

FOCUS NEWSLETTER

Wisdom, Respect, Courage



Issue # 85

Welcome to Freshwater Bay FOCUS Newsletter

"The problem is no longer getting people to express themselves, but providing little gaps of solitude and silence in which they might eventually find something to say.... What a relief to have nothing to say, the right to say nothing, because only then is there a chance of framing...the thing that might be worth saying."

— [Gilles Deleuze](#)

17 November 2022

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Here we are at the end of week 6, with just over 4 weeks to go. I am pleased to report that we have had a busy and productive term 4.

Something interesting for us all to contemplate:

Children need to be caring, kind, respectful, and ethical.

Child experts have revealed that there are certain things families need to do to make sure this occurs. Psychologists at Harvard University explained in their quarterly peer-reviewed scientific journal, *Research in Human Development*, clearly shows that the seeds of empathy, caring, and compassion are present from early in life, but that to become caring, ethical people, children need adults to help them at every stage of childhood to nurture these seeds into full development.

Points they recommend from their research;

How

- Work to develop caring, loving relationships with your kids
- Be a strong moral role model and mentor
- Making caring for others a priority and set high ethical standards
- Provide opportunities for children to practice caring and gratitude
- Expand your child's circle of concern
- Promote children's ability to be ethical thinkers and positive change-makers in their communities
- Help children develop self-control and manage feelings effectively

Board Representation

We had no nominations for the Board position. If you are interested in being on the Board and you have had more time to consider it, please forward your interest to Debbie and Bridget at the front office by Monday November 21.

Meeting Parents and our new Kindy Children

It was exciting for me to meet our new students and their parents last week. What a highly motivated and excited group of children. I believe strongly in the importance of early years' education and also having parents engaged in schooling. Parents, families and carers are a child's first and most important teachers. Freshwater Bay PS has many initiatives and activities that welcome and help new parents into our fabulous community. Having now met most of our new families I can say that their enthusiasm will certainly continue to make our school community a wonderful place to be.

We all believe that attending a good Kindy and Primary school, has a profoundly positive impact on a child's academic progress. A high quality early childhood program followed by an academically effective primary school gives children's development a significant boost. I would like to add that research has shown that children need stimulating in the early years in a home-learning environment to start with and to then build upon this. It was so evident in listening to our new families, that the children are coming to us from dynamic, creative and loving homes.

Remembrance Day

On Friday we stopped at the 11am, as Charles Bean (Noted War Correspondent) did one hundred years ago, where he penned the words 'today we solemnly commemorate the Armistice. In silence, a silence that beckons and prays for peace, we honour the 102,000 Australians who have lost their lives in war for us. For our tomorrows, they gave their today.' The Assembly Service by the year 6 students was outstanding and I commend them on how respectful they were around the whole event. Special thanks to Cindy and Ben for the wonderful Assembly and the learning experience at Karrakatta which the students were involved.

Book Fair

The annual Scholastics Book Fair is being held in the library again this year commencing on Monday November 21 at 8.15am and in the afternoon from 2.45pm, it will run daily until Friday morning November 25. There is a fantastic array of books on offer and they are perfect for stocking fillers, just in time for Christmas!

Cans for Christmas

Thank you to everyone who has already donated to this very worthy cause. There are many families who are really struggling at the moment. Please donate some things that are also items that would be considered treats, not just food items. People who are struggling only go for the bare necessities, it would be wonderful for them have a something that's a little bit special. i.e. Christmas pudding and the like. We only have until Friday next week November 25 to stock the tree.

Swimming Lessons

We are so fortunate to have such an exceptional swimming program. It is not something that is consistent across Australia. I have witnessed the excitement and eagerness of our students and the enthusiasm of the swim teachers, it is no wonder all our students showed good progress over the last two weeks.



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Proposed School Structure for 2023

Our student numbers for 2023 are growing, we are up 30 students from our present number, and continues to increase weekly.

Present numbers;

Kindy	60
Pre-primary	49
Year 1	72
Year 2	56
Year 3	50
Year 4	46
Year 5	58
Year 6	54

Below is the proposed school class structure for 2023. These classes are fluid and may change depending on student movement in and out of our school.

Kindy 1	Kindy 3
Kindy 2	
Pre-primary	Pre-primary
Year 1	Year 1
Year 1	
Year 2	Year 2
Year 2/3	
Year 3	
Year 3/4	
Year 4	
Year 5	Year 5
Year 6	Year 6

Planning for 2023

We are well underway with planning and preparation for 2023.

Class Organisation

Every year I receive emails from concerned parents around their children being placed in a class with what is described as split year level. There many myths around this notion.

My child will benefit academically by being in a straight grade

The curriculum is designed in a spiral (called Bands), with increasing complexity of concepts, skills and knowledge. Students need to demonstrate understanding of each spiral before moving onto the next stage of the curriculum. Skilful teachers assess the learning needs of the students and design learning programs to guide their learning to move to the next concept level. All the teachers in our school are providing learning programs for multi ability groups.

My child needs to be with their friends

An important part of schooling is learning to be part of a community. We are working towards equipping our children with the necessary skills to be an engaged member of our larger society when they leave school in year 12.

One of the most important skills is making friends and working with different people. Students need to learn;

- how to be approachable, introducing themselves, saying hello, smile and not appearing too anxious
- look for someone else who may have similar interests or someone they can learn from
- actively listen to others
- recognise and accept differences in people and being able to be respectful and understanding
- learn that change is something that will happen throughout their lives and looking positively at change will allow new and exciting opportunities to be opened up to them.

As uncomfortable as change can be it is an important part of a child growing up, developing resilience and establishing positive coping strategies.

I urge all parents to resist the urge to jump to your child's wants when it comes to class placements. We go to great lengths to organise class groups that are around student's social and academic development. We have over the year/s developed a comprehensive picture of all of our students through classroom observation, experience and ongoing home communication. We take note of all correspondence from all parents and take that into consideration in our decisions.

There will not be a Transition Day this year as our numbers continue to grow and as a result there will be some changes. I will keep the whole community informed as changes occur. At this stage because of the numbers in the middle years we may have two split classes, however it is a little early to call this.

2023 BOOK LISTS

Just a reminder to place and make payment for your 2023 Book lists before November 29 2022. Book lists can be found here <https://www.freshwaterbayps.wa.edu.au/2019-book-lists>

COVID-19 & Personal Hygiene

Unfortunately, we are told that Covid-19 infection numbers are on the rise again. I urge everyone to make sure that you are up to date with your vaccinations. School staff continue to encourage students to wash their hands before and after breaks and before and after using any shared equipment. (It has been interesting to note the dramatic decrease in colds and flus that has resulted from our additional vigilance.) **If your child is unwell**, please ensure they remain at home until any symptoms have ceased.

Before and after school drop off of children

Thank you for everyone's support in ensuring that the continuous flow of traffic both in the morning and afternoon at both Kiss and Drop zones. I must stress that children are not to enter the school grounds before 8.30am. Children are only supervised at the Bayview Terrace Kiss 'n Drop in the morning. I encourage all parents to support the school with maintaining the before school routines. The CUBE car park is for staff only. This car park is being used as a Kiss 'n Drive for parents. Thank you for your ongoing support.

