FROM THE PRINCIPAL

‘Around here we don’t look backward for very long, we keep moving forward opening up new doors and doing new things because we are curious and curiosity keeps leading us down new paths.’ Walt Disney

Over the last four weeks I have thoroughly enjoyed being able to talk with parents, teachers and students about the start of the year. I’ve heard the excitement in their voices, seen their eagerness to tackle new challenges in their learning and watched them take calculated risks. A love of learning that is nurtured, is key to our students’ success at school: Just as a commitment to being: student centred, people focussed, community connected, encompasses the strategic direction of our school and is the key to the success of our Business Plan. This plan broadly that outlines our strategic direction over the next three years and has been endorsed by the School Board, is now available on our school website. An updated version of the plan to include photos, will be available by the end of the term. Strategies and initiatives that support the realisation of the goals in each of the four key directions, have been implemented over the course of last year and are planned for this year. We are committed to cultivating a growth mindset and to looking for ways to optimise opportunities for improvement.

The development of critical and creative thinking skills is an important element of our plan. As a school we are familiarising ourselves with the 16 Habits of Mind (Arthur Costa) across all year levels. We aim to improve students’ understanding of the thinking habits so that they can apply these to their learning over a range of challenges; not only at school but in their community and in their world.

In each Focus issue we will outline a Habit of Mind and provide you with some ideas about how to explore this with your children. I look forward to sharing the sixteen habits over the course of the year and hope you will be able to use this information to discuss thinking with your children. So when your child comes home and says they’re listening with understanding and empathy, you’ll know exactly what they mean!

DIARY DATES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday 29 February</td>
<td>Yr 5 &amp; 6 Beach Swimming begins</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 7 March</td>
<td>Labour Day—Public Holiday</td>
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<td></td>
<td>STUDENTS DO NOT ATTEND SCHOOL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 4 March</td>
<td>School Development Day</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>STUDENTS DO NOT ATTEND SCHOOL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 8 March</td>
<td>House Swimming Carnival</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 11 March</td>
<td>Assembly—O’Driscoll</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Next FOCUS</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 14 March</td>
<td>Interschool swimming training commences—Dalkeith PS</td>
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UPCOMING EVENTS & IMPORTANT DATES

TUESDAY TREATS

The P&C is pleased to invite all students and community members to Tuesday Treats. Held after school on Tuesdays, the afternoon provides families with an opportunity to catch up and chat. Tuesday Treats for 2016 will start on 15 March.

15 March | Yr 3 Miss Duncombe
22 March | Yr 3 Mrs McKernan

ASSEMBLY

All parents and community members are invited to attend our whole school assemblies. Assemblies are held fortnightly on Friday mornings, the next assembly is:

Date: 26 February | Cube 2 Mrs Lumsden
Date: 11 March | Tangney 1 Mr O’Driscoll

SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT DAYS AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS FOR TERM 1

A reminder to parents that students do NOT attend school on the following days, in Term 1:

Friday 4 March | Student Development Day
Monday 7 March | Labour Day Public Holiday
Friday 25 March | Good Friday
Monday 28 March | Easter Monday
Tuesday 29 March | Easter Tuesday

NASA VISIT THURSDAY 24 MARCH 2016

At Freshwater Bay we are one of only eight primary and secondary schools lucky enough to hear Dr Ravi Margasahayam speak as the Keswick family is co-sponsoring the visit. The presentation will include all students from Year 3-6, on Thursday 24 March in Tangney Hall at 9:00am.

Dr Margasahayam will be visiting schools and talking with over 2700 students on his visit to Perth, with the aim of instilling a passion for (Science Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) STEM learning areas and technology based career paths through the prism of NASA’s activities. He formed part of the Team sitting at the consoles within the shuttle Launch Control Centre while sending Australia’s most “frequent flyer” astronaut Andy Thomas into space on a number of occasions including the “return to flight” mission after Columbia accident.

Exploration of Space accelerates innovation on Earth. The meaning and definition of living and working in space has enthralled millions around the world. The fact that it has happened in our life-time maybe considered unfathomable. The more we know about the Universe, the more we know and learn about ourselves.

