER'S DAY STALL DONATIONS



We need your help!

To help keep the cost of items down, we are seeking donations of the following items from each year level:

- Prep Individually wrapped chocs. or wrapped lollies
- Year 1 Bound A5 notebooks (pref hardcover) or small spiral bound notebooks
- Year 2 Nice pens, gel pens
- Year 3 Post-it notes
- Year 4 Potpourri
- Year 5 Clear glass votive candle holder
- Year 6 Individually wrapped coffee or teabags (e.g. Twinings)
- Year 7 Coffee mugs

We are also seeking empty baby food jars, scrap booking or vellum paper (sheets or off-cuts) or card stock, ribbons and embellishments of any kind.

Please bring any donations to the tuckshop as soon as you can. All donations will be greatly appreciated. Once we have enough items, craft kits will be prepared and these can be taken home to assemble by those interested. Keep an eye out in the newsletter for details.

ANNUAL TRIVIA NIGHT

After the raging success of the 2008 Trivia Night we have decided to hold it again this year on 23 May, 2009.

Tickets will be available for sale prior to the night. Start organising your team.

We are currently taking suggestions for a theme for the night. Please contact Allison if you have any suggestions on how we can improve on last year's night.

Allison Exley 0423 662 997

STATIONERY STORE:

OPENING HOURS: Monday & Friday 8 – 9 am. Authorised **TAX RECEIPTS** now available for collection.

A4 MESH POUCHES (Yr 1,2,3) now in stock. (Prepaid orders have been delivered)

Charyl Cowles, Convenor
3550 5359 (0431 265 068)

UNIFORM STORE

Mon and Fri 8.00 am - 9.00 am
Christine Thompson, Convenor
0400 223 818

PARENT ACTIVITY GROUP

Thank you to all who donated baked goods and helped out on election day for the sausage sizzle and cake stall. This all contributed to a very successful day!

Allison Exley

TUCKSHOP NEWS

Hot cross buns arrive Friday - ready to be collected from 1.30pm at the tuckshop and after school until 3.30 pm.

DEB CHEERS (CONVENOR)

Date	Tuckshop Roster
Thu 26 Mar	Nicole Wall, Donna Bassett
Fri 27 Mar	Debbie Beyer, Katrina Collins, Julie Haslam
Mon 30 Mar	Sue Ripper
Tue 31 Mar	HELP NEEDED!
Wed 1 Apr	Meg Leslie
Thu 2 Apr	Greta Naumann



ROAD SAFETY

It has been noted that many children are riding scooters to school.

Whilst this will not be discouraged, in the light of health, well-being and sustainability, there are a few rules we would like the children to follow.

Parents, we would like you to encourage your children to wear safety helmets and safety elbow and knee pads. Whilst these are not law, Ferny Grove State School suggests that unless children are prepared to wear a helmet in particular, we would prefer that this mode of transport not be used to travel to and from school.

If you would like to check the road rules governing their use, log onto the Queensland Transport website.

Thanking you for your anticipated support in this matter.

Leanne Reid

Road Safety coordinator

COMMUNITY NEWS



VACANCY SCHOOL CROSSING SUPERVISOR



A casual position exists for a School Crossing Supervisor at Ferny Grove State School.

- Remuneration \$21.33 per hour
- 1.5 hours per day on a roster system
- 2 - 5 days per week currently available

Application packs available from the school office .

Applications close:

27 March 2009 - 3.00 pm

Applications to be returned to:
Business Services Manager

"BLANKET PARTY"



To be held at Cedar Creek Community Hall, Cedar Creek Road, Upper Kedron on Sunday 29th March 2009 between 2pm - 5pm. Donations of unwanted / new blankets to go to Salvation Army's Brisbane Outreach Centre.

They are in desperate need of blankets to help keep those less fortunate than ourselves warm this winter.

"We can change the world - one act of kindness at a time."

TENNIS COACHING – DAVE PRICKETT
(acc. TPAA) - Phone 3351 4483

Coaching is at Ferny Grove State School
Monday: 3.00 pm — 3.45 pm (BEGINNERS)
Friday: 7.45 am — 8.30 am (ADVANCED)

BEGINNERS receive new racquet FREE

Name:
Phone No:
Grade:



To Enrol: Return form to Office or

Phone Coach **Dave Prickett – 3351 4483**

EXPERT SERVE COACHING AVAILABLE FOR ADULTS AND CHILDREN

P & C NOTICEBOARD — next meeting Wednesday 22 APRIL

Tuckshop – 3550 5361
Mon-Fri 8.30-12.00 pm

Uniform Store - 3550 5342
Mon and Fri 8.00 - 9.00 am

Stationery Store – 3550 5359
Mon and Fri 8.00 - 9.00 am

OSHC
Gail 3851 2196