



Farrer Primary School Newsletter
Term1 Week 1: 2 February 2023

Acknowledgement of Country



We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land on which we learn and work today, the people of the Ngunnawal nation and pay respects to Elders past, present and emerging.

Messages from our Principal - Ms Liz Wallace



Welcome

A big welcome to the 2023 school year. We are having a fabulous week at Farrer Primary. It has been lovely to see everyone again after the break and staff are enjoying connecting with new colleagues, students and families. The feel throughout the school is very calm, happy and focussed on learning and wellbeing. We are delighted with this positive start.

This week we welcomed many new families to Farrer Primary. We know it can be quite overwhelming starting a new school. The community at Farrer is lovely and will embrace our new families as the term goes on. Our P&C is also very proactive in organising community events and opportunities to connect. Keep an eye out for event details here in the newsletter.

2023 Information Sessions & BBQ

On Tuesday 7 February we will hold information sessions for each class as well as a BBQ.

At the information sessions teachers will share details of the learning focus, schedule and routine for the year. The slide presentation can be emailed to any families unable to attend. The information sessions are followed by a *welcome BBQ* provided by staff. This is an opportunity to have a chat with staff and other families. Sausage sandwiches will be available. Families are encouraged to bring a picnic blanket and perhaps a salad / some fruit if they would like to make this a meal.

Please bring along a water bottle or reusable cup in order to use the bubblers for water.

Information Sessions will run in classrooms at the following times

3:15pm preschool

3:30pm kindergarten

3:45pm year one

4:00pm year two

4:15pm year three

4:30pm year four

4:45pm year five

5:00pm year six

The BBQ will run from 3:30pm - 5:00pm.

Staff information

Welcome to new and returning staff. Our staff team is

Preschool - Lana Dibb, Kelly Bennet & Sylvia Kaltner

Kindergarten - Libby Mackie & Amanda Stoddart

Year one - Erin Bromley & Jasmin Cerni

Year two - Ali Bos & Georgia Lucas

Year three - Sarah Otuhouma, Tori Barbaro & Jodie White

Year four - Bright Lai & Lara Wilson

Year five - Rachel Mian & Jake Ovington

Year six - Lauren Uhr & Kylie Munn

Small Group Program - Kat Newton

Japanese - Sarah Aby & Paul McGregor

Science - Aaron Flynn

PE - Brett Maron

Learning Support Assistants - Kim-Maree Janszen, Eloise Bacon, Noah Saddler, Natalie Soffe & Georgia Willey

Building Service Officers - George Geou & Anthony Donaldson

Receptionist - Trudy Thornton

School Psychologist - Charlotte Harrison-Smith

A/g Business Manager - Jenny Cavalier

A/g Junior School Team Leader - Emily Craggs

Senior School Team Leader - Jodie White

A/g Deputy Principal - Mariana Fuenzalida

Principal - Liz Wallace

Getting to know you interviews

Class teachers will be holding 'Getting to Know You' interviews from Monday 13 – Friday 17 February 2023. Preschool interviews will also be offered on Tuesday 21 and Wednesday 22 February 2023.

The purpose of these interviews is to offer families the opportunity to share information about their child with class teachers.

We invite you to make a time by logging on to School Interviews <https://www.schoolinterviews.com.au/code/3dumz>. Interviews are 15 minutes and will be held in your child's classroom. The booking portal will be closed at midday on Monday 13 February.

In preparation for these conversations, we invite you to complete the relevant Google Form below.

[Kindergarten](#)

[Year 1](#)

[Year 2](#)

[Year 3](#)

[Year 4](#)

[Year 5](#)

[Year 6](#)

Preschool families are reminded to complete the 'Getting to Know You' form already shared if they haven't already done so.

Please note paper copies are available at the front office.

Communication with the school

Our main communication tool is this newsletter which is emailed to each family every second Thursday. Please take the time to read the newsletter for important information and updates. If you are not receiving the newsletter please chat with Trudy at Reception to ensure your details are up to date.

We aim to send any additional notes home on Thursday each week and also upload them to the school [website](#). Family notes are sent home with the eldest child and individual class notes with each child. Today K-6 children will bring home a note about the swimming carnival and year six students will have another excursion note also.

We use [Facebook](#) for reminders and celebrations.

Absences can be sent to the info@farrerps.act.edu.au email address or via a response sent to the automated text sent each morning for any unexplained absences.

