As Australians, we pride ourselves in our passion for sport both from a spectator and participant perspective. At Ferny Grove State School we see our role as creating the environment for our young people to experience sport and physical activity in a semi competitive context. We want our students to participate, be physically challenged, compete and learn what it means to be part of a team. Unfortunately, this isn’t always the example set for our young people in the broader community of sport. Too often we hear about the ‘ugly parent’ syndrome, the hyper competitive coach or poor sportsmanship in junior sport.

As a father and coach myself, I have witnessed it all, the good, the bad and the ugly. At our school we want our students to understand that sport and physical activity is something you make a lifelong commitment to and that healthy bodies and healthy minds go together. We believe that our school values apply just as much in the sporting arena as they do in our classrooms.

To open up a broader conversation about the topic of sport, sportsmanship and values we are proposing to run a forum for parents and coaches involved in junior sport. Details are in this newsletter and we would welcome your involvement. Please RSVP to Gary Kirby, our PE teacher by this Friday.

From the Principal

Values and Sport

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School Council

As a result of a couple of withdrawn nominations it is no longer necessary to convene an election for parent representatives on our School Council. The four parents who were duly elected unopposed are;

- Catherine Turton
- John Darlington
- Jessica De La Jara
- Daryl Wilson

Congratulations to our incoming school council members and I look forward to many productive discussions and decisions over the coming years as we seek to maximise our status as an Independent Public School.

Brett Shackleton
On parade

Gotchas! - these students were caught doing the right thing:

Sophie E - 6T       Hayley M - 7T
Amelia Gray - 4T    Adrian T - 5L
Jacqui C - 6T       Ellie R - 4T

Our Middle Years Assembly congratulated more students who have earned Merit Awards for their effort and achievement. Mr Shackleton thanked School Captain, Liberty Adams for representing our school at last Thursday night’s Chaplaincy Dinner and praised her excellent speech about the role of our “Chappy”.

Next Monday is Student of the Month parade. Michael Jeh will be joining us with an update from Humani.
General news

Confidentiality
It is wonderful to see so many parents helping in classrooms but please remember that a code of confidentiality applies. It is not appropriate to discuss individual students progress or abilities with anyone else.

Junior Band Bandanza — Cancelled
Patrick’s Road State School has cancelled the cluster Junior Band Bandanza which was scheduled for 5 June.

Child health news

Free dental check-ups and treatment available now!
Regular dental check-ups and early preventive care are an important part of good oral health.

The Dental Van is not currently at your school but Metro North Oral Health Services are offering your child an additional dental check-up between visits. Your child will also receive additional appointments if any treatment is needed – all free of charge!

This offer of care is an opportunity to provide your child with more timely access to public dental care and we also now have the ability to offer more regular recalls for children who attend our service. So if it has been more than six months since your child’s last check-up ring us up now.

Call 1300 300 850 between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. Tuesday - Friday and our friendly staff will arrange an appointment for you at one of our school-based dental facilities.

Bunnings BBQ
Our Fundraising and Social Team (FAST) have been lucky enough to secure a Bunnings BBQ spot at Bunnings Stafford on Sunday, June 15. This is an amazing fundraising opportunity with all funds raised going towards more upgrades for our hall and stage.

We have the following shifts available:
7am - 9.30am (includes Setup)
9.15am - 11.45am
11.30am - 2.00pm
1.45pm - 4.15pm (includes Cleanup)

We need at least 5 people for each slot. Thank you to those who have already volunteered. This is a great opportunity for parents who can’t volunteer in classrooms because they work, to contribute towards the purchase of resources that benefit all students. If you can help out please contact Vanessa at vbair4@eq.edu.au or text 0433 325 452.

Prep Committee will have a short meeting next Tuesday, June 3rd at 3pm. We will meet at the Prep playground. Any Prep parents who would like to help fundraising for Prep resources are more than welcome to attend.
Open Next Week, 2-6 June
Open morning and afternoon
8-8:40am and 3-3:30pm

FGSS BOOK FAIR

FGSS DISCO

P-3 DISCO 5:30-6:30pm  $4 admission
4-7 DISCO 7-8:30pm  $5 admission

Tickets can be bought before school in front of the tuckshop.

