

Freemans Reach Public School Est 1867

NEWSLETTER

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Relieving Principal: Lisa McGrath



From the Principal's Desk ...

Thank you for your flexibility

During last week's rain event/flooding, our community have been very patient and flexible as we maintain student and staff safety and wellbeing. Issues with postponing events, bus transport and school closures, not to mention the insane traffic, have been managed with considerate consultation and communication. Thank you for your support during this time.

Note Days

Keeping our school community informed is vital for maintaining a strong home-school partnership and to keep on top of our busy lives. Enews and our Facebook pages are well received and offer a quick and efficient way to get important information out to families. This will not change. Our Administration Team here at Freemans Reach PS are amazing. They certainly are the engine room of our school. I am aware there are a lot of paper notes that go home. This is great, as it may keep you informed, but it can also be a bit overwhelming on occasions. To try and manage this procedure a bit better, we are trialling 'Note Days'. So instead of possibly every day, or randomly, paper notes will only be handed out on two days of the week. These will be Tuesdays and Thursdays (easy to remember for me as 'note' has a *t sound* and *Tuesday* and *Thursday* both start with *t*. Simple but effective!). Expect to see paper notes going home on these two days only. Of course, we can't have a rule without exceptions. If there is an emergency note (safety, stranger danger, head lice etc) it will go out on a fluorescent page on any day of the week, as student and staff safety is always a priority. Thank you for your support with this initiative. I am happy to hear parent feedback as we move forward.

Wheelchair/Vision Friendly School

As part of our physical environment transformations, our school will soon become a wheelchair/vision friendly school for students, as well as community members. I wanted to inform you of several inclusions as the builders work towards its completion. These include:

- a wheelchair ramp to get to the 5/6 block classrooms and the computer lab
- bollards being placed at the top of all stairwells
- a balustrade being installed at the drop off edge in the assembly area
- extra seating along the balustrade facing the administration block
- new handrails at each stairwell
- vision strips painted at each step, building corner and on the eyeline on poles
- new drainage grates throughout; and
- a designated disabled parking spot in the car park.

Kindergarten

It is important to begin the year well, to create a love of school and a love of learning. School socialisation of Kindergarten is a priority in early term one. Thank you to Miss Cash, who is doing a fabulous job, as well as our School Learning and Support Officers (SLSOs), and our LaST, Mrs Shuster. They are all very settled and are following the guidance of their Year 6 buddies and other students. Great job, Freemans Reach PS!

K-6 Assemblies

Our Assemblies have moved to every second Thursday at 12:30pm. This has already started, and students and staff have responded positively to this change. At our next K-6 Assembly on Thursday, 20 February. SRC, Library Monitors and Kindergarten badges will be handed out. Families are most welcome.

Playground Changes

We have recently flooded the playground with an extra 3 to 5 School Learning and Support Officers (SLSOs) during every play period of before school, recess and lunch. They have been given specific programs to support games and social skills, whilst providing many extra eyes on student safety and wellbeing. Staff are currently discussing the implementation of fluoro vests for all teaching staff and Support Staff to wear in the playground too. Visibility is a great deterrent of negative behaviours, whilst offering support and company for those students who would like it.

Absences via SMS

If your child is absent from school, we will send you a notification via SMS to your mobile phone, after 11am, that same day. Thank you to the families who have responded to the school with a returned text message regarding your child's absence. We hope this is an easy way for you to inform the school. Unfortunately, we are no longer able to accept verbal notifications of absences. It is a Department of Education requirement to have all explanations of absences in writing. Of course, you will still be able to write a letter explaining the absence to your child's teacher. This can be handed to the teacher the next day, when your child returns to school. If your child is late to school, please ensure they go to the office for a late slip, before going to their classroom. This ensures you do not get an SMS regarding the absence.

Parent/Carer Meet the Teacher Evening

On Monday, 17 February, many of our school community came in to meet their child/children's teacher. I would like to thank our staff for their continued dedication to our community for staying back after school hours, to offer such vital communication. If any families were unable to attend last night, please approach our friendly staff. They will be happy to pass on any information that was handed out on the night.

