

FOCUS NEWSLETTER

Wisdom, Respect, Courage



Issue # 44

Welcome to Freshwater Bay FOCUS Newsletter



The most beautiful word on the lips of mankind is the word "Mother," and the most beautiful call is the call of "My Mother", it is a word full of hope and love, a sweet and kind word coming from the depths of the heart. The Mother is everything – she is our consolation in sorrow, our hope in misery, and our strength in weakness. She is the source of love, mercy, sympathy and forgiveness.

- Khalil Gibran

Role of Mother's

Parents are the first teachers that a child has. As parents we set out with a vision for our children and how we would like our family to be. Mother's day is a day in the year where we acknowledge the importance of mothers and the roles they play in our personal world and the community at large. My early memories of my Mum and my Grandmothers are not of what they said to me, but are of what I saw them doing for me and for others. They were selfless, hardworking, loving, consistent in their expectations of me and I thought they were clever. They could help me out with anything and most of all they always had time for me. To me my mum was amazing and she still is. I don't always agree with her but she still says that I am clever, handsome, hardworking, a great dad and is always enthusiastic about what I am doing. All the messages I now give my own children. There is a direct synergy here what I saw I now here. To me the messages I hear from her have strong meaning because they are totally congruent with what I have seen her do herself throughout my life.

What I have described about my personal situation is what I have come to appreciate about all mums. For us fathers and offspring, mums are a true wonder of the world. As fathers we are so grateful for the gift of fatherhood and marvel at what mums do and as offspring we are grateful for the unconditional love that comes from all mums. Our mums make our world an amazing place to be, Thank you. Hoping all Freshwater Bay Mothers enjoyed a wonderful Mother's Day.

Whole School Approach to Literacy Learning

Literacy skills and knowledge are key to being successful at school and further down the track when we leave school. What is not often associated with the discussion about literacy is that it is not an innate ability that we have, unlike walking and talking. There are many cultures over time that have successfully passed down their stories and cultural beliefs, without written text.

Literacy requires both encoding (spelling), decoding (reading) and writing, which requires both. Learning this is a complex process that involves learning, adapting and applying. For students to develop high level literacy skills and knowledge, the process takes time, persistence and commitment to practice. At Freshwater Bay we have strong processes around having a Whole School Approach to Literacy Learning, where students each year add layers onto their understanding of literacy and develop their skills in increasing complexity.

What we teach however, needs practice for students to become proficient. This is where home is important. Students need to practice the essentials over and over again so that sounds are recalled as easily as talking and reading is as easy as walking. Practice at home is not about challenge it is about reinforcement and confidence. We want your support in developing positive habits around literacy.

Things you can do and these apply to all ages:

- Read aloud age appropriate books, both them and you with them.
- Practise the sounds, know the letter names and their sounds, instant recall is important.
- Promote literacy with words and actions, let the children see you reading and talk to them about what your reading and why. Children learn more from what they see us do than what we say.
- Talk about what you have learnt from what you have read recently, this demonstrates purpose.
- Find time every day to have them read.

Consistency is the key, consistency gets results.

150 Year Time Capsule Volunteers

Thank you to those of you who have put your hand up to assist in planning for our school's 150th Anniversary, we still have a couple of spots available if anyone is interested, please email bridget.robertson@education.wa.edu.au

Upcoming Pupil Free Days

Friday May 31st

Friday August 23rd

Bullying

Families' role in creating a supportive school culture is important. Research demonstrates that efforts to change the attitudes and behaviour of students are more likely to be successful if families are actively involved and share a sense of ownership over the process.

What can you do to help reduce bullying in our school?

- Talk regularly with your children about bullying
- Encourage your children to 'ask for help' if they are being bullied at school
- If your children are fighting at home, help them discuss their problem and come to a mutual solution
- Encourage your children to be assertive by helping them to practise speaking in a firm but friendly way, making eye contact, looking calm and smiling and feeling good about themselves

What is bullying?

Bullying is when one or more of the following things happen AGAIN and AGAIN to someone who finds it hard to stop it from happening again.

Bullying is when a person or a group of people offline or online (mobile phone or Internet):

- Make fun of / tease someone in a mean and hurtful way.
- Tell lies or spread nasty rumours about someone to try to make others not like him/her. • Leave someone out on purpose or not allow him/her to join in.
- Hit, kick or push someone around. • Deliberately damage, destroy or steal someone's things. • Threaten or make someone feel afraid of getting hurt.



It is NOT bullying when:

- Teasing is done in a friendly, playful way.
- Two people who are as strong as each other argue or fight.



Keeping up to date

Just a reminder for Parents to please ensure you have downloaded the **SkoolBag App** to receive all notifications and email communication. This app also allows you to advise of absentees and sign up for Running Club. To access the App, you need to install the app on your smartphone or tablet, search for Freshwater Bay Primary School and then register the appropriate year level that your child/ren are in this year, so that any year level specific messages can be sent directly to you.

The SkoolBag App, Monthly Freshwater Bay Focus Newsletter, our Website and Facebook are our main forms of communication in the school. Thank you to all the families who have already registered for all platforms. If you haven't yet we would appreciate it if you could register as soon as possible.

Some parents have stated that they have experienced problems accessing the information on the App, if this has occurred for you then we advise that you please delete the app and then reinstall it.

Freshwater Bay Community Facebook Page

Our Freshwater Bay Facebook page is where we upload student pictures and activities. In addition, there is the Community Freshwater Bay Facebook page which connects our community on a social level and is independent of the school <https://www.facebook.com/groups/311179262425897/>