## Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday January 30</th>
<th>Tuesday January 31</th>
<th>Wednesday February 1</th>
<th>Thursday February 2</th>
<th>Friday February 3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7:15am Senior Band rehearsal</td>
<td>8:30am Beginner’s Music Camp NO assembly</td>
<td>11am New Year 1-6 Students Iceblocks and Games</td>
<td>11am Senior Choir</td>
<td>SPAG BOL Retreat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9am Defence Parents Morning Tea - Library Year 1 Incursion - Bug Lady Year 6 Peer Mediator Training Parent Information Evening Years 4-6 Session One - 6 - 6.45pm Admin session 6.50 - 7.10pm Session Two - 7.15 - 8pm</td>
<td>9am Defence Parents Morning Tea - Library Year 1 Incursion - Bug Lady Year 6 Peer Mediator Training Parent Information Evening Years 4-6 Session One - 6 - 6.45pm Admin session 6.50 - 7.10pm Session Two - 7.15 - 8pm</td>
<td>7:15am String Ensemble rehearsal</td>
<td>11am Senior Choir</td>
<td>SPAG BOL Retreat 10am Year 5 &amp; 6 Percussion lesson 11am Junior Choir Year 5 &amp; 6 Winter Sport signups</td>
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<tr>
<th>Monday February 6</th>
<th>Tuesday February 7</th>
<th>Wednesday February 8</th>
<th>Thursday February 9</th>
<th>Friday February 10</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7:15am Senior Band rehearsal 8:50am Middle Years Assembly Parent Information Evening Years 1-3 Session One - 6 - 6.45pm Admin session 6.50 - 7.10pm Session Two - 7.15 - 8pm</td>
<td>9-11am Triple P Parenting Session - Library</td>
<td>9am Defence Parents Morning Tea - Library Year 1 Incursion - Bug Lady Year 6 Peer Mediator Training Parent Information Evening Years 4-6 Session One - 6 - 6.45pm Admin session 6.50 - 7.10pm Session Two - 7.15 - 8pm</td>
<td>7:15am String Ensemble rehearsal</td>
<td>Footloose Friday 7:30am Percussion Ensemble 11am Junior Choir 2pm Early Years Assembly Year 5 &amp; 6 Winter Sport Trials</td>
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## Prep adventure begins

An exciting time of year for many Ferny Grove families with their young ones starting Prep. Monday saw the first day for our 2017 Preps as they arrived ready for their adventures in “big school”. Meeting the teacher, name tags, lunch boxes, marking the roll—so many firsts for our Prep students (and their parents).

Today in Prep we saw students painting, practicing drawing lines, working their fine motor skills with tweezers and pom poms, getting some sensory input with play dough and using water pistols to wash away shaving cream off toy cars - learning by play is so much fun!

We welcome our new Preps and their families for the first week of what is going to be a great year of learning, discovery and wonder.

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**Finvoy Street**  
**Ferny Grove QLD 4055**  
(07) 3550 5333  
[fernygroves.eq.edu.au](mailto:fernygroves.eq.edu.au)  
**Student Absence**

*The Term 1 bulk Bill will be available shortly.*  
**Prep Resource Scheme**  
$135 or part payment of $45  
*Due February 2nd*  
**Year 1 Resource Scheme**  
$50 or part payment of $25  
*Due February 2nd*  
**Year 1 Bug Lady**  
Wed 8 February  
Cost to be advised this week  
*Due February 2nd*  

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.  
Please DO NOT pay invoices using BPAY. Our preferred method is BPOINT, via Qparents, or over the counter.
Welcome back

I would like to extend a warm welcome to all new families commencing at Ferny Grove SS for the first time in 2017. You are joining an inclusive and diverse school that reflects the diversity of our local community. Welcome back to all our returning families.

The teachers have been hard at work all of last week preparing for another exciting year of learning. We have worked on the following areas with a view to further enhancing the quality of student engagement and learning.

