

Freemans Reach Public School

Newsletter

Term 3 Week 4

12 August 2020



Upcoming Events

TERM 3

- 12 August P&C Meeting - 6:30pm
- 13 August K-6 School Athletics Presentation
- 24 Sept School Photos

NOTES & MONEY DUE

Stage 3 Fundraising Chocolates
DUE NOW

Online Mathletics &
Literacy Planet Subscriptions
OVERDUE

Voluntary School Contributions

SCHOOL ENEWS AND FACEBOOK

Due to the constantly changing environment we live in, please continue to regularly check School Enews and Facebook for important updates.



395 Kurmond Road, Freemans Reach 2756
Phone: 4579 6146 Fax: 4579 6528
Web: <https://freemansrch-p.schools.nsw.edu.au>
Email: freemansrch-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au
Relieving Principal: Lisa McGrath

From the Principal's Desk ...

EDUCATION WEEK 2020

It has been very exciting to share Education Week differently this year. Freemans Reach PS celebrated the theme of 'Learning Together' with public schools throughout New South Wales. Hopefully, we were able to convey the tremendous resilience of our students during such an eventful year. With special thanks to Miss Ayoub, Mr Baxter and Mrs Mitchell for coordinating the technology required to make this possible. And of course, the real stars of the show...you all rock! Who knew principals liked fish and chips? Thanks, Reece!



STAGE TWO VISIT TO BREWONGLE

Last week, Stage Two attended Brewongle Environment Education Centre for the day. After two postponements due to inclement weather, they enjoyed sunshine, painting and planting! We received excellent feedback from both the teachers at Brewongle and the manager at Good Az Gold buses. He let me know how well behaved the students were on the bus and how lovely it was to hear them saying 'thank you' as they hopped off the bus, I would expect nothing less. We know how respectful our students are and it's lovely to have that confirmed by our local community. Fantastic feedback to hear, well done 3/4L and 3/4R! Thank you to Mrs Ripa for her planning and coordination, and thank you to Mr Lobb, Mrs Leard and Ms Clair for guiding students through their learning experiences.



SCHOOL ASSEMBLIES TERM 3

Our student leaders will continue to run our school assemblies outdoors this term. We have purchased a new outdoor Bluetooth microphone and sound system to improve the quality of presentations and communication in the assembly area. They will be held in week 4, 6 and 8. We are now posting our assemblies onto Facebook so families can enjoy them virtually. Please look out for our posts of award winners and items during these weeks. As soon as we are advised by NSW Health and the Department of Education that families can enter onto school grounds again, we will be able to invite our community back to all assemblies.

Safe

Respectful

Environmentally Friendly

Learner

KINDERGARTEN ENROLMENTS 2021 AND OTHER NEW ENROLMENTS

We are delighted to have many enrolment enquiries for 2021 for various grades. We are currently taking Kindergarten enrolments for 2021. If you have a child that turns 5 years old before July 31 2021, they can begin Kindergarten next year. Along with your application we will need to sight your child's original birth certificate, their immunisation record (a copy of which can be downloaded your Medicare account available through the [MyGov](https://my.gov.au) website) and proof of your residential address. Please note that due to a change in Department policy in 2019, we may be required to sight 100 points of evidence to verify your address. To assist with our planning for classes and budgets next year, please contact the office for an enrolment form or alternatively you can access one online here:



<https://education.nsw.gov.au/public-schools/going-to-a-public-school/translated-documents/enrolmentapplication>.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding enrolment of your child, please feel free to contact the school office at any time during school hours.

The following link allows parents/carers to check their address and see which school they are zoned to <https://my.education.nsw.gov.au/school-finder>. If you are not in this area you must contact the school to discuss an out of area enrolment application.

NATIONAL NAIDOC WEEK 2020



This year, celebrations will be held from the 8-15 November, 2020. The November dates follow the decision by the National NAIDOC Committee (NNC) to postpone NAIDOC Week from the original July dates due to the impacts and uncertainty from the pandemic across our communities and cities. The postponement was aimed at protecting our elders and those in our communities with chronic health issues from the impacts of COVID-19. On Monday 8 November, all students will be participating in learning experiences that include establishing a bush-tucker garden at Freemans Reach Public School and bush regeneration. The amazing environmental staff at Brewongle and local community elders will guide our classes through these exciting programs. There will be no cost to families as the school will cover all financial components of this program.

