



FALLS CREEK PUBLIC SCHOOL

## TALKABOUT

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**Term 1 - Week 4**

**Wednesday 18 February, 2015**

## PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

**School Leaders:** Our Year 6 students all made their speeches last Friday to the students about why they want to be a school leader and what qualities they would bring to the position. The voting has been done and counted and all students are eagerly waiting for tomorrow's assembly for the results to be announced. I invite all Year 6 parents to come along and see their children possibly be announced as a school leader. The assembly will start at 2.15pm.

**P&C AGM:** The next meeting for the P&C will be held on Thursday 19 March at 6.00pm. This is the Annual General Meeting where a new executive will be elected. If there is not an executive formed then the P&C may have to fold. I encourage parents to attend this meeting and be a part of their child's school.

Following the AGM will be a regular general meeting.

**Swimming Carnival:** The FISST carnival is to be held next Tuesday at Bomaderry Pool. Notes were sent out with last week's Talkabout. Please return these and the money to the office by Friday.

**School Photos:** Order forms and envelopes were handed out to the eldest child in each family last week for the school photos, these need to be returned to the school on or before Thursday 26 February. If you have any questions please call Carol at Rainbow Photographics on **0434 672 069**.

*All students are to wear their summer uniform for the photos.*

**Parent Information Sessions:** This year the staff have decided to run information sessions for parents to explain what we are hoping to achieve in the classroom this year. We will be explaining how we teach certain concepts (such as Maths and Reading) and provide parents with tips on how you can help your child at home. We will also be talking to you about our expectations for students regarding behaviour, learning and what they need to bring to school.

The information sessions are as follows:

**Thursday 19 February:** 3/4 with Mrs Brown in her classroom from 5.30 – 6.30pm

**Thursday 26 February:** 5/6 with Mr Lalor in his classroom from 5.30 – 6.30pm *Please note the rescheduled day for 5/6*

**Tuesday 3 March:** K/1/2 with Miss Humphreys in her classroom from 5.30 – 6.30pm.

By starting the sessions at a later time we hope to get as many parents being able to attend as possible.

Due to Shoalhaven High School running an information session for Year 6 parents about high school in 2016 we have moved the 5/6 session to the following day so that parents have the opportunity to attend both sessions.

**General Permission Note:** attached to the newsletter is the general permission note we ask parents to fill out at the beginning of each year. We have made an addition to this note which means it only has to be filled out once until you inform the school otherwise of any changes. Please fill out and return ASAP (except new and kindergarten students).

**New Attendance Procedures:** I would like to provide some further information for parents around the new attendance policy the DEC introduced. Below is an excerpt from the new policy that explains the procedures that we must follow:

#### **14. How should schools manage Applications for Extended Leave (travel or holiday)?**

14.3. A principal should not accept a reason for travel during school term if it is not in the best interests of the student. Educational, social and participation reasons, should be specified on the application.

14.4. Travel is considered to be domestic or international travel for the purpose of a family holiday, family business, bereavement or other reasons, which should be specified on the application.

14.5. Principals should consult with parents about the intention of the travel and in the case of family holidays encourage parents to take holidays with their child during school vacation periods.

14.6. Where a principal considers that the travel is appropriate during school term, the principal should issue the parent with an Application for Extended Leave – Travel for completion and inform the parent that if the application is accepted, the absences will be recorded as “L” – Leave.

14.7. Principals should request travel documentation, such as travel itinerary or e-ticket, and

ensure this is attached to the application.

14.8. Principals should ensure that parents are assisted with the completion of the application and provide a translation service if required.

14.9. When travels period exceeds one school term access to Distance Education must be considered.

14.10. Principals may decline to accept a parent's Application for Extended Leave – Travel. In this case the parent must be advised in writing.

14.11. If a student or students do not return on the date specified, the principal must ensure the parents are contacted to establish the whereabouts of the student. If contact is not established then the principal should follow processes associated with an Application for Home School Liaison Program support.

14.12. On accepting a parent's Application a Certificate of Extended Leave - Travel must be issued. The original certificate is provided to the parent and a copy of the certificate placed in each student's record.

If you have any further queries about this please come and see me. If you need to take a holiday during the term you can ask for an Application for Extended Leave at the office.

**Finally**, Ms Cullen and I are at a planning day with the other small schools in our area to finalise our school plan and work together on shared projects that benefit our students.