- Consistent approach to the teaching of reading, writing and mathematics.
- Teaching our students to think, question and challenge by looking at information from different perspectives not just their own (something our politicians could do with a dose of I suspect). Our challenge is to make the Australian Curriculum as relevant as we can to students at FGSS.
- Creating an engaging and real world curriculum with emphasis on big questions that will make both the lives of students better and hopefully have a positive impact on the world as well. For example, our Year 6 cohort will be exploring the following BIG question.

  How do we inform people about how to survive extreme weather events?

As you can imaging there is a rich variety of learning tied up in this question and I look forward to seeing the outcomes of their inquiry.

I would like to highlight a couple of points that will ensure our year starts and end positively.

**Stay connected.** Our communication is extensive but relies on each family taking responsibility for knowing what is going on and when. Email, newsletter, Facebook and teacher communication are our most effective method of keeping you informed. Ours is a large and growing school with a lot happening so be sure to stay connected and avoid missing out on knowing about all the exciting opportunities we offer.

**Attendance at school is important.** Our overall attendance rate is positive however in 2016 we had 15% of students attending less than 90% of the school year. This equates to missing at least one day per fortnight. In some cases this is perfectly explained by illness or long term holidays, however in other cases it is just slack parenting. Over the course of a year these students will miss at least 20 days or four weeks of school. Every day counts.

**8:40am is our school start time.** Our rolls will be marked at this time every day and we expect our students to be in class ready to get started so please ensure you are arriving at school at 8:30 to allow this to happen. It mightn’t seem like much but it makes such a difference when every student can kick off their day with their whole class in the room. This is when teachers set the scene for the day of learning. Very occasional late starts are sometimes unavoidable but not on a regular basis. You are doing your child no favours by arriving at 8:50 or 9am.

**Parking on school grounds is never ok unless you have a disability permit provided by the school.** Our Archdale carpark is now sealed and secure to prevent interactions between cars and kids. The gate is passcode protected to prevent access.

**Don’t forget the coffee cart each morning.** What a great way to start each day. Head to the hall and I guarantee you will meet nice people, get served great coffee and start your day with a smile.

If we can all get these things right then we have the foundations for success in place. I look forward to leading our school, along with a host of others, for my eighth year as Principal of Ferny Grove State School.

*Brett Shackleton, Principal*
Early years news

Welcome back to a brand new school year and a special welcome to all of our new families joining us for the first newsletter of the year. It was lovely to see so many excited faces on Monday, all looking very smart in their Ferny Grove uniform. As I walked around the classrooms there was a sense of calmness and happiness so thank you parents for ensuring your child/ren were all organised and feeling positive. Our teachers do a wonderful job with settling them in and making learning fun. Continue to have a good routine both at night and in the morning as it really does make the world of difference for our little ones. Please ensure your child/ren are here on time each day as this too sets them up for a successful day.

Free Prep Vision Screening

This term we are offering free vision screening to all of our Prep students. Children’s Health Queensland (CHQ) is a public health service for children working with schools across the state. A registered nurse will visit our school during school hours this term to provide this free screening service. Good vision is important for children’s educational, physical and social development, so the earlier a problem is detected, the better the treatment outcomes.

Please check your child’s bag for a white envelope over this coming week and fill out the form and return to your child’s teacher as soon as possible. Your child will have his/her vision screened during week 7 of this term - parents do not need to be present during the screening test. All parents of children who have their vision screened will be informed of the results in writing. Should a vision problem be detected parents will receive a letter asking them to have their child’s vision fully tested by an eye health professional. If you have any questions regarding the vision screening program please contact staff from the Primary School Nurse Health Readiness Program on 1800 687 372 (free call). I believe this a vital screener for our prepps who are just starting out on their educational journey, please fill out and return as soon as possible.