At information sessions next week teachers will provide their email addresses. Our class teachers have the most information about each child's learning program and day to day interactions at school. We encourage families to connect with class teachers as the first contact with questions, wonderings or worries. Our teachers and support staff access email during work hours and aim to respond within 24 hours. If you feel you still need more information or support following connecting with the teacher the team leader is the next contact.

Years P-2 Emily Craggs emily.craggs@ed.act.edu.au

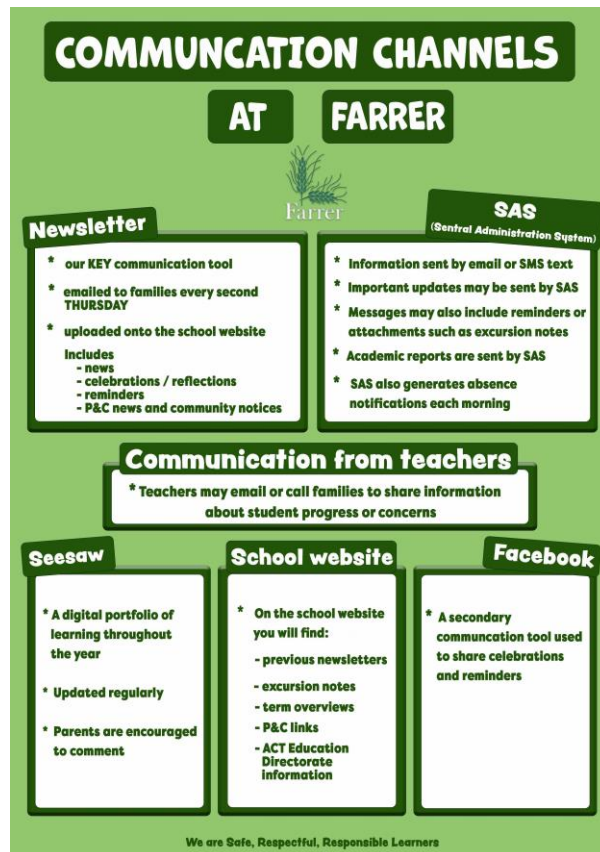
Year 3-6 Jodie White jodie.white@ed.act.edu.au

If you have exhausted these options and further support is still needed our Acting Deputy Principal, Mariana Fuenzalida is next. Mariana also oversees the specialist team (Science, Japanese and PE) and support for additional needs. Mariana can be reached at mariana.fuenzalida@ed.act.edu.au. I am the next point of contact at liz.wallace@ed.act.edu.au.

The front office phone - 6142 0860 - is staffed between 8:30 - 3:30 each day. If Trudy and Jenny are busy with a student or on the phone, the voicemail function activates after seven rings and a message is sent to them to follow up. The voicemail function is also activated out of these hours. Trudy and Jenny also manage the info@farrerps.act.edu.au email address and pass on to relevant staff as necessary.

Please let us know if at any time these communication processes are not working effectively.

If you utilise all communication channels and still feel your needs are not being met then complaints, feedback and enquiries can be made through the Education Directorate at the following [link](#).



School Board nominations

Two members of our school board will reach the end of their appointment in March 2023 creating vacancies for one parent member and one staff member. Our school board provides valuable input into strategic planning and monitoring across many aspects of our school. If you are interested in nominating for a position, or would like to know a little more about what is involved with being on the board, please contact me or talk to one of our current board members. Further information can also be found on the Education Directorate website : [https:// www.education.act.gov.au/public-school-life/get-involved-in-your-childs-school/school boards](https://www.education.act.gov.au/public-school-life/get-involved-in-your-childs-school/school-boards) . The 14 day nomination period for vacant positions on our School Board will commence on 6 February 2023 and close on 20 February 2023. If you would like to nominate please contact our Acting Business Manager, Jenny Cavalier, jenny.cavalier@ed.act.edu.au for a nomination form.

Positive Behaviours for Learning (PBL) expectations

This week classes are discussing expectations across the school and in their classrooms. Our four school expectations are:

SAFE RESPECTFUL RESPONSIBLE LEARNER

You will see and hear these words often. The colours correspond to the tokens given to students to acknowledge the display of these expectations. Please ask your children what these words mean to them and how they can display them at school.



What did you do at school today?

A lot happens in a school day so this question is often met with the response 'nothing' which can be quite disappointing to hear. A positive way to encourage your child to reflect on their school day is to ask them to share *two stars and a wish*. Two stars for two things they enjoyed or were highlights and a wish which is something they hope happens the next day. Some families choose to do two stars and a wish at the dinner table with each member of the family sharing their stars and a wish from the day. This models to children how the process of reflection works and also teaches them that everyone has positives and things they wish could be better or different in the future. We encourage all families to try two stars and a wish, keep in mind it might take a few weeks to get into the groove of reflecting and sharing.