Synthetic smoke and lighting effects will be used at the disco.
Chaplaincy news

Chaplaincy Dinner was held last Thursday evening at the Arana Leagues Club to raise funds for Chaplaincy programs at Ferny Grove State School and Ferny Grove State High School.

Our School Captain, Liberty Adams, spoke of the important work our Chaplain Eleisa Ironfield does by providing programs that support the social and emotional wellbeing of our students. Programs like “Friends for Life” and “Rock and Water” equip our students with resiliency, skills for decision making and friendship strategies.

Special guest for the evening was Rugby League great, Petero Civoniceva, who had many entertaining anecdotes for the audience. An enjoyable and successful evening for everyone involved.

Sports Forum and Panel Discussion
Tuesday 3rd June
7.30 pm
Ferny Grove SS Library
“Sport the Ferny Grove Way – Fair Go mate?”

A forum and panel discussion regarding attitudes to sport at Ferny Grove – featuring guest speakers and Ferny Grove Teachers.

Parents and community members will have an opportunity to participate and share views, without children, at this initiative of Ferny Grove SS. Please RSVP to Gary Kirby at gkirb3@eq.edu.au.

Gary Kirby, PE Specialist

Partner Employment and Education Program (PEEP)

PEEP may be of assistance to you, if....
You are looking for employment or considering study
You are a Defence Recognised Partner
Your partner has over four years of service in the ADF
And you have relocated on posting within the last two years

Come along to find out more!

Where: DCO Brisbane
71 Osborne Road
MITCHELTON
(Behind Jetts Fitness)

When: Monday 16 June 2014
Two sessions
10.30am to 11.30am or
7pm to 8pm
Both sessions will provide the same information

For more info or to RSVP: (07) 3354 0500
Please Note: Ex-Serving Members, APS employees are generally not eligible and post-graduate education will not be funded

Top - Mr Shackleton, Liberty and Petero Civoniceva
Bottom - Mrs Vickerson, Mrs Roberts, Petero Civoniceva and Mrs Conners
Under 8’s Day
The P-2 Under 8’s day will be held this Friday the 30th of May on the 3/4 oval during the morning session. Please ensure your child has a plastic bag to carry his/her completed ‘treasures’ in and that they are wearing sunscreen and a hat. Please come and join us for a fun filled morning of activities!

LOOM Bands
LOOM bands are not to be worn to school.

Jacki Schott, Deputy Principal

Fanfare
Thank you to all the parents who supported the district Fanfare competition which was held at our school for the very first time. Our groups performed well. Senior Strings were awarded a gold award and the Percussion Ensemble and Senior Band both received silver awards for their performances. With Samford, Ferny Hills and Patrick’s Road all competing the event was a fantastic opportunity for the children to watch and listen to other musicians as they play. This is a biennial event run by Education Queensland.

Advanced Music Camp
Forty-two Ferny Grove students will be attending Advanced Music Camp from Monday 16 June through to Friday 20 June. This will be the last Advanced Music Camp as we know it due to the Year Sevens moving to the high school. For all the students involved in the camp this is an excellent opportunity to rehearse, play and perform alongside musicians from our neighbouring schools. The culminating Twilight Concert held on Friday evening always stuns the audience with the quality the children achieve in such a short time.

Senior Band Telephone Tree
A Senior Band Telephone Tree is being compiled thanks to Kiarra’s Mum, Kim Rollings. Finally most students have returned their details. Once the tree is compiled it will be handed out to the relevant students.

Senior Strings Performances
Senior Strings will be playing on parade next Monday. Children will be required to wear their band uniform Monday the 2 June as they are playing on the Student of The Month Parade. Students are required to assemble at the hall at 8:30am with their instrument and music. Mrs Haringcaspel will conduct on this occasion.

With Queens’ Birthday, Advanced Music Camp and Year 4-7 High Jump all occurring on the following Mondays, the Senior Strings will be performing with Mrs Seneviratne throughout most of Term 3.

StartSmart visit
We recently welcomed the Commonwealth Bank Foundation to deliver their free, financial education StartSmart workshops to our Year 3 students. Delivered in class to students by a facilitator, StartSmart changes the way young people learn about money. By making money management interactive, engaging and fun, our students were equipped with the confidence and competence they need to make smart decisions about money.

