

From our *Principal*

16th February 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

How lovely to see you all at the information night this week! The staff enjoyed having an opportunity to talk to you about the programs in the classrooms.

For those of you who were unable to attend, we also spoke about our Skoolbag app (further details on how to connect in the newsletter), therapy, our school car park, and looking after all of our students.

Therapy

The Department of Education now has specific guidelines for schools and services to assist in the provision of in school therapy for students, where appropriate. There are a number of steps to be followed and a significant amount of mandatory paperwork to be completed, so please bear with us. Also note that all therapy will be reviewed at the end of each semester to ensure that student learning time at school is being assisted by the therapy.

Car Park

Traffic in and out of the car park has increased considerably from December 2017 to now. I urge everyone to keep to the 10 kilometre per hour limit - I acknowledge that this is slow, but I have seen students and siblings break free from parent's hands and dash across the road. Some little people are very small, and would not be seen in the rear mirror for drivers reversing, and I would hate to see an injury or worse occur. It is up to all of us to remember that we need to have the safety of children at all times in our minds when visiting or learning at Fernhill School.

Health Matters for All

The health of all our students, staff and families is very important. Some of our students at Fernhill School have significant health plans and require support for everyday activities, whilst others may seem independent but have autoimmune issues. For the latter students, a cold can mean a lengthy stay in hospital or an emergency at school where an ambulance and time off is involved. An upset stomach can go through a class quite quickly and some children may be very unwell from a virus that seems minor to others.

If your child is unwell, they usually find it difficult to attend to learning, may be off their food and sleepy. All of this indicates that they should be at home getting better. Thank you for remembering this and helping to keep all our students safe at school.

Signing Course

A key word signing course for parents will be held in The Hub starting next Tuesday 13th March, please see page 9 for further details.

Have a great weekend,

Julie

From our Office

Our last issue had a lot of documents included that may have required your attention. Thank you to all those families who have taken the time to respond, it has been wonderful.

ABSENCE NOTES: For every day your child is absent you are required to provide the school with notification of absence. In this issue page 12, we have provided some blank notes for you to complete and return to class teachers, alternatively you may simply write a note on your own paper and forward in.

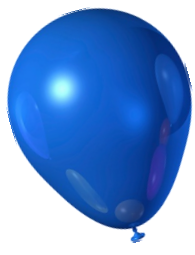
We are still encouraging all parents and carers to download **SKOOLBAG APP**. *How to instructions* are on Page 11. We have begun using Skoolbag App to push through notices to parents and carers. This is a fast and efficient way of communication to you with what's happening at school and forwarding notices to you. We also encourage parents and carers to submit their absence notes through Skoolbag app. Please do take the time to read the instructions applicable to your phone and download the app.

SCHOOL FEES: Statements have been forwarded to all.

Already, many of our families have paid for their child's school fees. We thank you. Office hours for payments are strictly **9am-2:30pm**. If these hours do not suit you, you are able to pay through the Fernhill School Website **\$Make a Payment** Tab. If you are having any difficulty please chat to our school office staff to further discuss.

EASTER EGG RAFFLE- Donations have been flowing in to compile Easter Egg Baskets for our raffle. Raffle will be drawn at the Easter Hat Parade Thursday 29th March. You may drop your donations at front office or give to class teacher to forward to office. Thank you in advance for your support with this.

Kisane, Elisha & Angela



HOMEBASE BLUE

Welcome to Blue Block News

Greetings from Blue Block!

Term 1 is flying by and we have had lots of fun experiences already this term.

Last week we finished the swimming scheme program and it was great to see students improve their skills and confidence in the water each day. Staff from blue block were very impressed with how safely the students acted in the pool area and in the water and are looking forward to continuing with swimming next term.



On Monday we had a great time celebrating Dr Seuss Day and some students looked fabulous in their costumes! Classes in blue block enjoyed listening to stories written by Dr Seuss such as the classics *Cat in the Hat* and *Green Eggs and Ham*.



Some highlights from this term so far have been Friday afternoons; as we have been participating in a music program focusing on feelings and Disney songs. We have also enjoyed learning about ocean animals in science and participating in sensory stories to help with learning.



Blue 6 have enjoyed learning Aboriginal stories during English and are looking forward to assisting in the garden on Friday mornings to help keep our garden vegetables growing!

Until next time...

