

Fernleigh Public School P&C Meeting

Date: Thursday 20th February 2025

Present: Melissa Dunbar-Reid, Trena Gillet, Dee Farrell, Mia Munro, Fabia McWilliam, Mollie Titterton, Chelsea De Rooy, Rebecca Kinsey, Sarah Wilson, Katelyn Wallin, (Jonathan and Maddison McKay arrive 8:45am)

Apologies: -

Meeting Opened 8:18am

Acknowledgement of country by Fabia McWilliam

Minutes from last meeting:

- Approved by Fabia
- Last term's fundraising efforts – Halloween disco – awesome. (We raised \$1015.43 – and gave \$250 of that to the Newrybar Hall for providing everything)
- End of year presentation and kids dances were awesome.
- Tangalooma camp was amazing.
- It was sad farewelling the 3 year 6 kids!

Today's meeting Agenda: Fabia McWilliam

Fruit bowl idea:

Recently raised by Sarah – idea of everyone bringing fruit in to contribute to a communal fruit bowl for all kids – we decided that this was too much effort for what it was worth. Idea axed. But thanks Sarah – please do not curb your enthusiasm :D

Fundraising:

Bakesales – There is a place at the weekly Newrybar market for us if we want to do bakesales. Once a term is enough for everyone as an effort for all. We will come up with a date for this term.

Election Bakesale: There is a federal election coming up in May (next term) – we may be able to do a bakesale at the school or at the hall depending on whether the school is allocated as a polling booth.

AGM:

We have to advertise when we plan to do an AGM, so can't do that today as we didn't advertise – we will organise a date for AGM this term – or make it part of next term meeting. Stay tuned.

Principal's Report: Melissa Dunbar-Reid

2025 Enrolments:

- We started the year feeling concerned about enrolment numbers with regards to funding. (The magic number of enrolments is 26 – once we go under 26 we lose about \$100K worth of funding. The numbers need to be above 26 by the census which occurs about 3 weeks into the year). However, great news - in these first few weeks we have taken in 3 new enrolments (Gemma (yr 5), Ocean (yr 1) and Ripley (yr 4) – welcome!) which takes our total up to 28.

Budget:

- Last year the department took back \$46K of the money they had pledged to the playground. We appealed this decision and thanks to Dee's very persuasive email they have given the money back. This money will go towards:
 - o Upgrading computers
 - o Shadesale for sandpit (which we already booked in and paid for and was supposed to be done in the holidays, but due to the height of the shadesale the department stepped in and said they needed to manage the project – which has delayed the project. Hopefully we'll get it installed before winter!)
 - o Books
 - o Clearing backyard into the forest

Resilience Project:

- We are continuing with the Resilience Project as part of our curriculum this year.
- We would like to get families more involved. There is an upcoming family meeting put on by the Project which will run on Wednesday March 19th 6:30pm-7:30pm. It is good to attend the live event as there is opportunity for Q&A, but we understand its awkward time. They do make a recording of it which people could watch in their own time – OR do we want to organize another time that would suit families better to watch the recording all together at the school?
- We recommend all parents read The Resilience Project book by Hugh Van Cuylenburg and check out The Imperfects podcast.
- It is rumoured that Hugh Van Cuylenburg is moving/has moved to the area. We would love to have him come and speak at the school sometime if this is the case.

Days in lieu:

- As per usual our school hours are 9:15am-3:30pm and as such we get 2 days in lieu again each term. This term we plan to have these days in the middle of term – Thursday March 6 and Friday March 7 which will give everyone a long weekend.

- Next term we may put the days in lieu on the Thursday-Friday before the Kings birthday weekend, giving everyone a 5 day weekend. This and dates for term 3 and 4 are to be confirmed.

Additional agenda items:

Runners:

- Blundstone style boots are not appropriate for sporting activities or playing on the play equipment. Ideally could kids please wear runners to school – and if not wearing runners, can they have them in their bag in case of spontaneous sport/outdoor activities.

Money management/School Roadside stall:

- Jonathan suggests having the kids involved in managing money on projects. Melissa said that we already do that with the school stall – we sell the school's chicken's eggs and any surplus fruit/vegetables from the school garden as well as any donated produce/flowers etc – families welcome to donate any surplus they may have. All money raised on the stall is managed by the kids who can choose what to spend the money on.

Ballina Small Schools:

- Melissa said that we have just ordered special Ballina Small Schools singlets to wear for district carnivals – we're getting 30. Would it be ok to loan them to students when they need them for district carnival? Yes. There's not much point in students getting a singlet to wear once.
- Should we get Ballina Small Schools Swimming caps? A Ballina Small Schools Tent for district events? Yes great idea on both counts. Melissa and Dee will look into this.

Lunch order days:

- Will there be a pie day again instead of sushi sometime? Not all kids like sushi.
- We might do pies towards end of term. School has a bunch of pies in the freezer that we could heat up. Or we can get pies from Babalinos Bakery (Paris family).
- The sushi is great as they also deliver (Paris family can deliver pies as well).
- If anyone has any other ideas/suggestions for lunch order day options please let the school know. We are open to ideas!

Facebook Messenger group chat:

- We should add new school parents to the chat if they are on FB. Bek has added Katelyn and Maddison to the group today.

Treasurers Report – Mollie Titterton:

- We have \$7581.65 in the
- We have pad for the playground beautification and school camp bus.
- Insurance payment coming up – is usually \$165 but went up to \$208 at one point with extra enrolment numbers. Schools don't provide insurance for kids if they have an accident at school or on school excursions, so this insurance which the P&C pays for covers the kids in the event of an accident.
- Dee asked would P&C like pay the PSSA sports carnival levies (\$8 per child per carnival)? Yes we are happy to do that.

Meeting closed at 9:09am