



FALLS CREEK PUBLIC SCHOOL

TALKABOUT

Phone: 4447 8243 Fax: 4447 8023

E-mail: fallscreek-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au Web: fallscreek-p.schools.nsw.edu.au

Term 4 - Week 9

Wednesday 4 December, 2014

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

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

Attached to this newsletter is a note explaining this information as well.

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 next Monday 8 December at 6.00pm. All students are expected to attend this night. Each student will receive an award and will be performing musical items as well. All classes have been busily practicing their performances for next week. K/2H sound beautiful, but I may be a bit biased!!

Active After Schools Program: This has now finished for the year. Funding for this program will cease after 2014, so it will not be offered in 2015. An alternative program is being developed, but will not be starting until Term 3, 2015.

Swimming Carnival: Everyone who attended had a great day. I'm sure there were lots of tired students last night – some students had power naps on the bus back to school. Results are listed in Mr Lalor's Sport News

The last day of the 2014 school year for students is Wednesday 17 December. Staff finish on Friday 19 December. In 2015, staff return to school 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

Swimming Carnival: Everyone who attended yesterday had a great time. Some of us had a nap on the bus or in class before we went home! I'm sure everyone slept well last night – I certainly did.

Home Readers: This program finishes at the end of next week. Please make sure your children are putting their home readers in their bag and bringing them back to school. Notes will be sent home to remind you of any outstanding readers your child has.

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 artwork will be sent home with students on Monday 15 December. Please send in a plastic bag to help carry their work home in.

Finally, Mr Declan Waight finishes his prac on Friday. The class have enjoyed having him as their teacher for the last 3 weeks. We will all miss him. Mr Waight has said he will miss us too!!

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

Nicole

3/6B NEWS

A reminder to all students that outstanding library loans need to be returned promptly as stocktake has commenced. On Monday 15 December, would students please bring a plastic bag so they can take home books and artwork. Christmas craft commences next week. What outstanding swimming competitors we have in 3/6B. The mixed relay races were particularly thrilling. Well done!

Susan Porteous

3/6L NEWS

We said goodbye to Mrs Knight on Monday and presented her with a card expressing our thanks and appreciation. She had developed a good rapport with the students and I'm sure they will miss her (now that I'm back). We will be revising our maths over the remaining weeks and working on concepts that the students feel they could develop further. In English, we are continuing to rehearse our plays and Stage 3 are hoping to perform at the next assembly.

Dion Lalor

MS CULLEN

It was fantastic to see the great effort displayed by all of the students at the swimming carnival yesterday. Great work everyone! This week students in Years 3-6 have studied the effects of alcohol and caffeine during Health lessons. All of the students have also been working on putting the final touches to their presentation night performances - only 4 sleeps away!

Bonnie Cullen

SPORT NEWS

Last Wednesday, our junior and senior teams competed in the Dragon Tag Gala Day. Both teams played extremely well against some stiff competition from the larger schools. Our seniors had one draw, one loss and finished with two wins. Our juniors won their first three games and drew their last. Well done boys and girls. Students participated in mini games where they could win prizes, they displayed excellent sportsmanship and fair play during the day, which was enjoyed by all.

Our swimming carnival was held yesterday at the Bay and Basin Leisure Centre. Students were well behaved during the day and there was good participation by students who attended. There were some close races during the day and by the middle of the competition Emus were clearly in the lead. At days end, however, the Kangaroos came home strong to win the event, 170 - 158, well done Kangaroos. Thank you to all the parent helpers we had on the day. Without your assistance we would not be able to hold events such as our swimming carnival. Thanks again, your help is greatly appreciated.

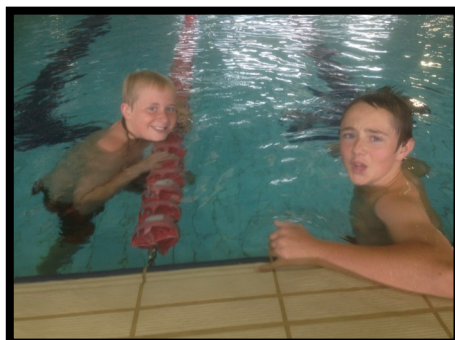
Yours in sport Dion Lalor

FREE MULCH!! Due to receiving a load of mulch we did not need, we now have excess mulch to give away! If you would like a trailer load, please contact the school on 44 478 243.

Falls Creek Public School
Dragon Tag teams 2014



Falls Creek Public School
Swimming Carnival 2014



WHAT'S ON THIS TERM

NEXT WEEK (10)

☺Monday 8 December	Presentation Evening - 6pm
☺Wednesday 10 December	Thank You Morning Tea - 11am
☺Friday 12 December	Reward Day - Reports go home

COMING EVENTS

☺Wednesday 17 December	Last day for students
☺Friday 19 December	Last day for staff

CANTEEN ROSTER

Friday 5 December Jacqui Finch



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



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.

