Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Thursday 6</th>
<th>Friday 7</th>
<th>Monday 10</th>
<th>Tuesday 11</th>
<th>Wednesday 12</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9am Ready Readers Cuppa on library deck</td>
<td>No Early Years Assembly</td>
<td>8.50am Middle Years Assembly Years 4–7</td>
<td>3pm Prep Parent Committee Meeting - Prep Playground</td>
<td>Parent Information Evening Years 4-7</td>
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<tr>
<td>10.45am Junior Choir commences</td>
<td>1.50pm Years 5-7 Interschool Sport trials</td>
<td>Parent Information Evening Years 1-3</td>
<td>6 - 6.45pm Class Sessions</td>
<td>6 - 6.45pm Class Sessions (Repeat of 6 pm session)</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>6.50 - 7.10pm Admin Session</td>
<td>6.50 - 7.10pm Admin Session</td>
<td>7.15 - 8pm Class Sessions (Repeat of 6 pm session)</td>
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From the Principal

**A New School Year**

The 2014 school year is well and truly underway with enrolment numbers currently standing at 835 students compared to just over 800 this time last year. I would like to extend a warm Ferny Grove welcome to all new families. We are sure you will find both our school and community to be warm, friendly and welcoming places as you settle in. We have 111 new Prep students which is particularly exciting.

**Independent Public School**

Ferny Grove State School is one of 58 schools across Queensland to become an Independent Public School in 2014. This status allows us the flexibility to design creative and innovative programs designed specifically for our school.

One of the first examples of this flexibility is our decision to create a new role in our school called Student Engagement and Welfare Teacher. The role will be undertaken by Peter Wheeler who has extensive experience in the areas of student behaviour, welfare, parenting support and teacher professional development. Peter will work closely with our Admin team to provide early and timely intervention for students and families where needed. More information on Peter’s role will be made available at a later date.

**Student Engagement**

Our teachers are currently discussing expectations and rules with our students. Ferny Grove State School has a history of providing safe and supportive learning environments and it is important that everyone understands what is expected of each and every person. Parents play an important role in reinforcing expectations and responsibilities. Our Responsible Behaviour Plan lists the following responsibilities of parents;

- To ensure their children attend school with appropriate materials.
- To participate in the reporting process.
- To encourage children to use safe behaviour at school and at home.
- To respond to communication when necessary.
- To support and reinforce our behaviour code.

Of all of these statements, the most important is to ensure children attend school. Turning up is the first criteria for success at school. In 2013, 6% (50 students) attended school less than 85% of the time. In Prep, 10% of students attended less than 85% of the time. Our target in 2014 is to reduce this percentage significantly by following up more regularly and engaging with parents to support student attendance.

We anticipate another exciting year at Ferny Grove State school with much to look forward to over the next 10 months.

Brett Shackleton

**Payments Due**

**Bulk Bill** notice has gone home for

Term 1

- Year 1 - $72 - has started
- Year 2 - $66 - begins 13 Feb
- Year 5 - $75 - has started

**Due 13 February**

- Year 1 Bugs Education on February 28

**Due 20 February**

- Prep Student Resource Scheme $130

**Due 26 February**

Payments can be made at the school office between 8:30 and 11:30 on Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday.

All payments must be made by due date or student will not be able to participate.
Welcome to our new staff

Please make sure you give all of our new staff a warm welcome when you see them around. They were introduced to the students on parade on Monday and are settling in to our lovely school. From left to right:
- Mr Todd Rogers - 3PR
- Ms Leanda Gejas - Prep G
- Mr Peter Wheeler - Student Engagement and Welfare
- Ms Alex Gibney - Prep A
- Ms Laura Parr - 4P
- Mr Tim Donnelly - 6T
- Mr Lee Baird - Special Education
- Mrs Stacey Day - Head of Special Education (absent from photo)

Early Years News

Welcome & welcome back
Welcome to our new Prep students; students new to our Early Years classes, Prep – Year 3; students returning to new classes this year; and to all our parents and carers.

“Strive To Excel in 2014”
Congratulations to students, staff & parents/carers for your efforts and organisation to ensure that students were ready to start on Day 1. The children looked “great” in their school uniforms and arrived at school with belongings. I wonder what great things students will be inquiring about and doing as they learn, play, read, create and have fun this year?

Early Years Assemblies
The weekly Early Years Assembly is held on Fridays from 2:00pm in the school hall. In weeks where we have a Student of The Month Assembly or whole school parade P-3 Assemblies do not occur. The first EY Assembly will be held on Friday, 14 February from 2:00pm. Please refer to the school calendar for other dates.

Paul Cooke
Deputy Principal

On Parade
Our first parade of the year was a busy one, with the commissioning of our new Chaplain, introduction of our new teachers and an impromptu performance by the Senior Band, who stayed on from their first rehearsal of the year to play the National Anthem.