Jacki Schott, Deputy Principal
jscho62@eq.edu.au

Family Movie Night
Saturday 11 March
5pm BBQ - 6pm Finding Dory
Tickets at door!
See P and C Page for details!
Hello everyone! Welcome back and an extra special welcome to all our new families...and there are quite a few this year. I hope all our newbies have settled in well and learning the new routines of a different school. Each year is different for students regardless of how long they may have been in a school: new teacher, different classmates, new and exciting ways of learning and for our Year 4 students – a new Deputy! Please know that you can communicate with me any time.

A few bits and pieces to keep in mind:

**Year 6**
- Congratulations to our School and House Captains! They have already been briefed by either myself or Mr Kirby about some of their roles and responsibilities this year. Further leadership positions will be finalised week 2 in readiness for the Student Leaders Induction Ceremony Monday 13th February - stay tuned.

**Year 6 – Camp**, as always, is the last week of this term, Tuesday 28th March – Friday 31st March. It is a 4 day 3 night camp at Camp Moogerah on Lake Moogerah, south of Boonah. The cost is approximately $340 and will be on the Term 1 Bulk Bill. Please communicate with us early if you have any queries or whether your student is unable to attend as this may alter the cost for others.

**Year 5/6**
- Interschool sport commences Week 6 this term. Sign-ups and training will occur in the coming weeks. All students will sign up for an interschool sport and levies apply for bus transport. If there is any reason that your child is unable to participate in this program please contact me directly.

**Year 4**
- Assemblies will now be each Monday unless otherwise notified. All family members are welcome.

**Before and After school supervision**
Students should not be in the school grounds unsupervised before 8.10am. If arriving before then, students should be booked in with Helping Hands, our Out of School Hours care provider. Students arriving from 8.10am should assemble in the covered area in front of the Tuckshop, where they are supervised by staff before being released to their classrooms at 8.30am. For consistency, we ask that students waiting to be collected after school by parents or older siblings, any time after 3.10pm, need to also wait in the Tuckshop area. This will be unsupervised but provides a central and consistent place for students to be located.

Communication is key for everyone. If you have any concerns, please raise them with your child’s teacher first and then contact me if necessary. We are excited for another great year with our Middle years students and look forward to sharing their successes with you.

Katie Stubbings, Deputy Principal
kstub5@eq.edu.au

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**Library news**

Hi everyone, welcome back to our new school year. I know it will be an exciting one filled with learning and fun. We will be running activities every week in the library deck at first break on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Everyone is welcome to attend.

**Library Monitors**

I am looking for a new bunch of enthusiastic library monitors from year 4, 5 and 6. Students don’t need to be the smartest kid in class or a strong reader. They need to be responsible, reliable, know their alphabet and happy to help others. I can’t wait to meet the new bunch. Every class 4-6 has information about the process, forms can be collected from the library and are due back to me by Monday the 30th of January.

Leane Dunn, Library coordinator

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**SPAG BOL 2017**

Welcome back everyone to another exciting, action-packed and adventurous year of theatre, drama and dance!

**Productions for 2017**

Once again, we will be putting together 2 productions in 2017, the first in early June, and the second in late November. Our opening production is entitled ‘Forgotten’ and is a Peter Pan adventure/drama set 5 years after Wendy, John & Michael’s initial visit to Neverland. You can bet that all of your favourite Peter Pan characters will be making an appearance in this exciting show!
Chappy news

For those who are new to Ferny Grove SS, my name is Alexia Hoffman and I am the School Chaplain 4 days/week from Monday through to Thursday. Below is a short outline of some of the things a Chaplain does. Depending on the school and its needs, the Chaplain can take on many roles. In general my role is to promote a sense of belonging and community for all the staff, students and parents. It may involve conducting programs to help develop social skills, conflict resolutions and friendship problems.

Chaplains provide a caring presence and listening ear and relevant support to students going through tough issues - divorce, family separation, loneliness, loss and grief, etc. This happens by being a link between students and outside community help/ or guidance officer and behaviour support teacher. Students can be referred to the Chaplain by staff or parents if they feel the students need extra emotional support at any given time. Chaplains respect everyone's individual right to explore and pursue their own beliefs. My role can support and provide information if there are students who may have questions around spirituality or ethics.