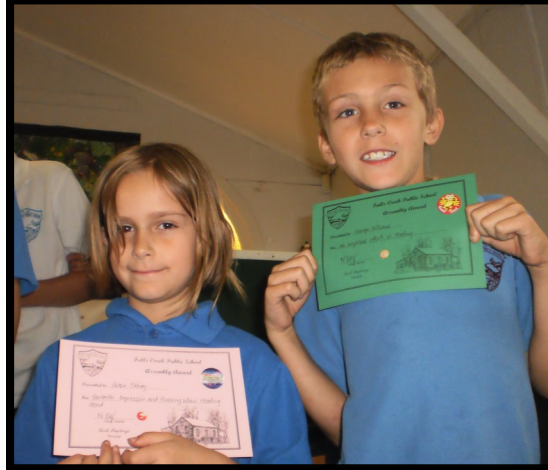
If you need more tickets please contact the office.

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.



Assembly week 8



STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

Presented at assembly Thursday 27, November 2014

MERIT AWARDS

- K/2H Torlea Blume, Blake McDonald, Grace Fahey and George Williams.
3/6B Kameisha Riley-Burnes, Jye Picker, Sam Ramsay and Ryan Browne.
3/6L Dallas Riley-Burnes, Jayden Lalor, Khe-Sanh Duke and Corey Henkel.
Ms Cullen Erik Kubinyi and Sam Ramsay.

BRIDGE BUILDER AWARDS

- Bronze Jayden Lalor, Evie Finch and Brodie Partridge.
Silver Rhea Luke, Arnold Kubinyi and Bailey Cullen.
Gold Brayden Cullen and Lachlan Jensen.

PLAYGROUND STARS WINNERS

- Ryder Partridge, Kurt Wisniewski, Corey Henkel, Lachlan Willis,
Ashleigh Bloxsome and Sam Ramsay.

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.

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

Arrangements for the bush fire season

THIS INFORMATION IS ONLY FOR SCHOOLS THAT ARE ON THE BUSH FIRE REGISTER

Information for parents and carers

This brochure provides information for parents and carers about arrangements for the bush fire season. This information is only relevant for schools that are on the bush fire register.

Introduction

The NSW Department of Education and Communities has conducted bush fire assessments for NSW government schools in bush fire prone areas. These results have been validated by an independent external expert and have been reviewed in consultation with the NSW Rural Fire Service.

A small number of schools have been identified as a school at increased risk if a fire were to break out on a day when a catastrophic fire danger rating is issued for the area that the school is located in. **This includes the school your child attends.**

To ensure the health, safety and welfare of students and staff, the NSW Department of Education and Communities has determined that on days when a catastrophic fire danger rating is issued for the area the school is in, the school will temporarily cease operations for the day(s) the rating is current and alternative learning arrangements will be put in place.

What is a Fire Danger Rating?

A fire danger rating is the expected fire danger on a particular day and is determined by considering a combination of factors including air temperature, relative humidity, wind speed and drought. The ratings range from Low – Moderate through High, Very High, Severe, Extreme and Catastrophic.

What is a Catastrophic Fire Danger Rating?

A catastrophic rating means that if fires broke out they would be uncontrollable, unpredictable and very fast moving with very aggressive flames extending high above tree tops and buildings.

When will I know if my child's school won't be operating the next day?

The State Emergency Operations Centre (SEOC) notifies the Department at approximately 4:30 pm each day when there are catastrophic fire danger ratings predicted for the following day. This means that the school will only receive notification of a catastrophic fire danger rating after school hours the day before the forecast is issued.

Your school will notify you as soon as possible. You will be notified by telephone or other communication, depending on when the school is advised that the catastrophic fire danger rating has been issued. The school will not receive this information until after school has finished on the day before the rating takes effect. The school will contact all parents and carers and, where appropriate, issue advice through local media.

Please provide your current home or after hours contact to your school. Parents and carers should also watch or listen for local media as information may be provided through these outlets.

What educational arrangements will be in place if the school isn't operating?

A Catastrophic Fire Danger Rating is likely to occur on a very small number of days during the bush fire season, if at all. To ensure that we continue to support student learning on these days, the following arrangements have been put in place:
Falls Creek Public School will cease operations for the day which means that the school is closed on the relevant days that a catastrophic fire danger rating is declared.

Will my child's school be affected by severe or extreme fire danger ratings?

During the bush fire season, including days of severe or extreme fire danger rating, schools will continue to operate as normal unless advised otherwise by emergency services. During the bush fire season schools will be vigilant and monitor local conditions, particularly on days when severe or extreme fire danger ratings are issued.

Further information

We appreciate your cooperation during the bush fire season. For further information about fire danger ratings and the bush fire season, please refer to the NSW Rural Fire Service website at www.rfs.nsw.gov.au.

The Department also has a website on bush fire safety with up to date information, located at: <http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/bushfire-safety>

FALLS CREEK PUBLIC SCHOOL

26 Vidler Street,

FALLS CREEK 2540

Phone: 02 44478243 Fax: 02 44478023

Principal: Nicole Humphreys

Dear Parents,

You are cordially invited to our
Presentation Evening on
Monday, 8th December, 2014
commencing at 6.00pm in the school
COLA.

*All students will be performing and
receiving an award.*

Children should wear full summer school
uniform.

Nicole Humphreys
(Principal)