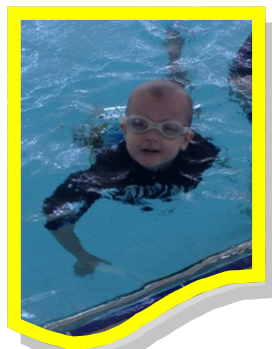


HOMEBASE YELLOW

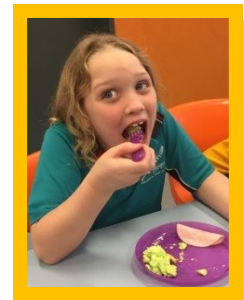
Welcome to Yellow Block News

Yellow block is settling in well to Term 1 and it is good to see the kindergarten students making new friends. The last couple of weeks have been busy and have seen the students participate in some additional school activities such as the swim school program and Dr Seuss day. We had more students than ever participate in the swim school program and they all seemed to really enjoy the classes, from those who have not been in a lesson before to some very confident swimmers! It was great to see everyone getting involved. We also took part in Dr Seuss day which saw the students and teachers dress up in their favourite characters and read a book within their classes. This was a fun event to get the students enthusiastic about reading.

Julie, Meredith, Sam, Leanne, Donna, Kerry & Vicki



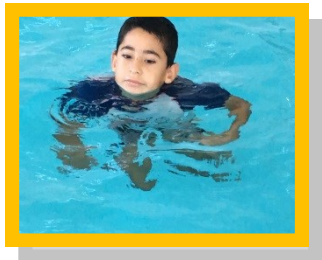
HOMEBASE ORANGE



Welcome to Orange Block News

The past two weeks have been busy in Orange Block. Our students participated in two weeks of swim school. It was lovely to see so many students take part in the program and thoroughly enjoy their time in the pool.

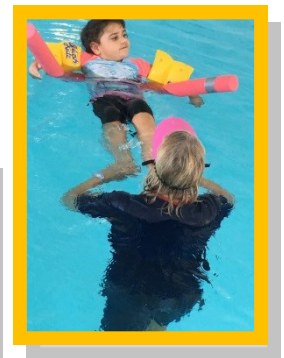
On Monday, 5th March, Fernhill School took part in Dr Suess Day. Students and teachers dressed up as their favourite Dr Suess character or dressed in Dr Suess colours. Students enjoyed participating in Dr Suess themed activities on the day. Orange 9 even made 'Green Eggs and Ham'!



This semester in science, students are learning about Ocean Animals. Orange 12 enjoyed creating sea turtles using a variety of media such as paper plates, paint, glue and different coloured paper. These are displayed in the school office.



Alison, Tania, Nadine, Naomi & Vicki





HOMEBASE GREEN

Welcome to Green Block News

A message from our student author:

Green Block News

Delivered by Fernhill Productions and TEAM GREEN

It's amazing to think that 2018 will be the Green block's year, and you'll see why in future editions of the Fernhill newsletter.

This year is already getting better and better, with some great stuff you should know about right now!

So, with even less ado than before, here are a few things we have picked up over the wire:

It's no surprise that Green 13 is going good. Over the last few weeks, the class made pancakes, and currently are learning about sounds. From A to V, Sh to Li, the sounds are becoming more listenable to the students of Green 13.

Green 15 are on a roll at this point, with them having learned a couple of things in science and cooking. We have been making sausage rolls and pancakes, alongside mini pizza muffins! Over the next few weeks, we're having a encore of tacos, cupcakes, garlic bread, pizza muffins, sausage rolls, and pancakes. We will return to making new foods very soon, so trust us!

Also, science has been a fun time for the whole gang! We have learnt about energy, heat, and wind power. Even though the next few weeks are a mystery, there's no doubt that Science will never die!

Just recently, Green 16 have been learning to swim, along with select students from the Yellow and Blue blocks. And it's all happening at our swimming pool! The class have swum using pool noodles, various types of swimming moves, even a few more dips in water. Keep us the excellent work, Green 16. – we wish you all the very best!

Something's fishy at Green 16, and we know that sound... Alongside swimming, the class have been learning about fish, which is great! Fish can be found in whiteboards and worksheets, and the class ate it all up! Green 16, you have outdone yourselves!

And that's all for now, folks!

