



# Fernleigh Public School

## NEWSLETTER

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Term 1 Week 5

27 February 2025

### Principal's Message

Welcome back to all our families! What a fantastic start to the year it has been! It's so heartwarming to see the excitement and energy that our students and staff have brought into the school. We extend a special warm welcome to our new students and families who have made such a smooth transition into our school community. It is truly wonderful to watch our school continue to grow and thrive.

We have already had some incredible achievements this term, starting with our Ballina Small School Swimming Carnival in Byron Bay and then our District Carnival the following week in Ballina. Be sure to check out the article in this newsletter!

This year, we are excited to continue embracing *The Resilience Project (TRP)*, which has been such a positive influence on our students. Through learning about *GEM - Gratitude, Empathy and Mindfulness* - our students have been building resilience in remarkable ways. We are eager to keep this momentum going and further strengthen these values in our school community. We also encourage our families to join the Digital Wellbeing for Families Workshop (online) on Wednesday 19 March @ 6.30-7.30pm AEDT. More details can be found later in this newsletter.

As we continue this term, we are filled with excitement and anticipation for all the learning and adventures ahead. Together, let's make this another fantastic year at our school!

Warm regards,

*Melissa Dunbar-Reid*  
Principal

## What's Happening

When	What
Every Tuesday	Library (Bring your library bag)
Friday 28 February	FNC Zone Swimming Carnival @ Ballina Swimming Pool
Thursday 6 and Friday 7 March	Students day off in lieu of extended hours
Tuesday 11 March	NC Swimming @ Kempsey
Thursday 13 March	Street Sushi Day
Thursday 13 March @ 5.30 - 7 pm	Year 7 2026 Information Evening @ Byron Bay High School
Wednesday 12 to Friday 21 March	Years 3 and 5 - Naplan
Friday 14 March	PDHPE Sporting School Basketball
Wednesday 19 March @ 6.30 pm (online)	Resilience Project Webinar (Digital Wellbeing for Families)
Friday 21 March	PDHPE Sporting School Basketball
Friday 21 March	BBHS Year 7 2026 Taster Lessons
Thursday 27 March	Street Sushi Day
Friday 28 March	PDHPE Sporting School Basketball
Friday 4 April	PDHPE Sporting School Basketball
Thursday 10 April	Babalino Bakery Pie Order Day
Friday 11 April	Last day of Term 1
Monday 28 and Tuesday 29 April	School Staff Development Day
Wednesday 30 April	First day of Term 2 for all students

### Small School's Swimming and Headlands District PSSA Carnivals

It has been a big term of swimming already and in true Fernleigh style, our students did not disappoint.

Our Small Schools Carnival was a wonderful, hot day in Byron Bay where our kids really showed how supportive and encouraging they are of one another. It is always so heartwarming to see them run along the side of the pool cheering on their friends.

Alex, Juniper, Lolly and Caleb came out as Age Champions and along with Henley all progressed to district in Ballina.

Headlands District Swimming Carnival was another big day up against the big schools at the Ballina pool. Our relay swimmers started the day strong and fought for 2nd place and a spot at the Far North Coast Swimming Carnival. They will be swimming again on Friday, as well as Caleb in the breaststroke and Juniper in the backstroke. Good luck!

*Miss Mia Munro | Teacher  
(more photos published on our website gallery)*





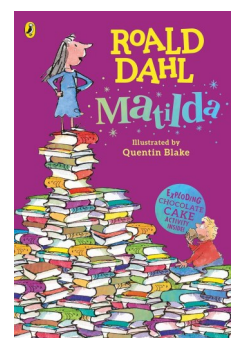
## Whales Classroom

In the Whales class, students are diving into the world of Pablo Picasso, analysing his abstract portraits and bold use of colour and shape. Through discussions and creative projects, they are exploring how Picasso's unique style challenged traditional art and inspired new ways of viewing art. Stay tuned for our Starry Night Artworks!



In English we are studying Matilda by Roald Dahl, exploring its themes of intelligence, resilience and justice. We are intrigued by the character of Mrs Trunchbull, the cruel and terrifying headmistress, whose harsh treatment of students makes her one of the most horrible villains we have ever heard of!

We feel pretty lucky to go to a school where our Principal gives us hugs, instead of throwing us over the fence by our hair!





## Turtles Classroom

We are so excited to welcome our two new kindergarten students this year, Hank and Jireh. They have both settled in so wonderfully and are already doing so well. We can't wait to see them continue to shine!

Our learning has been centered around self-discovery, and we've had a lot of fun creating vibrant artworks that reflect who we are and aspire to be. We've learned to recognise and appreciate the little things that make us beautifully unique, whether it's our hair, smile or the way we move through the world.

In addition to celebrating ourselves, we've been exploring the concept of family. To make it even more exciting, we met some special guests from our classes' families. Isla the dog, thanks to Ilithyia (*pictured below*) and Cookie and Lavender the lizards, thanks to Magnus (*see pictures over page*).





***Cookie and Lavendar come for a visit!***

Both classes had a lovely distraction from learning on Tuesday when Magnus came to show us his bearded dragons. Everyone was amazed at how tame and calm the lizards were and could not wait for a hold! Alex even overcame his fear to hold not one, but both Cookie and Lavendar.

Thank you, Magnus, for sharing them with us.