Our school has proudly joined the Commonwealth Bank Foundation in its mission to improve the financial literacy of Australia’s young people. Overall, the program proved to be a highly beneficial experience for students and was thoroughly enjoyed by all. For more information on the program and each of the workshops we encourage you to visit www.startsmart.com.au.
Should I Tell My Child About Their Diagnosis?
(an excerpt from a recent article from Sue Larkey: International Author, Autism Spectrum Specialist Teacher)

I regularly get asked whether students should be told they have Autism, Asperger’s, ADHS, etc. I believe telling children about their ASD helps them understand and actually increases their participation and engagement.

“Until recently, much of the literature has focused on sharing the diagnosis with parents and carers. Relatively little attention has been given to explaining the diagnosis to the child. Accounts from adults with autism and Asperger syndrome have suggested that being told their diagnosis is largely positive and beneficial. They report that this helps to make sense of themselves and to understand the behaviour of others and enables them to develop strategies to manage situations they find problematic. Sharing the diagnosis also allows individuals to access relevant literature and to make contact with others with autism or Asperger syndrome. Those who feel confident and positive about their diagnosis are likely to fare better than those who know little or who have a negative view of autism.” Dr Glenys Jones, Autism Centre for Education and Research, University of Birmingham.

Many parents before diagnosis experience criticism that their parenting skills are the cause of their children’s unusual behaviour. Often when the child is finally diagnosed the parents experience enormous relief that they are not the cause rather there is an explanation called Autism/Asperger/ADHD, etc. Parents talk about no longer feeling like a bad parent or failures, rather they feel empowered to access strategies and understanding. I would suggest that in the same way parents feel relief, so do children with ASD and ADHD once they understand their diagnosis. In fact feedback from adults and children about knowing their diagnosis is they too experience enormous relief. It is up to parents whether they share diagnosis and schools can’t share without permission.

Of course, some people may disagree with this view, because they believe “labelling” can be used inappropriately. While this can be true HOW the diagnosis is explained may go a long way to addressing this legitimate concern.

The Dr Stephen Shore YouTube video Should you tell your child about his/her autism? not only answers concerns of parents and schools, but also gives an easy four step approach to sharing diagnosis (detailed below). Dr Shore was himself diagnosed as a child with Atypical Development and strong autistic tendencies.

Dr Shore believes not telling children can have a negative effect on self-esteem as they already notice their differences they just don’t know “what it is!” He answers a range of questions including: When to tell? Will they use as an excuse? How to explain to siblings?

Dr Stephen Shore’s ‘Four Step Approach’ which I have summarised below:

1. Talk about strengths and challenges.
2. Lining up strengths and challenges and seeing how strength can accommodate challenge.
3. Non Judgemental Comparison: Looking at other peoples strengths and challenges and how they use their strengths.
4. Revealing Diagnosis: Explain Scientists and Doctors have done studies; these characteristics have been given a name called Autism/Asperger’s.

Note: This is actually not telling them something they don’t already know. You are giving a framework of understanding.

Still seeking convenors for:
- Festival Co-Convenor
- Novelties - Either Prep or Year 5 BBQ
  - Hot chips
  - Drinks
  - Logistics
  - Also need - Food Stall Coordinator
  - Marketing Assistant

Contact Vanessa at vbair4@eq.edu.au or 0433 325 452 if you can help!
Important Dates
June
3rd IMPS Meeting 8.50am
15th Bunnings Sausage Sizzle
16th FAST Meeting 7 pm
25th P & C Meeting 7 pm

Stationery Store
Open Monday and Friday 8-9am.
Charyl Cowles, Convenor
3550 5359 (0431 265 068)

Uniform Store
Open Monday and Friday 8-9am.
Vanessa Baird, Convenor
0433 325 452

Coffee Cart
Introducing BEANS for BOOKS! Put simply you buy a coffee (actually any drink from the coffee cart) and the profits will be used to buy new reading resources for the school, including home readers and library books. The aim is to donate $10 000 dollars back to the school for books this year. Therefore every drink you buy will directly help our kids.

Open for the discos on Thursday from 5:15pm.
Extended morning opening Friday for Under 8's day.
We will also be open on Monday for Whole School Parade.