CHECK-IN-ASSESSMENTS

This year as a response to all the challenges NSW schools faced during 2020, the Department of Education is releasing some online assessments which schools can use to assist in supporting teachers to plan and inform teaching in the areas of literacy and numeracy. Our school has an opportunity to utilise these online assessments. The check-in-assessment is an online assessment that is not timed for students in Year 3, 5 and 9 and will be available to schools during Term 3. Our Year 5 students will be scheduled to participate in the online tests during Weeks 5-7 with Year 3 scheduled later on in the year. This is not a replacement test to NAPLAN and therefore there is no parent report. It is a tool for teachers to use when planning for differentiated teaching and learning programs. The

check-in-assessments are designed to supplement existing school practices to identify how students are performing in literacy and numeracy.

THE TELL THEM FROM ME PARENT/CARER SURVEY

This Term, our school will be participating in the Partners in Learning Parent/Carer Survey, part of the Tell Them From Me suite of surveys (student, teacher and parent/carers surveys) on student engagement. The survey asks parents and carers questions about different factors that are known to impact on student wellbeing and engagement. Running this survey will help our school understand parents' and carers' perspectives on their child's experience at school. These include: communication between parents/carers and staff, activities and practices at home and parent/carers views on the school's support of learning and behaviour. This valuable feedback will help our school make practical improvements. The survey is conducted entirely online on smartphones, iPads, tablets, laptops or computers. The survey will typically take 5-10 minutes to complete and is completely confidential. The parent/carers survey will be conducted between 11 August and 11 September. Although participating in the survey is entirely voluntary, your responses are very much appreciated. To access the survey for our school please go to <http://nsw.tellthemfromme.com/freemansreach2020>.

More information about the survey is available at: <http://surveys.cese.nsw.gov.au>.

TEACHER PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

Last week, our executive staff participated in professional learning for the Leading Evaluation, Evidence and Data (LEED) capability building project. This project will support our school in the identification, refinement and implementation of evidence-informed practices for school improvement. Over three years, the project will support school executive in leading the implementation of evidence-informed practices, underpinned by evaluative thinking. Over the next couple of weeks, we will start our situational analysis as we begin to evaluate where we are currently as a school.

Staff will be attending twilight professional learning Monday 19 October (3:15pm-6:15pm) to renew our CPR, Anaphylaxis and Asthma qualifications. This evening session will be in lieu of the last Staff Development Day at the end of the year.

STRATEGIC IMPROVEMENT PLAN - 2021

As a school community, we have begun evaluating and reflecting upon our current school processes, practices and programs. This is so we can begin putting together a situational analysis for the end of term three. The situational analysis will inform the strategic directions that our school comes up with for the new school planning cycle during 2021. Over the coming weeks, I will be liaising with our community to gather important feedback about our school. I value honesty and I feel feedback is a tool for a holistic overview of the progress of a school and what our strengths and weaknesses might be. I want the Strategic Improvement Plan (SIP) during 2021 to reflect the needs of our community. It is important that we have a shared vision and understanding about what will make Freemans Reach Public School the best school in the Hawkesbury. I believe in delivering excellence in public education.

LOST PROPERTY

Please encourage your child to be responsible for their belongings whilst at school as there is a growing amount of lost property. Please label all of your child's school belongings, including their hats, jumpers, lunch boxes and drink bottles. We look through the Lost Property tub daily, but as there are many items with no names, it becomes an impossible task to return them to the owners. Last term, the items were washed and given to our Uniform Shop to be sold as pre-loved goods. To maintain good hygiene practices, unclaimed lunch boxes and drink bottles will be thrown out at the end of each week.



P&C MEETING

I'm very pleased to host our next face-to-face P&C meeting in the Library tonight, Wednesday night August 12, starting at 6:30pm until 8pm. Strict social distancing guidelines will need to be observed and acknowledgement forms, a contact tracing register and extra sanitising will be required by all attending adults. Please do not attend if you are feeling unwell or have any flu like symptoms. We will make the meeting minutes public on our school website. We will also have child minding available for those parents/carers who do not have any other option, than to bring their Freemans Reach enrolled children. I would like to thank our teachers who volunteer for child minding in their own family time.

