Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Thursday February 12</th>
<th>Friday February 13</th>
<th>Monday February 16</th>
<th>Tuesday February 17</th>
<th>Wednesday Feb 18</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strings lessons commence</td>
<td>2:20pm Early Years Assembly District Swimming</td>
<td>Woodwind lessons commence Parent Teacher Conferences commence 8:50 am Middle Years Assembly 7pm School Council meeting</td>
<td>7pm P &amp; C Meeting</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:50-2:50pm Drum Beat</td>
<td>3:10pm Chaplaincy Meeting</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Thursday February 19</th>
<th>Friday February 20</th>
<th>Monday February 23</th>
<th>Tuesday February 24</th>
<th>Wednesday Feb 25</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1:50-2:50pm Drum Beat</td>
<td>2:20pm Early Years Assembly</td>
<td>8:50am Student Leaders Induction - Whole School Assembly 3SB Bunyaville Excursion</td>
<td>8am Year 1 Morning Reading in library 3JM &amp; 3E Bunyaville Excursion</td>
<td>10-11am Year 12 Read Out with Prep begins 3R &amp; 3P Bunyaville Excursion</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Focus on creative learning opportunities

A great turn out this week for the auditions for SPAG (Student Performing Arts Group) led by teacher, Mr David Sandilands. 2015 will see the introduction of an increased number of extra-curricular and creative learning opportunities at Ferny Grove State School. The launch of the Bright Spaks program, which extends Year 5 and 6 learners by allowing them to develop and execute creative projects, is just one of the many ways in which we are working to foster entrepreneural spirit in how our students interact with the world around them. Teacher Kurt Bryant, the Bright Spaks Program Coordinator, says the diversity of projects is amazing. “From online news casts and book blogs to computer clubs and research into student mental health, our students have the opportunity to extend their learning in areas that interest them, develop projects, communicate with stakeholders within both the school and the community and work towards real-world outcomes,” Mr Bryant said. “By harnessing their creativity these students are being empowered to become problem-solvers, communicators and achievers in a world where those skills are becoming more and more valuable.”

Principal Brett Shackleton added, “We have developed many opportunities across our school this year for students to extend themselves. We have a new Performing Arts group, a Science Club and Camera Crew as well as our usual AV Crew, Library Monitors, Choir and Instrumental Music. We know that when students are given opportunities to use creativity, it enhances their overall capacity to learn and achieve and we want to support this as much as possible.”

Student Absence

2015 will see the introduction of an increased number of extra-curricular and creative learning opportunities at Ferny Grove State School. The launch of the Bright Spaks program, which extends Year 5 and 6 learners by allowing them to develop and execute creative projects, is just one of the many ways in which we are working to foster entrepreneural spirit in how our students interact with the world around them. Teacher Kurt Bryant, the Bright Spaks Program Coordinator, says the diversity of projects is amazing. “From online news casts and book blogs to computer clubs and research into student mental health, our students have the opportunity to extend their learning in areas that interest them, develop projects, communicate with stakeholders within both the school and the community and work towards real-world outcomes,” Mr Bryant said. “By harnessing their creativity these students are being empowered to become problem-solvers, communicators and achievers in a world where those skills are becoming more and more valuable.”

Principal Brett Shackleton added, “We have developed many opportunities across our school this year for students to extend themselves. We have a new Performing Arts group, a Science Club and Camera Crew as well as our usual AV Crew, Library Monitors, Choir and Instrumental Music. We know that when students are given opportunities to use creativity, it enhances their overall capacity to learn and achieve and we want to support this as much as possible.”

Bulk Bill for Term 1 is available here.

Payments Due

Year 3 Bunyaville (Inspirational Science) 23-25 February $20
Payment due 19 February
Prep Bunyaville (Easter Bilby) 16 March $18
Payment due 5 March
Years 5 and 6 Winter Sport (For Terms 1 & 2) Commences 6 March $80
Payment due 5 March
School payments can be made at the school office between 8.30 and 11.30am on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday ONLY.
All payments must be made by due date or student will not be able to participate.
In the week of parent information sessions I thought it would be helpful to provide tips for parents on how to stay connected to your child’s learning and schooling.

