



FALLS CREEK PUBLIC SCHOOL

TALKABOUT

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Term 4 - Week 8

Wednesday 26 November, 2014

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

It has come to my attention that many of our students are communicating on the messaging app 'kik' after school each day. While this is a good thing the content of some of these messages is disturbing. A parent has reported to me that some of the messages are sexual in nature. These messages are then being brought into conversations in the playground at school and causing issues amongst students. Some students are also discussing in the playground websites they are accessing at home that are not necessarily appropriate for primary aged students to view.

I ask that all parents monitor their child's online usage and keep an eye on what messaging services or websites that they may be accessing. If I become aware of students accessing inappropriate websites then I will contact parents and may also need to contact the relevant authorities if any laws are being broken.

Students should not be able to access inappropriate sites or images on the internet at school. However, if they do they are immediately denied access to the school's computer network which means they are not able to log on to any computer.

If you have any questions or concerns about this please contact the office to make an appointment to discuss this further.

Funding for 2015: Funding allocations for schools for 2015 were announced last week. Falls Creek Public School has been very lucky to receive an extra \$53,000 in funding to support our students in achieving their best. Some of this money is linked to staffing and allows us to have an extra teacher on site for 1 day per fortnight. The other funds can be spent on projects or programs that we think will be of benefit to the school.

I will be discussing this matter further and how we might spend that money at this week's P&C meeting. If you would like to hear about these programs or share any ideas that you have on how the money could be spent please come along to the meeting.

Class Structure for 2015: The class structure for 2015 has been decided. However, changes may occur early next year and this will depend solely on student enrolment numbers.

K/1/2: Ms Nicole Humphreys and Ms Susan Porteous (Friday)

3/4: Mrs Lyn Brown

5/6: Mr Dion Lalor

Release from Face to Face (RFF) and Learning Support: Ms Bonnie Cullen

The K/1/2 class will be in the classroom next to the library (currently 3/6B), 3/4 will be in the current K/1/2 room and 5/6 will stay where it is.

Library Borrowing: I have an important message from Mrs Bransgrove. Library borrowing has ceased for this year. All students are to return their books to the library by the end of this week. A stocktake of all junior and senior fiction and non-fiction books must be carried out before the end of the school year and this takes several weeks to do. Notices were sent home to students last week about outstanding books. Please have a good look at home for these and return them to school. If books cannot be found we may ask parents to pay the replacement cost for these books.

Attendance at school and absences: Thank you to those parents who are contacting the school to inform us of student absences. It is vitally important that all students attend school daily. Parents can be prosecuted for not ensuring their children attend school. Having days off to celebrate birthdays or to help out at home are not valid reasons for students to be absent from school and we have to record these as unjustified absences.

DEC policy states that if your child is away for 2 consecutive days his/her teacher will ring you to ask why your child is not at school. We will be following this directive. If your child is absent it is important that you contact the school.

If we cannot reach you or the emergency contacts you have provided then I must contact the police and ask them to find / contact you and ask why your child has not been at school.

If you have any questions about this please contact the school for further information.

Presentation Evening: This will be held on Monday 8 December at 6.00pm. All students are expected to attend this night. All students will receive an award and will be performing musical items as well.

P&C: I ask that all parents carefully read the attached letter from Adam Willis, President of Falls Creek P&C. Many on the current committee will be leaving at the end of the year and we need more parents to become active in the P&C. The canteen will cease to operate without a P&C to run and manage it. There will be no opportunities for Mother's and Father's Day stalls. There will be no raffles or movie nights.

I encourage parents to attend our P&C meetings. We discuss many issues and I always present a report discussing the issues facing the school and explaining the ever changing educational landscape and what it means for us as a school and the impact these changes can have on our school.

There is a P&C meeting tomorrow night at 6.00pm in 3/6L. Children are able to play in K/1/2 while the meeting is on.

Bushfire Season: Falls Creek PS is once again on the DEC's Bushfire Register. This means that if there is a Catastrophic Fire Danger Rating declared the school will cease operations on that day. All parents will be notified of this the afternoon before the school is to be closed. Further information about this is available on the school's website on the following link:

www.fallscreek-p.schools.nsw.edu.au/our-school/rules-policies/bushfire-safety-information

The last day of the 2014 school year for students is Wednesday 17 December. Staff finishes on Friday 19 December. In 2015, staff return on Tuesday 27 January, students in Years 1 – 6 return to school on Wednesday 28 January and Kinder students start on Thursday 29 January.

Finally, my office day is on Friday so if you need to speak to me, please make an appointment for Friday or before or after school on any other day.

Nicole

K/2H NEWS

Mr Waight has been teaching the class last week and this week. He will continue to do so until he finishes at the end of next week.