Two Stars and a Wish



I like...
I enjoyed...
I learned...
I used...
I wrote/said/read...
I'm proud of myself because....
I would like...
....was difficult.
I tried to use...
I would like help with.....

Thank you

A big thank you to the Martin family for painting new playground markings over the break, they look fabulous! The family will also be helping us with new court markings on the Cameron hardtop once we have a new shade structure installed.





Staff training - Berry Street Education Model

Last week staff participated in days one and two of the Berry Street Education Model training. The Berry Street Education Model (BSEM) provides strategies that enables teachers to increase engagement of students with complex, unmet learning needs and to successfully improve *all* students' self-regulation, relationships, wellbeing, growth and academic achievement.

The day one focus was 'body' and staff learnt a range of strategies for de-escalation, mindfulness, self-regulation and being present, grounded and centred.

The day two focus was 'relationships' and included theory and strategies for attachment, unconditional positive regard, redefining power, empathy, process praise, active constructive responding and teacher self care.

This term classes will be implementing brain breaks and a morning circle as strategies to engage and focus on learning and connecting.

Days three and four of the Berry Street Education Model training will occur in January 2024.

If you would like to read more about the model please refer to the [BSEM website](#).



Drop off and pick up

A reminder that school hours for children in kindergarten to year six are 9:00am to 3:00pm. We provide supervision before school from 8:45am. Each morning children are asked to place their bags at their class lines on the Ellyard or Cameron hardtop areas and remain in these areas until the bell. Play equipment is not supervised by staff before or after school. Please chat with your children about pick up locations so they know where to meet you each afternoon.

Our before and after school care provider OSHClub works in close partnership with the school and provides services from 7:00am to 9:00am and 3:00pm to 6:00pm. Enrolment details can be found [here](#).

Book packs

If you still need to purchase a book pack for your child please use this link to access the note [book pack note](#)

Baby news

Congratulations to Mrs Brooke Rogers and family who welcomed baby George over the break.

Staying COVID Smart in 2023

Being COVID Smart remains a priority for all ACT public schools in 2023.

Students, staff and visitors are reminded to:

- Stay home if unwell and get tested for COVID-19
- Stay up to date with your vaccinations
- Practise good hand and respiratory hygiene

- Physically distance from others when in public places

Individual schools may implement additional measures to manage COVID-19 if deemed necessary in a particular setting. Any changes will be communicated to parents and carers.

If your child has COVID-19, you must let the school know. We recommend keeping your child home for at least five days.

RATs are again available from the school for students in term 1 from the front office.

You can read more about how we are being COVID Smart in ACT public schools at <https://www.education.act.gov.au/public-school-life/covid-school-arrangements>

Safe parking around schools

The start of the school year is a particularly busy time in our school car parks and surrounding streets. It's important that we park safely and legally to support the safety of students.

Parking on a footpath, nature strip or roadside verge can:

- Cause safety risks for pedestrians as they are less visible to oncoming cars
- Increase the risk for vulnerable members of our community like children, people who are visually impaired, and those using a wheelchair or pram
- Restrict the line of sight for other road users
- Restrict access for emergency services vehicles.

Parking on nature strips can also damage trees, footpaths, gutters and underground pipes and cables. Please also remember not to park across driveways or block neighbouring residents' properties.

As students return to school remember to also slow down and stick to the 40km/h limit around our schools between 8am and 4pm.

Parking inspectors regularly patrol school zones to support safe parking and keep students safe.

If you cannot find a car park in our school car parks, we suggest parking a little further away and walking or riding the rest of the way – it's a quick and easy way to get in some exercise too.

Let's all work together to keep our kids and community safe!

More information about travelling safely to school is available on the [Transport ACT website](#).

Dogs on school grounds

A reminder that dogs are not allowed on ACT school grounds. More information can be found on the [City Services page](#).

