

# FOCUS NEWSLETTER

*Wisdom, Respect, Courage*



Issue # 46

## ***Welcome to Freshwater Bay FOCUS Newsletter***



*Wisdom is knowing when you can't be wise. Paul Engle*

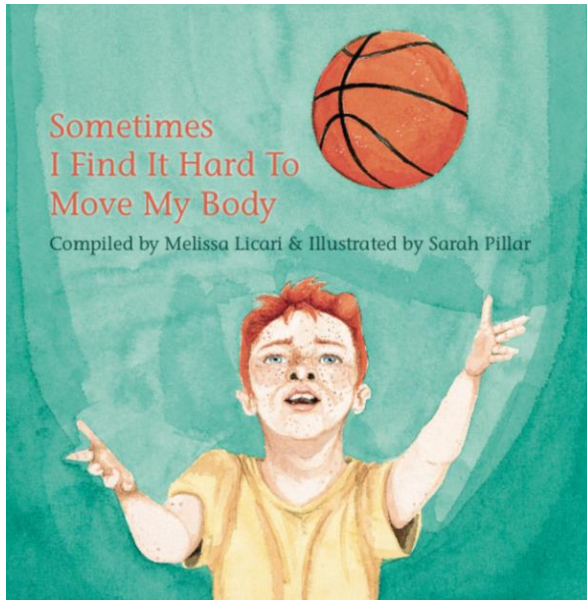
Dear Parents and Guardians,

It's time to take a break!

We have had a very successful first half of the year. Shane, Hilaire and I have read all the student reports and have been impressed with the effort of both students and teachers this semester. There is obvious quality in the learning programs being delivered and in the outcomes the students are achieving.

Please take the time to read your child's report and acknowledge their hard work and the effort they have put in, words of encouragement go a long way to setting a realistic connection between effort and achievement.

I am very mindful and grateful of the support of our whole school community. It is a fair task to be managing the daily/weekly tasks of family, work and school. I am hopeful that all the families have a chance, over the next two weeks, to recharge and re-boot for an exciting second semester. Please help your children get a break from direct learning and technology and take the opportunity to relax their mind and have both social and life experiences.



One of our parents, Melissa Licari along with a Colleague Sarah Pillar (Illustrator), have written this book and donated a copy to the school. The book was inspired by a number of things, however I am led to understand it is the result of a conversation between a teacher here at Freshwater Bay and Melissa. From that conversation 'Sometimes I Find It Hard To Move My Body' is now a published book. The book has many messages, however the two main themes are; raising awareness of DCD – Developmental Coordination Disorder; and there is a fabulous message to children about hope, courage, persistence and with deliberate practice we can all prevail and succeed in reaching those milestones.

Well done Melissa, this is a wonderful gift to the school and your energy and attention has resulted in a book with an important message.

### **Technology/Cyber safety?**

I saw last week that the Victorian Government banned the use of mobile phones in Government Schools as of the beginning of 2020. Private schools are under immense pressure to do the same. This is a decision that has been made to target the excessive use of social media, gaming and internet browsing that teenagers are participating in. It is also directed at reducing cyber bullying and anti-social behaviour.

This decision brings to the forefront the debate around phone use, cyber bullying and to what extent it is having an impact on the social order of our community. It is an important issue that needs to be discussed and for families and schools to be proactive about. The time, from age 10 through to 16, is a significant time in a child's life as both the body and the brain are undergoing significant change, preparing it for the challenges of adulthood. The use of phones that are enabling 24/7 access to data and social sites are adding another level of complexity for children during this time. There is a certain addictive element to the iPhone and the android equivalents, which we are now starting to get a true understanding of.

As a school we have a policy of no phone use during school, and students are not to use them until the end of the day. At Freshwater Bay our approach to technology, is both educational and protective. The single biggest issue in schools is equipping our students with the necessary cyber protective behaviours. We need our children to be able to negotiate safely around the internet, in the same way we teach our children to negotiate crossing the road, going to the park, shopping centre or the beach. Awareness and decision-making are now fundamental skills all students need. It is these skills that will enable our children to rule technology and use it to benefit their learning and their lives, not be ruled by it.

With this changing landscape I believe it prudent that as a community we develop a shared understanding of what we want the students who come to Freshwater Bay Primary School to learn and the skills they need in relation to technology and its use. This is a work in progress.

### **5th Tour de Freshwater**

Every year to coincide with the Tour de France, we host our very own Tour de Freshwater 'Slow Bike Race', to bring a little French festivity to our school. The French specialty program is an important part of our school and the students are provided with an engaging curriculum.

Students from Year 4, 5 and 6 we're invited to register in Week 8. Over 80 students registered. 22 names were then randomly drawn by Mrs Lyon to represent the 22 teams in the Tour de France. Participating students received a note in Week 9, informing parents of their child's involvement.