- **Communication with teachers.** It can be difficult for families where everyone works to check in with teachers about how your child is progressing. Make sure you take opportunities when they are presented such as our info sessions and parent teacher interviews coming up this term.
- **Email is ok for day to day questions but face to face is important for detailed conversations about students’ progress.**
- **Stay informed.** Our newsletter is very detailed and informative, our school calendar is always available, our Facebook page is instant communication and a phone call or email is always answered.
- **Reinforce messages from school.** If we are all on the same page then kids get very clear messages about how you have success at school.
- **High expectations are critical.** If your child has a commitment to keep such as band practice, homework or an assignment, make sure they know they are expected to keep the commitment. The easy way out can be to quit however it is being increasingly proven that effort, perseverance and resilience are more important than ‘smart or not’ in predicting future success.
- **Consider praising effort rather than intelligence.** If when I get something right I am smart then it follows that when I get something wrong I’m not smart. Make the conversation about working hard, improvement and effort rather than intelligence.
- **Be part of our community in whatever small way you can.** Help out at events, in classrooms, anything that encourages your child to see that you like coming here as well.
- **On the flipside of this is the danger of being ‘too involved’.** Young people have to learn some lessons without us always being there to rescue them. Mum or Dad won’t be able to go and have a crack at their boss or university lecturer when they have a problem so a good time to start them on the path to independence is now. Be selective about what you intervene on. Could they learn a valuable life lesson if you choose not to get involved? Having said that, if the issue involves their safety, physical or mental wellbeing then tell us about it.
- **If there is a problem, be reasonable.** It never ceases to amaze me the difference in success rates at solving problems when adults are reasonable, balanced and willing to listen as well as speak. Ask yourself a simple question, if I was treated that way at work would I be more or less inclined to be part of fixing the problem. Let’s agree that none of us are perfect and that mistakes are sometimes made but 99% of these can be fixed pretty easily if we all communicate respectfully.

---

**Parent education**

We will be offering 1-2-3 Magic classes for parents of Prep, Year 1 and 2 students. It teaches strategies for managing behaviour at home.

**Thursday nights March 12 and 19**, 7pm to 8:30pm
Multi media room, Library
Email interest in attending to pwhee3@eq.edu.au

Day time classes will be offered during Term 2, for parents who can’t make it to night times.

---

**DATE CLAIMER!**

**Wine and Cheese Social**

Friday 27th March - 6.30pm
School hall
Everyone welcome.
Details to follow!
**Early years news**

**Dogs on School Grounds**
Please note that dogs are not permitted on school grounds, no matter how harmless or cute or fluffy they may be. We do have children with deep fears of dogs and by simply following this rule will eliminate this anxiety for these children. I love dogs as much as the next person, but it is unnecessary to bring them onto the school grounds. Thank you for your cooperation with this matter.

**Tuesday Morning Reading**
The Tuesday Morning Reading Program will continue this year for year 1 students and for a handful of year 2 students. If your child is involved in this program you will receive a letter home today. It will commence in week 5 on the 24th of February. Please ensure your child attends every week and that they are on time. It is expected that students participating will attend every week to gain maximum benefit. If you have any questions please contact Lena Roberts lrobe19@eq.edu.au

**Bug Lady**
The Year One students thoroughly enjoyed their visit from the bug lady. I am sure other fellow year one parents will appreciate the ‘meal worms’ that perhaps are now sitting on your kitchen benches.

**CPRs**
A note will be coming home this week about Class Parent representatives (CPRs). We are seeking one CPR from each class. Please consider putting up your hand if you can commit to helping support our parent/teacher/school communication especially in each individual class.

*Jacki Schott, A/Deputy Principal*
The library is now open every day at first and second break. All students are welcome each day. iPads are available for students in first break only. Mon – 1 & 6, Tues – 3 & 5, Wed – 6, Thurs iPad free day, Fri – 2 & 4. This is displayed on the library door.

This week on parade we introduced over 40 new library monitors to the school. We have started training and they are very excited to help all students in the library.

We also received the following email from a local resident today. Please consider local residents when parking around our school.

'I am a resident of Finvoy Street and live across the road from your school. I am finding it increasingly frustrating that cars are constantly parking across part of my driveway.