Calendar of Events



Week	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri
1	30 Jan Day 1: Kindy & Echidnas	31 Jan Day 1: Yrs 1-6	1 Feb Day 1: Possums	2 Feb	3 Feb
2	6 Feb	7 Feb Parent Information session and BBQ	8 Feb	9 Feb	10 Feb
3	13 Feb Raiders visit Assembly Getting to know you interviews P&C mtg	14 Feb Getting to know you interviews	15 Feb School Board Meeting Getting to know you interviews	16 Feb Getting to know you interviews	17 Feb Getting to know you interviews
4	20 Feb Hatching chicks arrive in preschool	21 Feb	22 Feb Farrer PS Swimming Carnival	23 Feb Yr 6 Parliament House excursion	24 Feb GWS Giants visit
5	27 Feb	28 Feb	1 Mar	2 Mar	3 Mar
6	6 Mar Assembly	7 Mar	8 Mar	9 Mar	10 Mar Dance Nation starts (Y4-6)
7	13 Mar Canberra Day Public Holiday	14 Mar	15 Mar NAPLAN starts	16 Mar	17 Mar
8	20 Mar	21 Mar	22 Mar Farrer PS Athletics Carnival	23 Mar	24 Mar
9	27 Mar Assembly	28 Mar	29 Mar	30 Mar Tuggeranong Region Swimming Carnival	31 Mar
10	3 Apr	4 Apr Christian Education in Schools	5 Apr	6 Apr Last day of term one	7 Apr Good Friday Public Holiday

Environment Centre News



A huge thank you to the Farrer Families who volunteered their time to look after the animals and water the gardens in the Environment Centre. These families also fed our chooks, rabbit, guinea pigs, fish and turtle. They made sure their needs were being met and showered them with love and affection. Support like this from our families is so helpful in keeping the Environment Centre running as a place our students can learn in and retreat to, when at school.

Thank you to Jo, Sian, Damian, Jan-Maree, Jess, Cathy, Ruvani, Heather, Frances, Carmen, Bec, Stacey, Evelyn, Adam, Deb, Sam, Carol and your families for your support over the holidays.

A special thank you to Kerry for additionally organising the roster and for installing a fantastic new watering system in our garden beds!





Sports News



Swimming

Notes are going home today for the Farrer Swimming Carnival which will be held at Stromlo Leisure Centre on Wednesday 22 February (week 4). There is a lot of information in the note so please contact me if you have any questions. The first page is the information page that you keep, and the rest of the pages need to be filled in and returned.

There will be 50m and 100m races for competitive swimmers and students will not only be able to earn points for their house, but also have the opportunity to be selected in the Farrer swim team to compete at the Tuggeranong region swimming carnival later this term. (Qualifying times apply). There will also be fun, structured water-based activities for all students.

Rugby League

Players and staff from the Canberra Raiders will visit Farrer on Monday 13 February as part of the NRL's Community Blitz. The players will provide an interactive learning experience focussing on values that help make a successful team and school community.

Expressions of Interest notes will be available next week for students interested in representing Farrer in Rugby League. In week 5 we will participate in the Mal Meninga Cup (year 3/4) and Laurie Daley Shield (year 5/6) competitions.

AFL

We will also have a visit from some GWS Giants players in week 4 to have a kick around with some senior classes.

Eastlake Football Club is currently taking registrations for the 2023 season, see the ad in this newsletter.

The Paul Kelly Cup is a school competition for AFL and will be held in term 2. More information to come later.

Other Sports

Later in the term will be netball gala days for years 3-6 students and the Athletics Carnival which has been moved forward to term 1. More information about these events will be sent out as it becomes available.

Term 1 Highlights:

Week 3 – Raiders Community Blitz

Week 4 – Swimming Carnival

Week 4 – GWS Giants visit

Week 5 – Rugby League Gala Day (yr3-6) (TBC)

Week 6 – Netball Gala Day (yr3-6) (TBC)

Week 8 – Athletics Carnival

Week 9 – Tuggeranong Region Swimming Carnival

Mr Brett Maron

News from FPS P&C



Welcome to 2023! We're looking forward to meeting all the new families and reconnecting with existing families. The P&C continues to run the FPS uniform shop and canteen which are busy supporting families already!

We're thinking about events and activities for 2023. If you've got any ideas or capacity to lead an event, we'd love to hear from you. Our events cannot run without volunteers. Not sure what the P&C does? Check out our 5 year plan and strategy - [P&C 5 Year Plan](#)

P&C Committee: Week 3 - Everyone is welcome! Keep an eye on our Facebook page for details.

Canteen Sub committee: Monday 13th February. Our next meeting will be in week 3.

Uniform Shop subcommittee TBA

Events

Do you have an idea for an event you'd like to see run in 2023? Please get in touch and tell us about it!

We can't run events without volunteers, so please look out in the newsletter or on our facebook page for opportunities to help.