*If you have any questions or concerns, please come and see me.*

*Nicole*

## **K/1/2 NEWS**

We are having a great time this week. All students have been enjoying reading to each other in class.

Kinder are learning about the letters 'l' and 'f' and the sounds they make. Everyone in Kinder is having a great time reading their readers in class and I know that everyone is trying hard as they learn to read.

Year 1 and 2 are learning about words that have 'am' in them and are also working hard on improving their reading skills.

In Maths Year 1 and 2 are looking at subtraction while Kinder are learning more about numbers and counting forwards and backwards.

I completed the Best Start assessment with all Kinder students last Wednesday. A report for

parents on how your child did and how you can help them at home will be sent home with students on Friday. If you would like an interview to discuss the results or would like to know more about the assessment, please contact the school to arrange a time that suits us both.

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

*Nicole*

### **3/4 NEWS**

A much better response with homework last week and the Home Reading is going well. Thank you parents for encouraging and supporting your children.

In Maths this week we are looking at place value and continuing our work with odd and even numbers.

In English we are writing a persuasive advertisement for the juice mentioned in "Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing." - the novel we are reading in class.

Thank you to Brayden for lending our class his Venus Flytrap for our Science Table and to Evie for sharing her interesting feathers and rocks with us.

Spelling stars last week were Evie, Kaleb and.....ALL of Year 4 - well done !!

*Keep in touch,*

*Lyn.*

### **5/6 NEWS**

Week 4 is here already and the term is zooming by. In 5/6 this week we are conducting our first science experiment on bread. In Maths we are looking at the different strategies that can be used to solve addition problems. We are continuing with our persuasive texts in English and students are starting to work on their first assignment (due on Friday in week 6). Students have picked their own topic and will be conducting some of the research in class. However, some of this will be needed to be completed at home.

*Thanking you,*

*Dion Lalor*

### **MS CULLEN**

This week students in years 3-6 have been busy exploring positive and negative shapes in optical illusion art. The focus has been upon creating artwork that creates the illusion of moving

targets. K/1/2 have been exploring the meaning behind Dreamtime stories and the use of oral history.

## SPORT NEWS

Just a reminder that the FISST swimming carnival is next Tuesday the 24th. Students need to be able to swim 50m to attend the carnival at Bomaderry swimming pool. Could students attending please return their notes ASAP so we can organise transport. Next week (week 5) is the District swimming carnival, also being held at the Bomaderry swimming pool on Thursday 26 February.

*Yours in Sport,*

*Dion Lalor*

## CANTEEN ROSTER

Friday 20 February - Jacqui Finch

Friday 27 February - Jason Elliott

## STUDENT BANKING

Please remember to bring in your student banking each Thursday morning for Mrs Spencer to process.

## P & C NEWS

**EASTER RAFFLE** We are having our Annual Easter Raffle and would like to start collecting items to help make this another successful fundraiser. Keep your eyes out for stuffed toys, chocolate eggs, chickens etc. Please bring any donations to the office. Raffle tickets will be sent home with the children soon. Our Easter Hat /Crazy Hair Parade is on Tuesday 31 March.

**Easter Raffle**  
Tickets are \$2 each or 3 for \$5



# WHAT'S ON THIS TERM

## THIS WEEK (4)

☺Thursday 19 February

Assembly 2:15pm

3/4 Parent Information Session 5:30 - 6:30pm

## WEEK (5)

☺Tuesday 24 February

FISST Swimming Carnival

☺Thursday 26 February

School Photos

District Swimming Carnival

5/6 Parent Information Session 5:30 - 6:30pm

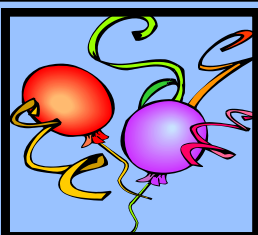
## COMING EVENTS

☺Tuesday 3 March

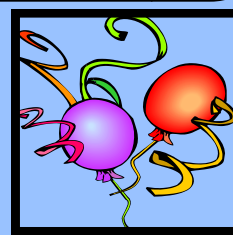
K/1/2 Parent Information Session 5:30 –6:30pm

☺Thursday 5 March

Year 6 Leadership Day - Killalea



# Happy Birthday!



**Happy Birthday to the following students who  
celebrate their birthday in February**

**2 February: Kimberley Williams**  
**2 February: Liam Henkel**  
**20 February: Akasha Duke**  
**25 February: Brayden Cullen**  
**28 February: Bailey Cullen**





Falls  
Creek Kinder  
students  
with  
their Year 6



'buddies' plus  
their purple  
buddy bears.  
Together the  
students learn  
about caring  
for others,  
friendliness,



respect,  
valuing  
difference,  
including  
others and  
responsibility.