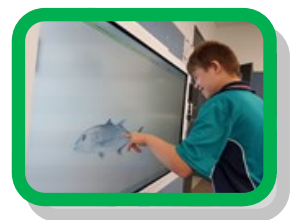
Fernhill is still going strong and we can't wait for what the rest of term 1 will bring.

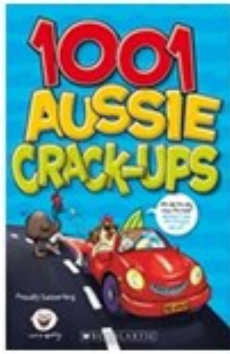
2018 is only just getting started, so if you want to see what's coming in the next few months, stay plugged in to the Fernhill Newsletter for the latest news and updates.

Minor note: the first edition of our new feature, Jared's Book Reports, is on the next few pages. Expect to see it in upcoming issues of the newsletter!

Until next time, keep being independent. And make sure to always be an inspiration to the next generation of kids everywhere!

This article was written by Jared McDougall.





Jared's Book Report

1001 Aussie Crack-ups

What do Kangaroo, Koala, Emu and Wombat have in common?

They have a birthday every year!

Anonymous, the joke that kicks this book off

This hilarious book has 1001 funny Australian-related jokes that are split into 20 chapters. Not only is this book written for kids everywhere, but it's also used as a chance to support kids with cancer. Fun fact: this book is sponsored by Camp Quality, a charity that believes in bringing happiness & optimism to the lives of children and families affected by cancer. This just goes to show that laughter is really the best medicine!

Most of the chapters in this book are a thrilling ride from start to finish, but if there's a worthy candidate for the best chapter, this would really take the cake. Bonzer Bonanza is a side-spitting collection of funny Australian jokes, and it's home to some of the best jokes ever, including New South Wales, the "A couple of old thongs" joke, and a story about 3 people throwing their watches over the Sydney Tower Eye that delivers on laughs and a very big punchline.

Good Tucker also is a roller coaster of fun, featuring a few Waiter jokes, funny conversations, great short stories, and even the best joke of the whole book, the hotel lounge story. Let's put it this way: A guy is having a quiet drink when he hears a voice saying nice things to him. So when he asks the waiter, we are treated to the best punchline ever:

"Excuse me mate, are you talking to me?"

"No," replies the waiter. "Why?"

"I just keep hearing this voice saying nice things to me," says the guy.

"Oh, that'd be the peanuts," says the waiter. "They're complimentary."

This really cracks me up every time! To top it all off, this joke is written by Ben Lawson, which you may remember as Fazer Yeats on the Australian soap opera Neighbours.

Sometimes, one author is just not enough! This book features kids across Australia giving their best shot to make those jokes possible. From Noah Gray to Andy Yu, those kids gave us the best jokes, conversations and stories ever.

Plus, even celebrities get to join in the fun! Alongside the previously mentioned Ben Lawson, there are so many famous people who got to share a joke or two, from Stephen Michael King and Kate Ritchie to Adam Hills and my personal favourite author, Andy Griffiths – heck, even Disney-Pixar's Wall-E is in here too!

Each of those people brought in their signature brand of comedy, making things even more awesome. It's no wonder why this book makes kids laugh until soda comes out their noses!

1001 Aussie Crack-ups is the quintessential joke book for anyone who wants a taste at the funny side of Australia. While other joke books have recycled jokes and boring stuff, this book manages to deliver a style and feel all its own. Ever since I got this book from the library during my final year at Springwood Public School, the laughs have grown rapidly, making it the funniest book of all time. If you want a book that nicely manages to retain the spirit of Australia, Camp Quality's joke books are the perfect place to start. Now that's comedy!

Rating (out of ten):

9.5 out of 10 pranks

Must-read

Closing joke:

Q. What happened to the man who read 1001 Aussie Crack-ups?

A. He laughed so hard he blasted himself out of his home!

Coles Sports in Schools Vouchers

Thank you to everyone who has been supporting our school, as you know the promotion runs for 8 weeks and we have set ourselves a target of 10,000 vouchers. We are at the end of the halfway mark and I am pleased to announce we have already reached 8,306 vouchers!!

This weekend starting Friday 9th until Sunday 11th March they are handing out **double vouchers**! Let's see how many we can get in the next 4 weeks and exceed our target.

If you shop online you can nominate our school and Coles will drop your vouchers into our box for you.

Happy shopping!



