

## From our Principal

Friday 29th August 2019

Dear Parents, Carers, Family and Community Members,

Thanks to everyone who attended Book Week celebrations – always a fun day for all, and it was particularly exciting this year as we have been intensely focused on self-selected reading all year –our students are serious bookworms! The staff also love to dress up – and we’ve had a photo taken in the same place each year. Jess from Orange Block shared this with me – just look how big our staff numbers are now compared to 2017 at the top! From seven classes to 16 – and we are almost up to 100 wonderful students! As we have grown in numbers, so we have grown in our capacity to meet student learning needs. Thank you to all of our community - students, staff and families – for working so well together to the benefit of the amazing children!



## SASS Staff Celebration Week

Fernhill School is a School for Specific Purposes – meaning that we address the learning needs of students with moderate/severe intellectual disabilities. Each class have a trained teacher and a school learning support officer (SLSO) who work in tandem with the teachers to ensure each and every child is reaching their potential. This week, we have been celebrating their role across the school. SASS staff also includes other non-teaching staff in schools – often the first point of contact for families are our wonderful office ladies – Kisane, Angela, Chris and Elisha – who also do an amazing job with the complexities of the administration systems we work with each day and last but not least our terrific GA – Tracy - who works hard at maintaining our school grounds, collecting shoes off roofs and all those other miscellaneous “fun” tasks. Thank you to each and every one of you – we are reminded daily of your fabulous work through the smiling faces of the students.

## Speech Pathology Week

Betty our “speechie” helped us celebrate Speech Pathology Week too. This year’s theme is ‘**communicating with confidence**’ – love it! Thanks to Betty for all she does too! I have asked Betty to attend Week 8’s coffee and chat in the staffroom at 9.30am, so that you can informally ask about all things communication – all welcome!

## Working Bee

Calling all dads, granddads, big brothers, uncles and special friends! We’re having a working bee to remove some edging that is tripping up our students on **Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> September**. We’ll be at school **from 10am-4pm** and we’d love your help! There’ll also be some gardening maintenance to catch up on and some new edging to install. All are welcome – morning tea and sausages will be provided and we hope it’s a great chance for all of our “blokes” to get together have a chat and maybe some new friendship’s will be formed. As we’ll be using tools and lifting large shapes and grinding metal, we ask that no students attend. Many, many thanks in advance!

Looking forward to a great term!

Kind regards,

*Julie*

## From our Office

### EXCURSION COSTS:

Term 4 is a very busy Term and quite often has additional expenses. We do know of an upcoming whole school incursion which has one of those “additional costs”. Whilst we have done our best to keep the costs at a minimum, we truly understand some families may not be able to pay it all in one go. To ease the stress we are very happy for you to pay the incursion over four weeks at \$3.00 per week. Simply have a quiet confidential chat to our office ladies and they will organise this for you.

### P&C CHOCOLATE MONIES DUE MONDAY 9/9/19:

If you are one of our families who still have chocolate’s to sell and would like to return the remaining unsold chocolates to school– please feel free to do so-we have other families who would like some more to sell.

### CHANGE OF CONTACT DETAILS:

Circumstances often change at home and it is very easy to overlook notifying the school of new contact details or updated phone numbers.

If you are unsure, can we please ask that you complete the Change of Contact Details on Pg 2 and return to the office as soon as possible. Thank you in advance for this.

Regards

**Kisane, Angela, Elisha & Chris**



## Term Three Block Leaders 2019

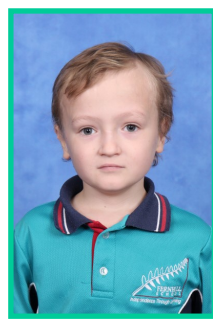


We would like to say a very big THANK YOU! to our Term Two Block Leaders who took their leadership role very seriously and did an amazing job.

