

FOCUS NEWSLETTER

Wisdom, Respect, Courage

Issue # 51

Welcome to Freshwater Bay FOCUS Newsletter

*Christmas gives us the opportunity to pause
and reflect on the important things around us.*

Dear Parents and Guardians,

A sincere thank you for your support throughout 2019, it has certainly been a successful and rewarding year, made possible due to the dedication of so many.

During the last week we have acknowledged and celebrated achievement and excellence inside the classroom and out. There have been many ways and many times this year that each of our students have shone brightly.

Their excellence shows in the work collected to share with parents. It showed in the amazing assemblies each class performed, in the fabulous music concert we enjoyed last week, it shines brightly in the wonderful art work which is a constant joy to me, it showed in the sportsmanship and sense of joy the students brought to our sport carnivals. And it shows every day in the quality of our students' actions and interactions with each other.

Coming together to recognize and celebrate accomplishment is an important part of living and working as a community. It is about taking time to recognize that the contributions of others enrich the quality of our learning.

We will also take the time to recognize a few students who made extra efforts in specific areas of their school lives. It is only right and fitting that in a learning community like ours that we take pride in what we accomplish and contribute individually and recognise what others have done, as their accomplishments serve as both inspiration and motivation.

Each of our students has every right to be proud of all they have learned and achieved. The feeling of satisfaction is the real reward today and every day. It is a privilege to be selected for an award, but you don't need an award to prove who you are or what you have achieved. I am incredibly impressed and proud of all our Freshwater Primary learners and their achievement in 2019.

I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank the following staff members for the contributions they have made to our school during their time with us, Shane Ariti, Danielle Bowman, Emma Webb and Chris Wharton are all leaving us to take up positions in other schools. We look forward to seeing Emma back in 2021. Jade Watt is leaving us to spend time with her precious family. Liz Repper has been a strong and reliable Education assistant at FWB since it opened in 2011. Liz has had a long and successful career with the Education Department and we wish her every happiness in her retirement.

My warmest wishes to everyone for a safe and happy holiday and we look forward to seeing you all back refreshed for a big 2020.

Hilaire Lyon
Acting Principal

School Board Newsletter – End of 2019

School Board Composition

Following the recent election, the 5 elected parent members on the School Board are now Chris Harding (Chair), Johanna Beaver (Vice Chair), Deborah Smart, Jodie Mellor and Rosemarie Rees.

In addition, Claremont Councillor Jill Goetze has joined the School Board as a Community Member, and Faye Styles has been appointed to the Board as the P&C representative.

The Board would also like to thank Kate Roberts, who stepped down from the Board after completing her 3-year term, and most recently as Vice Chair of the Board.

Review of School Performance

As part of its governance role, the School Board recently undertook a detailed review of the school's performance targets in the School Business Plan. The Board acknowledged the continued improvement being made by the school across all the Student Achievement Targets and thanked the Principal and his team of dedicated teachers and support staff for their continued hard work.

A detailed breakdown of 2019 NAPLAN results will be provided to the school community in the School's 2019 Annual Report (due Term 1 2020).

Key Focus Areas in 2019

2019 has been a very active period for the School Board, with significant progress being made around improved communication to-and-from the school, a revamped school website, and updating of several key school policies.

The Board continues to work with the Principal and his team, and the P&C, to develop a coherent approach in what we do and how we interact with the wider school community.

2020 – IPS Review

Next year is the final year of the school's current Business Plan (2018-2020), and the school will participate in its second Independent Public School (IPS) Review process. This review will assess all aspects of school performance against commitments in its Business Plan. Findings from this IPS Review are then incorporated into the development of the next School Business Plan for 2021-2023.

The school's new 10 Year Strategic Plan also establishes the guiding framework for the future Business Plans, that will ensure the school's culture of academic achievement and citizenship are maintained.

Happy Holidays

The Board would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a safe and relaxing summer holidays.

