PRINCIPAL’S MESSAGE

Dear parents and caregivers

**Literacy and Numeracy Week**
Next week is National Literacy and Numeracy Week. The week gives schools the opportunity to be involved in a range of literacy and numeracy activities. Fairfield West will celebrate by holding a Maths Fun Day on Wednesday, 27 August where all students will be engaged in a variety of maths activities.

**Kindergarten Orientation – 25 August**
The first of a series of Orientations will start next Monday. We look forward to meeting our new students. If you intend to send your child to Fairfield West PS in 2015 please enrol them, if you haven’t already, as this is the only way we can send information and invitations to our transition programs to relevant families.

**Author Visit**
Yesterday, all year 5 and 6 students had the opportunity to listen to Nathan Luff, the Australian author. Nathan spoke to students about how to be a good writer and answered questions that students asked. Some students also had the opportunity to present their own writing. It was a fantastic opportunity for our students.

**PSSA finals – Senior Rugby League**
Once again, our students excelled on the sports field. Four teams made the semi-final last week. Well done to all the players and their coaches. Congratulations to the Senior Rugby League team that made the grand finals and is scheduled to play tomorrow at Endeavour starting at 1:30pm.

Have a good weekend!
Genelle Goldfinch

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DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

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<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>25 August</td>
<td>Kindergarten Orientation 9:15am – 10:15am</td>
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<td>After School Story Time</td>
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<td>27 August</td>
<td>Maths Fun Day</td>
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<td>1 September</td>
<td>Kindergarten Orientation 9:15am – 10:15am</td>
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<td>-Year 6 Fundraiser</td>
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STAGE 3 CAMP 2014

Last week, Stage 3 went on a 3 day camp to the ‘Great Aussie Bush Camp’ situated at Tea Gardens (North of Newcastle). It was the school’s first visit to that location. (In 2013, FWPS went to their Kincumber site) On arrival, the students unpacked their things from the bus and headed off to have lunch. Following lunch the students went back to the camp site, putting their things in their cabins and prepared themselves for the first of their activities. Over the 3 days the students participated in many individual and team based activities including archery, canoeing, the giant swing, rock climbing, the dual flying fox and high ropes. A trip to the local rainforest was pretty interesting, with a visit to nearby sand dunes being a highlight for many. Night activities included a games night, as well as the teacher’s v students in Commando (of which the teachers reigned supreme for the second year in a row!).

While the weather wasn’t fantastic, it didn’t stop any of the activities from going ahead, and from a teacher’s point of view it was fantastic to see many of the children stepping out of their comfort zones and giving all the activities ‘a go.’ From the activities that the children did, to the camp site, to the GABC instructors (and even some with the food), there were many positive experiences had by the students. Things such as bunking with their friends, capsizing their canoe, rolling down the sand dunes, getting caught by the teachers in the pitch dark in Commando, reaching the top of the rock climb, hitting the bullseye in archery, flying over the water on the flying fox and slurping on the ices would all be part of many people’s memories. The teachers commended the students on the positive attitude that they showed over the 3 days and for their overall general behaviour. We are sure that many of the students will remember this camp for years to come.

Big thanks go to the 5 other teachers that gave up their time 24/7 over the 3 days to accompany the students on the camp, and for their help in organising the event. Bring on Camp 2015!!!!

Mr D.Ottmann - Stage 3 Team Leader
**PREMIER’S READING CHALLENGE UPDATE**

If your child has been participating in the Premier’s Reading Challenge this year, please ensure that he/she returns his/her PRC reading log to Ms De Horta on or before the 22 August 2014 in order to be eligible to receive a Premier’s Reading Challenge certificate.

**SCIENCE FUN DAY**

This week we celebrated National Science Week with a Science Fun Day on Thursday 21 August. Students had the opportunity to participate in various experiments as they rotated from classroom to classroom within their grades. The students thoroughly enjoyed their hands on activities which included, making balloon kebabs, erupting volcanoes, trying invisible ink, making slime, creating balloon rockets, designing paper aeroplanes that glide the furthest, making sherbet, making telephones and even discovering why dishwashing detergent repels pepper!

A big thank you to all staff members who provided rich learning opportunities for the students to discover how and why things occur in our world.

Visit our school web site if you would like some ideas on experiments you can try at home.

**PHASE 1 LITTLE LEARNERS**

The first of three sessions will start this Monday, 25 August at 9:15am. Please report to the Kindy Quad. We are eagerly awaiting to meet our Class of 2015.
Ms G. Turnbull.

**FWPS CONNECT TO READING STORY TIME**

In collaboration with Fairfield City Libraries our teacher librarian Ms De Horta will be hosting a story time session after-school for K-2 students and their parents/caregivers on Monday the 25 August 2014 (week 7). This session is designed to connect children to the magic of books through shared reading and participation in fun activities relating to the story being read. Pre-school aged children are welcome to attend. Light refreshments will be served. Please fill out the slip below and return to your child’s classroom teacher as soon as possible if you plan on attending any of the story time sessions.

**Please return the below slip to the Library as soon as possible**

My child/children and I plan on attending story time at FWPS Library on the: 25 August ☐
Child’s name: ___________ Class: ___________ Number of children attending: ___________ Number of adults attending: ___________