Earlier this term we announced our new Block Leaders for Term Three and so far they have been doing a fantastic job. The new Block Leaders are:



MAX



JACE



CAMERON



JOSEPH

### Change of Contact Details

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Parent/Carer 1

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Work Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Emergency Contact 1

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to student: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Parent/Carer 2

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Work Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Emergency Contact 2

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to student: \_\_\_\_\_



# HOME BASE YELLOW

## Welcome to Yellow Block News



What a wonderful term we are having. We all enjoyed Book Week and sharing stories with our parents and friends. It was lovely to see so many people dressing up and coming along to join us. The Book week parade was very colourful and a lot of fun.

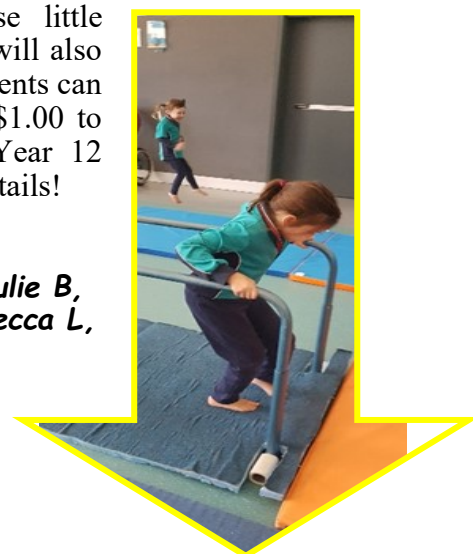
We have also been enjoying our Thursday morning gymnastics sessions. Thank you so much to the families who allowed us to use their Active Kids vouchers. We are all benefiting enormously from the gym time, the expertise of the instructors and the equipment they bring. The kids look forward to it and can't wait for their turn to go to the hall.



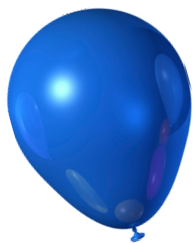
Soon we will have another fun dress up day – Pirate Day 'Aaarrgghh!' is coming up on the 18<sup>th</sup> September. So please dress up all those little swashbucklers and pirates for the day. We will also be having a cake stall on that day where students can buy a cupcake, biscuits or a jelly cup for \$1.00 to help with fundraising for our first ever Year 12 Formal. Watch out for the note with more details!

Yellow Block Team

*Leanne, Jodie P, Jodie C, Lorette, Julie B, Shayal, Donna, Sam, Kimberley C, Rebecca L, Kerrie H.*







# HOMEBASE BLUE

## Welcome to Blue Block News Term 3 Week 3

Blue Block has had an exciting few weeks with lots of fun and laughter!

Gym activities in the Hall are always exciting for the students of Blue Block but this week it was exceptional due to the rain as it was great way to stay dry and have so many physical activities to explore. All the students enjoyed discovering different ways of moving. Students enjoyed the swinging bars, trampolines and other tumbling activities! We couldn't wipe the smiles of their faces!

Blue Block also celebrated book week in fashion! With all students coming to school with awesome and creative costumes. The students also enjoyed having their loved ones come to school and watch the book parade and loved listening to the book reading provided by Leanne in the Hub afterwards.

We will be looking forward to dressing up again on Pirate Day which is coming up on the 18<sup>th</sup> of September. We will also be having a cake stall on that day where students can cakes to raise money towards our Year 12 Formal.

*Tara D, Kimberley R, Deb, Ashleigh,  
Vicki N, Shania, Linda,  
Cheryl, Ben and Mirelle.*







# HOMEBASE ORANGE

## Welcome to Orange Block News



Orange block has had so much fun over the last couple of weeks! We had a wonderful book week parade with many amazing costumes by staff and students. We also had families enjoying the shared reading in the Hub after the parade.

In Orange block this week we combined our classes for a sensory exploration of our five senses with great success. The students explored four different table stations including smell, which was the most popular with lemon, mint and eucalyptus leaves. Sight was explored with visual sand and liquid displays, colour runs with skittles and warm water, holographic cards and colourful tinsel. Touch was explored through cotton balls, ice, heat pack, and a hardcover book. Lastly, sound was explored through drums and percussion instruments. We are looking forward to exploring our senses again over the term.