Gotchas awarded
- Jordan M 4T
- Cameron P 4MT
- Kye R 4T
- Simon M 6D
- Josh G 6D
- Hayley M 7T

You were caught doing the right thing!
**Winter sport trials commence Friday 7 February.** All Years 5, 6 and 7 students will participate from 1:50pm on Friday.

Winter sports will be:
- Rugby League
- Soccer
- Beach Volleyball
- Tennis
- Netball

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**Chaplaincy News**

Our new Chaplain, Eleisa Ironfield, with Scripture Union’s Jeff Howard and Principal Brett Shackleton.

Hello, my name is Eleisa Ironfield and I am the new Chaplain at Ferny Grove. It has been so great getting to know everyone and I look forward to meeting many more of you. I will be at the school 4 days from Tues-Fri. If any parents/students are looking for someone to talk to please feel free to come and see me. To contact me please ring the school office and together we can find a suitable time. Thank you and have a great 1st term!

**Reminders**

**Parent parking**
A reminder for everyone to adhere to all signs and road markings when it comes to parking around our school.

Please remember the following:
- No parking in School carparks. They are marked for Staff only. The one off Archdale Road is close to where many children play after school and poses a danger as students travel to and from school.
- Please do not park in the two minute drop off and pick up zones (especially in Finvoy Street). This affects many parents who are trying to collect children waiting outside the school and is dangerous for our students. If your student is not already waiting, when you pull up, please drive around the block.
- Absolutely no parking in the bus zone on Finvoy Street – again it is a safety issue.
- The pull in lane outside Prep is for parking of 15 minutes or less.
- Please do not park where yellow lines are marked. Cars that park here can decrease visibility at intersections like Finvoy and Archdale Roads and increase the chance of collisions.

Our school is lucky to have plenty of street parking available. Brisbane City Council has advised that they will be enforcing parking regulations around the school, so please do the right thing for the safety of our students.
Defence News

Our Defence Transition Aides are seeking expressions of interests from Defence families who may want to participate in a KidSMART program offered by the Defence Community Organisation.

KidSMART is a set of four-week programs for primary aged kids to help them manage issues arising from posting, relocation and parental absence. The KidSMART mascots, Tyler Turtle (5 - 7 year olds) and Sam Super (8 - 10 year olds), will help kids learn how to manage change, stay connected with friends and meet new people.

The workshops will also cover other things, like helping children to cope when feeling stressed or anxious, particularly during times of parental absence and deployment. Kids can learn some techniques for handing emotions and relaxation, too.

Sessions are once a week for 1 to 1.5 hours per session and all children receive a story book to take home. To register your interest please contact our Defence Transition Aides Jessica at jdela140@eq.edu.au or Liz at lhedd1@eq.edu.au.

Library News

New Technology in the Library

Our Library is now equipped with a touch-screen library search computer. This computer allows students and staff to easily search our library’s database for any resource we have. Mr Bryant is very keen to teach our students to use the database effectively.

Don’t forget that students are welcome to visit our library during lunch time. iPads will be available for use during first break in the near future.

Volunteers

As part of our new volunteer recruitment strategy, you will start to see folders that you need to sign when you volunteer anywhere in the school, be it classrooms, Tuckshop or events such as Mother’s Day Stall. This is because P & C insurance covers any parents who volunteer in the school as long as they are listed on a volunteer register. Stay tuned for more information about our upcoming Volunteer Inductions. Our volunteers make a great contribution to our school. We are always looking for helpers and below is a list of current vacancies:

**Tuckshop**

Another year has started and we are looking for volunteers, if anyone is interested in helping us out, please fill out the request for helper form that your child should have brought home and return to the tuckshop or send us an email at tuckshop@fernygroovepandc.com.au. We currently have quite a few days that require volunteers.

**Coffee Cart**

If you have barista knowledge or would like to learn, we are always looking for volunteers. Even one day a fortnight would be great. At the moment we have no-one to run the coffee cart on a Monday – so please put your hand up to help if you can! Contact Yvette at vve.eds@gmail.com.
**General Notices**

**Parent Information Night**
Next week we will hold our very important Parent Information Nights. These are an opportunity to meet the teachers in your child’s year level and find out what their learning focuses, excursions and expectations will be this year. There will be an opportunity for general questions and an Administration information session about Independent Public School status and School Communication before or after your Year level meeting.

Years 1 – 3 will be held on Monday, 10 February and Years 4-7 will be held on Wednesday 12 February. Session 1 (Year Level) will be from 6 – 6.45 pm. The General school session is from 6.50 – 7.10 pm in the library. Session 2 (a repeat of Session 1) will be from 7.15-8 pm. We encourage as many parents as possible to attend. This is a great way to understand the year ahead for your child!