All students  
are involved in



fun activities  
around these  
values every  
Friday.



Ms Porteous





## COMMUNITY NEWS



**GET INVOLVED**  
**Have Fun**  
**RAISE MONEY**

for your school, sporting team,  
community group, relay team,  
charity & more

We need Volunteers for:

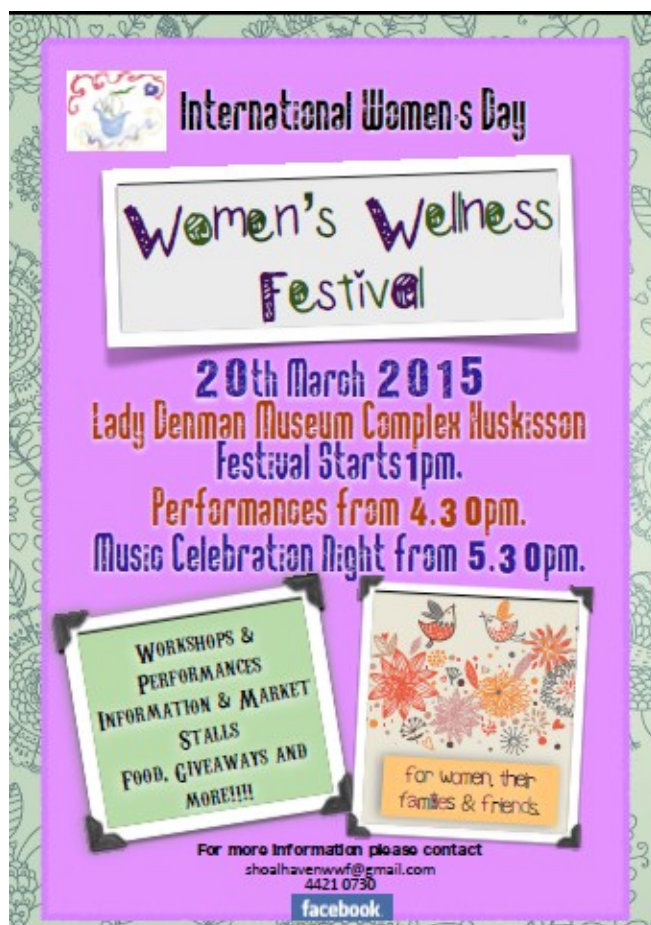
- Competitor Registration
- Water (Aid) Stations
- Course Marshals
- Event Central
- Baggage Area
- Post Race Recovery
- Finish Line

Event shirt  
& Lunch



For more information check out our website: [www.eliteenergy.com.au](http://www.eliteenergy.com.au)  
or contact us on 4423 7775 or [volunteer@eliteenergy.com.au](mailto:volunteer@eliteenergy.com.au)

*Elite Energy as passionate about involving the Local Community  
and endeavour to support as many groups & organisations as possible*



2014-2015  
**NSW Family Energy Rebate**

**\$150\***  
TOWARDS  
ENERGY  
BILLS

**APPLY  
ONLINE  
NOW!**

**2 MINUTES TO FILL IN A FORM**  
<https://applications.fer.trade.nsw.gov.au/>  
\* eligibility criteria apply

**Trade & Investment  
Resources & Energy**

**Apply before  
Midnight  
16 June 2015**

FOR MORE INFORMATION & ASSISTANCE  
PHONE - Service NSW 13 77 88  
EMAIL - [fer.program@trade.nsw.gov.au](mailto:fer.program@trade.nsw.gov.au)  
WEB - [www.resourcesandenergy.nsw.gov.au/info/familyenergyrebate](http://www.resourcesandenergy.nsw.gov.au/info/familyenergyrebate)



## VACANCIES AVAILABLE

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.





