Dear Families

What a wonderful start to 2015! We warmly welcome our new families who have recently joined our Fadden school community. Our pre-schoolers and kindergarten students commenced on Monday and have settled quickly into the routines of school, forming new friendships and embracing a range of new experiences and challenges. Our Year 1-6 students commenced on Tuesday and as we visited classes this week, we have been extremely impressed by the focused and settled atmosphere throughout the school.

We welcome a number of new staff to Fadden Primary School. A full staff list appears in this newsletter. Fadden Primary School has continued its focus on the KidsMatter framework with staff last week engaging in professional learning both on social-emotional learning, and working with parents and carers. For those families who are new to our school community and who may not have heard of the KidsMatter framework before, it is a mental health and wellbeing framework for primary schools and provides methods, tools and support to help schools work with parents and carers, health services and the wider community in nurturing happy, balanced children.

We are undertaking a renewed focus on KidsMatter in 2015, including implementing a whole school social-emotional learning program called ‘Supporting Children’s Confidence’. Supporting children’s confidence addresses the social and emotional learning of young people, through explicit classroom pedagogy and learning strategies. Each year level team will be sending home a term overview at the end of next week which will include information outlining what the students will be learning through Support Children’s Confidence.

We are also endeavouring to publish a range of informative articles focusing on strategies to support a range of mental health difficulties that can affect children. Please see the article at the end of this newsletter which focuses on ‘Coping with fears and worries’.

We are calling for two parents to join our KidsMatter Action Team and contribute to our whole school plan. If you are interested in this role, please email Kerry Millington at kerry.millington@ed.act.edu.au including letting her know your availability for meetings. We are aiming at this stage to meet twice a term for a period of approximately an hour each time.

As part of our January teacher professional learning program the whole staff worked with Dr Lye Chan Long from the University of NSW. Dr Long is an expert in the field of curriculum differentiation including catering for gifted students. The professional learning was extremely valuable in ensuring whole staff understanding around contemporary best practice approaches to meeting the needs of all students.

We will be holding our annual Meet the Teacher night on Tuesday 17th February with ten minute meetings. Bookings can be made online. We will also be sending home a ‘Getting to Know Your Child’ questionnaire as an important part of this process.

At any time of the year, we urge families to give us feedback. We welcome positive feedback as well as feedback sharing concerns you may have. We are strongly committed to ensuring your child has a positive experience at this school. Talk with us, let us know what is great, let us know what we can improve. Communication is two way and we value your opinions.
This year, while we will continue to issue weekly Fadden newsletters, our emphasis will be on fortnightly class information with alternate weeks being a short school update. We realise in our busy lives communication is more effective if it is succinct and streamlined. In this digital age, where families can access the school calendar and events online, we will not be issuing the traditional hard copy monthly calendar to all families as in previous years but will have some hard copies available at the Front Office on request. Whilst the majority of dates in this calendar are firmly set, there will be times where a change of date is necessary due to unforeseen circumstances. We thank you in advance for your understanding in this matter.

Please consider joining our P&C – Parents and Citizens Association. Meetings are held in the evening and usually last 60-90 minutes. All are welcome to join this very efficient team. Staff are incredibly grateful to this amazing group of parents who work so hard to make such a difference to our learning programs through fundraising and ongoing support. The Annual General meeting will be on Monday 16 February at 7.00pm held in the school Library.

Lastly, we would like to thank our hardworking Building Services Officer Kim Barham for keeping our school looking so well maintained over the January break, including our gardens and bird aviary. Thanks too, to parent Jodi Perry and family for her ongoing caring for the birds.

Warm Regards,
Lindsay Musto Principal
Nina McCabe Deputy Principal

Staff 2015

Executive
Lindsay Musto Principal
Nina McCabe Deputy Principal
Robin Dehm – Team Leader Preschool – Year 1
Kerry Millington Year 5 – 5M and Team Leader Years 4 – 6