We are also looking forward to Pirate Day on the 18<sup>th</sup> September for another dress up day and a cake stall to fundraise for the Year 12 formal.

*Alyssa, Kayla, Tyrone, Danielle, Jen, Naomi, Kylie, Jess and Olivia.*





# HOMEBASE GREEN

## Welcome to Green Block News

As we pass the halfway mark of the term, there are lots of exciting things happening in Green Block. Last Wednesday was book week and wow, what an occasion! From superheroes to vampires and everything in between it was awesome to see how enthusiastic all our students were in dressing up. A great day was had by all!

The students in Green block continue to practice soccer skills and dancing on Fridays. Whilst the progress in our skills in itself has been very positive, it has been even more encouraging to see how our students interact with each other in a group setting.

As we move towards the end of the year, keep an eye out for fundraising events for our year 12 formal. "Me hearties", Pirate day is sure to be a fantastic event so start getting ready so we can sail the seven seas!

Finally, gymnastics continues to be a winner amongst all green block classes. This week, our students were able to swing on the bars and touch their toes and walk over obstacles on the balance beam. Keep up the awesome effort everyone!

*Bye for now, Nathan, Vicki S, Kirsty, Kerry G, Vicky H, Rachael, Tania, Rebecca C, Daniel, Natasha, Meredith.*





# REMINDER

Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> August 2019

FERNHILL SCHOOL P&C



## School Holiday Play and Stay Days

Thank you to all who participated in the Stay and Play Days in the July school holidays, it was so successful that we will be organising two more days in the next school holidays in October. We will be providing some great activities and experiences for our Fernhill children, their siblings and families to participate in on **Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> October and Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> October** from 10am-12:30pm. This is a **FREE** event for our school community.

This is a great opportunity for families to connect with each other, for siblings to connect with other children, and we all get to enjoy a fun morning out in a supportive, safe, and inclusive environment.

You will need to bring morning tea for each child and yourself and for safety reasons all hot drinks must be consumed in a lidded cup like a travel mug. Tea and coffee will be provided.

If you would like to participate in this event please complete the form below and return it to school by **Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2019** so we have some idea of numbers.

We really hope to see you there.

Fernhill P&C

Please return the slip below by **Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2019**.

### School Holiday Stay and Play Days

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_

We would like to attend on the following days:

- |   |                                  |
|---|----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> October 2019  | Number of people attending _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup> October 2019 | Number of people attending _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Both days                              | Number of people attending _____ |

Please provide names of all adults and children attending:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

FERNHILL SCHOOL P&C | 12-40 Ridgetop Drive, GLENMORE PARK NSW 2745 | PH: 02 4733 0388 |  
PRESIDENT - Donna Buda | M: 0422 580 856 | E: donna\_buda@yahoo.com



**Fernhill School Coffee Catchups - By Lee-Anne (Mum of Ollie in Yellow 2)**

"Come and have a cuppa they said".

Hmmm I thought I'm new to the school and I don't know anyone.

I don't know about you but as a parent of a child with Additional Needs some days I'm doing well to put one foot in front of the other, and the idea of having to push myself into meeting new people on a day when I wasn't feeling overly confident was a big ask. Besides did I really have time for this as I usually try to schedule a million things during the time Ollie is at school. Could I even fit anything else into my already full schedule and head?

Raising a person with Additional Needs is beautiful and rewarding and we love our children to the moon and back, but it's often also hard work with a completely 'other' level of commitment and dedication - and we often put ourselves way down to the bottom of the list frequently ignoring our own needs. So the idea of giving myself some 'timeout' for a cuppa wasn't high on my priority list.

So with some hesitation I thought ok, why not? That load of washing, the housework and jobs can wait for an hour or so.