It was an enjoyable day with so many children dressed in the colours of the tricolore. It was an exciting race and it generated fun and frivolity that occurs year after year. Well done to all those who participated and thank you to all the encouraging supporters on the sidelines. Très bien!

1st place Dylan W

2nd place Hugo L

3rd place - Tegan R and Hugo M

### **Irene King's Retirement**

In week two of next term Irene King has decided to retire from teaching. Irene has had an amazing career, touching the lives of the many people she has worked with, the children she has taught. She has had the gratitude of families for her commitment, expertise and warmth. Irene is known for her amazing creative flare and one of the true gifts she has passed on to the children she has taught is this passion to see what could be and to be creative. I know that all of you will join me in wishing Irene the very best going forward and we will miss having her around.

Jess Sisson will be returning from Family Leave and will be taking the Monday in Mrs Chesny's class from week three. Jess is a fabulous teacher and we are excited to have her return to our school.

### **Bike Enclosure**

Please remind your children of the importance of putting their bike in the bike enclosure. We have a few students who are using the old bike racks and we would like all the students to get into the habit of using the enclosure. The other bike racks will be removed over the school holidays.

### **Enrolments**

A reminder that it is important to get your enrolments in for Kindy and Pre-primary for 2020 to ensure a place. Our classes are filling up quickly. If you have a child requiring a place for 2020 please contact the front office. Also, if you know of a family who may not know that they need to enrol by July 26<sup>th</sup> if you could please let them know.

### **SkoolBag App for Absences**

I would like to urge all families to use the Skoolbag App for student absences when your child is away from school.

### **Outstanding School Fees**

Statements will be sent home this week. Please ensure that you pay all outstanding amounts as failure to do so will result in your child NOT being able to attend incursions, excursions, camps and the like moving forward.

### **Mooridijt UPDATE – Annika**

Last Friday, our Year 4 students participated in the first part of a combined Indigenous Cultural Activities Program with Mooridijt Noongar Community College. Year 5 students from Tangney 1, who took on leadership roles for the day, hosted workshops, helped prepare a healthy community lunch and supported participating students and staff.

Early next term, the Year 4 students have been invited to attend an excursion to Mooridijt to participate in NAIDOC week celebrations. This event was the reciprocal visit where Years 1-5 students and staff from Mooridijt visited and joined with the Freshwater Bay students to engage in a number of collaborative activities including visual art, music and physical education.

To make the day unforgettable and to further celebrate this collaborative project, our wonderful teachers provided their skills to run workshops and parents attended to provide support and join in the festivities. The day was a wonderful opportunity for students to broaden their knowledge, understanding and appreciation of Aboriginal culture and to take part in collaborative activities with other students outside of their school community.

Special thank you to Gita Luiten, Ciera Coveney, Martine Venn, Kate Duarte, Tanya Stephenson and Gilly Frette for your generous efforts in helping us prepare for the day. Also, to all the additional parents who offered to help with the lunch preparation and to those who contributed to morning tea. We are very grateful

### **Highlights for Term 3**

Principal's Writing Award

Athletics Carnival

Book Week and Parade

One Big Voice

Interschool Athletics

Open Night

***Wishing everyone a wonderful break and we look forward to seeing you all back next term.***

## **P&C UPDATE**

The P&C is the Parents and Citizens Association. It has a very important role in our school community, far greater than just fundraising. The P&C represents our "Freshie" community and creates opportunities to unite us by building a positive school community that we are all immensely proud of.

The P&C forms a part of Freshwater Bay School. Combining with the Board (responsible for guidance and governance) and the Principal (the Executive of the school), the three need to be equally weighted and work closely in partnership together.

The P&C general meetings take place once a term, to discuss and vote on items of importance. The P&C has made vital contributions to fund a number of key items for the school over the past year.

### **The Fathering Project**

The P&C members voted to support the establishment of the Freshwater Bay Dads Group, as part of the Fathering Project, by donating \$1,000. This was to assist the group in setting up and getting the project off the ground. The Freshie Dads group is a stand-alone group, specifically focused on advocating for fathers and father figures. We wish the Freshwater Bay Dads Group best wishes and we strongly support their initiatives in the school and community.

### **Ross Potter - Art Department Incursion**

The P&C members and School jointly voted to support an Art department incursion funding \$3,832. The students were given the opportunity to;

- observe the role of being an artist as an occupation.
- explore the use of a variety of pencil techniques to represent texture.
- participate in a collaborative art installation for Open night.
- develop an understanding the Western Australian school values of Respect and the rights of others, along
- with Environmental Responsibility.

### **School Security**

In order to tackle security concerns and improve student safety, the P&C association has worked in conjunction with the school over the past few months to identify and implement solutions to address these concerns. The following items were identified as high importance

1. The public pathway fence height between Kindy and the Nature Play area
2. The perimeter fencing on the corner of Bayview Terrace and Princess Road
3. Secure bike racks
4. CCTV on the school surrounds

The department of education agreed to fund the new fencing for item number 1.