**Thanks to the Fundraising & Social Team**
Thank you to members of the school’s Fundraising and Social Team who provided tea, coffee & tissues for parents on Day 1. Thank you to Chairperson Peta Kimball and all helpers.

**Morning Routines: 8.40 Daily Start**
Please start the year as we want to continue. Students at school before commencement at 8.40 can access the Outside School Hours Care Services. On arrival at school before 8.40 students not with their parent(s) are asked to walk directly to the covered area in front of the tuckshop. In this way all students are safe and in one place. Please do not wait in areas around classes before 8.40. Please escort Prep students to classes daily from 8.40. Please escort Year 1 students to their classes in the first few weeks until they feel independent enough to walk by themselves or with friends from under the covered area. Year 2 – 7 students are encouraged to walk to classes independently from the covered area daily at 8:40.

**Swimming**
Permission letters have been sent home. Swimming lessons commence this week for Year 1 and 5. Lessons commence in week 3 on Thursdays for Year 2 students.. Please return the permission slip immediately to your child’s teacher. Please assist your child to bring: togs, sun-safe shirt, sunscreen, towel, bathing cap and sun screen each week.

**Class Parent Reps Program (CPRs)**
A letter to explain the roles of Class Parent Reps and to invite parent nomination to be a CPR in 2014 has been forwarded home. There was a photocopying error with letters to Year 5 – 7 parents. To save paper, if you are interested please obtain the expression of interest page form your child’s teacher. Please return it by Friday, 14 February. Mr Cooke will run the first CPR meeting on Wednesday, 19 February. Appointed CPRs will be notified by email on Monday, 17 February.

**QSchools app updated**
Parents now have easier access to school information through the updated version of QSchools app. On top of being able to access the calendar, newsletter and other information from our school website, the upgraded app can also access Tuckshop and Uniform Shop information. It also makes staying in touch and up to date a little easier for your family.

Visit the department’s apps page for more information and all the features: [http://deta.qld.gov.au/about/app](http://deta.qld.gov.au/about/app)

The QSchools app is available for free download through iTunes, Google Play and the Window’s store.
**Music News**

*Instrumental Music*

2014 is off to a flying start. Our beginners have just enjoyed their two day camp learning about their instrument and how to care for it. No doubt they have arrived home and are excitedly playing a few notes and simple songs.

All beginners will commence their in class lessons next week on the following days:

**Monday** - woodwind students with Mrs Haringcaspel and beginner strings with Mrs Seneviratne

**Tuesday** - percussion students with Mrs Savage

**Wednesday** - brass students with Mr Grainger

Continuing students received a note last week explaining rehearsal commencement dates and lesson days.

Mrs Haringcaspel, Mrs Savage and Mr Grainger will be teaching their continuing students on the same days as listed above. Mrs Seneviratne will teach continuing students on Thursdays.

All Year 3 children interested in joining Junior Choir are asked to go to the music room at 10.45am this Thursday. Choir rehearsal will be with Mrs Bryant, who will be teaching choir and music one day a week.
P & C News

Prep Committee
Every year a group of Prep parents comes together to fundraise specifically for resources in our Prep area. Previous groups have funded new resources and classroom books, some landscaping around the Prep playground as well as the 2 huge shade sails where the Prep students now eat. This year, your children are enjoying the results of the previous committee’s work.

We are seeking 4 parents from each Prep class to join this committee and help organise events during the year. The first meeting for this year will be held next Tuesday, February 11 at 3pm behind Prep W. The kids can play on the playground while we meet. With a good sized group, the workload is shared around and it’s a great way to come to meet other Prep parents. Please consider joining us to support extra resources for our kids. If you are unable to attend the meeting but would like to be involved, please email Vanessa, Community Liaison Officer on vbair4@eq.edu.au.

Coffee Cart
Thanks to everyone who joined us for Coffee and Cake on the first day of school. We serve excellent Merlo coffee and great hot chocolates. A big thanks to our FAST volunteers who baked goodies to share. We aim to open for our school community every morning before school, but our Cart is run completely by volunteers so sometimes this is just not possible. We also open for any special events that are held at the school. We appreciate your business and hope we can help to kickstart your day!

FAST (Fundraising and Social Team)
Our Fundraising and Social Team (FAST) held their first meeting for 2014 this past Monday night, including a tour of the hall to see the new curtains. This is Stage 1 of the curtaining project and cost $20,000. FAST (through your support) raised this money for the much needed upgrade to our stage. We hope you notice what a difference they make next time you are in the hall. Next month’s meeting will be on Monday 10th March and we will be electing new office bearers for 2014. We are happy to welcome new members at any time, and FAST is a great way to be involved in your child’s school.

