



FALLS CREEK PUBLIC SCHOOL

## TALKABOUT

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**Term 1 - Week 3**

**Wednesday 8 February 2017**

## PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Welcome to Falls Creek Public School 2017, we are looking forward to a great year of learning. This year, our newsletter will be sent home every second Wednesday (odd weeks) and our School Assembly will be held in the hall at 2pm alternate Wednesdays (even weeks). We value the support and assistance of parents and carers in the running of our school and I urge you to attend our two P & C meetings each term. The first one for this year is at 6pm on Thursday 16th February. We will continue to share school information using our school website, facebook, the skoolbag app and, this year, each class will share their learning journey using Class Dojo (more information soon).

Our **staffing arrangements** for 2017:

**Teacher K Blue** - Bonnie Cullen (M-W) and Ms Donna Bowell (T-F)

**Teacher 1-2 Red** - Susan Porteous

**Teacher 3-6 Purple** - Dion Lalor

Learning Support Officers - Tania Lingard and Lane Ardler

School Administration Manager - Karen Morison

General Assistance - Trevor Lawrence

Principal, Learning Support, Library & RFF - Jacqui Cavill

All students will be engaged in developing a **Growth Mindset through STEM** based learning. STEM stands for Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics. It focuses on practical problem solving and integrated learning activities. We will be using everyday materials to build, make and create and I urge each family to choose 3 or 4 items to donate to the school from the following list:.

- sticky tape - masking tape - duct tape - double-sided tape - PVA or craft glue - aluminium foil - ziplock bags - brown paper bags - paper plates, cups - plastic cutlery - small yoghurt containers
- elastic bands - cotton balls - cotton buds - thin modelling wire - buttons - paddlepop sticks -

matchsticks - toothpicks - cotton wool - small pliers - corrugated cardboard - bubble wrap - split pins - small plastic bottles

**Student Safety** is very important at school and during the journey to and from school. Please let us know if you hear of unsafe behaviour on the bus and advise the school office if there is a change in routine for your child. Please call or send a note if you are going to be late for pickup at 2:40, your child is being picked up by a different person or catching a different bus. This practice avoids confusion and keeps our students safe.

Thanks to Ms Porteous, this year, we will be involved in outdoor learning projects that focus on maintaining and improving our school grounds. All classes will participate in **Environmental Education** lessons at 2pm on Wednesday afternoons (odd weeks, starting week 5). We are looking for supportive parents and carers to assist us whenever possible. Some of the activities we will be involved in will include, garden maintenance, mulching, rubbish removal, weed removal, growing vegetables, maintaining the worm farm, maintaining the bush track, native regeneration, pond regeneration and so on. Let us know if you have any extra ideas. Please just turn up on Wednesdays at 2pm if you wish to help. (Please sign in at the office first).

## KINDY BLUE NEWS

We would love to welcome our very excited Kindergarten students to school, It has been a fantastic week! A letter was sent home on Monday with further information regarding what is happening within the class this term.

Thankyou to the parents that have joined our Class Dojo. Class Dojo allows us to personally share with you photos of events, completed work and positive rewards your child has achieved. It is a free program that can be downloaded onto a computer or mobile device.



## 1/2 RED NEWS

Welcome back 1/ 2 Red students. Welcome also to Charlie Wilson who has commenced Year 1 at Falls Creek School.

After such an extended break its been exciting to see how quickly students have settled back into

school routines. The learning is off to a cracking pace with home readers and homework being handed out this week.

**Home Readers:** Students will be able to exchange their books each morning with Tania's help. Thanks Tania!

**Homework:** Years 1 and 2's homework is based on their weekly spelling words and maths revision from the previous week.

Students will need to complete and return their homework in a homework book. All homework is due on Fridays.

Library continues on a Thursday so students are required to bring a library bag on that day.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any problems or concerns.

*Susan*

## 3/6 PURPLE NEWS

Hi parents and carers,

It is fantastic to be back at Falls Creek and I look forward to working with you and your children this year.

Homework has commenced this week and is due on Fridays. If students are having difficulty with their homework they can bring it to school on Wednesday for some extra assistance.

Next week home readers will be sent home for students in Stage 2 while students in Stage 3 can read their own books from home and record these in their reading journals.

Library is on Thursdays and our P.E. and sport will be on Wednesdays and Fridays respectively.

If you have any queries or questions please feel free to ask.

*Thanking you,*

*Dion.*

## P&C

Our **AGM** for **2017** will be held on Thursday 16 February at 6pm. please come along. All parents and carers are invited to attend if you would like to be part of our P & C and help support our school P&C.

## CANTEEN ROSTER

Thursday 9 February - Leah Ryan and Tegan Fisk

Thursday 16 February - Kristy Robinson and Sue Lightowlers



## COMMUNITY NEWS

### IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR PARENTS AND CARERS



For the safety of our students the staff car park is NOT to be used for dropping off/picking up students from school or parent parking in general. It is for staff parking only. Children getting on and off the bus need to walk through the car park and it makes it very dangerous if there is cars driving in and out. We appreciate your support in this matter with keeping our students safe at all times.