Nepean Dragons Special Needs Football Club

The Nepean Dragons Special Needs Football Club would like to spread the word about this sporting option. The Nepean Dragons is an initiative of the Nepean Football Association and caters to players of all ages, not just children, and could be of interest to a wide range of people from our local community.

For further information please see the flyer below for contact details.

FOOTBALL 4 ALL

You're invited to the Nepean Football Dragons

COME AND TRY DAY

ALL AGES

NEPEAN FOOTBALL DRAGONS

PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY

OUR GOALS

- When: 9am-10:30am Saturday 24th March
- Where: Jamison Park- Field 6

What to bring:

- Sports clothing
- Joggers or football boots
- Shin pads (if you have them)

CONTACT:

SHARON SLENDER: 0438 742 534 sslender@bigpond.net.au

GARY MATON: 0402 848 990 gpmatn@pnc.com.au



FERNHILL COMMUNITY NOTICES



Charley Mason is the Community Services Manager at Creating Links in Faulconbridge. They are running some great new groups this year for Children with a disability and their siblings.

Creating Kids (0-3 years)

Date: Commences Thursday 15th February 2018. Runs during school term.
Time: 10.30am-12.30pm
Cost: Suggested donation of \$5 per week

Inclusive Dance (13-25 years)

Date: Commences Monday 26th February 2018 and runs for 6 weeks.
Time: 5.00pm—6.00pm
Cost: Attend under your NDIS plan **or** pay \$14.95 per week
What to bring: Wear comfortable clothes you can move around in.

Craft and Coffee Club for Adults

Date: Commences 13th February 2018 and runs for 8 weeks.
Time: 10.30am—12.30pm
Cost: Suggested donation of \$5 per week

Sibling Support group (6-12 years)

Date: Commences Tuesday 20th February 2018 and runs for 8 weeks.
Time: 10.30am-12.30pm
Cost: Suggested donation of \$5

To participate in any of the above activities, please contact:

Charley Mason
Community Services Manager
Creating Links Faulconbridge
Phone: 4751 7599
Mobile: 0422 633 206
Email: charleym@creatinglinks.org.au

Signing Course

Our AP Hearing teacher, Ray, is running a key word signing course for parents in The Hub, starting next Tuesday 13th March at 1.30pm. The course lasts for 5 weeks, and will be on alternate Tuesday's. Please see dates below:

Term 1:	Tuesday 13th March	Tuesday 27th March	Tuesday 10th April
Term 2:	Tuesday 8th May	Tuesday 22nd May	

All welcome – please fill out the slip below so that we can prepare booklets for everyone.

Signing Course

☐

Yes I will be attending the signing course

_____ Number of people attending

Parent's Name/s: _____

Student's Name: _____ Class: _____

Nepean, Blue Mountains and Hawkesbury Carers NDIS Forum

A forum for Unpaid Carers of people living with mental health issues, who are interested in learning more about supporting the person they care for apply and participate in the NDIS.

When: Thursday 22nd of March 2018 10am-2pm

Where: Penrith RSL (8 Tindale Street Penrith)

What will be included: Free morning tea and lunch

Local Area Coordinator Presentation: The NDIS Journey from Application to first Review

Group discussion about the challenges of accessing the NDIS from a carer perspective and Q&A.

Presentation: The NDIS journey from a carers perspective

A chance to catch up with old friends and make connections with other carers from the Nepean, Blue Mountains and Hawkesbury.

RSVP: Please RSVP by Tuesday 13.03.18

To RSVP please contact Bradley Buckland on:
0419 931 586 or bradley.buckland@parramattamission.org.au



Uniting



The NSW Government is helping kids get active with the new Active Kids program.

From 31 January 2018, parents, guardians and carers can apply for a \$100 voucher per calendar year for each student enrolled in school.

The voucher may be used with a registered activity provider for registration, participation and membership costs for sport, fitness and active recreation activities.

The voucher can be used at any time during the calendar year it was issued.

To use the voucher, give your voucher details to an approved Active Kids Provider.

The program runs year-round, so kids can get active at any time!



<https://www.service.nsw.gov.au/node/89040>

Kylie's Kitchen Budget Tips

Nutrition Snippet

The simplest way

...to pack a lunch box is here!

The task of packing a healthy school lunch is now easier with the launch of our exciting new Healthy Lunch Box website healthylunchbox.com.au

The new website shows how easy it can be to pack a healthy lunch box that your kids will love.

