Principal’s Message

Congratulations to the 11 competitors who participated in the Hastings/Macleay Swimming Carnival on Wednesday of last week.

Congratulations to all the swimmers who received medals at our assembly on Friday. We are so proud of your achievements.

Congratulations also to the Sports Captains and Vice Captains for receiving your badges at the assembly on Friday. We look forward to a great year of your leadership at our carnivals and sporting events.

PARENT FORUM:

HOW TO HELP YOUR CHILD WITH THEIR READING K TO 6
THURSDAY 6TH MARCH AT 6.00pm
SCHOOL LIBRARY

All parents are asked to help their child to read at home. Come along to our parent forum on Thursday of this week to find out more about Reading and how you can assist your child to improve their literacy results. Please indicate whether you are attending by completing the tear off slip in this newsletter. It would be appreciated if you could bring along a plate to share for a light supper.

Voluntary School Contributions
We would appreciate it if every family would pay our school’s voluntary contribution of $44 per FAMILY, by the end of term 1.

Student Survey
I have also attached an information sheet regarding a pilot program in which we have been invited to participate. The survey is a computer survey for students in years 4 to 6 and it will be completed at school. If you do not want your child to participate please return the note on back of info sheet by Friday.

Student absences
I have attached to this newsletter, an information sheet regarding student attendance. Please take the time to read it.

Also attached is a proforma that parents can just fill out and return to class teachers when students are absent.

What’s Happening………

Week 6
6th March – 6.00pm - Parent Workshop on Reading – How to help your child read at home

Week 7
10th March – P & C AGM meeting
14th March - Assembly

Evacuation Drill
This afternoon we held an Evacuation Drill at school to practise the safe movement of students to a safe assembly point. Please discuss the need to practise this with your child and allay any fears that your child has. It might be a good idea to have your own fire safety drill at home. Remember to set up a pre-determined evacuation assembly point for your family.

Bus Safety
Please continue to remind your child of appropriate behaviour on the school bus. Sadly we have recently received some complaints from the bus drivers about inappropriate behaviours. I also remind parents that it is important to supervise your children at their bus stop in the morning and afternoon.

Clean Up Australia
Due to the threatening rain and light showers on Friday, we have postponed our Clean Up event.

Debbie Bradshaw
Principal

-HOW TO HELP YOUR CHILD WITH THEIR READING

Please respond by circling the appropriate sentence and returning slip to school ASAP:

I am able to attend the Parent Forum on Reading on Thursday 6th March
I am unable to attend the Parent Forum
I am unable to attend the planned parent forum HOWEVER I would be able to attend the forum if it was held one morning ie 9:15 to 10:15am.

Parent name_________________________________________
Kindergarten Information

Hello to all the kinder parents and carers. Thank you to everyone who is helping their child with their sounds, sight words, readers and homework. It is amazing what a difference this practise makes. Anyone who would like to come along to read with the children is most welcome. Have a great week, Mrs D.

10 News

Thank you to those parents and carers who assist their child’s learning by reading each night, completing homework due in Friday and remembering library books for our session on a Thursday morning. This week we are reviewing the Fundamental Movement Skill of the Sprint Run.

News from A and R Class

Remember Library day is Thursday. Students can borrow and return any day and do not need to wait until Thursday. A plastic bag, pillow case or material shopping bag is preferable for borrowing.

Thank you to those students who have brought in items for our class shrine.

Remember the due date for the Japan Speech is fast approaching. Only a month remaining and all students are expected to have their speech at school on Monday 31st March (Week 10).

Please continue to encourage students with nightly home reading and completing their daily entry into their reading journal.

Literacy (spelling) and Numeracy homework is due each Friday.

Any Easter eggs are welcome to be sent in, and given to Mrs Rose, for the Easter Egg Guessing Competition. Any size is appreciated and the SRC pupils will be running the guessing competition in the playground. Tickets are 50cents.

It is not too late to send in class tissues and soap on tap.

We welcome back Mr Ashley today.

House Ticket Tally

Congratulations to KD for winning last week’s draw. The winning house once again was Hunt and the five lucky students were Tyrelle, Gabrielle G, Emma C, Kaysha and Lucy B-S.

Parent Helpers for Infants Sports

We are seeking parent helpers to assist with the running of our K-2 sports program on a Wednesday afternoon. Willing helpers will be asked to assist with groups of students rotating through activity stations teaching Athletic and Fundamental Movement Skills.

Helpers will need to be available from 2:20 to 3:20 and are asked to bring a drink and a hat. Its great fun and the children would love to see you.