My room is in F block and this year I'm sharing alongside the Defence Transition Aides. This is a great opportunity to work together and support each other in very similar ways. The extra hands working together on building the same sense of community will be exciting. We will work collaboratively on many things and have planned some fun activities already. Today started with fingerprints placed on a tree frame which will create a beautiful art piece for the room. The students that came today signed and added themselves to the tree as a sign of their belonging in this safe place. Finally to all of you I wish you a fantastic year and look forward in various ways to meeting many of you.

Blessings, Chappy Alexia

General news

School Banking
School banking resumes on our regular banking day of Thursday, on the 2nd February. All you need is a Commonwealth Bank Youth Saver Account (Previously Dollarmites) to be a part of school banking. This account can be opened at any Commonwealth Bank. To open a new account all you need is parent ID if you are not a Commonwealth Bank customer and your child's birth certificate. Anyone is welcome to train up as a school banking coordinator. It is easy to learn and is an enjoyable couple of hours once a week. We begin at 9am on Thursdays in the school library. Come and see us anytime if you are interested.

From your school banking coordinator volunteers

Triple P Parenting Course - FREE
Ferny Grove SS is presenting Free Triple P classes for parents of Prep and lower school students. These will be presented by our Student Welfare and Engagement Teacher, Peter Wheeler and our Chappy, Alexia Back.

The classes will be held on Tuesdays 7, 14, 21 and 28 February from 9am – 11am in the meeting room at the end of the library. To register your interest please email Peter at pwhee3@eq.edu.au.

Parent Information Nights
These will be held in Week 3, with Year 1-3 on Monday 6 February and Year 4-6 on Wednesday 8 February. More info to be emailed.
Welcome to Ferny Grove State School

We would like to extend a big welcome to all new Defence families to FGSS, we hope your transition to Brisbane has been a positive experience. As DSTAs we will do our best to ensure your children settle into school quickly and begin to enjoy the many wonderful experiences their new school has to offer. At FGSS we have two Defence School Transition Aides to provide support for all Defence students during times of transition and deployment. Jessica De la Jara provides support for students in years Prep to 3 and Liz Heddershaw supports students in years 4 to 6. Please contact us with any concerns or to inform us of deployments so we can provide your child with additional support. We can be contacted via email on jdela140@eq.edu.au - Jessica (Prep – Yr 3) & lhedd1@eq.edu.au - Liz (Yr4 – Yr6) or on (07) 3550 5333 Ext 308. If you would like to pop in and have a chat, we are located in F Block, accessible via the back stairs facing the school hall.

We would also like to welcome back all Defence families from 2016, we are excited and amazed to see how much all our students have grown over the school holidays. We look forward to working with you and to having a very productive, happy, safe and fun school year in 2017.

Please join us for a welcome morning tea on Wednesday 8th February, from 9 am in the Library. This is a perfect opportunity to find out about the DSTA program and how your child can benefit from the additional support available for Defence students. Invitations will be sent home with your child next week.

We look forward to seeing you then.

Catch Up Club News

At the end of 2016 the Catch Up Club room was relocated to F Block and we are now fortunate to be able to join forces with the school Chaplain Alexia Hoffman. We would like to extend a big thank you to Alexia for making us feel so welcome and having such a positive attitude towards us working together. 2017 is set to be a very positive year as we work together to create fun spaces and experiences for all students.

Catch Up Club and Chappy room will be open Monday to Wednesday at first break. The room is open to all students and is a space where they can play games, do craft activities or share any joys or concerns with us. On Thursdays we will be setting up games and craft activities outside the hall for students to enjoy.