Positive Behaviour for Learning @ Freemans Reach Public School

To be successful at school, students need a positive behaviour for learning. Our aim is to recognise positive contributions that are made by the students, to encourage student academic performance and to improve self-esteem. Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL) is an educational process that brings together the whole-school community to contribute to developing a positive, safe and supportive learning culture. The PBL framework assists schools to improve social, emotional, behavioural and academic outcomes for children and young people. PBL is a process, not a program.

At Freemans Reach Public School, PBL is being introduced into our daily practices, so teachers and students have more time to focus on relationships and classroom instruction. Last week, I sent a note home that explained in greater detail, how our PBL system is being implemented. If your child/children have and Merit awards that need to be handed in to Mrs Shuster for processing, please ensure this is done before Friday 28 February.

FRPS Swimming Carnival

Last Thursday, 13 February, Freemans Reach Public School held its annual Swimming Carnival. Places were awarded to students who swam the fastest three times across the heats in each age group. We will inform families as to when ribbons will be handed out. Congratulations to all of the boys and girls that swam in events on the night. I was very impressed by their sportsmanship and competitive spirit. We will include a full list of results in the next fortnight's newsletter. The Hawkesbury District Swimming Carnival will be held on Wednesday, 26 February at South Windsor's Oasis Swimming Pool. Thank you to Mr Baxter and the teaching staff for making it a well organised and exciting night. Records were broken on the night too! We'd like to congratulate Amy B and Travis C, who set new Freemans Reach Public School records. Travis broke the 12 Years 50 m Freestyle record and Amy broke the Senior Breaststroke and the Senior Backstroke records. What fantastic achievements!

Freemans Reach RFS Brigade

The Freemans Reach Brigade have received \$959.05 from our very generous school community. Thank you to the individual families who donated money, our Year 6 Slushie sales, our Hire-a-Hero day and multiple mufti donations. I would like to share their response.

"Thank you very much Freemans Reach PS. Our brigade would like to pass on our appreciation for the generosity of our school community and the support that has been so important to the morale of our members during the recent bushfires.

Regards,

Bruce (Freemans Reach Brigade of the RFS)"

What an admirable effort, Freemans Reach PS. Well done.

P&C

As I have previously mentioned to our P&C last week, I am enjoying my time here and I'm getting to know many students and parents. Learning about the skills and talents of our students and staff, is contributing towards mapping a future path for Freemans Reach PS. What exciting times!

Warm regards,

Lisa McGrath

Relieving Principal



KC – Bonnie S, Kiara D, Ethan B, Jayden S

1J – Jack A, Matilda N, Tahliah M, Jye M

2C – Scarlett M, Levi H, Immogen T, Will H

3/4R – Riley C, Isabelle S, Kye P, Ruby F

3/4L – Melanie K, Evelyn N, Owen W, Cayleb H

5/6A – Mia C, Allira S, William S, Julia H

5/6M – Harry F, Kaleb W, Sheridan V, Cruize E

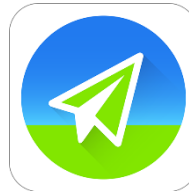
DATES TO REMEMBER

TERM 1 2020

FEBRUARY

Mon 17 Feb	Meet The Teacher Night 5pm-6pm
Mon 17 Feb	Sporting Schools- AFL session 1
Wed 19 Feb	Scripture begins
Thurs 20 Feb	K-6 Assembly 12.30pm-1pm
Mon 24 Feb	Sporting Schools- AFL session 2
Wed 26 Feb	District Swimming Carnival

SCHOOL ENEWS- Our main source of communication.



Thank you to all families who have subscribed to School Enews. You should now be receiving this newsletter direct to your emails or direct to your mobile device. If you know of people who are not receiving the newsletter, please encourage them to contact the office to be signed up for Enews



Birthdays

January

Isaac X, Phoenix S, Jordan T, Kane M, Isabella S, Lucas S, Ryder M, Xander F, Jordan F, Patrick Martin, Katelyn T, Madelin G, Amelia S, Charlie E, Stefan D, Arcadia B, Sienna S, Ethan B.

February

Emma P, Anthony T, Rachelle D-F, Ryan T, Kye Pilgrim, Tyson B, Isabella A, Hamish T, Evie F, Jacob M, Cody M, Hunter F, Thomas F, Ella C.