### Is your child starting school?

**Would \$500 help pay for primary school costs like uniforms, books, stationery and excursions?**

Saver Plus can match your savings for school costs, dollar for dollar, up to \$500!

You may be eligible if:

- you have a Health Care or a Pensioner Concession card and,
- you or your partner have some regular income from work such as full-time, part-time, casual or seasonal work.

**Contact Lindi Jamieson-Brown  
your local Saver Plus Coordinator:  
0427 439 234  
or [lindi.jamieson-brown@thesmithfamily.com.au](mailto:lindi.jamieson-brown@thesmithfamily.com.au)**

Saver Plus was developed by ANZ and the Brotherhood of St Laurence and is delivered in the Illawarra, Wollongong, Southcoast and Southern Highlands area by The Smith Family. The program is funded by ANZ and the Australian Government. Find more information at [saverplus.org.au](http://saverplus.org.au).



Transport  
for NSW

### School travel 2017 Application information Nov 2016

#### Information for parents, guardians and students

Our school has partnered with Transport for NSW to use the new online process for you to submit school travel applications.

This means we will be able to process your applications online, making it easier and faster for parents, guardians and students to apply for school travel.

Applications for school travel in 2017 are now open, including for travel to Mascot and Green Square station and for private ferries. Parents, guardians and students are encouraged to apply as soon as they are able via:

**Applications for 2017 school travel are now open via**  
[www.transportnsw.info/school-students](http://www.transportnsw.info/school-students)

#### A new application is required when:

- applying for a School Opal card or travel pass for the first time,
- enrolling in Kindergarten, or
- requesting an additional entitlement as a result of a shared parental responsibility situation.

You will need to do an update application if the student has a current school travel pass and:

- is progressing from Year 2 to Year 3,
- is progressing from Year 6 to Year 7, or
- changes address, or
- changes school or campus.

#### Already have a School Opal card or travel pass?

- When you've updated, and you are eligible for free school travel next year, Transport for NSW will send you an email confirmation once your application has been processed. For travel in rural or regional NSW, we'll also inform your nominated transport operator(s).
- If you already have a School Opal card that does not need updating, or you've successfully re-applied, the Opal card will automatically be updated for travel next year. Do not throw it out as you'll be able to use it when the school year starts in 2017.
- If you currently have a printed travel pass provided by your transport operator, a new pass will be ready at the beginning of the new school year.



Department of  
Industry  
Resources & Energy

### Support to Pay Electricity and Gas Bills\*



Help is available to pay  
your energy bills.

For information on  
rebates and emergency  
assistance go to:

[www.resourcesandenergy  
.nsw.gov.au/rebates](http://www.resourcesandenergy.nsw.gov.au/rebates)

or phone Service NSW  
on 137 788

\* eligibility criteria apply

#### YOU COULD BE ELIGIBLE FOR ONE OR MORE OF THESE REBATES/ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

**Family Energy Rebate** – \$150 or \$15 per year – If you are the electricity account holder in your household, have dependent children and receive a DHS payment called Family Tax Benefits (Part a or B), you could qualify for this electricity rebate. Information on application deadlines is available from our website.

**NSW Gas Rebate** – \$90 per year – If you have natural gas or use LPG for cooking, heating or hot water, you could qualify for this gas rebate. To be eligible you will also need to be the gas account holder and have a DHS or DVA Pensioner Concession Card, DHS Health Care Card or a DVA Gold Card marked with WW, TP or EDA.

**Medical Energy Rebate** – \$235 per year – You could qualify for this rebate if you, or someone living with you, have an inability to self-regulate body temperature which is often associated with medical conditions such as Parkinson's disease and Multiple Sclerosis. The electricity account holder in your household must have a DHS or DVA Pensioner Concession Card, DHS Health Care Card or a DVA Gold Card.

**Low Income Household Rebate** – \$235 per year – If you are the electricity account holder in your household and have a DHS or DVA Pensioner Concession Card, DHS Health Care Card or a DVA Gold Card marked with WW, TP or EDA, you could qualify for this electricity rebate.

**Life Support Rebate** – If you are required, or have someone living with you who is required, to use approved energy-intensive medical equipment at home, you could qualify for this electricity rebate. Information on approved equipment and rebate rates is available from our website.

**EAPA** – Energy Accounts Payment Assistance Scheme – helps people experiencing a short term financial crisis or emergency to pay their electricity or natural gas bill. The scheme helps people stay connected to essential energy services during a financial crisis. EAPA is not means tested and you do not need to hold any DHS or DVA concessions cards to access this scheme.

#### HOW CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION AND WHERE DO I APPLY?

The Department of Industry website has all the information you will need to determine if you are eligible for an energy rebate or emergency assistance. Go to [www.resourcesandenergy.nsw.gov.au/rebates](http://www.resourcesandenergy.nsw.gov.au/rebates) for further information.