# **Falls Creek Public School**

## **26 Vidler St Falls Creek 2540**

Phone 02 44478243 Fax 02 44478023

email: [fallscreek-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:fallscreek-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au)

*Nicole Humphreys: Principal*

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Dear Parents,

In order to reduce the number of individual pieces of information which you need to read and permission notes which you need to sign throughout the year, I am including a number of items together at this time. Please read all the information included and sign all of the related permission slips. We can then store this information centrally and avoid the possibility of students missing out on lessons or activities during the year because of an oversight at the time.

We will still issue detailed notes about the sports competitions, class excursions and performances which occur from time to time so you will be fully informed of the activities which relate to your child's school programs. Individual permission notes will still be required for these activities.

Nicole Humphreys  
Principal

### **Short Walking Excursions**

From time to time opportunities arise for brief educational experiences to occur in the local area, outside the school grounds eg. a walk to the Falls. At such times teachers will escort children and conduct relevant lessons or activities in that location. Students will be fully supervised at all times. Please sign the relevant permission slip if you agree to your child taking part in such activities.

### **2. Student Access To The Internet**

Internet use provides opportunities to enhance student learning experiences through access to the vast amount of material available. The use of the Internet at Falls Creek School is focussed on improving student learning outcomes in purposeful curriculum specific contexts. While much of the information available on the Internet is suitable for use in schools, some material is inappropriate for use by students. Teachers preview, select and may bookmark the sites which students are expected to use in the course of their work. The Department's Web Services provides technical barriers to restrict access to inappropriate Internet material. Parental permission is sought for students to access the Internet under the conditions outlined above. Students are expected to abide by the Internet code of behaviour which is viewed each time a student logs on.

### **3. Photographs**

Throughout the year many occasions occur where photographs of school activities may be taken. As part of the promotion of our school we may wish to publish these photographs either within the school or in the local press. We realise that there may be many implications of the publication of children's photographs and names. Please complete the permission slip which relates to the taking and publishing of photographs of your child in this context.

### **4. Application of Sunscreen**

During the year students and teachers are engaged in many activities which keep them outdoors for extended periods of time. We encourage all students to wear protective clothing, including hats, and to apply sunscreen prior to such activities. Frequently students do not apply sunscreen at appropriate intervals and in order to offer them increased protection we seek permission to provide sunscreen to your child at such times. If your child has an allergy to any particular preparation or ingredient please inform us of this when completing the appropriate permission slip. At Falls Creek we use "Ultra Protect" 30+ SPF, which is PABA free and recommended for sensitive skin. It also contains an insect repellent.

### **5. Scripture Lessons**

Falls Creek School has scripture lessons each Thursday. Currently we have two options for Special Religious Education – Catholic and mixed denominations. However parents need to be aware that under the Education Act 1990 public schools must provide religious education. Children not attending Special Religious Education options will have lessons in General Religious Education. That includes what people believe and how those beliefs affect their lives.

# PLEASE RETURN THIS COMPLETED WHOLE PAGE TO SCHOOL

## 1. Short Walking Excursions Permission Slip

I GIVE / DO NOT GIVE permission for \_\_\_\_\_ to participate in short walking excursions in the local area. I understand that all such excursions will be under teacher supervision.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ (Parent/Guardian) Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## 2. Student Access to the Internet Permission Slip

I GIVE / DO NOT GIVE permission for \_\_\_\_\_ to access the internet as part of the curriculum at Falls Creek School. I understand that, should my child not abide by the school's Code of Behaviour regarding internet use, consequences will be put into place.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ (Parent/Guardian) Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## 3. Photographs – Permission Slip

I GIVE / DO NOT GIVE permission for \_\_\_\_\_ to be photographed whilst participating in school activities. I understand that these photographs may be displayed or published within the school or local news media.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ (Parent/Guardian) Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## 4. Application of Sunscreen – Permission Slip

I GIVE / DO NOT GIVE permission for \_\_\_\_\_ to be provided with sunscreen to use during outdoor activities at school.

☐

He / she has no known allergies to such preparations.

He / she has a known allergy to \_\_\_\_\_.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ (Parent/Guardian) Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## 5. Scripture Lessons – Permission Slip

I GIVE permission for \_\_\_\_\_ to attend Special Religious Education. Please select appropriate box. If you do not select a box your child will attend General Religious Education.

☐

Catholic

☐

Mixed Denominations

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ (Parent/Guardian) Date: \_\_\_\_\_

This signed permission slip remains effective until I advise the school otherwise.