Tuckshop
Volunteer Roster
Thu 29 May  Jodee Harris, Melissa Halliday
Fri 30 May  Kate Newnham, Katrina Collins
Mon 2 June  Robyn Jones
Tue 3 June  VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
Wed 4 June  Simone Howes, Andrea Netto
Thu 5 June  Heather Darlington, Devi Ajjrapu

Julie Haslam & Kellee Gyles, Convenors
3550 5361

P & C President’s Report
At last Wednesday’s meeting the P&C discussed the results from the recent School Enhancement Survey, with input from parents, teachers and committee members we identified the following priorities:

• Computer Lab/Creative Media space
• Science Lab
• Art/Drama dedicated area
• Reading Resources
• Shade over the new 1 & 2 playground
• Kitchen Garden

We are now looking into these as to order of priority, cost, potential funding and other requirements to make these happen.

The Coffee Cart took up the goal of raising $10,000 towards reading resources, kick starting with their funds raised to date this year they are well on their way with over $3700 raised. So grab a coffee and help out with ‘Beans for Books’.

FAST (Fundraising and Social Team) has been busy raising money for the P&C’s current project of finishing the curtains in the school hall, with the recent Trivia night being a great success.

The P&C also submitted an ‘expression of interest’ to the Smart School Subsidy Scheme for the construction of an Outdoor Learning Centre (see concept below). This will be a multi purpose area for outdoor teaching as well as a parent hub before and after school. We are now waiting to hear back if we are invited to submit a full proposal.

I was honoured to attend a Chaplaincy dinner along with Brett and many from our school, to help raise funds to support our Chaplain Eleisa. It was a great night and I was incredibly impressed by our FGSS school captain Liberty, who did a heart felt speech on the amazing role Chaplains play in our school - well done and thank you Liberty.

If you would like to be involved and find out first hand what’s happening within the P&C, all are welcome at our next meeting on the 25th June at 7pm in the Library.

Tony Clark, President
Enrolment Bookings for 2015

Thank you to the many families who visited our Twilight Expo last week and who made bookings for enrolment interview appointments for 2015. Our first round of bookings is almost full, but we will be holding another round in July. So if you were unable to make it to the Expo and wish to enrol your Year 6 or 7 student at Ferny Grove High next year, please contact the office. Please note that enrolment interviews are a mandatory part of the enrolment process.

Chappy Cup

The Teachers’ team had a lucky escape last Friday at the annual staff vs students Chappy Cup touch football match after an expected member of the students’ team, rugby league legend Petero Civoniceva, was held up in traffic. However, the students showed they were still quite capable of holding their own, defeating the teachers 4-2 in a fast-paced match. Although he missed the match, Petero stayed to share his expertise with the Year 12 PED class. The Chappy Cup is the final of a series of events held by the Chaplains during “Chappy Week”, an incentive by SU QLD to raise awareness of the important role “Chappies” play in schools.
Teeny Tennis for Ages 3 – 5 @ Pure Tennis Ferny Hills – New Saturday Class!!!
Sign Up Now for a Free MLC Tennis Hot Shots Racquet!

Due to popular demand, Pure Tennis Ferny Hills will be opening a new Teeny Tennis class at 10:00am on Saturday mornings commencing this Saturday the 31st of May! Now is the perfect time to get your little one on court with Teeny Tennis lessons offering the perfect environment for young kids to develop a love for the game of tennis! Teeny Tennis lessons are fun group classes designed to introduce basic tennis techniques and assist young children in the development of fundamental motor skills – agility, balance & coordination. Player self-esteem and confidence is developed through the introduction of the MLC Tennis Hot Shots “learning-through-play” philosophy and the lessons are specifically designed to ensure young players are actively engaged, excited and motivated to participate. Book in for the remaining five weeks of term for just $75 and receive a free MLC Tennis Hot Shots racquet! Please phone the Proshop on 3851 0444 if you have any enquiries or would like to book your child into this very fun program.

Reminder – MLC Hot Shots Interschools Challenge Cup Permission Slips are Due ASAP!

Players - don’t forget to return your permission slip to the school office or to drop it in to the Ferny Hills Tennis Centre as soon as possible! We are looking forward to another great competition.