COVID-19

As we move into Term 3, we continue to implement the Department of Education guidelines in keeping our schools safe. We are unable to have volunteers on school grounds with the exception to the lovely volunteers operating the uniform shop and canteen facilities. All essential visitors, including scripture teachers and contractors must sign an acknowledgement form at the front office each time they visit the school and staff must practice social distancing amongst each other. We know that this pandemic is a challenging time for our students, staff, parents and carers. The information given to schools is constantly evolving and we are constantly monitoring information to ensure we provide everybody with the most updated guidelines. Current drop off and pick up procedures will continue.

I would like to sincerely thank our fabulous community for being so supportive of the requirements so far and I would like to congratulate our girls and boys on being so adaptive and resilient!

Warm Regards

Lisa McGrath
Relieving Principal



KC – Xavier O, Liam G, Harper M, Lara S

1J – Harrison S, Tahliah M, Chantel S, Hamish T

2C – Bethany S, Charlie E, Isabella A, Levi H

3/4R – Alex A, Bonnie M, Brendan S, Ryan T

3/4L – Evelyn N, James V, Penny P, Sienna C

5/6A – Ethan P, Annabelle M, Rhys N, Thomas G

5/6M – Charlie R, Zac K, Charlotte F, Tasman K

CANTEEN REMINDER

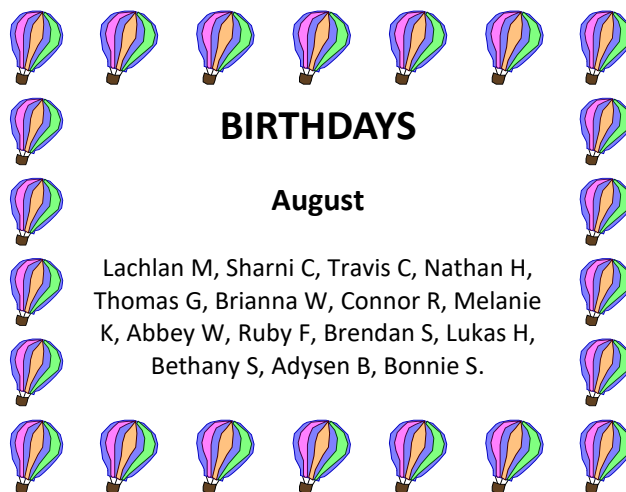


Please remember, the canteen is **NOT** open on Fridays for lunch orders or over the counter sales. Only slushies are being sold on Fridays. Lunch orders can be made Monday-Thursdays and placed in the basket at the front office.

SCHOOL BANKING

School Banking day is Friday. Students can place their bank books in the yellow student banking box in the foyer on Friday mornings for processing.

For more information on the 2020 Program, rewards and fun activities visit <https://www.commbank.com.au/banking/school-banking.html>.



BIRTHDAYS

August

Lachlan M, Sharni C, Travis C, Nathan H,
Thomas G, Brianna W, Connor R, Melanie
K, Abbey W, Ruby F, Brendan S, Lukas H,
Bethany S, Adysen B, Bonnie S.

STAGE 2—BREWONGLE EXCURSION



Safe

Respectful

Environmentally Friendly

Learner



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Respectful

Environmentally Friendly

Learner



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Respectful

Environmentally Friendly

Learner



Freemans Reach Public School
Term 3- 2020
Canteen Volunteers

Term 3 2020	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Wk 1	20.7 School Development Day	21.7	22.7	23.7	24.7
Wk 2	27.7 Kim	28.7 Angela	29.7 Alex	30.7 Tara	31.7 CLOSED
Wk 3	3.8 Sam	4.8 Jo S.	5.8 Lorelle	6.8 Tara	7.8 CLOSED
Wk 4	10.8 Lorelle	11.8 Angela	12.8 Alex	13.8 Tara	14.8 CLOSED
Wk 5	17.8 Sam	18.8	19.8 Lorelle	20.8 Tara	21.8 CLOSED
Wk 6	24.8	25.8 Jo S.	26.8 Alex	27.8 Tara	28.8 CLOSED
Wk 7	31.8	1.9 Angela	2.9	3.9 Tara	4.9 CLOSED
Wk 8	7.9	8.9	9.9 Alex	10.9 Tara	11.9 CLOSED
Wk 9	14.9	15.9 Angela	16.9	17.9 Tara	18.9 CLOSED
Wk 10	21.9	22.9	23.9 Alex	24.9 Tara	25.9 CLOSED

Help us do better

The *Tell Them From Me* parent survey is your chance to let us know how we are doing.

