

Fernleigh Public School Newsletter

Fernleigh Road, Fernleigh, NSW 2479

Ph: 02 6687 8267 Fax: 02 6687 8570

Email: fernleigh-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au

Website: www.fernleigh-p.schools.nsw.edu.au



Principal: Melissa Dunbar-Reid

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Term 2 - Week 7

Welcome to our very own pet, Cookie. Cookie has been donated from a community member and we know she will bring many hours of joy to the students. They will learn first hand about responsibility and kindness.

It was a joy to take the students to the **52 Storey Treehouse** show last week. Thank you to the parent volunteers that assisted with transport. We all enjoyed the show and the writing produced the following day was fantastic and we were all blown away with the Kindy writing.



Store Success! So far we have raised \$142.70. How exciting! This money will be used to provide cooking ingredients and garden supplies.

Parent helpers - Ben Sneesby has very kindly offered to provide music classes for the whole school every Tuesday afternoon. If you have a spare 15 minutes or an hour and would like to share any of your skills and knowledge please come and have a chat, the students would benefit from your time in the classroom.

Thank you to Kate, Sarah and Edward for helping Mrs McClymont cover all the classroom readers and for Nicole for making the lovely cake. There are still some books that need covering so please see Mrs McClymont if you can help.

Dental Assessment - All Kindergarten students have the opportunity for a free dental assessment on Friday 24th June. No treatment will be provided on this day as the assessment is designed to be an introduction to future dental visits. Notes for this are attached to the newsletter.

If you haven't read the beautiful article about our school in the **Bangalow Heartbeat** magazine it is attached to the newsletter for you. Reading this article warmed my heart as it reinforced how lucky we all are to be a part of this beautiful school. Happy reading.

What's Coming Up?

This Week

Monday -

Tuesday -

Wednesday -

Thursday - Cricket

Friday - Tennis

Week 8

Monday - Queens Birthday

Tuesday -

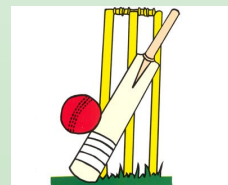
Wednesday - Cooking

Thursday - Cricket

Friday - Tennis

Reminders

If you haven't paid for Cricket, please do so as soon as you can. Thanks!



P&C

The minutes of the recent meeting are on display on the Notice Board near the front gate.

Rosters are on this board as well for our two fundraising activities

- ◆ Election Day Saturday 2nd July
- ◆ The Bunnings BBQ Sunday 24th July

Together We Grow

Student Achievement

Cricket and tennis were both a 'hit' last week. If students have their own tennis racquet these can be used for the Friday lesson.



The students also enjoyed cooking and eating their burgers.



Bell Times

9.30am - Class
11.30 am- 12pm - Break 1
1.30pm - 2.15 Break 2
3.30pm - Home

Being blown away by our amazing writing!



We went to 52 Storey Treehouse. It was very funny. I love the boys because they were very, very funny. By Mimi

I had to go up the stairs. We watched the 52 Storey Treehouse. By Elijah

We went to the 52 Storey Treehouse. There was three people and they were very silly. Terry has Ninja Snails. They were very slow and steady. By Milly

Yesterday we went to 52 Storey Treehouse. We had a snack out the front. By Elizabeth

Yesterday we went to the 52 Storey Treehouse. We had to climb up the stairs. It was fun. By Charley

Community News

Wardell Public School P&C has extended an invitation to all Fernleigh Students to attend their **End of Term Disco**. It will be held at the Wardell Community Hall on Thursday 25th June at 6pm until 8pm. More information is on the Notice Board and the Wardell School would appreciate knowing numbers before the event. Cost is \$5 which includes a glow stick.

Ballina / Southern Cross High School Update

To best meet the educational needs of all students and to facilitate movement and retention of resources at Ballina HS the Staff and students of Ballina HS will be moved to the Southern Cross School site for the commencement of 2017. A detailed occupancy plan will be provided in the short term. Peter Campbell, Director Public Schools.

Respect ~ Integrity ~ Responsibility

Fernleigh School

If anyone has experienced the utter chaos of dropping off or picking up children at a city school, they will remember that experience. There is often a security person, milling crowds of parents and children funnelling through the gates, cars double parked, congested traffic, buses stopping, horns blaring. So how blissful it was to drive out amongst the rolling hills into a little country lane and come across a picture postcard school, set in the bucolic surroundings of Fernleigh.

This little school first opened in 1894 and for over 100 years it has educated and shaped the early years of countless pupils. In 2016 it has just 35 students. The Headmistress welcomed me carrying a tray of pumpkin scones which the children had prepared that morning. The house, where once the Head Teacher had lived was redolent with the aroma of warm country cooking. These scones were going home with the pupils to make Mother's Day special.

The Head Mistress, new this year, is Melissa Reid, who exudes warmth, humour and most importantly extremely grounded common sense. The school, she told us, encourages a family environment where learning can happen without extreme pressure or judgement. It is an holistic approach which embraces both mind and body. Thus there are vegetable gardens, a cooking program, tie-dyeing, and bamboo pot making, yet every child has a computer and iPad. These are used to consolidate learning although Melissa is very much in favour of teacher input.

As in all schools, literacy and numeracy are considered extremely important. Indeed two of the teachers have been trained in the L3 reading program. However the overarching sentiment has been captured in the school motto:

'Together we grow to become stronger and smarter'
So much a part of this school is its inclusiveness, where no child is bullied, no tear unnoticed, yet every child is primed to succeed.



Fernleigh
Students
Photo by
Judy
Baker

Children have friendships that span Kindy to Year 6. As in a large family the older children look out for the younger. There is a buddy reading group where an older pupil reads to a little one who returns the gesture, as the school is set up to involve everybody. Many experiments include all 35 students. Recently everyone brought in food which was tested for sugar content. The vege garden is an example of complete pupil activity, as is the cooking program.

Most importantly it is obvious by their shining morning faces that the pupils love being there. They seem self confident, not afraid to answer questions. They love school they told us, because they have many friends, because the environment is so healthy with fresh air, large swathes of lush grass and sheltering trees. They even love their teachers.

When children have this school experience, it energises them. As Melissa says... "a badge doesn't make you a leader". What does, is learning to be kind to others, to get along with each other, to be interested in learning and communicating.

There are not many schools where when the sun is shining you can take your desks, seats and books out onto the grass, and have your lessons there. In some ways being there was like a skip down memory lane, to a less complicated world, into the pages of some distant childhood novel.

I came away with a feeling of inner warmth, a certain peace and the knowledge, seldom felt, that the world can be a good place.

By Marg Ware

Bangalow's Heartbeat

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