Uniform Shop

A big thank you to the Uniform Shop Ninjas, Anthea Healey, Sarah Richardson and Deb Bowden who supported our families returning for 2023. Great work Ladies!

How to order - Go to the [P&C Uniform Shop](#) or scan the QR Code (don't forget to put your student's name and class in the comments at checkout).

Second Hand Items - The drawers are overflowing and we can not keep up to date online. If you want to have a rummage through, please [email](#) to arrange a time. Second hand items \$1 - \$5 each.

Anything else? Shoot us an email - FPSUniforms@gmail.com



Canteen

The Canteen reopened on Wednesday of week 1 for both online orders and over-the-counter service. Apologies if your favourite menu items are currently out of stock while we await deliveries from some of our suppliers. We are working to provide a full menu as soon as possible.

To order online you will need to download the Spriggy Schools app from the Apple app store or the Google Play.

If you've ordered through the app before, when you next login, you will be prompted to update your students' class.. Families moving from preschool to Kindergarten will also need to update their students' school from Farrer Preschool to Farrer Primary School. Look under Settings/MyChildren.

For help on using the Spriggy App please go to: [Spriggy Schools Help Center \(intercom.help\)](https://intercom.help/spriggy-schools)

Feedback Your feedback is always very welcome! Please feel free to share your thoughts in our [survey](#)

Help!! To keep operating, we need your help in 2023! Can you

- Help for a few hours? Find a time here volunteersignup.org/DPAJ3
- Donate pantry items? [The list is here](#)
- Help with working bees? Drop us an email: thekidskitchenfarrer@gmail.com

Fundraisers

Shoes!

Don't forget to mention Farrer Primary School if you are purchasing new school runners at the athletes foot! We get \$5 from each purchase.

Wine

We are still running our Farrer Community Grapevine fundraiser! Jump online and grab some grapes! [Wine Fundraiser](#)



P&C Handy Contacts & Links

- Email - FarrerPS.CommunityAssociation@gmail.com
- Facebook - [P&C Noticeboard Facebook](#)
- Website - [P&C Website](#)

Canteen

- Contact - TheKidsKitchenFarrer@gmail.com
- Term 4 Volunteer Roster volunteersignup.org/R9H7B
- [Pantry list](#)

Uniform Shop

- Sales - [P&C Uniform Shop](#)
- Email - FPSUniforms@gmail.com

Community News





Is your child turning 3 before 30 April 2023?

The FARRER PLAYSCHOOL is a non-profit, community based educational facility for 3 year olds. Our fully qualified teachers use a structured program to help the 'Playschoolers' develop the **social skills and confidence** that will be of value to them in their Preschool year and most importantly it is **LOTS OF FUN!**

Playschool sessions are held:

Monday 9.30am to 2.30pm @ \$60.00 per session
Tuesday 9.30am to 2.30pm @ \$60.00 per session
Wednesday 9.30am to 2.30pm @ \$60.00 per session



Located adjacent to the Farrer Neighbourhood Oval attached to Farrer Preschool on Longerenong Street in Farrer
enrolment forms are available to download from our **website**.
www.farrerplayschool.com.au or email enrolmentofficer@farrerplayschool.com.au

Wild Child Yoga

**Term 1 classes start
Tuesday 14 February
4:45-5:30pm**

**Introductory Offer
8 weeks for \$80
Book now**

\$15 casual class option available

Yoga supports a healthy body,
calm mind and happy heart.
Classes encourage children to
form connections, build confidence
and feel more courageous.

✉ info@wildcanberra.com.au

☎ 0435 163 722

📍 25 Dundas Ct Phillip ACT

wildSTUDIO

CLASSES IN Farrer



Registration Open!

**MARTIAL ARTS AND
GYMNASTICS**

STARTS FEB 14TH

0403 881 332
secretnijaschool.com

**JOIN THE
DEMONS FAMILY**



REGISTRATIONS NOW OPEN
JUNIOR AFL FOOTY

- FRIDAY & WEDNESDAY SESSIONS
- 6-8 YEARS
- AFTER SCHOOL SESSIONS
- KINGSTON OVAL
- TERM 1-4

juniors@eastlakefc.com.au
Call JD - 0423 877 742

Contact Us



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Visit us on the web at www.farrerps.act.edu.au

Principal: Liz Wallace

A/g Deputy Principal: Mariana Fuenzalida

Primary Executive: Jodie White

A/g Early Childhood Executive: Emily Craggs

A/g Business Manager: Jenny Cavalier

School Board Chair: Phillip Bowden

P&C President: Cassandra Mann