Complete the survey

Please go to-

<http://nsw.tellthemfromme.com/freemansreach2020>

Open

Closes

Tuesday, 11 August 2020
(Term 3 Week 4)

Friday, 11 September 2020
(Term 3 Week 8)

Your results will help us



Build a
better school



Improve the
family experience



Allocate our resources to
better support our students



Tell Them From Me student survey Frequently Asked Questions

Centre for Education Statistics and Evaluation

1. What is the *Tell Them From Me* student survey?

The *Tell Them From Me* student survey is a measure of student voice that provides school principals and school leaders with insight into student engagement, wellbeing and experience of effective teaching practices at their school.

The survey is confidential and can be used either as a one-off survey or to identify trends within schools over time and better inform school priorities. The survey is held once a year, with an optional second survey within the year.

More than 157,000 students from over 385 NSW government secondary schools and 127,000 students from over 1,120 NSW government primary schools participated in the survey in 2017.

2. What are the benefits for my school?

The *Tell Them From Me* student survey provides school principals and school leaders with students' perspectives on their experiences of school and learning. This can be used to help build an accurate and timely picture to inform school planning.

Data reports are provided to school leaders within three business days of the surveys closing. Reports include: a 'one click' PDF summary report of their school's results; interactive charts which look more closely at their school results for specific groups of students (e.g. by gender or year group); thematic reports, e.g. student engagement report; and **trend reports which allow schools to track changes in results over time.**

Schools can compare their results with a replica school – a virtual school of students who have similar characteristics (year, gender and socio-economic characteristics).

3. How does this survey relate to the school planning cycle?

The *Tell Them From Me* student, parent and teacher surveys provide valid and reliable data to help schools during the 2018-2020 planning cycle, including with the annual review of strategic directions, development of improvement measures and milestones, self-assessment against the School Excellence Framework and preparation of the annual school report. The survey data can help schools:

- understand students' perspectives on critical aspects of their school experience, such as social and institutional engagement, wellbeing and exposure to quality teaching practices
- provide evidence of areas of strength to support self-assessment and reporting
- engage the school community in discussions to identify strategic directions for school improvement
- establish quantitative improvement measures and help schools track achievement against them.

4. How are these surveys different from existing departmental surveys on the School Survey System?

Schools have access to national and departmental surveys of students, parents and teachers through the School Survey System. The *Tell Them From Me* suite of student, parent and teacher surveys incorporate many of the same topics and have some similarly worded questions. However, they also:

- include a number of different measures
- bring student, teacher and parent surveys together in a single reporting tool
- will include data collected over multiple years
- enable comparison with state averages and like-for-like replica schools.



5. How will the student, parent and teacher surveys help the department support better student outcomes?

The department is committed to using data, evidence and evaluation to inform its planning and practice. The survey data allows the department, through the Centre for Education Statistics and Evaluation (CESE), to analyse and better understand student performance data and the impact of engagement, wellbeing and teaching practices on student outcomes.

6. What kind of questions will the student surveys ask?

The survey questions relate to the following measures for **primary schools**:

Participation in sports and extra-curricular activities	Behaviour at school	Effective learning time
Use of ICT for learning	Homework behaviour	Teaching relevance and rigour
Sense of belonging	Interest and motivation	Perseverance
Positive relationships	Effort	Experience of being bullied
Valuing school outcomes	Skills and learning challenge	Advocacy at school
Positive teacher-student relations	Expectations for success	Positive learning climate

The survey questions relate to the following measures for **secondary schools**:

Participation in sports and extra-curricular activities	Homework behaviour	Expectations for success
Skills and learning challenge	Academic self-concept	Behaviour at school
Experience of being bullied	Truancy	Sense of belonging
Interest and motivation	Effective learning time	Aspirations: finishing Year 12, University, TAFE
Positive relationships	Effort	Teaching relevance and rigour
Wellness	Valuing school outcomes	Positive learning climate
Academic buoyancy	Advocacy at school	Advocacy outside school
Positive teacher-student relations	Use of ICT for learning	Perseverance

Some additional questions will also be asked to gain a socio-economic status (SES) profile of students. Students do not need to answer these questions if they do not wish.

Schools will also be able to include their own custom questions in closed and open-ended format during the optional second survey. Individual responses to the open-ended questions will not be passed on to CESE researchers.

