**Principal’s Message**

Dear parents and caregivers

**Swimming carnival**

Mr Rangiah and I popped over to the swimming carnival on Tuesday. We witnessed a small but very dedicated group of students who had engaged in a lot of swimming but were still committed to doing their best in the relays at the end of the day. I was very proud of the outstanding effort and sportsmanship that our students exhibited. I would also like to thank Mr Ottmann and the group of supporting teachers who made the day a success. See more details overleaf.

**Scripture**

Scripture will commence in week 5.

**Homework Help**

Homework Help will commence in week 5 also. Expression of interest notes will go home in week 4, these notes will be returned to the front office where they will be placed in numerical order in a folder. Positions will be filled on a first in basis.

**Exciting changes for 2013**

**Electronic Notice Board**

We are excited about our electronic notice board and would encourage all to read our updated messages, placed almost daily on the board. This board was purchased to enhance communication with our community.

**Translation of Newsletters in Vietnamese and Assyrian**

As mentioned at the end of 2012, we have employed Mrs Le and Mr Rohan as Community Liaison Officers on a Monday. Part of the role is to translate our school newsletter. If you would prefer to read the newsletter in Vietnamese or Assyrian you can locate the translated newsletter on our school website. Alternatively, we keep a small amount copied in the foyer if you would like to pop in to get one. We will also be providing a parent information evening in week 8 each term in both Vietnamese and Assyrian, more information will be given closer to the time. Thanks to both the Community Liaison Officers for a great start to 2013.

**Assembly on a Friday and the Induction Ceremony**

In 2013 we will be holding our school assembly on a Friday. This decision was made to better support learning in our week. Our first assembly on Friday 22 February will be the SRC Induction Ceremony for SRC representatives and also our House Captains and Vice Captains.

**K-2 Fitness**

After looking closely at our fitness timetable we will be having three 20 minute fitness session across K-2 starting this term. Research has been linked with physical activity and increased readiness for learning.

**Music Program**

We are excited to announce that we have employed a specialist music teacher Mr Bradley Post, who will be working with classes and their teachers on a music program. Mr Post will also be looking at taking a Gifted and Talented Music Group and also working with teachers on further developing our school choir. We welcome Mr Post and know that he will be contributing great things to our school in the area of music and choir.

**Jargon buster**

Wondering why your kids talk about playing under the school COLA? Baffled at parent-teacher discussions about KLA’s? This list of common abbreviations or terms will help you to become familiar with the world inside school.


**Avoiding injuries**

Have you ever wondered if your child may be suffering physically from using a computer for schoolwork? Or if carrying their school bag may be causing them pain?


**Maths questions**

Are you in search of an educational game to sharpen your child's maths skills and recall? Maths Monkey's Quest features maths questions on topics ranging from addition and subtraction to ratios and percentages. It’s aimed at children from Years 3 to 8. [http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/about/mobile-applications/maths-monkey-s-quest](http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/about/mobile-applications/maths-monkey-s-quest)

**Helping your child with homework**

How do you help your child while allowing them to develop independence? Teachers talk about how parents can help kids take responsibility for their homework and avoid Thursday night meltdowns.


Weekend time again…enjoy it!

Genelle Goldfinch  
Principal
**Voluntary School Contributions**

At this time each year we seek voluntary school contributions to enhance Fairfield West Public School’s educational resources such as: work sheets; use of the library; iPads; computers; printers across the school and sporting programs, to mention just a few things.

These school contributions are voluntary and payment is a matter for decision by you as parents. Contributions help provide additional educational resources for the benefit of your child.

There has been a slight increase in fees this year, the first in twelve years. Due to the rising costs of resources used daily; it is $40 for one student, $60 for two students and $70 for three or more students. We have provided an envelope for your convenience which then can be returned to the front office.

**Catholic Scripture Confirmation 2013**

Enrolments for the Sacrament of CONFIRMATION will be accepted at the 6.00pm Saturday mass, and all the Sunday masses in Smithfield Parish on the weekends of 2, 3 March and 9, 10 March 2013. Enrolment forms are available from the Scripture Teachers or in the Parish Churches, or phone Halina or Maureen on 9725 4317.

**Anaphylaxis**

Anaphylaxis is a severe and sudden allergic reaction to certain foods such as nuts or shellfish or to insect bites. You must let your child’s teacher know if your child is allergic to foods or at risk of anaphylaxis.

Please do not send nuts or nut products to school in student lunches.

Please contact Mr Rangiah to update Health Care Plans for 2013.

Find out more at [www.allergyfacts.org.au](http://www.allergyfacts.org.au)

**Sport**

Summer PSSA sport teams will be playing at Endeavour Field. Tennis will play at Brenan Park and Swimming at Fairfield Leisure Centre.

Lunch will be from 11.00am to 11.40am and recess from 1.40pm to 2.00pm.

**Fairfield West Annual Swimming Carnival Report 2013**

Last Tuesday 12 February Fairfield West PS held their annual swimming carnival at Prairiewood Leisure Centre. 30 students and 6 teachers attended, as the students competed in a variety of races with other students from Harrington St Public and St Johns Park Public schools. The students did themselves proud with many of them swimming in every event that they could. It was a credit to the students of Thorpe and Sauvage especially who competed as much as they could, as they only had 4 and 5 students respectively attend the carnival. (Freeman had 9 students and O’Neill had 12)

One student in particular had an outstanding carnival, breaking 4 school records. Joshua Della-Vedova broke the 200m Medley, 11 years 50m Freestyle, 11 years 50m Backstroke and Senior Boys 100m Freestyle records. Joshua and 15 other students have qualified for the Zone Swimming Carnival to be held on Tuesday 5 March at Prairiewood Leisure Centre.

O’Neill and Freeman shared the Spirit Cup Trophy for participation, while Freeman won the Overall Champion House Trophy. Big thanks go to Ms Pulbrook, Mr Booth, Mr Heterick, Ms Welsh and Ms. Webb for their efforts in helping to run the carnival. And also to all those parents and community members who helped transport and support the students. Congratulations to all the students for their efforts and behaviour on the day. I will keep you updated on our students’ efforts following the Zone Carnival on 5 March.

Mr Ottmann
Sport Coordinator