Whilst I in no way blame the school and acknowledge that this issue is completely out of your control, I am just asking if you could possibly communicate to your parents to please not park across driveways. This afternoon it took a couple of attempts to get into my driveway as it was such a tight fit (a car was actually parked partially across the driveway). As a result, the flow of traffic behind me was banked back. I will be contacting the council with this issue as well and will ask for parking officers to patrol the streets.'

Instrumental Music Phone Trees

Years 6 students, strings children from years 4 to 6, and newly enrolled children have taken home a 2015 phone tree form for parents to complete and return to school. These are useful when music teachers are unexpectedly absent and families are advised that early morning rehearsals have been cancelled. Returning the form promptly to school ensures your contact details are included on the list and notified if and when the teacher is away.

Integrated Music Parent Support Group (IMPs)

Parents play a vital role in supporting our instrumental and choral students and programs throughout Ferny Grove.

A dedicated group of parents meet twice a term and this informal meeting is a wonderful opportunity to find out about upcoming yearly events and seek advice from others as to how to support children learning an instrument. The group also decides upon and manages the ongoing resourcing needs for the school and assist with the organisation of annual musical events.

Do come along and join us for our first meeting on Tuesday 24 February at 6:30pm in the staffroom.

Belinda Evans, Deputy Principal

Swimming 2015

We have been asked about swimming lessons in term 1 this year. Most schools without pools dedicate one term per year to swimming lessons. Our curriculum has become increasingly crowded thereby creating pressure on students and teachers. This year we have decided to create more time for teachers to spend on the most critical parts of our curriculum, namely literacy and numeracy. As a result, swimming will be offered in term 4 only in 2015.

Brett Shackleton, Principal
What's on

**Induction Assembly**
On February 23 our school leaders will be inducted. School, house, music captains and leaders plus student councillors, peer mediators and senior leaders will take the pledge of office. The newly formed Senior Band is playing at their first public performance and will have an extra rehearsal prior to the assembly. Our whole school community comes together for this important annual occasion and we hope you can join us as well.

**Date and time:** 23 February, commencing at 9am.

**Venue:** Hall

**Parent Teacher Conferences**
These important short meetings commence next week and are an ideal opportunity for parents and teachers to share information as to how children are settling and engaging with the curriculum. When your child brings home the class note regarding the interview times and dates please complete and return indicating when you wish to attend as these meetings are very worthwhile.

**German “Karnivale”**
Year 5 - Tuesday 17 February, Year 6 - Wednesday 18 February. Children can dress in traditional costume for the day.

---

**Language news**

Guten Tag,

German lessons are now in full swing and what an exciting start it has been. Let me share some of our exciting news:

* We are very fortunate to have a German family in our school this year. Tobin Reeder is in year 6 and his mother has kindly offered to help out in German class. This is a wonderful asset, as it will provide the students with the opportunity to hear more authentic German spoken. Mrs Reeder has also put me in touch with Tobin’s old class in Germany and the teacher there and I have hatched a plan to start a pen friendship with some of our students here. This fits beautifully into our first unit, which is aptly named “Making Contact”. What could be better than our young people engaging with other young people on the other side of the world.

* The countdown for German Food Day is on. There are only 6 weeks to go. If you are a parent/carer who is able to spare two hours on Wednesday, 18 March, I would love for you to pencil it into your diary. We need waitresses and waiters to serve the food. More detailed information on this day is yet to come.

Finally, I have been speaking to the students about our amazing Immersion German Program offered at Ferny Grove High School. I will continue to whet their appetite for this learning opportunity and hopefully inspire some students to consider joining this program in year 7.

If you have any questions, either about the above information or otherwise, please feel free to get in touch with me via the school office or my email address: aguer2@eq.edu.au

Bis bald!

Frau Andrea Guerra
Defence news

We would like to extend a big welcome to all our new defence students and their families. We have enjoyed getting to know you and hope you have a wonderful time with us during your time at Ferny Grove State School.

We would like to thank the defence parents who attended our first morning tea for the year. It was lovely to meet you. We look forward to working with you and your children during your stay in Brisbane.

