Dear Parents and Carers

WELCOME BACK
Welcome to all new families starting with us at Farrer Primary and welcome back to all our continuing families and students. I hope you had a lovely break. We have had a fantastic first week with all students settling into their new classes for the year. Teaching staff have been working and planning last week to ensure delivery of excellent learning programs. We look forward to an amazing year of learning!

I would like to extend a warm welcome to our new staff members. Michael Tinio teaching Year 6, Jessica Picking teaching Kindergarten, Julie Wellings teaching Year 4 and Teresa Ang providing support to our school. Welcome back from maternity leave our wonderful junior school SLC, Sarah Reece. We are thrilled to have them join our excellent teaching team here at Farrer Primary School. We have had a number of new students and families join our community for the commencement of 2017. Our existing students have made them feel very welcome and they have settled in quickly. We look forward to getting to know you over the coming year and hope that families will become active contributing members of our great community here at Farrer Primary School.

COMMUNITY WELCOME BBQ
We will be hosting a Welcome BBQ from 5.00-6.00pm on Thursday 16 February. Everyone is welcome and it will be a great chance to get to know other teachers in the school and new members of our community. We will provide a sausage sizzle and drinks, all you have to do is turn up. Families may want to bring a picnic rug and other goodies with them and really enjoy the evening. Please let us know by ringing the front office on 6205-7911 if you will be attending, how many of you are coming and if there are any dietary restrictions. We want to ensure we have enough food for everyone! Look forward to seeing you there.

INFORMATION SESSIONS
This year we are introducing information sessions where your child’s class teacher will provide parents with relevant information about the year ahead. This will include curriculum outline, routines, optional homework, excursions etc. We hope sharing this information will give families better insight into their child’s learning. Information sessions will take place on Thursday 16 February in student classrooms. We would love to see you all at our information sessions and welcome BBQ that evening. Also check out our community cyber safety program run by the Australian Federal Police on Wednesday 22 February at 6.00pm. Details are included in this newsletter.

Thursday 16 February 2017
Preschool and Kindergarten: 3.10-3.30pm
Year 1 and Year 2: 3.40-4.00pm
Year 3 and Year 4: 4.10-4.30pm
Year 5 and Year 6: 4.35-5.00pm
Welcome BBQ: 5.00-6.00pm

GETTING TO KNOW YOU INTERVIEWS
In week 4 we will be hosting interviews to give parents the opportunity to share information about their child with the class teacher. Please keep an eye out for the note to book in a time with your child’s teacher. These interviews are important as:
They create a strong partnership between the home and the school.
They provide an opportunity for parents and teachers to communicate.
They enable parents to give vital information about their child.
They help support student achievement.
We look forward to seeing you!
This year we are trialling a new way of communicating information with families. On odd weeks we will be sending out a full newsletter and on even weeks we will provide an App/email alert for important dates and reminders. The majority of our families have the Farrer App. If you need to download the School App please see the instructions at the end of this newsletter. Communication is very important at Farrer Primary School and we value the information that you share with us about your children. Your first point of call should be your child’s classroom teacher and if you require further clarification please do not hesitate to make an appointment with the team leader for your child’s year level, the Deputy Principal or myself. Please call the Front office on 62057911 for appointments.

FOCUS ON NUMERACY
As part of our annual action plan we will be focussing on Numeracy this year. All students from Kindergarten to year 6 will be placed in a Maths group for three sessions each week focussing on Number and Algebra. Your child’s Maths teacher will be assessing and reporting in these two strands of the Australian Curriculum while the class teacher will cover Measurement, Geometry, Probability and Statistics. Student data will be tracked over time to evaluate the effectiveness of this model.

SCHOOL UPGRADES
Over the holiday period we have had the Ellyard classrooms and corridor painted and carpeted. It looks and feels amazing! We have our new netball posts, basketball backboard and super hoop installed to enhance the playground experience for our students. They have already enjoyed playing with this new equipment! Our oval is open after work and is looking wonderful for our seniors to enjoy.

SUPERVISION AND ARRIVALS/ DEPARTURES REMINDERS
Children must not arrive at school before 8:45am as playground supervision commences at this time. Students must be collected by 3pm. If parents are unable to meet these school hours then OSHCLUB before and after school care provide care on both a permanent and occasional care arrangement for students from preschool to year 6. Please find their contact details in the front office and in this newsletter.

SUNSMART REMINDER
Please remind students to bring their broad-brimmed hat to school this term. We encourage students to leave their hat at school so that it is least likely to be forgotten. Students will be unable to play at lunch-time, recess and sport sessions without their hat and will be required to sit on the silver seats in the shade, to comply SunSmart school standards.

NUT FREE REMINDER
We are an Anaphylactic Friendly School, meaning that no nuts or nut products are to be brought to school in any form. This includes nut bars, cakes etc. We have a number of students who have anaphylactic reactions at our school and their reactions to nuts can be life threatening. Thank you for your ongoing support in this serious matter.