We are busy wrapping up units of work for the end of the year and will be starting some Christmas craft shortly. All books and art work will be sent home with students on Monday 15 December. Please send in a plastic bag to help carry their work home in.

We will be moving the class into its new room on Tuesday 16 December.

Finally, I sent home notes this week with students who have an outstanding home reader from last term or earlier. Please have a good look for these at home and return them to school. There is a \$10 replacement cost for each book.

Please come and see me if you have any questions or concerns.

Nicole

3/6B NEWS

Ms Cullen and Ms Porteous have now completed the final comments for student reports. Hooray!! Great results continue for the multiplication and division 5 minute frenzy where students work quickly and accurately on a maths page in an attempt to beat the clock. We are now in the closing chapters of our book 'Rowan of Rin'. Tension is certainly building and students are working well on activities associated with this text. Good luck to those students who are representing our school at the Dragon Tag Gala Day today.

Susan Porteous

MS CULLEN

This week K/2H have been studying what to do in an emergency situation and about calling 000. Quite a few students were unable to provide their home address and home telephone number details. Further revision of that personalised information at home would be very helpful. Students in 3/6L and 3/6B have been continuing to study tobacco and the effects that smoking has on the body. Each class is also continuing to learn songs for Presentation Night.

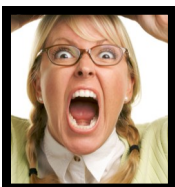
Bonnie Cullen

SPORT NEWS

We have headed off this morning to the Shoalhaven Dragon Tag Gala Day at the Rugby Park in South Nowra. The weather looks great and the students are all looking forward to a fun day. I would like to thank all the parents, grandparents and carers who were available to transport students as we couldn't do this without your assistance. Thank you!

Our next event is the Swimming Carnival next Wednesday 3 December at the Bay & Basin Leisure Centre. Please send your permission notes/money back to school as soon as possible, if you are able to assist on the day your help would be greatly appreciated.

Dion Lalor



LIBRARY NEWS

It has been a very busy year in the Library, with many new resources making it onto the shelves. The students are really enjoying all the new additions to the Library. All of these new resources need to be covered, if you are able to assist, please let Karen know, your help is very much appreciated. Please ensure library books are returned as soon as possible to enable stocktake to commence. Happy reading!

Michelle Bransgrove

WHAT'S ON THIS TERM

THIS WEEK (8)

☺Wednesday 26 November

Active After School Communities - Baseball
Dragon Tag Gala Day Year 3-6

☺Thursday 27 November

P & C Meeting 6pm
Assembly 2.15pm

NEXT WEEK (9)

☺Tuesday 2 December

Shoalhaven High School Drama students
performance for K/2H and pre-school 1.30pm

☺Wednesday 3 December

Swimming Carnival

COMING EVENTS

☺Monday 8 December

Presentation Evening

☺Wednesday 10 December

Thank You Morning Tea

☺Friday 12 December

Reward Day - Reports go home

☺Wednesday 17 December

Last day for students

☺Friday 19 December

Last day for staff



P & C - CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

We are now accepting donations for our Christmas hamper end of year raffle eg: biscuits, chocolates, cans of fruit / vegetables, toiletries, toys and knick knacks.

If you need more tickets please contact the office.

Tickets are \$2 each or 3 for \$5.

The raffle will be drawn at the Presentation Evening on Monday 8 December. Please support the school and send in a donation or buy a ticket.





CONGRATULATIONS to Megan Barry & Jason Elliott on the safe arrival of baby Leo who was born last Thursday 20 November weighing 8lb 7oz. Leo is a little brother for Blake who told Mrs Morison he was as big as a pineapple. How sweet!

CANTEEN ROSTER

Friday 28 November

Rowena Robinson

BRIDGE BUILDERS

To achieve your:

BRONZE Bridge Builder you will need 20 x certificates. (Students will receive a certificate plus a \$1 canteen voucher.)

SILVER Bridge Builder you will need 1 x Bronze Bridge Builder plus 15 additional awards.

GOLD Bridge Builder you will need 1 x Bronze Bridge Builder, 1 x Silver Bridge Builder plus 15 additional awards. At this level, students receive a Book Award. When students have collected enough certificates at each level, they need to be handed in at the office. All certificates are returned after the award is presented at the assembly.

Happy Birthday!

We would like to wish a very Happy Birthday to the following students:

Casey Lalor - 30 November

Levi Robinson - 5 December

Lani Attard - 8 December

Arnold Kubinyi - 20 December

Lachlan Flear - 31 December

Emily Dillon - 1 December

Erik Kubinyi - 7 December

Sam Ramsay - 18 December

Jayden Lalor - 26 December



ENROL NOW FOR 2015

The Central Shoalhaven Mobile Preschool is a Community Based not for profit organisation. We provide educational programs designed for preschool children aged between 3 – 5 years, by fully qualified staff in a caring environment. Allow your child to make new friends within the local area.