Catch up Club news

Catch up club opening times have changed. We are now open at first break in the Catch up Club room (C Block) every Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. Courtyard games will now be on at second break every Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday.

Our Defence students have enjoyed sharing the Catch up club facilities with friends for the past two weeks. It has been wonderful to see many of our new students join in the fun. We look forward to playing poison ball next week outside the catch up club room. All students are welcome to join us during our outdoor games.

Jessica De la Jara & Liz Heddershaw, Defence Transition Aides

Bright Sparks news

Dear Parents, our names are Zoe and Olivia from grade 6. We are part of an extracurricular program called Bright Sparks. Our project will be targeting student’s mental health and wellbeing. If you have children in Grades 3-6, we would appreciate your assistance in this project. Please take the time to let your child click on the link below and fill in the short survey. Once we have enough data we will be contacting experts to help us with strategies and ways to educate our students around mental health and wellbeing.

https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/ZSXFTPK

Kind regards,
Zoe and Olivia
Year 6 Bright Sparks Program
Ferny Grove State School

On Friday March 13, we will be having a Spray for a Cure assembly.

Our very brave Teacher Aide, Cindy McNab will be having her hair shaved off. Please support our school fundraising efforts by sponsoring Cindy here. If anyone else is brave enough to shave and would love to support this great cause please let Mrs Reid in 6R know. Also if you can donate hairspray for our Spray for a Cure, please bring to Mrs Reid’s room in the Year 6 block.
Dear Parents,

This is a letter from a fictitious child who has similar needs to someone in your child’s class. Please take the time to read it and try to understand.

I just wanted you to know; I have special needs; there are things I do not understand. I am still trying to figure out your world. I wish you would try to figure out my world too.

Today, when I was making that unusual sound, I was reacting to sights and smells, lights, and noise all going on around me. Things you may never notice, but are very troublesome to me. After time, they make me feel anxious and nervous. I try to follow the rules of sharing, lining up, getting my books out, staying still and quiet but sometimes everything overwhelms me, and I am afraid I can’t hold it in. And then people stare or get angry if I don’t, and that makes everything much worse.

At night when I go to sleep, my mind replays the things I have heard throughout my day; why can’t he be quiet, smile, just get in line, he should keep his hands to himself, leave that alone, what’s wrong with him? Then I wonder what IS wrong with me? Why can’t people accept me the way I am... like they do with the other kids? Why can’t I be the same? Does that mean I can only be loved if I am the same? I wish you could see how hard it is for me to be the same. But I’m not; I am learning things the others already know.

Mum may have already worked really hard with me this morning. I don’t sleep well and we’ve been up since 4am. I can’t get dressed by myself, my socks irritate my feet and cleaning my teeth hurts. The car makes me feel sick and that makes me scream and cry and we had to go to therapy before school today.

I want to have lots of friends but I often don’t understand how to play well. I’m really trying to be ‘good’ but it’s hard when I don’t understand or I’m scared. You could help me by encouraging your child to say hello and telling me quietly what they want “I want to play with you”. If I get upset, an adult will help me calm down. Please don’t stare or judge me. Please just play quietly beside me.

Please don’t tell your child that I am naughty, I don’t chose to be anxious and confused. Please tell them I am learning to share and use gentle hands. I can be a great and loyal friend. We are all different and that makes our class a rich and interesting group to be part of. I’d love to get to know you and your child better and help you understand my world too.

I hope this has provoked thoughts and a sense of empathy. Much of the text I have reworked from “Letter of Hope” found on the internet. If you have any questions please contact our special education program parent group “Success” at success4102@gmail.com or pop into the SEP in J block.

Stacey Day, Head of Special Education Services (HOSES)
Important Dates

February
18th P & C Meeting
7pm Library
24th IMPS Meeting
6.30pm Staffroom

Stationery & Uniform Stores
OPEN MONDAY AND FRIDAY 8-10AM,
WEDNESDAY 3-6PM.
All Stationery items are now in stock (except Diaries - a Home Lesson Book will be supplied in lieu). Items that were out of stock during ‘back to school’, and that have been paid for, have been delivered to the teacher's pigeon holes.

