

FOCUS NEWSLETTER

Wisdom, Respect, Courage



Issue # 53

Welcome to Freshwater Bay FOCUS Newsletter

The greatest value of a picture is when it forces us to notice what we never expected to see.

JOHN TUKEY, 1977

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Coronavirus (COVID – 19)

Updates will be provided to this service as any new information becomes available. Please check back regularly to ensure the information you have is up to date. As the lead agency in Western Australia, the [WA Department of Health](#) is monitoring the situation and we are acting on their advice as it relates to students and staff. For the latest health information and health related enquiries, refer to their website or access the helpline **1800 020 080**.

April school holidays

With the April school holidays approaching we are asking all families who are looking to travel to please reconsider and enjoy a staycation. If travel has been planned, we ask that you observe the 14-day isolation period on your return. Please be sure to stay abreast of daily updates from the Department of Health.

Vacation

When taking holidays through school terms, it is a requirement that parents advise the Principal. Please do not 'advise' us through skoolbag absentee form. The Department of Education requires Parents to request in writing to the Principal (preferably email freshwaterbay.ps@education.wa.edu.au.) to advise when they will be taking their child/children out of school and the duration. Please ensure a copy goes to your child's teacher.

Bake Sale

Thank you to the Year 5 students in Tangney 4 who ran a very successful Bake Sale at recess today to raise funds to support people affected by the bushfires earlier this year. Well done on the initiative and entrepreneurial skills they showed in creating some great sweet treats whilst utilising your maths skills. They raised a total of \$817.65, which included money raised from a raffle organised by Jacob Sanders. Amelie Cornelius from T4 won the raffle.

Art of a Sentence

Our whole school focus this year is on writing. A well-crafted sentence is one of the most important components of writing. The ability to synthesize a complex idea, summarize, or distil a discussion in one single sentence, is essential for an author's meaning to be communicated. To write one sentence that conveys succinctly the writer's message and meaning is an art form. This focus encourages students to be creative with grammar and expression, making every word count. With the protection of unlimited space and time removed

We are focused on supporting every student in our school to write fabulous sentences. To help your child improve their writing, ask them to write a sentence three to four times a week, along with their reading and number work (basic facts and tables).

Year 6 Camp

Last week the Year 6 students were on camp in Dwellingup. I want to express my appreciation to our staff Jessica, Paul and Scott. We are very fortunate to have outstanding teachers in our school who brought out the very best in our students. The students grew in confidence and skill throughout their time away. I believe what they learnt about themselves, their friends and classmates will have made them better people. Our school is richer for what they now share with us all. As a school community we are very proud of them.

The positive energy that was exuded every day throughout every activity, resulted in a brilliant camp. There were many aspects that had a real impact on the students. The first was the importance of inclusion. Students displayed collective spirit and went out of their way to ensure that no one was left on their own. Their support and encouragement of every student was a credit to them. Many students were challenged by activities and were noticeably uncomfortable about participating. However, they all rose to the challenges they faced and had a go. This had a profound impact on many of the students. It was a joy to see the strong sense of pride in their achievement. Perseverance is a life skill and will lay the foundations for them to embrace every challenge as an opportunity to learn and grow.

Science Day

On Friday 27 March we will have an exciting day of exploring the wonders of Science. Ms Grant has worked very hard and the children will learn so much from the day. Look out for more information in the coming week. It is one of our special highlights on our annual calendar.

ARTTRA Light Festival

Billy Calvert is guiding our students who are working very hard on their creations which will be included in the upcoming ARTTRA light Festival in Claremont park 27-29 March. Put it in your calendars as it is such a wonderful family event.

Parent Teacher Meetings

Our Parent Teacher Meetings are being held at the end of this term. Today our meeting times will go online, please take this opportunity to secure a meeting time, with your child's teacher. If those times are not suitable for you, please contact your child's teacher directly to make a time with them.

School Uniform

The school uniform is an important part of our identity. I urge all parents to familiarise themselves with the school [Student Presentation Policy](#). Our uniform is a symbol of great pride and well recognised within our community. I look forward to receiving your support to ensure our students have the same pride and respect for their personal presentation.

Bikelinc

Bikelinc – Connect to protect your bike, is an initiative powered by Crime Stoppers Western Australia. Bikelinc is a community of likeminded individuals who want to reduce bike theft. Bikelinc connects you, your bike, the WA Police force and the cycling community. Please visit www.bikelinc.com.au for more information.

The Parents and Citizens AGM

Thank you to the large number of people who came to the P&C AGM, your support for our school is greatly appreciated. The Parents and Citizens Association has a very important role in our school community. As well as fundraising, the P&C represents our community and creates opportunities to build our positive school community. The P&C forms one part of the Freshwater Bay School and combines with the Board responsible for guidance and governance and the Principal (the Executive of the school). The three need to be equally weighted and in partnership.

We would like to congratulate and welcome our new P&C President Graham Carmichael and his Executive Team. We appreciate the time commitment of all parents who have put their hand up to be a part of the Freshwater Bay P&C.

We thank the outgoing members of the 2019 Executive, Campbell Airey (President), Teleah Ciprian (Secretary), Riccardo Petroni (Treasurer) for their hard work and commitment to building a strong school community and their support of our school.

Office Bearers

President: Graham Carmichael

Vice President: Sanj Ratneser

Secretary: Matt Sikirich

Treasurer: Noel McKay

Executive Members: Ainslie Cornelius, Janine Feurstein, Faye Styles, Jenella Downing, Brooke McAullife, Mark Davies, Campbell Airey.

Freshie Dads

Freshie Dad's Group will be running Dads and Kids walking school bus & breakfast on Friday 27 March. They are looking for volunteers and would love you to register at www.freshiedadswalkbusbreakkya.rsvpify.com before Friday 20 March.

Q&A with the Principal Simon Reid

Three times a year I will hold a Q & A session to support school and parent communication. The first session on March 18, will cover our "Teach Like A Champion" approach, which involves teachers using a range of strategies to keep our students engaged and focused. Following this is an open forum for parents to ask me questions.

New email address

To address feedback that correspondence directed to me is not being responded to in a timely manner we have introduced a new email address. On any given day I can receive upwards of several hundreds of emails from a variety of sources. Having one designated to parents ensures your emails will not get lost in amongst the others. My parents and my staff are the most important people I need to communicate with. This initiative is to support this. Thank you for your understanding and please use the following email address;

FreshwaterBay.PS.PrincipalContact@education.wa.edu.au

National ride to school day is on tomorrow

I look forward to seeing many of you riding to school tomorrow for National ride to school day. Please ensure your child locks their bike up in the Bike enclosure and the overflow of bikes will need to be locked up in the Tennis courts.