Stationery Store
Open this Friday 8 -9 am.
Back to normal hours next week Monday and Friday 8-9am.
Cheryl Cowles, Convenor
3550 5359 (0431 265 068)

Uniform Store
Open this Friday 8 -9 am.
Back to normal hours next week Monday and Friday 8-9am.
Year 6 and 7 parents need to keep an eye out for the Year 6 and Year 7 shirt order forms that will go home later this week. Shirts are $38 and will have the names of each child on the back. There will be separate Year 6 and 7 shirts.
Vanessa Baird, Convenor
(0433 325 452)

Tuckshop
Vanilla Malt Flavoured Milk has been discontinued so we no longer stock this.

We serve excellent Merlo coffee and great hot chocolates. A big thanks to our FAST volunteers who baked goodies to share. We aim to open for our school community every morning before school, but our Cart is run completely by volunteers so sometimes this is just not possible. We also open for any special events that are held at the school. We appreciate your business and hope we can help to kickstart your day!

Ferny Grove State High School Capacity in 2015
There is apparently some discussion in the community that Ferny Grove State High School will be full in 2015, and unable to fit in all the Year 7 and 8s from our feeder area. This assumption is incorrect - we have plenty of room in 2015 for both year levels.

Ferny Grove SHS has a capacity for approximately 1700 students. At our peak in the early 2000s our enrolment was about 1670 with capacity for more. With the arrival of Year 7 and 8 in 2015 we expect our enrolment to sit somewhere in the 1620. We will not need any new buildings for 2015. We have capacity for all new enrolments and are in the final stages of a refurbishment programs across many parts of the school in readiness for 2015. Should we need additional classroom buildings in the future we have available land to accommodate this.

We have identified a space within the school to allow the additional grade to have their own seating and shaded lunch area, lockable bag racks and Year Coordinator space. Year 7 will have its own Deputy Principal, Guidance Officer, Year Coordinator and form teachers that will remain with that cohort until the completion of Year 12-as will be the case for new Year 8s in 2015. Work has commenced to ensure that our enrolment processes will cater for the arrival of two year levels. Similarly orientation and start of year processes will ensure that students in Year 7 and 8 next year begin high school feeling supported and excited about this exciting step in their lives.

We have been planning for the arrival of Year 7 and 8 for almost two years. Our work has been informed by the many parents that have attended forums that we have held across the community. We look forward to further opportunities this year to share with parents our readiness for Year 7 and 8 in 2015.

If anyone has a specific question please feel free to contact Katie Stubbings Head of Junior Secondary kstub5@eq.edu.au or Mark Breckenridge, Principal mbrec2@eq.edu.au or phone 35505777

We will be posting further information in this newsletter regarding enrolments for 2015 later this term.
Our Community

Samford Netball Club
Calling all men and women (16 years +) who want to get fit and have fun at the same time. If that’s you, then the Samford Netball Club’s MIXED COMPETITION is waiting for you!
Join us of a Thursday evening at Samford Parklands.
For information and registration: www.samfordnetball.org.au

Tennis Lessons—Pure Tennis
Morning tennis lessons are back up and running again this term at the usual time of 7.45am. If you are interested in starting tennis lessons this term it’s not too late! Call Pure Tennis Ferny Hills on 3851 0444 for more information.

Ferny Grove Falcons JACF
On February 8 & 9, between 10am - 2pm, the Ferny Grove Falcons will be holding their 2014 AFL sign-on at the clubhouse on Tramway Street, Ferny Grove.
This is a family and community club where children of all ages can come together and learn to play AFL in a fun and friendly environment. For more information email: fernygrovejuniors@aflbj.com.au alternatively, you can call us on 0435 977 500.

Voices of Birralee
Leading children’s choir, Voices of Birralee, invites young singers to join their Bardon program.
2013 enrolments are now open for the following ensembles:
Birralee Piccolos – Prep – Grade 1
Birralee Kids – 7 to 10 year olds
Birralee Singers – 10 to 13 year olds
Voices of Birralee is a non-profit organisation, nurturing a child’s love of singing in a fun educational environment. Tuition is given by professionals who are highly regarded and experienced in their field. A strong emphasis is placed on holistic education, building social and cognitive skills, emotional resilience, confidence and musical expertise.
Rehearsals for Piccolos and Kids will commence Wednesday afternoon 5 February 2014 and Singers on Thursday afternoon 6 February 2014 and are held at 57 Carwoola St, Bardon. Other days and venues are available. Please visit our website www.birralee.org to enrol or for more information.

Deadline for inclusion in the Ferny Grove News is 12 Noon on Mondays. Email to newsflash@fernygroves.eq.edu.au. It is emailed every Wednesday. If you are not receiving it please advise your updated email details to the above address.