Subsidy available.

We operate from Falls Creek Public School Hall on Tuesday, of the school term.

PRESCHOOL HOURS:

9.00am – 3.00pm.

ADDITIONAL HOURS:

8.00am – 9.00am

All enquiries please phone our office: **44230571 / 0412928095** or call in at our venue.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Shoalhaven Football – January Holiday Clinics

Shoalhaven Heads 14th & 15th 9 am – 12 noon Cost \$70

South Nowra 21st & 22nd 9 am – 12 noon Cost \$70

For more information mjonno1@bigpond.com.au

Mark Johnston

Director of Coaching

Shoalhaven Football

SCHOOL TERM DATES 2015

Term 1: 28 January - 2 April

Term 2: 21 April - 26 June

Term 3: 14 July - 18 September

Term 4: 6 October - 16 December



Nutrition Snippet

The simplest way

...to make healthy Santas.

This Christmas, get your kids eating strawberry Santas – they're cute to look at, and delicious to eat!



Follow these instructions to keep your Christmas fun and healthy:

1. Wash your strawberries, dry, then slice off the tip
2. Spoon/pipe reduced-fat ricotta or cream cheese on the larger half, then put the 'hat' on top
3. Top hat with a little more of the cheese to make a pom pom
4. Cut a small amount of sultanas up for the eyes and place on gently.

Merry Christmas from all of us at *Eat It To Beat It!*

For more information visit
www.eatittobeatit.com.au
or join us at [facebook.com/eatittobeatit](https://www.facebook.com/eatittobeatit)



Letter to the Parents, Carers, Relatives and Friends of Falls Creek Public School.

Dear All,

My name is Adam Willis and I am the President of The Falls Creek Public School P&C. I have been associated with Falls Creek Public School since 2002, when my wife and I enrolled our eldest son. From the time our association started at the school we knew that this would be a special place for our children to be educated. Almost immediately we became involved with the P&C, not only because we wanted to be connected to the community in which we had just moved to but we also found it the best way to keep up with what was happening with our children's education.

Over the years we have made many friendships and feel we have had a real say in the running of the school. We feel proud to have contributed to the quality of not only our children's education and lives but of all the children who have attended the school over the years we have been involved.

The reason I have decided to write this letter is that I believe there may be a real crisis looming for the P&C after the beginning of 2015. Our youngest son will be leaving this year and our association with the school will be finishing as of March 2015, at the P&C Annual General Meeting. This year will see some other families moving on that are also involved with the P&C.

As with the nature of schools, families move on and usually there are newer generations to take the helm, but this year we have found that there has been very little interest in the P&C. The small group who currently attend the meetings are achieving some wonderful outcomes so I can only imagine what could be done with more help. My biggest fear is that the P&C may not continue after this year, which will be a great loss to the children of Falls Creek.

The P&C runs the canteen for your children, organises uniforms for your children and raises funds for equipment and activities that will no longer be provided if the P&C folds.

We are asking that you consider joining us at our next meeting and help save this vital element of your child's education.

Your child's school needs you, become a community hero, just by providing a little time you will be able to feel proud that you are helping your community and contributing to your child's education. Think of the rewards that will come from your contribution not only for the benefit of the school but by showing our kids the importance of being involved and active within their community.

Yours Sincerely,

Adam Willis.

Our next meeting will be held on Thursday 27th November 2014 at 6pm

All P & C meetings are child friendly so please bring your children.

SO WHY JOIN THE P & C ASSOCIATION

- To meet other parents and make new friends
- Belong to a team of people that can make a difference to the school
- Help the school to grow and benefit from your knowledge and skills
- Have the opportunity to express your opinion and ideas
- Provide advice and recommendations to the Principal on issues which affect students and the general operation of the school
- Share in planning the goals of the school and P & C
- Feel a sense of achievement as these goals are realised

WHAT IS A P & C ASSOCIATION?

- A group of interested parents, community members and school Principals.
- The P & C meets once a month to contribute toward discussion on issues affecting the students at the school.
- They participate in making decisions and taking actions relating to these issues

WHAT DOES THE P & C DO?

- Operates and manages the canteen
- Provides a uniform shop
- Provides funding and ideas for major and minor projects
- Provides funding for other resources
 - Books
 - Technology and Computers
 - Sports Equipment
 - Musical Instruments
 - Achievement Awards
 - Contributions to assist and encourage Representative Sport
- Organises major school events that not only raises money for the school but are fun for the kids as well
 - Discos
 - Movie Nights
 - Mother's Day and Father's Day stalls
- Encourages closer cooperation between the parents, staff, students and the community