Every NASA mission in space embodies the spirit of new discoveries. It is always fascinating when Astronauts dare to live their daily lives in the vacuum of space while learning about the unknown, for the benefit of the whole of mankind. Who knows we could have Australia’s next astronaut sitting in Tangney hall inspired by Dr Margasahayam’s presentation. The Freshwater Bay mission is proudly sponsored by:
SCHOOL MATTERS

HABITS OF MIND
QUESTIONING AND POSING PROBLEMS

Which one of us hasn’t spent a few moments wishing their child had fewer questions? Why? What is that? Are we there yet?!?! Annoying as it can be at times we all want our children to have the desire to get the answers to questions. Knowing how to ask a good question is a skill we hope to develop in life long learners. We want our children to be aware of what they don’t know and to look closely at the world to solve problems and find real life answers. This habit of mind looks at having a questioning attitude, knowing what data you need and developing questioning strategies to produce that data.

It involves finding problems to solve. Here are a few suggestions for developing a habit of mind that sees questions and problems as fun puzzles to be solved:

• simple games like Guess Who, Twenty Questions, Eye Spy;
• bring small daily problems like how to store recycling, to the dinner table to talk through possible solutions. Sharing your reasoning and thinking about problems teaches your child how to think things through;
• set up series of simple question clues that lead your child around the house on a scavenger hunt;
• make a list of things in the natural world that you would like to know more about. Using the list to generate questions; and
• notice when a character in a book is having a problem, ask how do they approach the problem? What else could they do?

POWERLIFTING POWERHOUSE

We have a record holder amongst us!! Congratulations must go to one of our wonderful Year 1 teacher Mrs Dianne Baxter (Cowan 3), who has set new National powerlifting records in the recent National Titles. Mrs Baxter now holds the current Masters 1 Powerlifting National Record in:

- Squat — 160kg
- Deadlift — 178kg
- Total — 412kg

An absolutely awesome effort Mrs Baxter!

CLASSROOM CASH COMPETITION

At Freshwater Bay we have entered the Caltex, The West Australian and Channel Seven competition giving West Australian Schools the chance to WIN a share of $20,000 to help buy the things we need that make learning just that more fun!

We have registered our school so now its up to us! On the weekends of March 5 - 6, 12 - 13 and 19 - 20 an entry coupon will appear in The Weekend West. To be in the running to WIN, we must collect as many entry coupons as possible through friends and family.
SCHOOL MATTERS

NATURE PLAY ELEMENTS — CAN YOU HELP?

Our students are really loving exploring the games they can play and the things they can do in the Nature Playground this term. They’ve been introducing different elements into the playground to add to their creative play opportunities. To assist with this we are asking if anyone has any rocks (side-plate size) or wooden offcuts they would be happy to donate, that can be used by our students to get creative with. If you think you can help with any of these items, please deliver them to the Art Room or to Mrs Burns who’s always ready to add treasures to the area, much to the delight of the Nature Play regulars first thing in the morning.

STUDENT MATTERS

TADPOLE TRIATHLON

CONGRATULATIONS

Lachlan, Mitchell, George & Will were very excited to take part in this month’s Tadpole Triathlon held at the new and exciting venue, Elizabeth Quay. The event included a 100m swim, a 3km bike ride and a 500m run to finish. All the boys had to be up early ready for a 6am registration and 7am start.

The new venue was great for parents to be able to see the kids up close and the boys said the river swim was ‘dark but not as scary as they had anticipated (even with the jellyfish). They would love to see more of their friends join in next year or there is another event coming soon in April.
STUDENT MATTERS

VALUES AWARDS

The Freshwater Bay values outline our aspirations as a community and our commitment to the way in which we will work together. With ongoing support from Peter Clements of Mint Real Estate, the school is able to present a regular values award. The award recognises children who outstandingly model the Freshwater Bay Values.

Congratulations to Oliver Flaherty who was awarded the Values Award in Mrs Lumsden’s assembly last week. Mrs Lumsden wrote:

Oliver is a conscientious student who puts maximum effort into his work across all areas of the curriculum. His encouraging, sunny and bright personality is a wonderful asset to have in our classroom. He is a supportive and caring student who is always the first to volunteer to help the teacher and other members of the class without any expectation of recognition or reward. Oliver is a role model to others and a well-deserving recipient of the Values Award.

Congratulations Oliver!

COMMUNITY MATTERS

JOEYSOCCER

A reminder to all of our budding soccer stars—JOEYSOCCER Enrolments CLOSE next Friday 4th March.

No registration will be allowed after this date.

http://uwanfc.com.au

You have received this newsletter as part of the Freshwater Bay Primary School. To unsubscribe, please email natalie.hellewell@education.wa.edu.au