If you do not have access to the internet you can call Service NSW on 137 788 and talk to a customer service officer about your circumstances. Service NSW can also post you application forms.

If you have an electricity or natural gas account with an energy retailer you can call them to apply over the phone for the Low Income Household Rebate and NSW Gas Rebate. Your retailer can also provide you with application forms for other rebate programs.

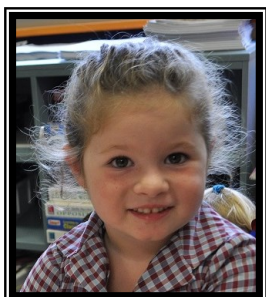
#### REMEMBER

If you have a DHS (Centrelink) Health Care Card you could qualify for the Low Income Household Rebate and/or NSW Gas Rebate.

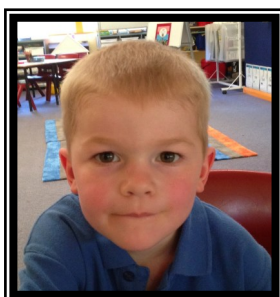


# Kindergarten

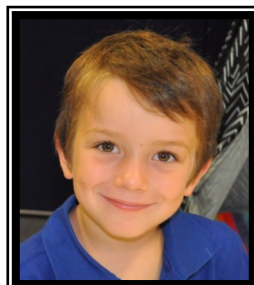
2017



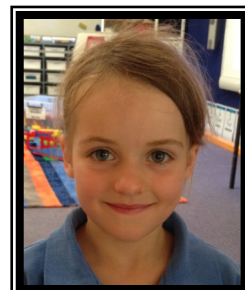
Rubi



Errol



Jai



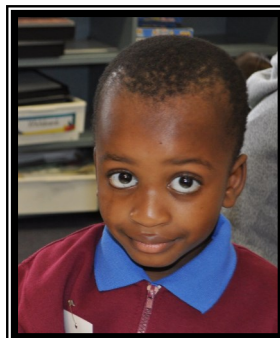
Elke



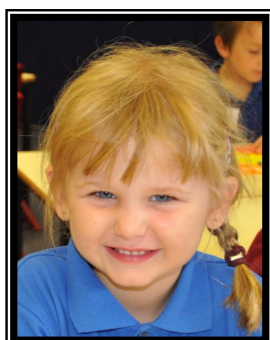
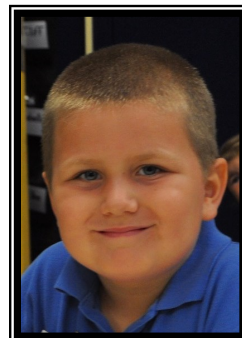
Sam



Bradley



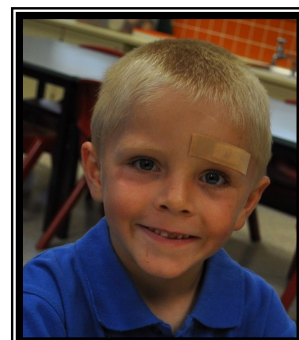
Cliff



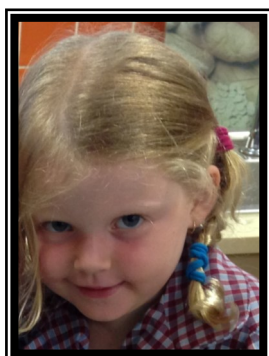
Isabella



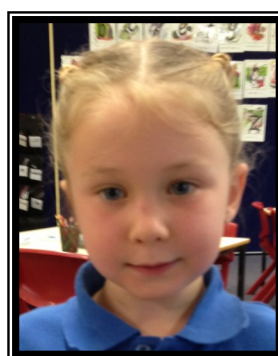
Elyssa



Cameron



Piper



Ella



# Happy Birthday!



**Happy Birthday to the following students who celebrated their birthday in January**

1 January - Layla Ryan  
12 January - Markus Macfarlane  
13 January - Lincoln Taylor  
17 January - Kaleb Flear  
19 January - Declan Flear  
25 January - Elyssa Haskins  
27 January - Simba Dickson  
29 January - Gemma Burcher-Hearne & Cameron Hayden  
30 January - Errol Malone  
31 January - Elira Malone

## **SPORT NEWS**

The FISST Swimming Carnival is on next Tuesday 14 February at the Bomaderry Aquatic Centre. All students who are turning 8 or older this year are able to attend but must be able to swim 50 metres. Notes were sent home last week and as of today only 9 out of the 27 sent home have been returned. Please return by TOMORROW (attending or not) as we need to organise the parent transport. All students not attending the carnival are required to attend school as usual.

## **OFFICE**

If your address, phone contacts, health details or any other student details have changed please contact the office, so we can update our records. Thank you.

*Karen*