QUALITY WORK
One of the many highlights of the week has been having conversations and sharing the learning with students across the school in classrooms, on the playground and in the Principal’s office. I would like to acknowledge and congratulate the following students on their quality work this week:-

**1N/R** – Excellent work in mathematics
Reuben and James

**MAC** – Fantastic writing
Lachlan G

Have a wonderful week.

*Linda Heath*
Principal
BAND INFORMATION FOR 2017

For many years, Farrer Primary students have enjoyed music tuition through our school’s involvement in the Instrumental Music Program. The Instrumental Music Program (IMP) is a section of the Education Directorate which provides our school with a package of services designed to supplement the music education of up to 22 selected students in each of Year 5 and 6. Students involved in this program are part of a system of over 2000 musicians all learning in the same way in many schools across the ACT. The families of students who accept membership can expect their child to be part of a class learning concert band instruments. Students in the band class are provided with an instrument (along with its maintenance and repairs of accidental damage), and all of the music required for their tuition. A teacher who is attached to the IMP visits Farrer each week and provides the class with two lessons. There is a cost of $320 to families of Band Class members to cover the 2 year program. This covers:

- The loan of an instrument
- Tuition
- Printed music

Bus payments for excursions will be collected as required over the 2 years.

We are looking forward to another fabulous year with our Year 5 and 6 Band Program. Both band lessons will be on Monday and Thursday. As well as lesson times, both bands will have one lunchtime practice each week. Our band teachers this year are Sarah Aby (Year 5 Band) and Cat Mellor (Year 6 Band). Year 5 Band testing is next Monday, 6th February. Year 6 Band begins next Thursday, 9th February. We look forward to a great year of music!

**Farrer Choir 2017**

This year we are trying some new things with our choir. We had a suggestion from lovely Shiori to run a Senior Vocal Ensemble. Thank you Shiori, we love this idea! We will alternate each week between the regular choir and the senior group. Hopefully this will make it easier for our younger students to maintain motivation if they only have to attend one rehearsal every two weeks!

Odd Weeks: Farrer Choir (starting Week 3)
Even Weeks: Senior Vocal Ensemble (starting Week 4)

The Senior Vocal Ensemble is for students in Years 5 and 6 and will be auditioned. Auditions are next week (time TBA). Students have received information about the audition process from their class teachers so they can prepare. Students who are in the Senior Vocal Ensemble will be expected to also be in the regular choir in a leadership role.

We have lots of exciting ideas for our choir groups and are looking forward to starting.

*Sarah Aby*
Welcome back to our Farrer community and welcome to our new families. Our gardens and animals have thrived through the hot weather thanks to a committed group of families who have volunteered over the holidays. Your time is very appreciated and vital to the successful running of our gardens. Thank you to all those families and to Tamra for organising the roster for me.

At the end of last year the school purchased some new garden beds for the Environment Centre. Our old wood gardens are degrading and need to be pulled up and replaced. Jo Laver and some of our students worked tirelessly, last year, to put all the gardens together ready for us to install them. She also filled the smaller gardens and planted in them already. The larger beds are currently sitting on top of our existing gardens.

This term the Green Team will be working with me to remove the old wood and dig in the new beds. We will then be looking for ways to fill them with compost and dirt. If you have any contacts who might be able to help us out, please let me know.

On another note, I will be trying out a new experiment as part of teaching the year 6 students about chemical and physical change. We will need a fair number of shells for this task. If you have any children who madly collected shells over the holidays, we would gladly accept donations!

Thank you,

Kate Elliot

Farrer Primary school will be hosting a ThinkUKnow presentation on **Wednesday 22 February** and all parents, carers and teachers are encouraged to attend.

**When:** Wednesday 22 February  
**Time:** 6pm  
**Where:** School Hall

**RSVP:** info@farrerps.act.edu.au

ThinkUKnow Australia is a cyber safety education program that educates parents, carers and teachers of how people are using technology, the challenges they may face online, and how to help them overcome these in a safe and ethical way.

ThinkUKnow Australia is a partnership between the Australian Federal Police, Microsoft Australia, Datacom and the Commonwealth Bank. The program is delivered in collaboration with policing partners New South Wales Police Force, Northern Territory Police, Queensland Police, South Australia Police, Tasmania Police, Western Australia Police, as well as Neighbourhood Watch Australasia.

The presentation will be delivered by a local law enforcement member and an industry volunteer. The presentation covers issues relating to children and young peoples’ privacy and security online, their relationships with other users and their online reputation. It provides insight into the devices young people are using, as well as the popular websites, apps and social networking sites they’re accessing.

This is a fantastic opportunity for you to learn more about young people and the online environment, and how you can help them to be safe and responsible users of technology. We look forward to seeing you there.