Charyl Cowles, Stationery Convenor
3550 5359 (0431 265 068)
stationery@fernygrovepandc.com.au

Band uniforms are now in stock. If anyone has any spare plastic hangers or plastic supermarket bags, please drop to the Uniform Store. If you are submitting second hand uniforms for resale, please note we only take official Ferny Grove uniforms (nothing from Big W, Target etc).

Madonna Morton, Uniform Convenor
35505342 (0409 272 062)
uniformstore@fernygrovepandc.com.au

Tuckshop
Don’t forget:
* Breakfast is available from 8am- 8:30am each morning for over the counter sales.
* You can order lunch at www.flexischools.com.au - no need for change and easy to organise the night before.
* Volunteers Urgently needed especially for Fridays - please drop into the Tuckshop or let Liz know on 3550 3361 if you can help
* Thanks to all the families who have donated items for the tuckshop
* Keep an eye on Facebook and Flexischools for each week’s WOW Wednesday special - what will it be next week?

Liz Mu, Senior Managing Convenor
3550 3661
tuckshop@fernygrovepandc.com.au

Coffee Cart
Tune in to the fgsscoffeecart Facebook page for our Tuesday trivia question. First correct guess wins a FREE hot drink. Currently our Facebook likes are at 183 we would love to get to 200 and are so close so please share with all your friends, you can keep up to date with specials and giveaways. Once we reach 200 likes will have a special surprise for you all.

Ferny Grove State High School Update
Welcome to our new students
This year we welcomed around 600 new students to our school, over 550 of those being in Years 7 and 8. We are very excited to have Year 7 students joining us this year. Our Year 7s and 8s are settling very well into the high school system and have already become accustomed to finding their way around the school. They all look fantastic in their green uniforms and the new sports uniform. We have already held year level and subject information sessions for parents and all students have attended our swimming carnival last week. Before too long, we’ll be looking at organising our Twilight Expo - to be held on 20 May - to showcase our school to our next cohort of Year 7s in 2016. Stay tuned for more information in this newsletter.
The photo shows some of our new students on the first day of school.

Futsal selection
Not just one, but two of our students will be travelling to Brazil this year to represent Australia in the U15 boys’ Futsal team. Stinson of Year 11 and Kieran of Year 10 were selected following their recent participation at the Club National Championships representing Queensland. Congratulations to both boys; we look forward to hearing all about their trip on their return.
Deadline for inclusion in the Ferny Grove News is 12 Noon on Mondays. Email to newsflash@fernygroves.eq.edu.au. It is emailed every second Wednesday. If you are not receiving it please advise your updated email details to the above address.
Want to exercise, get fit and learn to dance?

**Physie** could be just the thing for you!
Physie is all about fun, fitness and friendship.

**BJP Physie** is for girls and women of all ages from 3 to 73 and you can start at any age. One of the best things about Physie is that mums and daughters can both take part.

BJP Physie is the only dance sport with variety, where you can learn five kinds of dance and exercise in every class. It's twice the fun at half the price, with no fancy costumes or shoes to buy.

BJP Physie will help you develop strength, grace, good posture, confidence and flexibility through movement, rhythm, coordination, balance and musical interpretation. And you'll never get bored!

Everton Physical Culture Club Inc.
Classes held at Arana Hills, Brisbane.
Telephone 0407 576 406
www.evertonphysie.com

---

**Valley Hockey Club**

**Hook in 2 Hockey**

**Junior Hockey Come & Try!**

- **When:** Sunday, 15th February
- **Time:** 10.00 - 12.00 noon
- **Where:** Burringbar Hockey Fields, Chermside
- **Bring:** Hat & Water bottle
  If you have a hockey stick, bring that along too! Otherwise gear will be supplied for the day.

Your children will be introduced to hockey with games, basic training drills and a whole lot of fun!

Any Questions?
Contact on Selina on 0415 553 733 or Len 0413 522 146
www.valleyhockeyqld.com

---

**Sand Safari**

**Magical Friendships**

- **FRI 13 FEB - SUN 1 MAR**
  Surfers Paradise Foreshore
  surfersparadise.com
  surferstravel.com.au

---

**Great kids & families**
**Great staff**
**Great learning opportunities**