Sue Boughton Business Manager
Jacquie Balch School Secretary
Melanie Sissian Kindergarten - KS Shining Stars - Uluru
Jonathan Hall Kindergarten - KH Celebrities - Uluru
Anita Peraic (Tuesday - Friday) Kindergarten – KP Panthers - Uluru
Trish Donnelly Year 1 – 1D Superheroes - Daintree
Jaki Fraser Year 1 – 1F Minecraft Masters - Daintree
Julie Spencer Year 1 – 1S Brilliant Bears - Daintree
Suzy Francis Year 2 – 2F Planet 2F - Uluru
Annette Raats Year 2 – 2R Brilliant Birds - Daintree
Tegan Dean Year 3 – 3D Superheroes - Murramarang
Sheryl Harris Year 3 – 3H Perfect Penguins - Murramarang
Smilja Rajak Year 3 – 3R Fabulous Flamingoes - Murramarang
Helayna Ives Year 4 – 4I - Murramarang
Tristan Kentwell Year 4 – 4K - Kuringai
Karen Barling Kindergarten - KP (Monday) - Uluru Year 5 – 5M (Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday) - Kuringai
Luke Marsden Year 6 – 6M - Kuringai
Chris Wark Year 5/6 – 5/6W - Kuringai
Merrilyn Sparks Autism Unit - Freycinet
Jo Anne Pulko Librarian
Tammi Beadmore Japanese
Kim Barham Building Service Officer

Learning Support Assistant
Cathy Banham
Kym Moore (Tuesday – Friday)
Giorgina Sant (Monday – Tuesday)
Nicole Anderson – Term 1

Preschool Educators
Susan McPherson
Tricia Canham (Wednesday – Thursday)
Sandi Carige
Heidi Campbell (Wednesday)
SPORTS NEWS SWIMMING CARNIVAL
Our school swimming carnival will be held on Wednesday 4th March 2015 at the Tuggeranong Leisure Centre. The event is open to children who have turned 8 or are turning 8 this year to 13 year olds. Our carnival is a competitors only carnival and those students not entering will attend school as normal. Permission notes were handed out this week and I ask that these are returned to the front office by Monday 16th February.

Please contact Belinda Fenson (belinda.fenson@ed.act.edu.au) if you have any questions about the carnival.

HOUSE CAPTAIN ELECTIONS
Year 6 House Captains will be elected on Thursday 19th February. As part of their homework, interested students will be preparing their speeches in readiness to present their reasons as to why they should be voted as House Captain for 2015. Elections will take place at house meetings with kindergarten to year 6 eligible for voting.

LIBRARY NEWS
ARE YOUR CHILDREN READY TO COME TO THE LIBRARY?
Library lessons begin next week for every class. Please help your children in Kinder to Year 4 remember their library bags on the correct day (see list below). They will need them to be allowed to borrow. Year 5 and 6 students do not have to have library bags but they may use them if it helps them to be better organised. Library bags are available from the Front Office for $5. Please do not send plastic shopping bags (Coles, Woolworths etc.).

This year I will continue the Library Legends Awards for Kinder to 4 children who borrow in every Library lesson. Also I will be giving house points each week to the children who borrow during their lessons.

The current Library timetable is as follows:
  KH Wednesday, KP and KS Thursday
  1D and 1S Tuesday, 1F Wednesday
  2F and 2R Monday
  3D Monday, 3R Wednesday, 3H Thursday
  4K Monday, 4I Wednesday
  5M, 5/6W and 6M Tuesday

Freycinet – Mrs Sparks will let you know.

Borrowing is an important part of our Library lessons. It helps the children to develop and practise important skills, provides a wide range of reading material and fosters engagement at school. Please support and encourage your children with this.

Jo Anne Pulko, Teacher-Librarian

JAPANESE NEWS
Hello all, my name is Tammi Beardmore and I am excited to be the new Japanese teacher for Fadden. I will be teaching all grades from Kindergarten to Year 6.

I grew up in a family with a mother who is Japanese and also had the opportunity to live and study in Japan. I hope my love for Japan and teaching will be transferred to the students!

This term students will learn how to introduce themselves, recognise and write their name in hiragana, learn basic greetings and how to count from 1 to 10. Students will also begin to learn hiragana which is the Japanese alphabet. Songs and games will be incorporated with some cultural activities. More news to come later.

I look forward to getting know you and your children and hope we can work together to get the best outcomes for your children.

The Japanese room will be opposite the Canteen so please feel free to come and have a look and have a chat.

Tammi Senei

BAND
Band begins in Week 3. Testing for a position in the band is on Tuesday 10th February.

Year 6 Band (Mrs Harris) - practice is Wednesdays and Fridays. Morning practice will be held on Wednesdays at 8.15am.