For more information, you can visit [www.thinkuknow.org.au](http://www.thinkuknow.org.au).
What a wonderful first day for our Kindergarten students!
Our preschoolers are settling in very well. Looks like lots of fun was had by all!
SMOOTHIE FLAVOUR
Strawberry and passionfruit

WELCOME BACK
We are back for another exciting year and The Kids' Kitchen is now OPEN for business for 2017. We would like to welcome the new hospitality leaders and we wish them all the best for the year. We had an overwhelming response to these positions with 31 students volunteering their lunch hours to serve their fellow students and teachers. Well done!
Of course there will be specials and meal deals throughout the year which you will be notified via email and in our school newsletter. It will be another wonderful year in the kitchen with new students, new menu, and our canteen vegetable garden and new teaching staff.

Please note the 'Teachers Menu’ section can only be placed by teaching staff.
The portions are large and designed for an adult palate. Thanks.

WEEKLY SPECIALS ONLINE
Thursday – Chicken, egg and vegetable fried rice (low-sodium soy sauce) $4.50
Friday - Chicken burger (with lettuce and mayonnaise on a seeded hamburger bun) $5.00

ONLINE ORDERING
“Why do we need to use School24 when you can just buy over the counter?”
Here are some of the many reasons why Farrer implemented School24.com.au in our canteen.
• You can order from the full menu not just the counter options.
• No queuing, lunch delivered directly to your Childs’ classroom.
• No lost money or missing out on your favourites!
• Parents no longer have to worry about finding a paper bag and correct money in the morning.
• Orders can be placed 24 hours a day and can be placed weeks in advance.
• Fast communication and menu updates via parents email.

To set up an account go to www.school24.com.au and follow the prompts. Our school ID is 25128963. The system requires a pre-payment before orders can be made. Your account can be topped up by cash (collection tin in front office), direct debit (2 working days for clearance) or credit card. School24 have worked very hard to keep fees very reasonable, 25cents per transaction.
You should have received a copy of our menu this week. If not, spare copies are available at the front office or email us and we can send you a pdf. The full menu is available once you have joined school24. Please do not hesitate to contact School24 directly on 02 8901 0398 if you need assistance.

See you in the kitchen,
Marnie Boreham-Smith and Gemma Spain

***Please update your child’s class ASAP***

Mobile: 0418 196 529 Phone: 6205 7919
Email: thekidskitchenfarrer@gmail.com Online ordering: www.school24.com.au
Hours: Wednesday to Friday (lunch & recess) School ID: 25128963

$ School Banking will be on
Fridays at recess
1.30pm – 2.00pm
Community News

Fight For Life Australia

Dates: 6th – 12th February 2017
Location: See www.MasterPaul.com.au for your nearest local centre
Donate: www.fightforlifeaustralia.com.au

What is Fight For Life?
Almost everyone on the planet has had someone they know or love affected by cancer.
Fight For Life was established so that Martial Arts practitioners can Kick Cancer Together. Now you can be a part of the largest cancer fundraiser run by one martial arts club.
All money raised will go direct to the Cancer Council to help find a cure or vaccine for cancer.

www.fightforlifeaustralia.com.au

For one week your local United Taekwondo centres around Australia are running a Fight For Life event.
For every adult or child that tries out a club, the club owner will donate $10 towards Cancer Council.
To find out more about this fundraising event go to www.fightforlifeaustralia.com.au

Cancer Council NSW
Community Supporter

GKR KARATE
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No contracts: pay as you go
Children who train in karate are less likely to be bullied and school work and class behaviour can improve
classes continue during school holidays

- Build confidence
- Improve fitness
- Gain self discipline
- Learn self defence

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- Canbrell
- Coabarup
- Gourdie
- Kambalda
- Welshman

Classes all around Canberra, Goulburn, Queanbeyan, Yass

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contact Wendy: 0406 375 091
wendy.gkr@gmail.com
GKR Karate supports Beyond Blue

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FlippaBall
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LOCATION: Lakeside Leisure Centre, Anketell St Tuggeranong

$140 8 WEEK PROGRAM

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How To Install Skoolbag On Your Smartphone

iPhone & iPad Users

1. Click the "App Store" icon on your Apple device.
2. Type your school name in the search, using suburb name will help.
3. If iPhone, you will see your school appear, click "Free" then "Install".
4. If iPad, change the drop list to "iPhone Apps"; your school will then be visible, click "Free" then "Install".
5. When installed click "Open"
6. Select "OK" to receive push notifications, when asked.
7. Click the "More" button on the bottom right of the App, then "Setup".
8. Toggle on the Push Categories that are applicable for you.

Android Users

You must first have signed up with a Google Account before installing the app.

1. Click the "Play Store" button on your Android Device
2. Click the magnifying glass icon at the top and type in your school name, using suburb name will help.
3. Click the school name when it appears in the search.
4. Click the "Install" button.
5. Click "Accept" for various permissions (please note, we do not modify any of your personal data on your device).
6. Click "Open" when installed.
7. Click the "More" button on the bottom right of the App, then "Setup".
8. Toggle on the Push Categories that are applicable for you.