

FOCUS NEWSLETTER

Wisdom, Respect, Courage



Issue # 50

Welcome to Freshwater Bay FOCUS Newsletter

"The problem is no longer getting people to express themselves, but providing little gaps of solitude and silence in which they might eventually find something to say.... What a relief to have nothing to say, the right to say nothing, because only then is there a chance of framing...the thing that might be worth saying."

— [Gilles Deleuze](#)

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Here we are at week 5, with just over 5 weeks to go. We have had a busy and productive start to Term 4. I hope you enjoy reading what we have been up to.

Meeting Parents and our new Kindy Children

It was exciting for Hilaire and I to meet our new students and their parents last week. What a highly motivated and excited group of children. I believe strongly in the importance of early years' education and also having parents engaged in schooling. Parents, families and carers are a child's first and most important teachers. Freshwater Bay has many initiatives and activities that welcome and help new parents into our fabulous community. Having now met most of our new families I can say that their enthusiasm will certainly continue to make our school community a wonderful place to be.

We all believe that attending a good pre-school and primary school has a profoundly positive impact on a child's academic progress. A high quality pre-school followed by an academically effective primary school gives children's development a significant boost. I would like to add that research has shown that children need stimulating in the early years' in a home-learning environment to start with and to then build upon. It was so evident in listening to our new families, that the children are coming to us from dynamic, creative and loving homes. This was supported by neighbouring high schools who I meet with regularly. They are always eager to comment that the students from Freshwater Bay all made positive and engaging transition to high school, which they said was clearly a product of both family and school.

Remembrance Day

On Monday we stopped at the 11am, as Charles Bean (Noted War Correspondent) did one hundred years ago, where he penned the words 'today we solemnly commemorate the Armistice. In silence, a silence that beckons and prays for peace, we honour the 102,000 Australians who have lost their lives in war for us. For our tomorrows, they gave their today.' The Claremont Council Service was attended by our Head Boy and Head Girl Lachlan Evershed and Olivia Cornelius, Mr Ariti and myself. Thank you to Ainslie Cornelius for creating a beautiful wreath.

At school we held a moving Assembly service to acknowledge the importance of the day, hosted by our school Prefects Harry Jones and Eliza Wood.

Swimming Lessons

We are so fortunate to have such an exceptional swimming program. It is not something that is consistent across Australia. I have witnessed the excitement and eagerness of our students and the enthusiasm of the swim teachers, it is no wonder all our students showed good progress over the two weeks.

Staff Appreciation Luncheon

We are so grateful for having such a wonderful community of parents who provided an amazing spread with all the trimmings for the Freshwater Bay Staff. To our community we say thank, thank you!

Planning for 2020

We are well underway with planning and preparation for 2020. Very shortly we will be organising class lists. You will have already received an email for your child to complete a social survey. If you have any additional information that we require in helping us to make our decisions, please forward them to me.

Class Organisation

Every year I receive emails from concerned parents around their children being placed in a class with what is described as split year level. There many myths around this notion.

My child will benefit academically by being in a straight grade

The curriculum is designed in a spiral (called Bands) with increasing complexity of concepts, skills and knowledge. Students need to demonstrate understanding of each spiral before moving onto the next stage of the curriculum. Skilful teachers assess the learning needs of the students and design learning programs to guide their learning to move to the next concept level. All the teachers in our school are providing learning programs for multi ability groups.

My child needs to be with their friends

An important part of schooling is learning to be part of a community. We are working towards equipping our children with the necessary skills to be an engaged member of our larger society when they leave school in year 12.

One of the most important skills is making friends and working with different people. Students need to learn;

- how to be approachable, introducing themselves, saying hello, smiling and not appearing too anxious.
- look for someone else who may have similar interests or someone they learn from.
- actively listen to others.
- recognise and accept differences in people and being able to be respectful and understanding.
- learn that change is something that will happen throughout their lives and looking positively at change will allow new and exciting opportunities to be opened up to them.

As uncomfortable as change can be it is an important part of a child's growing up, developing resilience and establishing positive coping strategies.

I urge all parents to resist the urge to jump to your child's wants when it comes to class placements. We go to great lengths to organise class groups that are around student's social and academic development. We have over the year/s developed a comprehensive picture of all of our students through classroom observation, experience and ongoing home communication. We take note of all correspondence from all parents and take that into consideration in our decisions.

Proposed School Structure for 2020

Below is the proposed school class structure for 2020. It is proposed because these classes may change depending on student movement to and from our school.

Kindy 1	Kindy 3
Kindy 2	Kindy 4
Pre-primary	Pre-primary
Pre-primary/year 1	
Year 1	Year 1/2
Year 2	Year 2
Year 2/3	Year 3
Year 3/4	
Year 4	Year 4
Year 5	Year 5
Year 5/6	Year 6

Once our staffing has been finalised I will let you know the class teachers. There will be a Transition Day on December 13 as usual. More information about that day will come out later in the term.

Sealing of the Time Capsule

Next week will see the sealing of our next Time Capsule to be opened in 2043. A very big thank you to all the students and teachers who have contributed to the event. The whole school assembly, being held in Herbert Hall from 9am on Wednesday 20th of November, will allow you to hear from some of our students about their inclusions and see pieces of work on display.



The graphic features a teal background with a dark blue footer. On the left, there is an illustration of a glowing blue time capsule with a crescent moon and stars above it. The text is centered and reads: 'TIME CAPSULE ASSEMBLY & STUDENT CAPSULE ART DISPLAY' in white, followed by the cursive phrase '...be a part of our history' in gold. Below this, it says 'Join us as we seal our time capsule for the next 25 years. Every student has made a contribution to the capsule, we invite you to view a sample of works which will be on display on the day.' The footer contains the event details: 'WEDNESDAY 20 NOVEMBER | 9AM - 10AM' and 'HERBERT HALL | ALL PARENTS & TEACHERS WELCOME'.

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