If you think you would like to help please ring Helen or Bev at the office and register your interest. Due to safety issues younger children will not be able to come along as the children will be using discus and shot put equipment.

FREDERICKTON PUBLIC SCHOOL PLAYGROUP

Monday’s 9.30am – 11.00am

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT THE SCHOOL ON 65668217.

Congratulations to Lachlan on receiving the Citizenship Award at last Friday’s Assembly.

Champions and Runner-ups receiving certificate and medal for swimming - Congratulations
Canteen News – We are continuing with the “Canteen Rock Star Award” in the canteen. Students who order something new and fresh off the blackboard will be in the running to receive a canteen voucher to be used the following week off the blackboard menu. Last week’s winner: Kimberleigh Lane

Kimberleigh please see Tracey in the canteen to receive your voucher.

Canteen News

LOLLIES OR CUP NOODLES ARE NO LONGER SOLD AT THE CANTEEN

Freshly homemade Muffins - 75c
Pumpkin/Feta, Tandoori Chicken, Chicken/Mushroom, Bacon/Pineapple pizza’s - $4.00
Beef, Vegie & Chicken Burgers - $4.00
Tomato & Basil Quiche - $1.50 each
Tomato & Basil Quiche with salad - $5.00
Quiches - $1.20
Custard and Fruit - $1.00
Elderflower Cordial - $1.00
Small Salad - $3.00
Baked Potato – Corn & Ham - $2.50
Baked Potato – Bolognese Sauce - $2.50
Fried Rice pack - $3.50
Hokkein Noodles Pack - $3.50

If you have grown extra produce that you would like to donate to the canteen, we would love to have it and make it into something yummy.

If you are available to help in the canteen please contact the office and put your name down on a vacant date.

Also each week Tracey will have a Weekly Special Dish, this week it is: SPINACH & PUMPKIN WITH FRESH MADE PASTA $5.00.

Turn off the television and computer and get active.

The National Physical Activity Guidelines for Australian Children (5-12 years) recommend that kids and teens spend no more than two hours each day on small screen activity. This includes television, computers and other devices.

Why reduce screen time?

Children who spend more than two hours watching TV or playing on small screens, generally:-

- have less time for physical activity
- are at risk of becoming overweight
- tend to eat more often and more unhealthy snacks
STUDENT ABSENCE FORM

Student Name: ..............................................

Class: ..............................................

Date of Absence: ________________________________

Reason For Absence: ____________________________________________

Parent Signature: ........................................................................

STUDENT ABSENCE FORM

Student Name: ..............................................

Class: ..............................................

Date of Absence: ________________________________

Reason For Absence: ____________________________________________

Parent Signature: ........................................................................

STUDENT ABSENCE FORM

Student Name: ..............................................

Class: ..............................................

Date of Absence: ________________________________

Reason For Absence: ____________________________________________

Parent Signature: ........................................................................

STUDENT ABSENCE FORM

Student Name: ..............................................

Class: ..............................................

Date of Absence: ________________________________

Reason For Absence: ____________________________________________

Parent Signature: ........................................................................
Dear Parents and Carers

Our school is taking part in a pilot of the *Tell Them From Me* student survey. The survey will provide us with valuable feedback on what our students think about school life, how engaged they are with school and the different ways that teachers interact with them. Schools in Australia and around the world have used the *Tell Them From Me* survey to help them improve.

The survey is completed on-line and is run by an independent research company, The Learning Bar, which specialises in school-based surveys.

Staff in schools will not be able to identify individual students from their responses. To ensure confidentiality, participating students will receive a unique username and password and where fewer than five students respond to a question, the results will be suppressed. The survey typically takes around 35 minutes to complete and will be administered by the school during normal school hours.

Once the surveys are completed by students, reports are prepared and in most cases are available to schools within two business days.

As well as schools getting student feedback, the Department of Education and Communities, through the Centre for Education Statistics and Evaluation (CESE), will have access to data from across the State and will run a research project to look at state-wide patterns of student wellbeing, engagement and effective teaching practices. The research will look at how these things impact on student outcomes, including academic performance. Individual students and schools will not be identified, and all information will be handled in accordance with the relevant privacy legislation.

This research will help schools in New South Wales to better understand how to improve student wellbeing and engagement. It will also help teachers and principals discuss what works to improve student outcomes.

Participating in the survey is entirely voluntary. Your child will not take part if either you or your child do not wish to. If, during the survey, your child is uncomfortable answering any question, he/she should leave it blank and move on to the next one. Your child can stop the survey at any time.