It features an interactive lunch box builder that enables you to plan your kids' lunches on your phone, desktop or tablet - it's quick, easy and the kids will love helping too!

Healthy recipes and tips on adding more fruit and veg to lunch boxes will help set your child on a path of lifelong healthy eating to reduce their cancer risk.

Visit healthylunchbox.com.au for recipes & information you can trust.

The Eat It To Beat It program is supported by the Nepean Blue Mountains Local Health District Live Life Well @ School Program.

Fun easy recipes & tips to

Nutrition Snippet

The simplest way

...to swap unhealthy snacks.

Visit the Healthy Swaps section of our new Healthy Lunch Box website for tips and recipe inspiration on swapping out unhealthy lunch box snacks - healthylunchbox.com.au/recipes/healthy-swaps

Try swapping store bought muesli bars with homemade chewy fruit and seed bars, fruit loaf or banana pikelets.

Swap lollies and chocolate bars with dried fruit, bliss balls, celery boats with sultanas or reduced fat custard tubs.

Swap out sweet and flavoured biscuits with homemade veggie or fruit muffins or biscuits, wholemeal crackers with hummus or baked pita bread with veggie dip.

Visit healthylunchbox.com.au for recipes & information you can trust.

The Eat It To Beat It program is supported by the Nepean Blue Mountains Local Health District Live Life Well @ School Program.



How To Install Skoolbag On Your Smartphone

For iPhone and 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. You will see your school appear, click "Get" then "install".
4. The app is FREE to download.
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 by tapping the on/off switch.



For 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 by tapping the on/off switch.

Please Note: Some brands of Android phones need the setting in "Notification Manager" changed to "Allow" instead of "Notify" in order for the push notifications to work. The phone must also be running at least version 4 system software to run the app.



For Windows 8.1 Phone and Windows 8.1 or 10 device users:

1. Go to the Windows Store on your 8.1 Windows Phone or Windows 8.1/10 Device
2. Search for "Skoolbag" in the keyword app search
3. Install the Skoolbag app
4. Find your school either by using the keyword search or location service.
5. Click the "Pin" icon to pin the school tile to your Windows Phone home screen.
6. Click the "More" button on the bottom right of the App, then "Setup"
7. Toggle the Push Categories that are applicable to you by tapping the on/off switch.

Please Note: The Skoolbag Windows App is for 8.1 version Windows Phones, or Windows 8.1 and 10 devices.



PARENT'S WRITTEN NOTIFICATION OF STUDENT ABSENCE

Date: _____ Time: _____

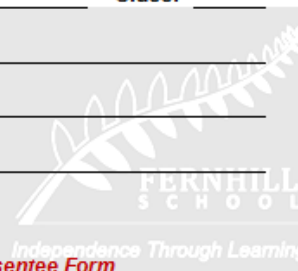
Student: _____ Class: _____

Reason: _____

No. of Days/Dates: _____

Parent Name: _____

Alternatively-submit your form online through Skoolbag App- Absentee Form



PARENT'S WRITTEN NOTIFICATION OF STUDENT ABSENCE



Date: _____ Time: _____

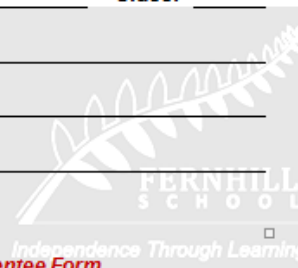
Student: _____ Class: _____


Reason: _____

No. of Days/Dates: _____

Parent Name: _____

Alternatively-submit your form online through Skoolbag App- Absentee Form



 What's on at FERNHILL School - Term 1 2018					
	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
8	19 th Mar	20 th Mar	21 st Mar Harmony Day	22 nd Mar	23 rd Mar
9	26 th Mar Purple Day for Epilepsy	27 th Mar	28 th Mar	29 th Mar Easter Hat Parade	30 th Mar GOOD FRIDAY
10	2 nd Apr EASTER MONDAY	3 RD Apr School Photos	4 th Apr	5 th Apr	6 th Apr Autism Awareness Day—Wear Blue
11	9 th Apr	10 th Apr	11 th Apr	12 th Apr	13 th Apr
Hols	Hols	Hols	Hols	Hols	Hols



CONTACT US