

# FOCUS NEWSLETTER

*Wisdom, Respect, Courage*



Issue # 41

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



***The best preparation for tomorrow is  
doing your best today."***

***(H. Jackson Brown, Jr.)***

The first two weeks have been very smooth and I believe it is a reflection of how well the staff and the students have commenced the year. It is always wonderful to see the children renewing friendships, settling into new classrooms, getting to know their new teachers and participating in learning activities that are capturing and holding their attention. I commend the teachers for the learning tasks they have planned and delivered, the children are really engaged. All the teachers spent time here at school during the holidays to make sure they were well organised for the start of the year and their work has paid off this week.

The new Kindy children looked like they had been at school for months as they listened intently to their teachers and participated eagerly in their learning experiences. This is testament to the quality of our transition program in 2018 that has clearly prepared the children well for the start of school. The new parents were justifiably full of pride and taking lots of photos to record the moments and memories that will last a lifetime.

I extend a special welcome to the 44 new students and their families to our school community. We look forward to working with you to help your child/ren grow into fine young men and women. You know your children better than we ever will and there will be many times where we will need and rely on your insights into your child, as together we help them negotiate the challenges that can occur at school. The teachers will also have insights into your child/ren, that they gain from observing them in the school and classroom environment, an environment that is quite different to home. Working together and sharing these insights in a spirit of trust and respect, will ensure that your child/ren will grow and learn successfully.

## FOOD FOR THOUGHT!

I am proud to be a father and am always looking to find ways to be a better Dad to help my children. I get the weekly 'Fathering Project' email and there was one email over the break that had a message, I thought worthy of sharing. In summary it talked about having a '**4 Steps for Your New Year Fathering Action Plan**'

- **First**, think about each of your children **and how he or she has grown and changed in the last twelve months.**
- Find some alone time where you won't be interrupted or distracted with each child. **Ask them what they'd like to learn and accomplish in the coming year, and don't let them say, "I don't know."**
- Discuss these ideas with your child's mother. **She'll have a slightly different perspective on the children, and her insights will be valuable.**
- **Maybe most important of all, use this exercise to** recommit yourself to your family with passion and selflessness.

Putting your plan into action could cause a lot of tension and discomfort; it will influence how you spend your time, your money, and your energy. It may stretch you a bit, but stick with it, because it can also bring great rewards.

Me, I am learning the following with each of my children; time management, how to drive, and how to cook.

## JUST NEED TO KNOW

Throughout this newsletter this week contains a lot of information about important policies and procedures. Please take the time to read this and if you have any questions do not hesitate to contact me.

## INDIVIDUAL PARENT TEACHER INTERVIEWS – THURSDAY 28<sup>th</sup> MARCH

Individual Parent Teacher Interviews will be held on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March from 3.15pm – 6.30pm further details and booking information to follow via the Skoolbag App, please ensure you have installed on your mobile device and signed up to current year levels.

## POP UP NEW UNIFORM SHOP

The school will be running another **Pop – Up Uniform Shop on Tuesday March 12<sup>th</sup> from 8am until 9.30am.** These are all NEW uniforms which were left over from our previous supplier. Heavily discounted, the stock is limited and we have mainly larger sizes available (10+). Dresses \$30, Skorts \$25, Jazz Pants (great for girls for winter) \$20, Shorts \$10 Polo fleece \$25 Coloured House Polos \$15.

## **KEEPING UP TO DATE**

A dynamic school of this size has a lot of things happening. Good communication is critical to ensuring positive and effective school experiences for you and your children. Our primary tool of whole school communication is our monthly school newsletter, the 'Freshwater Bay Focus' that you are reading now. This is published each month on a Friday and is put up on our website and on the Skoolbag app. A link is also put on our school Facebook page. To receive notifications that we put on our Facebook page all you need to do is search for Freshwater Bay Primary School on Facebook and 'Like' one of the posts. This should ensure that our posts appear on your Facebook 'feed'.

To receive notifications directly to your smartphone we use the app Skoolbag. To access this, you need to install the app on your phone or tablet, search for Freshwater Bay Primary School and then register the appropriate year level that your child/ren are in this year so that any year level specific messages can be sent directly to you. Our Freshwater Bay Facebook page where we upload student pictures and activities in school. In addition, there is the Community Freshwater Bay Facebook page which connects our community on a social level and is independent of the school

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/311179262425897/>

## **COLLECTION OF STUDENTS FROM SCHOOL DURING SCHOOL HOURS**

The Western Australian Department of Education (DET) has policies and guidelines for the collection of children during school hours from government schools. Students must only be collected by their parents (subject to any specific court orders) or by a person who has been authorised by the parents to pick up their child. An authorised person is anyone who has been identified by the parents on the enrolment form such as Adult A or Adult B or anyone listed as an Emergency Contact. If the authorised person signing the child out early is not known to the office staff, they can expect to be asked for photo identification. If you have any questions about these procedures please do not hesitate to speak to a member of the principal team, (myself or assistant principals Hilaire Lyon and Shane Ariti), or any of the office staff. On a related topic, if there are or have been any family court orders in place that are relevant to your children can you please ensure that we have the latest copy on our file so we are aware of any custody or access restrictions that are in place.

## **STUDENT ACCIDENT INSURANCE AND PRIVATE PROPERTY BROUGHT TO SCHOOL**

Parents and guardians are reminded that the Department of Education (DET) does not hold accident insurance and parents/guardians are responsible for paying the cost of medical treatment for injured students including the cost of ambulance attendance or transport. There are student accident insurance policies available for parents from commercial insurers. We do not make any recommendations on these policies and parents are encouraged to find a suitable personal accident insurer themselves if they so desire. Similarly, the DET does not hold insurance for personal property brought to schools and it has no capacity to pay for any loss or damage to such property. Please be assured that we will take all care should a child bring a particularly valuable item to school however we cannot be held responsible. If a child has to bring a phone or other valuable items to school, we ask them to hand them to the teacher or the office for safer keeping than just in the child's school bag.

## **REMINDER ABOUT OUR NEW SCHOOL PHONE NUMBER**

We have recently upgraded our telephone system and would appreciate it if you could please update your devices to reflect the new number **PH: 6458 7000**

## **HOLIDAYS TAKEN DURING SCHOOL TERM**

It is a requirement by The Department of Education that written communication to the Principal requesting dates Parents wish to have their children away during a term. If you are planning to holiday during the school term please send your request via email to [freshwaterbay.ps@education.wa.edu.au](mailto:freshwaterbay.ps@education.wa.edu.au) attention to Mr Simon Reid before your planned holiday and please copy in your child's teacher.

## **SUNDOWNER – SAVE THE DATE**

The P & C Annual Welcome Sundowner will be held on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> of March 2019. 5pm onwards. Details to be circulated in the coming week. Pack a picnic and come and enjoy time with the Freshwater Bay Community.

***What children learn is the result of the combined  
effort of each individual in their life.***