

FOCUS NEWSLETTER

Wisdom, Respect, Courage



Issue # 47

Welcome to Freshwater Bay FOCUS Newsletter



"If you wish to improve, be content to appear clueless or stupid in extraneous matters."

— [Epictetus](#)

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

EVERY CHILD NEEDS TO MAKE THEIR BED EVERYDAY.

We want every child in our school to make their bed every day. Children in the early years may need help from a parent. If you make your bed first thing every day, regardless of how your day goes from then on you know that you have successfully achieved something and will be able to climb into a bed, made by you at night. It sets the stage for a positive day.

The students will have something similar to do when they start their school day to have the same positive feeling of accomplishment. Thank you for your support as a community on this.

This term in our Professional Learning Teams we are studying the book 'Make Your Bed' written by Admiral William H McRaven. The essence of the book is a focus on the 'Little things that can change your life'. We will be implementing a range of strategies to teach our students some positive ways to address personal discipline and beliefs.

The importance of personal leadership and discipline cannot in my opinion be underestimated. I also believe that it is not something that is naturally innate to us, it must be taught implicitly and explicitly. Implicitly by the role modelling and environment and explicitly through expectation and direct teaching.

Students who are successful in year 12 are not the most intelligent students, they are the ones who have the ability to stick at it for longer and have grit to do the work. They realise they need to make a commitment to having a schedule / routine to assist them to achieve their goals.

Book Week!

What a great week. We have a whole week to celebrate the power of books. Books inspire the imagination. I want to thank Mrs Joanne Moore for her wonderful organisation of Book week. Mrs Moore works tirelessly for our school and the quality of her work is there for all to see in the library. The whole school community benefits from her ability to bring the library alive. The inviting environment she has created stimulates students to dive into reading. Talking to students this week it was clear they have really enjoyed the experience and had a positive take away. I am looking forward to visiting the classrooms and reading the stories that are the result from this highly motivating language experience.

School Board Election

We have one parent position up for election this term. A document will be sent out today via the SkoolBag App outlining the position, how to nominate and how the election will be conducted. Please keep an eye out for it.

Open Night

Next Thursday is our school 'Open Night'. This is a positive night on our school calendar. As a community we have a great deal to be proud of and this is an opportunity to see firsthand the quality education all the students receive and the support staff to see firsthand the support of parents. It is great for the students to see how proud their parents are of their efforts.

Our focus this year is our Arts Program. This program gives all the students an opportunity to engage and get excited about being creative. Our students explore their creative sides, with the help of our very talented Teachers, Mrs Calvert, Mrs Brown and Mrs King. I look forward to seeing our whole community next week.

School Survey

In the coming weeks we will be distributing a school survey. I know that it is not always something that is high on your list of things to do and they can be onerous. I can assure you that the information we get does make a difference to our decision making. We will also be gathering information from staff and students. The triangulated data will give us information about 'how far we have travelled down our path', 'where we are right now' and 'what changes we might need to make to achieve our goals'. Thank you for your time and support.

State Cross Country Championships

I had the pleasure of accompanying our team of runners, along with Bruce Young and Rosie Allen to the Interschool Cross Country Championships. What an amazing day it was. The results aside, it was a wonderful experience for our students to be competing with hundreds of like-minded young athletes from across our state. There is so much to be learnt from events like this, the effort and hard work to get there, connection to others, humility, grit and determination to compete fully and to finish. All of the students were rightly proud of their efforts. On behalf of the community I want to acknowledge our gratitude to Bruce for his ongoing support of the Running Club and his huge involvement on the day giving all the student the best possible advice and support so they were able to perform at their best. I also want to thank Rosie Allen for her organisation and enthusiasm on the day. Thank you to all the parents who came along to cheer, help, support and encourage.

State Cross Country Championships cont..

We also have a team of teachers to thank, Alex Soutar, Emma Webb, Tara Grant and Rosie Allen who give generously of their time each week to ensure that Running Club happens.

There were 1892 competitors on the day, all students did an amazing job and acquitted themselves very well with some notable performances from Jack Baker finishing 13th, Cooper McAuliffe 14th and Jessica Woodward 20th in their respective age races. Well done!

Pupil Free Day

Next Friday is a Pupil Free Day. It is a day for our staff to participate in Professional Learning. School will commence as normal on Monday 26 August.

Athletics Carnival

Week six is our Athletics Carnival Week. Jumps and throws are on Tuesday 27 August and the running and team games on Thursday 29 August. They are both wonderful days and we look forward to seeing lots of families coming along to cheer on the children and enjoy the days

150 Year Planning

A special thanks to Christine Sheldrick and Hilary Davies who are working with Bridget Robertson on the inclusions and instillation of the Time Capsule and forward planning for the 150 year celebration. The installation of the new time capsule is scheduled for week 5 of Term 4, with more information to come.

Reminder Notes

Paying School Fees

We have a very limited school budget to provide for the resources of the school. Any contributions that are provided through fees from parents helps greatly. We now have the Qkr app which is better for parents as it allows you to;

- Make faster, more convenient payments from a secure mobile app anywhere and at any time
- Website payment alternative for parents and carers without a smartphone or tablet
- Copy lunch orders from one week to the next to save time
- Pay direct from a credit or debit card without pre-loading funds to a third party account
- Track transactions easily with online receipts

Moving forward direct deposit and eftpos facilities will be phased out by 30 June 2020.

Absentees & SkoolBag App

To support the school, all student absentees need to be lodged using the SkoolBag App. If you have not downloaded it yet, please make time to do this today so that you receive all notifications from the school. The App also allows you to be able to update / change details, advise of students not returning the following year and sign your child up for Running Club (Yrs 2 – 6).

Wishing you all a terrific Term 3!