Can I say that my decision to go in and have a cuppa was one of the best decisions I've made this year.

Catching up for a cuppa at school is food for the heart and soul.

Before Ollie started at Fernhill School I had little to no contact with other families who have children with Additional Needs so my husband Warrick and I often felt somewhat isolated and alone.

It can be hard to talk about the different kind of life you have raising a child with Additional Needs. People with 'Neurologically typical' children can also find it hard to relate to us - they don't always understand our incredible joy and excitement when our child holds their cup independently for the first time, finishes half their dinner, or makes eye contact and says "hi". Or comprehend our frustrations with our child's eating, behaviour and even (for some of us) the impact of poo in our lives! So we find ourselves not talking and bottling up how we feel and/or removing ourselves from social situations because we begin to find it hard to relate to others.

At the coffee catch-ups I have sat with other parents/carers/and family members and shared stories and experiences of what it's like to raise a child with Additional Needs.

Through what ALWAYS begins as casual conversations some of the things I have gained are ideas on different activities that are available for children with Additional Needs, tips on iron supplements, recommendations for therapists and support agencies and yes tips on handling the NDIS. I have seen the incredibly sincere support and understanding given to individuals who are having a tough time and just need someone to vent to who will listen without judgement. I have also belly laughed as we have just chatted about life. Regular things like shopping, movies, tv, relationships and the sometimes crazy moments we ALL have. All of which is invaluable for feeding the heart and soul.

The Coffee catch-ups have no agenda. The purpose and intent is to give us all the opportunity to make connections, network and most importantly take time out for ourselves. What you take from them is entirely up to you and there is no pressure whatsoever to contribute to conversation or regular attendance. It's come if you can when you can.

The Coffee catch-ups happen every two weeks on rotating days to accommodate as many people and possible work/study/life commitments as possible. The dates for the remaining catch-ups for term 3 are [Wednesday 28/8](#), [Tuesday 10/9](#) and [Monday 23/9 from 9:30am until 10:30-11am](#). If you can come and have a cuppa on one or all of these days it would be great and I doubt that you will regret it - and don't forget we also have coffee, tea, cake and biscuits. Who doesn't love that ☺.

Regards

*By Lee-Anne (Mum of Ollie in Yellow 2)*



# Freedom Wheels PENRITH

Free bike Assessment

Thursday 19th September 2019

## BOOKINGS



Call today to book your  
free assessment with our  
Occupational Therapist:

**WHERE** Arthur Neave Memorial  
Hall

**ADDRESS** Parkes Avenue  
WERRINGTON NSW 2747

Call to book your spot:  
**1300 663 243**



[freedomwheels.org.au](http://freedomwheels.org.au)



freedom  
wheels

# Turn the River **Pink**

Raising funds for the National Breast Cancer Foundation



*One in seven women will develop breast cancer in their lifetime. NBCF has an aspirational goal of zero deaths from breast cancer by 2030 and they rely on the support of the community to help achieve this goal. Come join us for a fun filled morning and get behind such a great cause.*

## **Details:**

Join us for our third annual pink run/walk around the Nepean River to create awareness and raise money for the National Breast Cancer Foundation.

