

FOCUS NEWSLETTER

Wisdom, Respect, Courage



Issue # 42

Welcome to Freshwater Bay FOCUS Newsletter



'Offer friendship and a helping hand to others, and so be a beacon of harmony, happiness, peace and calm.'

Art of a Sentence

Our whole school focus this year is on writing. Of the many components of writing, it is hard to go past the importance of a well-crafted sentence. The ability to synthesize a complex idea, summarize, or distil a discussion in one single sentence, is essential for an author's meaning to be communicated. To be able to write one sentence that conveys succinctly the writer's message and meaning is an art form. This focus encourages students to be creative with grammar and expression, making every word count. With the protection of unlimited space and time taken away, students are encouraged to push their writing to let (as the cliché says) necessity gives rise to invention.

We are focusing on helping every student in our school to write fabulous sentences. If you want to help your child improve their writing, ask them to write a sentence 3 to 4 times a week along with their reading and number work (basic facts and tables).

Dogs on the School Grounds

We have had a number of families bringing their family pet dog to school. We would like you to keep them at home. I do understand the attraction of walking to school however schools are public places and there are regulations addressing having dogs around children. Safety is always paramount and no matter how well trained or how positive the temperament of the dog there is always that one possibility of the dog snapping and a child or person is hurt in the process. Thank you for your support.

Inter-House Swimming Carnival

On Wednesday 27 February, FBPS held our House Swimming Carnival at Claremont Swimming Pool. What a wonderful day we had, a real highlight for our year. The children swam with enthusiasm and supported with genuine encouragement. The sportsmanship demonstrated and sheer enjoyment of competing with friends for their House was there for all to see.

Thank you to all the parents who came along to support, encourage and get involved. Thank you to Jarrod Dougan, Shane Ariti and Scott Trenordan for their contributions to the organisation of the carnival and the support of all staff in ensuring that it ran smoothly. I would also like to thank Bill Kirby from Kirby Swim for donating the timing devices to help with the day. In a closely contested event, congratulations go to the winning House – Sutton

Deserved recognition to the following Individual champions and runners up in their respective years:

Year 3 Champions:	Mimi Baker & Ellie Neervoort	
Year 4 Champion Girl:	Amelia Cornelius	Runner Up: Sophie Coveney
Year 4 Champion Boy:	George Galvin	Runner Up: Aubrey Mellor
Year 5 Champion Girls:	India Bornadeo	Runner Up: Stevie Sims
Year 5 Champion Boy:	Jack Baker	Runner up: Zack Martinick
Year 6 Champion Girl:	Maddy Morrissey	Runner up Sophie Morgan
Year 6 Champion Boy	Lachlan Evershed	Runner up Sam Brampton

After a very successful Inter-House Carnival the 2019 Swim Team has been selected and has already commenced early morning training at Claremont Pool. They will be training on the 4 weeks until the Interschool Carnival on April 3rd.

The coaches are FWB parents (and experienced competitive swimmers) Wendy Keswick, Peter Galvin, Deborah Smart and ex FWB student Ben Baxter.

The Swim team are enjoying a hot breakfast on arrival back to school kindly prepared by Anna Jones and a team of parents.

After our success in winning by a very good margin last year, we have been promoted to the 'A' Division Interschool Carnival.

Speaking Out Survey

We have been selected along with a group of schools, to participate in the Speaking Out Survey for the Commission of Children. Our school is part of a select group to participate in this survey. It is a significant program, as the information will go into a large data base to be used to support children across Western Australia. It is a similar survey to the one in other states and also New Zealand. The data will be matched up to get a good picture of all the views and issues students of all ages are facing right now. Students involved have been randomly selected by the Commission of Children.

150 Year Time Capsule

We are planning our time capsule for the school's 150th Anniversary. If anyone is interested in supporting the school in planning what needs to go into the time capsule, please contact the school.