7. Which student groups will take the survey?

The primary school survey has been specifically designed for students in Years 4 to 6. The secondary school survey is designed for students in Years 7 to 12.

8. How many students can take part in the surveys?

All students in Years 4 to 6 and 7 to 12 are encouraged to take part. The more students who complete the survey, the more reliable a school's data will be.

9. What is the cost to my school?

The surveys are provided free of charge to schools. In return, schools are asked to ensure that:

- time and computers are made available to students to take the survey
- as many students as possible complete the survey.

CESE may also ask schools to take part in a feedback questionnaire once the surveys have finished.

10. How will the survey be conducted?

The survey is conducted entirely online during specific survey windows. This will be during Term 1 for the first survey and Term 3/4 for the optional second survey. The survey will take 15 to 20 minutes on average and no more than 30 minutes for most students.

Schools will need to make school computers available for students to complete the survey. Schools will be provided with information and consent forms for distribution to parents. For the Term 1 survey, schools will be provided with unique student usernames and passwords prior to the start of the survey.

To protect student confidentiality, data suppression rules are applied to the school reporting tools where sample sizes are too small.

11. Will support be available to schools during the survey period?

Schools will have access to technical support provided by *The Learning Bar*, the company that has been contracted to supply the surveys for the department. A free-call telephone number and email address will be provided to participating schools. Support will be available every day during term time between 8.30am and 4.30pm, before, during and after active survey periods.



12. Will training be available to school coordinators?

Online live training and information webinars will be offered to all schools. All school coordinators and principals are encouraged to attend one of these training sessions prior to the survey window. There will also be additional webinars offered during and at the end of the survey period providing information about how to interpret the reports and analyse the data provided by the surveys. Recordings of the training webinars are available in the *Tell Them From Me* online portal in the 'Knowledge Base' tab of the 'My Resources' folder.

13. Can I see the survey questions?

Schools will be able to view the surveys online via a password protected portal once they have formally committed to undertaking the surveys. The survey questions are available in PDF form for participating schools. Please note that the survey questions are the intellectual property of *The Learning Bar* and must not be distributed beyond your school or used in any manner other than that stipulated by the department.

14. Can I ask my own questions?

Yes. Schools will be able to include customised questions in closed and open-ended format for the optional second student survey. Individual responses to the open-ended questions will not be passed on to CESE researchers.

15. How does the TTFM student survey relate to the teacher and parent surveys?

CESE is offering the full suite of *Tell Them From Me* surveys (student, parent and teacher surveys) to ensure schools can capture the views of students, teachers and parents. The surveys are complementary.

For more detail on each of the surveys, see the survey website: <http://surveys.cese.nsw.gov.au/>

16. Will the surveys all take place at the same time?

The student surveys will take place in the second half of Term 1 and (optionally) Term 3/4. The parent and teacher surveys will take place at the same time as the second student survey in Term 3/4.

17. Can our school do one of the surveys and not the others?

Schools can take part in the Term 1 student survey without taking part in either the teacher or parent surveys, or the Term 3/4 student survey. However, we ask that schools commit to do the Term 1 student survey to be able to run the parent and/or teacher survey, or the Term 3/4 student survey. Some exceptions do apply to schools in special circumstances, such as infants schools or schools for specific purposes (SSP schools).

18. Has the survey been used in Australia before?

To date, over 1,600 Australian schools (more than 500,000 students) have used the *Tell Them From Me* student survey. Most of these are government secondary and primary schools in NSW. *Tell Them From Me* is also used by schools in Victoria, Queensland and Western Australia.

19. My school is small. Will the survey work for me?

To protect student confidentiality, data suppression rules do apply where fewer than five students answer a question. This may limit the capacity of small schools to drill down into their data. For details on ways that data suppression may affect reports in your school's specific context, please contact support@thelearningbar.com.

Small schools can choose to cluster together, allowing them to pool data. Clustering is completely optional. To form a cluster, all schools involved must agree. If schools form a cluster this will mean that these schools receive a report that shows the combined data from all the schools in that particular cluster. These schools will also receive their individual school report if enough data has been collected to protect student confidentiality.

Please indicate whether you would like to be part of a school cluster when lodging your expression of interest.

20. Can infants schools, SSP schools or other schools with special circumstances participate?

The student survey is only suitable for students in Years 4 to 12. It cannot be changed for students in special circumstances. However, infants schools, SSP schools and other schools in special circumstances may do the parent and/or teacher surveys without doing the student survey.