New Students’ Welcome Activity

All new students to FGSS in 2017 are invited to join us for an ice-block and games session to be held in the school hall on Wednesday 1st Feb at 11am. We hope this experience will give all new students the opportunity to make new friends with other students new to the school. Invitations will be sent home early next week.

Jessica De la Jara & Liz Heddershaw
Defence School Transition Aides
Important Dates
February
13  7pm  FAST Meeting - Library
15  7pm  P & C Meeting - Library

Coffee Cart
Welcome back. The coffee cart is open each morning before school 8-9:10am. We are fully run by volunteers, if you are interested in joining us come and say hello one morning we would love to meet you. Like us on Facebook/fgsscoffeecart

Tuckshop
Welcome back to new and continuing families. Our Tuckshop has a great online ordering facility www.flexischools.com.au. Register now for free, it’s easy to use and has many benefits. Full menu can be viewed any time here.

Any Allergies must be reported by filling out a form at Administration and adding ‘allergy alert’ notification on tuckshop orders.

All tuckshop orders must be placed by 9:00am.

Do you want to volunteer, but are unable to commit every month? Well we have a number of one off shifts (9:00am – 12:00noon) for the dates below.

Term 1 - 6 February, 21 February, 6 March, 21 March

All volunteers go in the draw for a special appreciation gift. Simply give me a call.

Extra service for busy parents – Birthday Treat Packages are available. Icy Pole 50c, mini muffin 50c delivered to class room with a birthday party hat for the celebrant. Simple give me a call to order quantities required - 24 hours notice would be appreciated.

We are ready to serve our fresh, healthy and nutritious food made here at the Tuckshop. As always thanks for supporting our Tuckshop as any profits made are reinvested back to our school.

Liz Mu, Senior Managing Convenor
3550 5361
tuckshop@fernygroves.eq.edu.au

Stationery & Uniform Store
The stores are open Friday this week from 8-10am and then next week back to regular hours of Monday and Friday 8-10am and Wednesday 2-5pm.

The Year 6 Shirt order forms are going home this week. Orders need to be placed by Friday February 3. The final day for payment is Monday February 6. If payment is not received by then no order will be placed. Shirts are $39.

Charyl Cowles, Stationery Convenor
3550 5359 (0431 265 068
stationery@fernygroves.eq.edu.au

Madonna Morton, Uniform Convenor
3550 5342 (0409 272 062)
uniform@fernygroves.eq.edu.au

Family Movie Night
SAT 11th MARCH
6.00PM
$10 per family

BBQ, DRINKS & CANDY BAR
FROM 5.00PM

FERNY GROVE STATE SCHOOL PRESENTS
Disney • Pixar
FINDING DORY

FGSSS HALL
BYO CHAIRS, CUSHIONS, BEANBAGS ETC
Community news

**Play Rugby**

**ALBANY CREEK GPS JUNIOR RUGBY CLUB**

Online registration NOW

www.albanycreekgps.com.au

Never played before?

**ALL WELCOME**

Skills training nights coming up in February!

Boys aged 5 - 17 & Girls aged 5 - 12

Under 6’s and 7’s Rego Fee $75 No more to pay

Any questions call Michael on 0450 720 410

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**Westside Grovely Football Club**

Wed, 1st Feb, 6 - 9pm
Sat, 4th Feb, 9am - 3pm

Where:
Clubhouse, Hanran St., Kepperra

Or you can register on-line via:
www.westsidesports.com.au

Players required in all ages and abilities.

**Enquiries:**

- **Juniors - boys and girls**
  - Gary 0403 768 631
  - Over 35s
  - Wayne 0403 018 012

- **Seniors - men and women**
  - Peter 0411 385 811
  - Brisbane Paralympic Football Program
  - Jay 0411 134 531

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For news, photos and latest events, “like” Ferny Grove State School on Facebook.

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*Our newsletter is published fortnightly. Deadline for submissions is Monday, 12 Noon of the week of publication. Enquiries for advertising may be made to newsflash@fernygroves.eq.edu.au.*