PRINCIPAL’S MESSAGE
Dear parents and caregivers

Meet the teacher BBQ
It was great to see so many parents and caregivers at school yesterday meeting the teachers and finding out about the direction each grade are taking in 2013, while enjoying a drink and sausage sandwich. Thanks to all the people who contributed to this evening, far too many to thank individually.

School Rules – School motto
Our school rules are simple; Be safe, Be respectful and Be a good learner. While our school motto is: Aim High. I am pleased with the number of students who follow the school rules and are always trying their personal best. Thank you to these students.

Voluntary Contributions
Thank you to the 21% of families who have contributed to our school through financial contributions.

IMPORTANT SAFETY NOTICE
657 students attend our school and that means there is a huge amount of traffic around the school at start and finishing times. Thank you to those people who work hard to keep people safe by following the traffic rules. It is almost incomprehensible that a small number of people are still taking risks and students are narrowly missed being hurt. I am meeting with Chris Bowen tomorrow to discuss my concerns. If you would like to attend, I have checked with Mr Bowen and at 10:45am you can join in a meeting to express your concerns.

Smoking
There is to be no smoking on the school grounds under any circumstances, it is against the law.

All about apostrophes
Not knowing where to place apostrophes can haunt people for their entire lives. Here’s an easy guide to help your child understand what they mean, how to use them and get them right, now.
Find out more: http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/homework-and-study/english/a-to-z/•english_glossary/8Qum/551/apostrophe+denoting+ownership

Multiplication times tables
Does your child need encouragement? Explain to them that learning times tables = instant, painless recall in exams.

Sorting fact from fiction
Help your child develop their “dodgy website” antennae when doing homework. Here are ways your child can tell a good website – or any document – from a bad one.

Enjoy your weekend.
Genelle Goldfinch Principal

SRC INDUCTION CEREMONY
Last Friday, FWPS held their first official assembly of 2013, that being the SRC Induction Ceremony. The Year 6 Captain and Councillors, House Captains and SRC Representatives from Years 1-6 were officially recognised, receiving their badges and reciting their pledges in front of the whole school, family, friends and community members. The students will take part in weekly meetings, discussing issues relating to the school such as fundraising, the school environment and how they can display their leadership skills and make the school a better place.

The Year 6 leaders have began the year being involved in many areas around the school including assisting with the distribution of playground folders and sport equipment, the Canteen, Back Oval equipment and leading K-6 Assemblies. Later this term, the 10 Captains and Councillors will travel to the City to take part in a Young Leaders Conference, which is sure to be an exciting and valuable experience.

2013 is going to be another exciting and busy year, and this year’s SRC team are determined to help contribute in many positive ways in many different areas.

Mr Ottmann & Ms Edworthy
SRC Leaders

CARE IS OUR VALUE OF THE MONTH
Students demonstrate care by showing concern for the wellbeing of themselves and others, demonstrating empathy and acting with compassion.
**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.

**Have you received the Schoolkids Bonus?**

Do you know about the Schoolkids Bonus? It is a new cash payment to help eligible families and students with the costs of primary and secondary school studies. Around 1.2 million families have already benefitted from the first wave of payments in January 2013 – have you?

If you receive a family or income support payment, including Family Tax Benefit Part A, you could be eligible to receive $410 a year for each primary student and $820 a year for each secondary student, with half paid in January and half paid in July.

The Schoolkids Bonus replaces the Education Tax Refund (ETR) and is a much simpler system. You no longer need to collect receipts and payments are made automatically so you don’t have to wait months to make a claim via your tax return. Unlike the ETR you can choose how you use the payment to best support your children’s education – whether it be school books, stationery, uniforms, school fees, or excursions.

Check your eligibility by visiting australia.gov.au/schoolkidsbonus and if you think you might have missed out on the January payment, contact Centrelink – either in person at a Centrelink-Medicare Office or by calling 132 468.

**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.

**Parent/Teacher BBQ**

**Catholic Scripture**

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.