Keeping up to date

A dynamic school of this size has a lot of things happening. Good communication is critical to ensuring positive and effective school experiences for you and your children. Our primary tool of whole school communication is our monthly school newsletter, the 'Freshwater Bay Focus' that you are reading now. This is published each month and is put up on our website and sent out via the Skoolbag app. A link is also put on our school Facebook page. To receive notifications that we put on our Facebook page all you need to do is search for Freshwater Bay Primary School on Facebook and 'Like' one of the posts. This should ensure that our posts appear on your Facebook 'feed'.

To receive notifications directly to your smartphone we use the app Skoolbag. To access this, you need to install the app on your phone or tablet, search for Freshwater Bay Primary School and then register the appropriate year level that your child/ren are in this year so that any year level specific messages can be sent directly to you.

The SkoolBag App and our Website are our two main forms of communication in the school. Thank you to all the families who have already registered for both. If you haven't yet we would appreciate it if you could register as soon as possible.

Some parents have stated that they have experienced problems accessing the information on the App, if this has occurred for you then we advise that you please delete the app and then reinstall it.

Our Freshwater Bay Facebook page is where we upload student pictures and activities. In addition, there is the Community Freshwater Bay Facebook page which connects our community on a social level and is independent of the school <https://www.facebook.com/groups/311179262425897/>

Crazy Hair Day

Our school is amazing! Our senior students put together a terrific day and it was fabulously supported by all of our students and their families. We raise \$698.35 which will go to supporting the Smith Family. Please visit our Facebook page to see the creations which were on display.

GATE Test for Entrance into Select Entry Schools

We have a number of students who are participating in the GATE testing program for entrance into Select Entry Programs. We wish them all the best in their assessments this Saturday morning.

Parent Teacher Interviews

Thank you to all the parents who have already signed up for the Parent Teacher Night on Thursday March 28. It is an important night in our calendar and we appreciate your support. If you have not managed to secure a meeting time, please email or speak with your child's teacher directly.

Science Day

On Thursday 28 March we have an exciting day of exploring the wonders of Science. Ms Grant has worked very hard and the children will learn so much from the day. Look out for more information in the coming weeks.

Uniforms

It concerns me every year about the number uniforms that end up in our Lost Property Bin. Would you please check to make sure that all uniform items are clearly labelled, this will mean that we can return all items to their rightful owner when they get misplaced. At the end of this term all lost property will be given to the P&C 2nd Hand Uniform Shop, so please ensure that you check the lost property bins regularly.

The P&C AGM

Thank you to the large number of people who came to the P&C AGM, your support for our school is greatly appreciated. The Parents and Citizens Association has a very important role in our school community. It plays a more important role than just fundraising. The P&C represents our community and creates opportunities to unite us build our positive school community. The P&C forms one part of the Freshwater Bay School and combines with the Board responsible for guidance and governance and the Principal (the Executive of the school). The three need to be equally weighted and in partnership.

We would like to congratulate and welcome our new P&C President Campbell Airey and his Executive Team. We appreciate the time commitment of all parents who have put their hand up to be a part of the Freshwater Bay P&C - thank you! We thank outgoing President Craig Fowler, Fiona Clements (Secretary), (Treasurer) and the outgoing members Anna Clarke, Amy Calcutt, Kate Roberts, Mel Hayes from the Executive Team from 2018, for their hard work and commitment to building a strong school community and their support of our school. We wish them well in their new school communities. Thank you to Karen Mace who has re-signed for another year.

Office Bearers

President: Campbell Airey

Vice President: Noel McKay

Secretary: Tahleah Ciprian

Treasurer: Riccardo Petriconi

General Executive Committee Members:, Ainslie Cornelius, Janine Feurstein, Fiona Woodbridge, Faye Styles and Karen Mace (Re-signed)

Toilets in the School.

We have been working hard to raise the awareness of the issues surrounding the lack of toilets in our school. I have met with the Director for Facilities and Finances and he is very supportive of our application for additional toilets in Tangney Hall. We have had a consultant and an architect out to the school last Friday to commence drawing and give a full proposal. We do not have a timeline yet, but it is certainly a step in the right direction for our school. I will keep you informed as and when more information becomes available.