21. What provisions are made for students with low literacy?

The department has some advice relating to text-to-voice technology available on the *Tell Them From Me* online portal in the 'My Resources' folder.

22. Who will be able to see my school's data?

Schools will be able to see their own aggregated data. They will not see individual student responses.

CESE researchers will have access to student level data for system wide analysis. The researchers are interested in trends only, not individual student responses. CESE will not be able to see responses to your school's open-ended custom questions. No student will be identified in any publication. No school will be identified unless they have given permission.

As with other departmental data, your Director, Public Schools and selected policy staff from state office may view your school's report.

Schools are encouraged to use the data as part of their ongoing community and stakeholder discussion.

23. What will happen next for schools that choose to participate in the student survey?

Early Term 1	Schools provided with information and consent forms for parents, at: http://surveys.cese.nsw.gov.au/information-for-parents . Training for school principals and coordinators in using the survey website conducted via webinar. Schools provided with student log-ins and passwords.
Mid-Term 1 – end of Term 1	Active period for surveys. Helpdesk support will be available. Schools receive reports three days after closing their survey.
Early Term 2	Training for school principals and coordinators in analysing school survey results conducted by webinar.
Mid-Term 3 – beginning of Term 4	Active period for optional teacher, parent and second student surveys. Helpdesk support will be available. Training for school principals and coordinators in using the survey website conducted via webinar. Schools receive reports three days after closing their survey. Training for school principals and coordinators in analysing school survey results conducted by webinar.



What is CESE?

The Centre for Education Statistics and Evaluation (CESE) is part of the NSW Department of Education.

CESE has been established to improve the effectiveness, efficiency and accountability of education in New South Wales.

CESE identifies and shares what works, creating new opportunities to improve teaching and learning across all of education.

More information about CESE is available at: www.cese.nsw.gov.au

What is *The Learning Bar*?

The Learning Bar specialises in research-based design and facilitation of student assessments and survey solutions for both primary and secondary students. The in-house research team led by the President, Dr J Douglas Willms, undertakes extensive projects used in the school system to affect national policy. It is against this research that the survey, *Tell Them From Me*, has become the largest national school survey in Canada, used in nine of the ten provinces. Globally, more than 6,300 schools and 5.4 million students have participated in the survey over the last twelve years.

Dr Willms recently held the Tier 1 Canada Research Chair in Literacy and Human Development. He plays a lead role in the development of questions on student engagement for the OECD's Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA).

For purely administrative purposes, *The Learning Bar* will also have temporary access to identifiable student responses to the survey questions. Other than *The Learning Bar* and CESE researchers within the department, identifiable student responses will not be disclosed to any other person or body other than as required by law.

More information about *The Learning Bar* is available at: www.thelearningbar.com

If you have any questions about the student survey, please contact CESE via email: TTFM@det.nsw.edu.au or by telephone: 1300 131 499.



Tell Them From Me parent survey Frequently Asked Questions

Centre for Education Statistics and Evaluation

1. What is the Partners in Learning parent survey?

The Partners in Learning parent survey is part of the *Tell Them From Me* suite of surveys on student engagement. The parent survey helps to clarify and strengthen the important relationship between parent and school.

The parent survey is anonymous and individuals cannot be identified from the information they provide. It can be used either as a one-off survey or to identify trends within schools over time and better inform school priorities. The survey is held once a year (Term 3/4), and is run at the same time as the Focus on Learning teacher survey and the second optional student survey.

Over 960 schools in NSW participated in the 2017 parent survey.

2. What are the benefits for my school?

The parent survey provides school principals and school leaders with parents' perspectives on their school as well as learning at home. Communication between parents and staff, activities and practices at home, and parent views on the school's support of learning and behaviour help build an accurate and timely picture that schools can use for practical improvements.

Data reports are provided to school leaders within three business days of the survey closing. Schools will be able to access a 'one click' PDF summary report of their school's results. A summary 'radar' chart shows your school's average scores on a ten-point scale for eight measures. The report also shows the distribution of answers for each measure which allows school leaders to target specific issues. Your school's results will be compared against state-wide averages.

