

# FOCUS NEWSLETTER

*Wisdom, Respect, Courage*



Issue # 48

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

*Unlocking a child's potential is as simple as believing in them.*

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We've had a very busy month and I've given myself some time to reflect on how we are travelling in relation to our short and long term goals.

Our school has been on a journey, embracing the new, and also reflecting on our core traditions; being a community minded school with an emphasis on teacher development. Freshwater Bay and Claremont has an established reputation of over 100 years for teaching excellence. We have a strong position in the local area with our teachers striving to get the very best out of students.

For schools to be an effective learning environment for students, a balanced team of staff is required. We have built a broad-based team with a diverse skill set. Our staff body consists of an important mix of dynamic youth and sage experience. Such a mix also means the team evolves and we develop leaders as part of our succession planning; our staff are aspirational and that is exciting. It was therefore with mixed feelings that we farewelled Eliza Dadson recently. We were sad to see her go and also excited for her to be pursuing her professional goals.

Primary schools play an important role in supporting the development of children into confident young students. There is always much debate over the right time to move children from primary school to a secondary school. There is no right or wrong answer.

The specific needs of the individual child will help to make the best choice.

Over the years I have seen parents understandably wrestle with a number of common issues as they make decisions regarding their child's high schooling:

Will my child:

Have friends?

Be safe from bullying?

Manage the workload, timetable, homework etc?

Grow and have a diverse range of learning opportunities?

Leave school equipped to be employed in the workforce?

Generally students themselves are excited to be embarking on a new adventure and parents do their child a great service when they support and encourage them with the transition and avoid adding to any fear or anxiety.

Changes in education require us to think differently. We no longer want to see students merely finishing with a score as a demonstration of their achievement. We need to produce adaptable, collaborative, flexible, creative, innovative, advice-seeking learners.

I will be pleased to expand on the issue of transitioning to secondary school at our upcoming **Year 4-6 Parent Information Session.**

WHEN: Monday 16 September

WHERE: Tangney Hall

TIME: 6:30pm

WHO: If your child is going to be entering years 4-6 in 2020 I encourage you to come along.

### **2019 Principal's Writing Competition**

Many of you would be aware that I am passionate about literacy. I am particularly proud of our students' progress. Their results are demonstrating a marked improvement. The Principal's Writing Competition is a way to encourage our students to have a go for no other reason than to practise writing. We have chosen to extend the deadline to allow students to work on their story over the holiday break and hand in on the first day back, being Monday 14 October. The winning entries will be announced at the Assembly on Friday the 25<sup>th</sup> of October. Please encourage your child/ren to write a story, unlocking their potential is as simple as believing in them.

Wishing our students involved in the Interschool Athletics Carnival next Friday all the very best and I wishing the whole Freshwater Bay community a wonderful and restful holiday break and look forward to seeing you return revitalised and ready to end the year on a high.

### **REMINDERS**

All parents wishing to take their child/ren out of school to go on family vacation need to advise the school in writing prior. This is a requirement of the Education Department. Write to [freshwaterbay.ps@education.wa.edu.au](mailto:freshwaterbay.ps@education.wa.edu.au)

After more than 15 reminders this year we still do not have all parents and guardians signed up to the Skoolbag App, it is imperative that you do so today to ensure that you receive ALL school communication. For further information, please visit [skoolbag.com.au](http://skoolbag.com.au)

All Absentees must be lodged via the SkoolBag app to ensure all parties (teachers and admin staff) are notified and an electronic record is kept on file.

Full school uniform is to be worn at all times. Please ensure all uniform items are clearly labelled. If your child has lost an item, please check the Tangney and Cowan Lost property bins.