## P&C meeting minutes

Thank you to all the families who attended our first P&C meeting of the year, last week. It was a wonderful opportunity to come together, share ideas and discuss important matters for the school community. We appreciate your involvement and look forward to seeing more of you at future meetings. The minutes from the meeting are now available on our website for anyone who would like to read them [Fernleigh PS P&C meeting minutes](#).

## Basketball

Starting on Friday 7 March, Lauren King, a Ballina basketball coach will be running our basketball program for four Fridays. We are excited for our students to get active and develop their skills on the court. Ballina Basketball will be providing all equipment required to deliver the program and will also donate 30 new (15 size 4 & 15 size 5) basketballs to our school.

We are able to implement this program for our students using this terms Sporting Schools Grant. Sporting Schools is an Australian Government initiative designed to help schools increase children's participation in sport and connect them with community sport opportunities. Sporting Schools programs are provided free to children and their families to help students build the confidence and capability to be active for life.

## Footwear at School

We kindly ask that students wear their joggers to school every day of the week. If for any reason they are not wearing them, please ensure that they bring a pair in their school bag, just in case we have an unplanned outdoor activity. This will help keep everyone prepared and comfortable. Thank you for your ongoing support and assistance!

## Crunch and Sip

We would like to remind families that all students are to bring a healthy snack for Crunch and Sip to be eaten in the classroom during their morning session. Please choose an easy-to-eat, fresh fruit or vegetable that is not messy, such as chopped carrot, cucumber, apple, grapes, snow peas, mushrooms or strawberries. These snacks should be packed in a separate container, as lunchboxes are not allowed in the classroom.

## The Resilience Program Digital Wellbeing for Families Workshop (online)

On Wednesday 19 March, 6:30-7:30pm (60 minutes) AEDT there will be a one-hour webinar guiding parents and carers to reflect on their family's digital wellbeing, before diving into practical strategies to create healthy habits online and strengthen connections at home.

By the end of the session, parents and carers will:

- Understand the latest research on screen time and its impact on individual and collective wellbeing in the home.
- Have a list of strategies to enhance their own digital wellbeing as a parent to role model to their children.
- Feel equipped to support their child's device usage without screen shaming, banning or removing devices.

*This webinar will be recording and we will share with our parent and carer community when it is available.*

To register for this FREE webinar go to [The Resilience Project webinar event](#).



### Whole School Cooking Fun!

On Friday, we had so much fun making zucchini muffins! Students from all grades worked side by side, measuring, mixing and learning about the magic of cooking. It is always a great opportunity for everyone to explore new skills and enjoy the process of creating something delicious as a team. The best part was getting to taste our yummy zucchini muffins at the end!



We love capturing our students having a blast in the playground, playing with Ted (the dog) and exploring our playground equipment - laughter and joy are in the air and we love it!





## Attendance

### *The Importance of arriving on time*

Arriving at school and class on time:

- Ensures that students do not miss out on important learning activities scheduled early in the day
- Helps students learn the importance of punctuality and routine
- Give students time to greet their friends before class
- Reduces classroom disruption.

If your child is late to school, they must sign in at the School Office prior to attending class. Lateness is recorded as a partial absence and must be explained by parents via the absentee text message you receive.

### *What if my child has to be away from school?*

On occasion, your child may need to be absent from school. Justified reasons for student absences may include:

- Being sick, or having an infectious disease
- Having an unavoidable medical appointment
- Being required to attend a recognised religious holiday
- Exceptional or urgent family circumstance (eg. attending a funeral).

### *What do I need to do when I receive a text message regarding my child's absence?*

- When your child is absent you will receive a text message from the school's attendance system (note: this is not the school's mobile number). You need to respond to this message with a reason for your child's absence within 7 days of receiving it. If you do not the absence will be marked as unexplained and unjustified.

### *What do I need to do if I know we will be away on a holiday or work during school term?*

- Families are encouraged to travel during school holidays. If travel during school term is necessary, please discuss this with Mrs Dunbar-Reid. An Application for Extended Leave may need to be completed. Absences relating to travel will be marked as leave on the roll and therefore contribute to your child's total absences for the year.

## Covid Information

As previously advised two of our staff members have recently tested positive to COVID-19.

While testing and isolation is no longer mandatory for anyone exposed to COVID-19, NSW Health [Advice for people exposed to COVID-19 | NSW Government](#).

Students and staff should not attend school if they are sick. [COVID-19 symptoms and how it spreads | NSW Government](#) include fever, cough, sore throat, shortness of breath, runny nose, loss of smell/taste, muscle/joint pains, diarrhoea, nausea/vomiting, extreme tiredness, unexplained chest pain or conjunctivitis (eye infection). If symptoms occur at any time, your child should not attend school until they are well and symptom-free. The safety and well-being of our students and staff remains our priority.



Come along to a Parent & Carer Presentation!



## Digital Wellbeing for Families Webinar

**WHO'S INVITED?**  
Parents & Carers

**DURATION**  
60 minutes

**WHERE?**  
Online Webinar

### ABOUT THIS WORKSHOP

This online presentation invites you to step back and reflect on how screen time affects your household. It explores **practical tips and strategies** for creating **healthier digital habits** that positively impact relationships and **strengthen family connections**.

Tailored for parents and carers, this session will help you:



Gain insight into the **latest research around family screen time and its impact** on individual and collective wellbeing in the home.



Feel equipped to **support your children's device usage with practical strategies** without screen shaming, banning or removing devices.



Discover **ideas and strategies to enhance your own digital wellbeing** to role model for your family.

SCAN FOR MORE ABOUT  
**THE RESILIENCE PROJECT™**