The P&C members voted to approve funding of \$5,720 for item number 2 - the erection of new perimeter fencing on the boundary fence, on the corner of Princess Road and Bay View Terrace. This work will be completed during the term 2 holidays in order to minimise any inconvenience to students and parents.

At the P&C General meeting, Members of the P&C suggested additional security fencing around the 'Fort' playground and proposed a 'Stage 2'. The P&C association would like to invite members to submit suggestions towards Stage 2 fencing upgrades, to be considered at the next general meeting.

The School has erected and funded a new secure bike rack to tackle recent crime — item 3;

The school are also obtaining quotes for CCTV to be installed around the school grounds — item 4.

### **Reading books**

The P&C identified a shortage of reading books available to students and unanimously voted to approve funding \$15,000 for the purchases of additional reading book resources for students.

### **Decodable Reading Books**

Many children require a systematic approach to teaching reading, that allows them to learn incrementally. As children learn to read, decodable books become an important part of the learning process.

These books are very important in early childhood, when students are learning to read. They provide essential foundations and structure for students.

The P&C members unanimously approved funding of \$4,500 for the purchase of these books.

### **Bogan Bingo**

Members approved \$1,852 funding to hold this amazing community event that was held on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> June 2019. The event was a huge success with many parents unrecognisable. Thanks to everyone that helped organise this event.

### **Year 6 Students Graduation**

The P&C members unanimously approved contributing 1 in every \$4 raised from the Royal Show Parking to be donated to the Year 6 Students graduation and end of year function.

## **Air-Conditioning Upgrades**

In 2018, members of the P&C approved to funding of up to \$40,000 for new air conditioning upgrades.

Stage 1 has been completed with new air-conditioning installed in the Library, Oliver Centre and pavilion at a cost of \$40,000.

Stage 2, \$25,000 has been ear marked to complete upgrades to Pre-primary, Art Rooms and the Music Department which is expected to commence in term 3/4, in time for summer.

## **Information Technology & Digital Education**

In 2018 the P&C association approved funding commitments of \$50,000 for the leases of 120 new iPads over the next 2 years of which \$25,000 was paid in October 2018 and the remaining commitment of \$25,000 is due in October 2019.

## **Solar Panels**

The installation of solar panels is still a top priority for the P&C estimated at \$75,000. The P&C has made significant progress with working towards finalising this project however, due to a recent government policy change, all solar panel installation across WA schools was suspended in late 2018. To that end, we have had no choice but to wait for the green light.

The government suspended installation approvals in order to put in place a uniform policy, that would ensure all schools embarking on solar power conversion, adhered to a standardised set of parameters for installation and products, in order to ensure longevity and safety.

Although these delays are very frustrating, we are expecting additional cost savings on the quotes previously received. One.

The estimated costs of installing the solar power is \$75,000. We will continue to update the parents and community, as more information comes to hand.

## **Toilet Upgrade**

The P&C voted to contribute \$5,000 to upgrade Cowan's toilet facilities. This includes tiling, painting and lighting. The DoE wouldn't cover the cost of this work.

The department of education has agreed to upgrade/renovate the Cube toilets at an estimated cost of \$155,000. This will take place in the second half of 2020.

## **P&C FINANCIAL SNAP SHOT as at 30<sup>TH</sup> June 2019**

**Current Account Balance** **\$181,500**

Estimated Future Revenue 2019 ;

Royal Show Parking\*\* \$15,000

Tuesday Treats \$1,500

Misc \$1,500

**Total** **\$199,500**

The P&C general meeting held on xx May 2019 voted to fund the following items;

Art Department Incursion \$3,832

Security Fencing \$5,760

Decodable Reading Books \$4,500

Reading Books \$15,000

Bogan Bingo Community Event \$1,852

Toilet Upgrades \$5,000

Fathering Project \$1,000

Outstanding approved commitments;

Air-Conditioning Stage 2 (approved 2018) \$25,000

Technology (iPad Leases October 2019) \$25,000

**Sub-Total** **\$112,556**

Future commitments/expenditure

Solar Power \$75,000

**TOTAL BALANCE FUNDS** **\$37,556**

*\*\*20% of net funds raised from Royal Show Parking will be donated to the Year 6 students' end of year function.*

### **Event Coordinator**

The P&C are seeking an enthusiastic community member/parent to join the team as our event coordinator/manager.



### **Second Hand Uniform Shop**

The uniform shop is seeking any second-hand uniform donations. All donations would be greatly appreciated and can be dropped off to the school administration office.

### **Next Meeting**

If you have anything you would like to raise or discuss with the P&C or have your say on where funding should be directed, please feel free to contact Campbell Airey [president.FWB@gmail.com](mailto:president.FWB@gmail.com), so we can raise your suggestions at our next general meeting in term 3. Your input would be greatly appreciated, so the hard earned funds you have all collectively donated can be optimised.