3. How does this survey relate to the school planning cycle?

The *Tell Them From Me* student, parent and teacher surveys provide valid and reliable data to help schools during the 2018-2020 planning cycle, including with the annual review of strategic directions, development of improvement measures and milestones, self-assessment against the School Excellence Framework and preparation of the annual school report.

The survey data can help schools:

- understand parents' perspectives on their children's experience at school, including teaching, communication and the school's support of learning and behaviour
- understand parents' perspectives on activities and practices at home related to their children's learning
- provide evidence of areas of strength to support self-assessment and reporting
- engage the school community in discussions to identify strategic directions for school improvement
- establish quantitative improvement measures and help schools track achievement against them.

4. How are these surveys different from existing departmental surveys on the School Survey System?

Schools have access to national and Departmental surveys of students, parents and teachers through the School Survey System. The *Tell Them From Me* suite of student, parent and teacher surveys incorporate many of the same topics and have similarly worded questions. However, they also:

- include a number of different measures
- bring student, teachers and parent surveys together in a single reporting tool
- will include data collected over multiple years
- enable comparison with state averages.

5. How will the student, parent and teacher surveys assist the department to support better student outcomes?

The department is committed to using data, evidence and evaluation to inform its planning and practice. The survey data allows the department, through the Centre for Education Statistics and Evaluation (CESE), to analyse results at a state-wide system level as well as in comparison with other data sources, to understand better the impact of parent and student engagement, wellbeing and teaching practices on student outcomes.

6. What kind of questions will the parent survey ask?

The survey questions aim to understand parents' perspectives on their child's experience at school, including teaching, communication and the school's support of learning and behaviour. The survey also helps schools understand parents' perspectives on activities and practices at home related to their child's learning.

Schools will also have the option to include their own custom questions in closed and open-ended formats. Individual responses to the open-ended questions will **not** be passed on to CESE researchers and schools will not be able to identify parents based on their responses.

The survey questions relate to the following drivers of student engagement:

Parents feel welcome	Parents are informed	Parents support learning at home
School supports positive behaviour	Safety	Inclusion
Communication preferences	Parents' participation at school	School supports learning

7. How does my school participate in the surveys?

CESE has invited expressions of interest from all schools for the 2018 surveys. To participate in the parent survey, schools must also participate in the student survey. Some exceptions do apply to schools in special circumstances, such as infants schools and schools for specific purposes (SSP schools).

8. How many parents at my school can take part?

All parents are encouraged to take the survey. CESE will provide schools with advice on different ways to engage parents.

Parents can complete a different survey for each child they have at the school if they wish.

9. What is the cost to my school?

The surveys are provided free of charge to schools. In return, schools are asked to encourage as many parents as possible to complete the survey. CESE may also ask schools to take part in a feedback questionnaire once the surveys have finished.

10. How will the survey be conducted?

The survey is conducted entirely online at home or on public computers, during the specific survey window. For 2018, this will take place during Term 3/4. The survey will take around 15 minutes.

11. How will parent anonymity be ensured?

To protect parent anonymity, schools will create a unique URL that will allow access to the survey for their school only. The school will distribute this unique URL to parents, generally via the school newsletter. Data suppression rules are applied to the school reporting tools where there are fewer than five responses. In other words, schools only see responses to questions which have been answered by five or more parents.

12. Will support be available to schools during the survey period?

Schools will have access to technical support provided by *The Learning Bar*, the company that has been contracted to supply the surveys for the department. Note that *The Learning Bar* collects survey information directly from parents in order to create reports for schools. The department also receives a data file containing these anonymous responses for research purposes.

A free-call telephone number and email address will be provided to participating schools. Support will be available every day during term time between 8.30am and 4.30pm, before, during and after active survey periods.

13. Will training be available to school coordinators?

Online live training and information webinars will be offered to all schools. All school coordinators and principals are encouraged to attend one of these training sessions prior to the survey window. There will also be additional webinars offered during and at the end of the survey period providing information about how to interpret the reports and analyse the data provided by the surveys. Recordings of the training webinars are available in the *Tell Them From Me* online portal in the 'Knowledge Base' tab, under 'My Resources'.

14. Can I see the survey questions?

Schools will be able to view the surveys online via a password protected portal once they have formally committed to undertaking the surveys. The questions in PDF form are available for participating schools. Please note that the survey questions are the intellectual property of *The Learning Bar* and must not be distributed beyond your school or used in any manner other than that stipulated by the department.