Year 5 Band (Ms Dean) – practice is Wednesday and Friday. Morning practice will be held on Fridays at 8.15am.
BOOK CLUB
Volunteers needed for Book Club. It involves two Thursdays at the beginning and end of each term. The school earns 20% commission on all Book Club sales. This is used to purchase up-to-date books and other resources for the Library. If you are interested in helping please contact Malanie on 0431 375 808 or email bazmal@velocitynet.com.au
How parents and carers can help

Confidence improves through building on small successes. Parents and carers (and school staff) can help by:

- explaining to children that skills develop with practice
- encouraging children to persist when they don’t succeed straight away
- praising effort, persistence and improvement
- making sure that goals are achievable by breaking down large tasks or responsibilities into small steps
- being ready to help when necessary, without taking over.

Confident thinking

Self-esteem is an important part of confidence. Having good self-esteem means accepting and feeling positive about yourself. Confidence is not just feeling good but also knowing you are good at something.

Particular ways of thinking are very important for building confidence. Helpful ways of thinking include:

- believing that, if you try, you can succeed
- finding positive ways to cope with failure that encourage having another go
- enjoying learning for its own sake by competing with your own performance rather than that of others
- making sure that goals are achievable by breaking down large tasks or responsibilities into small steps
- being ready to help when necessary, without taking over.

Encouraging children to have a go and valuing individual improvement support children’s confidence.

Dealing with disappointment

Everybody fails to achieve their goals sometimes. Parents and carers (and school staff) can help by:

- responding sympathetically and with encouragement (eg “That was disappointing, but at least you had a go.”)
- helping children focus on what they can change to make things better, rather than thinking that the situation is unchangeable or that there is something wrong with them (eg “What can you try that might make that work better next time?”)
- challenging “I can’t” thinking by showing and saying you believe in them and reminding them of what they have achieved.

Optimistic thinking recognises what has been achieved more than what is lacking. It looks at the glass as half-full rather than half-empty.

Parents and carers can help children focus on their own effort and on achieving personal goals as the best way to measure success.
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<th>WEEK</th>
<th>MONDAY</th>
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<td>Week 2</td>
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<td>Year 5 Band testing 9.15am</td>
<td>Uniform shop open 9.15 - 10.15am</td>
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<td>Assembly 2pm 4I compering</td>
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<td>Week 3</td>
<td>P&amp;C AGM 7pm</td>
<td>Meet the Teacher Int 3 – 7pm Book online</td>
<td>Preschool Info session 7pm</td>
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<td>16/2 – 20/2</td>
<td>PIPS testing begins Kindergarten</td>
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<td>Week 4</td>
<td>PIPS testing Kindergarten</td>
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<td>Year 5/6 Camp</td>
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<td>Assembly 2pm 1F compering</td>
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<td>Week 5</td>
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<td>Swimming Carnival</td>
<td>Board Meeting 4pm</td>
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<td>2/3 – 6/3</td>
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<td>Swimmers only</td>
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<td>Week 6</td>
<td>Canberra Day</td>
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<td>Assembly 2pm 6M compering</td>
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<td>9/3 – 13/3</td>
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<td>Week 8</td>
<td>FAC Meeting 6pm</td>
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<td>Cross Country</td>
<td>Assembly 2pm 2R compering</td>
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<td>23/3 – 27/3</td>
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<td>Week 9</td>
<td>P&amp;C Meeting 7pm</td>
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<td>Good Friday</td>
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<td>30/3 – 3/4</td>
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<td>Week 10</td>
<td>Easter Monday</td>
<td>War Memorial excursion K-2 &amp; Yrs 5-6</td>
<td>War Memorial excursion Yrs 3-4</td>
<td>Term 1 ends</td>
<td>Anzac Day Assembly</td>
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<td>6/4 – 10/4</td>
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SCHOOL BOARD

Call for nominations.

We need you for our school board!

If you are keen to contribute to the governance of Fadden Primary, you should nominate for a position on our school board. No experience necessary.

The following positions are vacant:

Three Parent and Citizen member positions.

You can collect a nomination form from the front office during business hours 9.00am – 3.00pm, Monday – Friday or request on be emailed or faxed to you.

Nominations must be submitted to the front office between 11.00am Tuesday 9 February 2015 and 11.00am Monday 16 February 2015. Please attach a brief note about yourself for voting. Voting will only be required if we receive more than three nominations.

You can submit your nomination by hand delivery to the front office or email jacquie.balch@ed.act.edu.au

P&C

P&C AGM is on Monday 16 February at 7.00pm. All committee positions are declared vacant and new office bearers will be elected. While a number of committee members have indicated their willingness to continue in some capacity the P&C needs new parents to step up and become involved to ensure the P&C remains active and effective. An explanation of the P&C positions will be sent home this week.