

FOCUS NEWSLETTER

Wisdom, Respect, Courage



Issue # 73

Welcome to Freshwater Bay FOCUS Newsletter

Dear Parents & Guardians,

Welcome to the 2022 Academic year. I especially welcome all our new students, families and staff to the Freshwater Bay community. I hope all our families have enjoyed a relaxing break and are ready for the new year.

COVID-19 will no doubt present some challenges during 2022, but I want to reassure all families of our two key priorities:

- Ensuring the health and wellbeing of staff and students
- Providing quality learning opportunities for all students

1. IMPORTANT DATES

Monday 31 January	All students will commence school. Please refer below for instructions for Monday.
Wednesday 02 February	Beach swimming lessons commence for Year 5-6 students.
8 February	Edu-Dance begins. Week 2 -10 teachers will confirm the days for each class in week 1)
9 February	<u>Parent Information Sessions have been cancelled.</u> We will not be having teacher/parent class meetings. Each teacher will provide a detailed letter to parents outlining their focus for the year, how they will support you and your child, and suggestions as to how you can support them and your child. If you have any specific matters you wish to discuss with the teacher about your child, please make an appointment and work out an amenable time. Thank you for your understanding.
Wednesday 23 February	P & C AGM
Friday 25 February	P & C Family Sundowner
Friday 4 March	House Swimming Carnival

Day 1 of School - Instructions

We respectfully request parents to do the following:

- **Kindy – Pre-primary** - Parents to only enter outdoor learning area but not enter classrooms between 8.30 am - 8.45 AM. Please exit school grounds immediately thereafter.
- **Year 1** - Parents only enter Cowan Hall but not enter classrooms between 8.30 am - 8.45 AM. Please exit school grounds immediately thereafter.
- **Years 2 - 6** - Parents are requested to not enter classrooms but to farewell their child at the door.

2. Events

The School has many events each year to build connections within our parent community. Parent engagement is important; however, to ensure the health and wellbeing of staff and students, we may have to review each event, the numbers attending, and the venue to determine if the event can go ahead. We will monitor the situation and endeavour to give you timely advisement of any changes to planned events.

3. COVID-19

We have previously managed the COVID -19 situation as a community, and we will do so again. We will keep you informed as the situation changes and minimise any impact on your child's learning.

Reporting COVID-19 to the school

It is important that you inform the school if your child or a family member are being tested for COVID-19. Please also advise us of the test results. This information is **confidential** and is to be sent to me at FreshwaterBay.PS.PrincipalContact@education.wa.edu.au. Please **also register** your child's absentee via the Compass App under 'Absentees' and state reason for being absent as being unwell.

What the School will be doing

- Keeping you well informed with clear communication.
- Ensuring vaccination requirements are met. All staff are double vaccinated and are required to receive a booster shot. Requirements for visitors and contractors will be followed.
- Maximising natural ventilation and reviewing ventilation with additional filters installed in air conditioners and air purifiers being provided where needed as per government guidelines.
- Regularly reviewing all events.
- Limiting parents and visitors on site.
- Ensuring mask protocols are understood and followed by staff.
- Staff can remove their mask if they are teaching or providing instructions.
- Promoting social distancing where possible.
- Continuing with additional cleaning regimes throughout the day as implemented in 2021.
- Encouraging the use of hand sanitiser (we have significant supplies) and handwashing.
- Using outdoor spaces for learning where possible.
- Ensuring students are outdoors, particularly during breaks or when eating.

Mask wearing

I am aware of concerns in the community about children wearing masks. My intent behind making the statement that it is “highly encouraged” is from a position of safety of all our children, as well as supporting children with developing positive habits of mask wearing in a supportive environment.

The policy statement from the Chief Health Officer is;

Primary students can choose to wear a mask and are encouraged to do so. Based on advice from the Chief Health Officer, once there is a high caseload of COVID-19 in the environment, masks will become mandatory for students in Year 3 and above.

It is each family’s discretion what you chose to do and we will be very supportive of all children and families.

Vaccination requirements

- All staff at Freshwater Bay are vaccinated.
- Parents and carers are not required to show proof of vaccination when dropping off or picking up their child from school, including entering buildings.
- Volunteering at school on an ad hoc basis (attending only one school/education facility no more than once per week) does not require proof of vaccination.
- Attending an event such as an assembly, sports carnival or parent teacher interview does not require proof of vaccination.
- Parents and carers are required to provide proof of their double dose vaccination from 31 January 2022 and must have their third dose (booster) within one calendar month of becoming eligible or an exemption when:
 - Volunteering at the school more than once a week or at multiple schools within a week (this includes volunteering at the school canteen, uniform store or an in-class literacy or numeracy program).
 - Working in an unpaid capacity at the school more than once a week or at multiple schools within a week.
 - Participating in an endorsed program at the school where parent attendance is required.

Students are not required to be vaccinated. However, parents are encouraged to get their children 5 years and older vaccinated. Information on the safety and efficacy of the COVID-19 vaccines is available on healthy.wa.gov.au.

How can parents assist?

- Ensuring all students attend school.
- Keep your child at home if they are unwell or have any COVID - 19 like symptoms.
- Promptly collect your child if informed they are unwell while at school.
- Parents should wear a mask when in any school building and avoid being on the school campus unless necessary.
- Encouraging social distancing.

We look forward to commencing the year and supporting your children so that they thrive and reach their potential in 2022 at Freshwater Bay PS. Should you have any questions about your child commencing the year or the above arrangements, don't hesitate to contact the front office.

Simon Reid
Principal