15. How does the parent survey relate to the student and teacher surveys?

CESE is offering the full suite of *Tell Them From Me* surveys (student, parent and teacher surveys) to ensure schools can capture the views of students, teachers and parents. The surveys are complementary.

For more detail on each of the surveys, see the survey website: <http://surveys.cese.nsw.gov.au/>

16. Will the surveys all take place at the same time?

The student survey will take place in Term 1 and (optionally) Term 3/4. The parent and teacher surveys will take place at the same time as the second student survey in Term 3/4.

17. Can our school do one of the surveys and not the others?

Schools can take part in the Term 1 student survey without taking part in either the teacher or parent surveys. However, we ask that schools commit to do the student survey to be able to run the parent and/or teacher survey. Some exceptions do apply to schools in special circumstances, such as infants schools and schools for specific purposes (SSP schools). The parent and teacher surveys are designed to complement the student survey.

18. My school is small. Will the survey work for me?

To protect student and parent confidentiality, data suppression rules do apply where fewer than five parents answer a question. This may limit the capacity of small schools to drill down into their data.

Small schools can choose to cluster together, allowing them to pool data. Clustering is completely optional. To form a cluster, all schools involved must agree. If schools form a cluster this will mean that these schools receive a report that shows the combined data from all the schools in that particular cluster. These schools will also receive their individual school report if enough data has been collected to protect student and parent confidentiality.

Please indicate whether you would like to be part of a school cluster when lodging your expression of interest.

19. Can infants schools, SSP schools or other schools with special circumstances participate?

Infants schools can take part in the parent survey, even though the student survey is only suitable for students in Years 4 to 12. SSP schools and other schools with special circumstances may do the parent and/or teacher surveys without doing the student survey after first enquiring with CESE.

20. Will the parent survey be available in languages other than English?

Yes. The parent survey is available in 23 languages including: Arabic, Chinese - simplified, Chinese - traditional, English, Filipino, Greek, Italian, Karen, Khmer, Korean, Persian, Polish, Portuguese, Punjabi, Russian, Somali, Spanish, Tamil, Thai, Turkish, Ukrainian, Urdu and Vietnamese.

21. Who will be able to see my school's data?

Schools will be able to see their own aggregated data. They will not see individual parent responses.

CESE researchers will have access to anonymous survey response data for system-wide analysis. The researchers are interested in trends only, not individual responses. CESE will not be able to see responses to your school's open-ended custom questions. No parent will be identified in any publication. No school will be identified unless they have given permission.

As with other departmental data, your Director, Public Schools and selected policy staff from State Office may view your school's report.

Schools are encouraged to use the data as part of their ongoing community and stakeholder discussion.

22. What will happen next for schools that choose to participate in the parent survey?

Early Term 3	Training for school principals and coordinators in using the survey website conducted by webinar. Helpdesk support will be available. Schools setup their surveys and create a unique URL for their school for distribution to parents.
Mid-Term 3 – beginning of Term 4	Active period for surveys. Helpdesk support will continue to be available. Training for school principals and coordinators in using the survey website continues to be conducted by webinar. Schools receive their reports three days after closing their survey. Training for school principals and coordinators in analysing school survey results conducted by webinar.

What is CESE?

The Centre for Education Statistics and Evaluation (CESE) is part of the NSW Department of Education.

CESE has been established to improve the effectiveness, efficiency and accountability of education in New South Wales.

CESE identifies and shares what works, creating new opportunities to improve teaching and learning across all of education.

More information about CESE is available at: www.cese.nsw.gov.au

What is *The Learning Bar*?

The Learning Bar is a Canadian education company that specialises in school surveys for both primary and secondary students. Its survey, *Tell Them From Me*, is the largest national school survey in Canada, used in nine of Canada's ten provinces. More than 6,300 schools and 5.4 million students have participated in the survey. Australian schools have been participating in the *Tell Them From Me* surveys since 2012.

The Learning Bar is led by Dr J Douglas Willms. Dr Willms is the President of the International Academy of Education, a Member of the US National Academy of Education and a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada. He recently held the Tier 1 Canada Research Chair in Literacy and Human Development for 14 years. Dr Willms has played a lead role in the development of questions for the OECD's Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA).

More information about *The Learning Bar* is available at: www.thelearningbar.com

If you have any questions about the parent survey, please contact CESE via email: TTFM@det.nsw.edu.au or by telephone: **1300 131 499**.