If you do not want your child to take part in the survey, please complete the attached form and return it to your child's school by Friday 7 March.


Debbie Bradshaw  
Principal  
Frederickton Public School

Dr Jenny Donovan  
General Manager  
Centre for Education Statistics and Evaluation

E: cese@dot.nsw.edu.au  
www.cese.nsw.gov.au
Student Feedback Survey

If you do not want your child to participate in the student feedback survey, please sign this form and return it to your school by Friday 7 March.

I (print name) ............................................................................. DO NOT give consent for my child/children (print name/s) ................................................................. of roll class/es .................to participate in the Tell Them From Me student feedback survey.

Signed......................................................... Date..........................

CENTRE FOR EDUCATION STATISTICS AND EVALUATION
E cese@det.nsw.edu.au  www.cese.nsw.gov.au
Regular School Attendance
Information for parents and carers

Did you know? If students miss as little as eight days in a school term, by the end of primary school they will have missed a year of education.

Why must I send my child to school?

Education in New South Wales is compulsory. This means all children from six years of age and under the minimum school leaving age are legally required to attend school.

From 2010, all New South Wales students must complete Year 10. After Year 10 and until they turn 17 years of age students must be:

1. in school or registered for home schooling, or
2. in approved education or training (e.g. TAFE, traineeship, apprenticeship) or
3. in full-time, paid employment (average 25 hours per week) or in a combination of work, education and/or training.

Principals are legally responsible for keeping accurate records of student attendance.

Principals are also responsible for deciding if the reason given for an absence is justified.

For this reason, Principals may request medical certificates or other documentation for long or frequent absences explained by parents as being due to illness.

If Principals don’t consider an explanation to be satisfactory, they will record the absence as unjustified.

It is important to understand that the New South Wales Department of Education and Training may prosecute parents (including carers) if children of compulsory school age have recurrent numbers of unjustified absences from school.

Must I send my child every day?

YES. It is a condition of enrolment that you send your child to school every day.

A small number of absences may be justified if your child:

- has to go to a special religious ceremony
- is required to attend to a serious and/or urgent family situation (e.g. a funeral)
- is too sick to go to school or has an infectious illness.

Head lice infestations can be a common occurrence, particularly in primary schools. Parents should check their child’s hair regularly for head lice and undertake treatment where eggs or lice are identified.

Translated information about head lice and how to treat them can be found at https://www.det.nsw.edu.au/languagesupport/documents/headlice/infosheet.htm

Advice from NSW Health indicates that there is no need for students to be sent home or excluded from school because of head lice. Head lice, is not a valid reason for prolonged absences from school.

Why is regular attendance at school important?

Regular school attendance will help your child to succeed in later life.

Attending school every day makes learning easier for your child and helps children to build and maintain friendships with other children.

If your child doesn’t learn the basic skills in the early years of school, they may develop learning problems in later years.
Why is arriving at school on time important?
Arriving at school and class on time:
- ensures that your child doesn't miss out on the important learning activities scheduled early in the day when they are most alert
- helps your child to learn the importance of punctuality and routine
- gives your child time to greet their friends before class and therefore
- reduces the opportunity for classroom disruption.

Lateness is recorded as a partial absence and must be explained to the school the same way as other forms of absence.

What should I do if my family has problems with getting your child to school, for some of the following reasons?
- won't get out of bed
- won't go to bed
- can't find their clothes, books, homework, school bag...
- school lunches not ready
- slow to eat breakfast
- homework not done
- watching television late at night or when they should be getting ready for school
- test or presentation at school
- birthdays
- screaming and not letting go of you.

Here are some suggestions which are based on setting regular routines:
- Have a set time to be out of bed
- Have a set time to go to bed
- Have uniform and school bag ready the night before
- Make lunches the night before
- Have a set time for starting / ending breakfast. A routine is important.
- Set time for daily homework activities
- Turn the television on for a set time and only if appropriate
- Be firm; children must go to school
- Provide lots of positive encouragement
- Be firm; a birthday is not a holiday
- Time arrival at school to coincide with bell time and leave quickly. If arranged with the teacher beforehand, place your child's hand into that of the teacher and then leave.

Do you need an interpreter?
Interpreting services are provided where possible for parents and carers who do not speak or understand English well and for Deaf parents and carers who use sign language. For more information on interpreter services contact your school or phone the Telephone Interpreter Service and have them contact the school. The telephone number to ring is 131 450. Ask for an interpreter in the required language and the interpreter will call the school and stay on the line to assist you with your conversation. You will not be charged for this service.

© March 2010
Student Welfare Directorate
NSW Department of Education & Training