**Dress in your craziest pink outfit!!!**

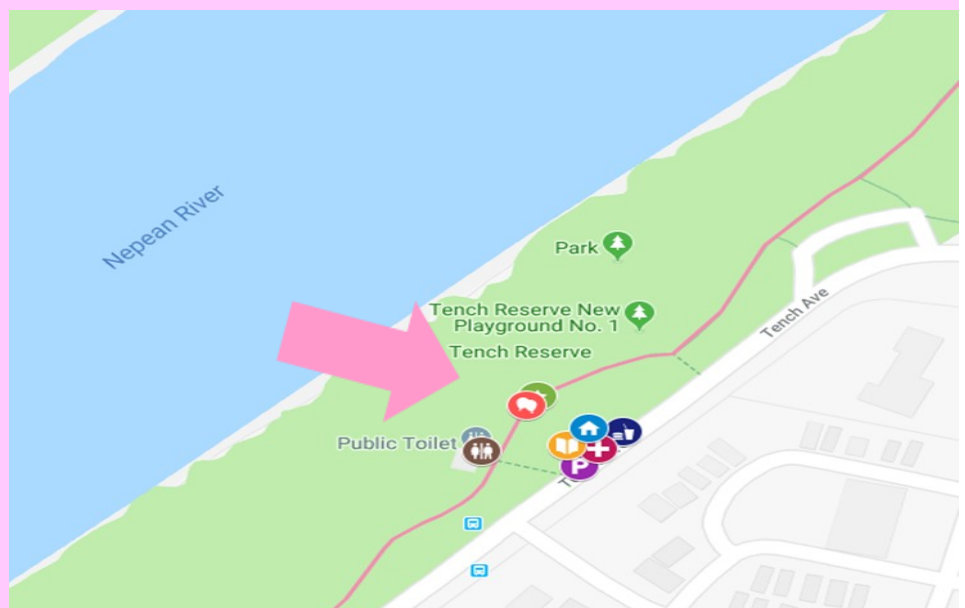
A BBQ breakfast will be available at the end of the run for a gold coin donation and the event should finish no later than 11:00am

**Registration can be done online at [ttrp.com.au](http://ttrp.com.au)**

*Don't forget to click "going" on our Turn The River Pink 2019 Facebook Page!*

**Registration:** 7:30am  
**Start Time:** 8:00am  
**Date:** Saturday 12th October  
**Where:** Nepean River – Tench Reserve - Tench Ave, Penrith  
**Distance:** Approximately 7km  
**Cost:** Under 12 years are FREE, 12 - 18 \$10, 18+ \$25

Please look  
for Pink  
Balloons





FERNHILL COMMUNITY NOTICES  
WOMEN'S GROUP

# A Sense of Giving



The Taste of Everything Women's Group have received a rolling cap grant from Penrith City Council to create sensory blankets and boards to be donated to Fernhill School, a school for kids with special needs. Come along and help us to create sensory blankets, sensory boards and other items to enrich student's enjoyment, comfort and participation at school. All women are welcome and invited. Sewing skills not required.

**WHEN:** Thursdays 9.30am to 11.30am (during Term 3 and Term 4 2019.)

**VENUE:** Floribunda Community Centre,  
3 Floribunda Avenue, Glenmore Park NSW 2745

**CONTACT:** Martha (0414 557 062) or Linsey (0448 975 724) to register

*Proudly supported by Penrith City Council.*



NEPEAN COMMUNITY & NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES [www.nepeancommunity.org.au](http://www.nepeancommunity.org.au)



## FERNHILL School - Term 3 2018

Term 3	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
7	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sept	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sept	4 <sup>th</sup> Sept	5 <sup>th</sup> Sept Gymnastics Program	6 <sup>th</sup> Sept
8	9 <sup>th</sup> Sept	10 <sup>th</sup> Sept PARENT CUPPA AND CHAT 9.30	11 <sup>th</sup> Sept	12 <sup>th</sup> Sept Gymnastics Program	13 <sup>th</sup> Sept
9	16 <sup>th</sup> Sept P & C MEETING - 9.30	17 <sup>th</sup> Sept	18 <sup>th</sup> Sept PIRATE DAY & Cupcake Stall	19 <sup>th</sup> Sept	20 <sup>th</sup> Sept
10	23 <sup>rd</sup> Sept PARENT CUPPA AND CHAT 9.30	24 <sup>th</sup> Sept	25 <sup>th</sup> Sept	26 <sup>th</sup> Sept	27 <sup>th</sup> Sept
Hols	Hols	Hols	Hols	Hols	Hols

### Book Clubs LOOP

You can download the  
Book Clubs LOOP APP  
to place your order!



## Scholastic Book Club 2019

Scholastic Book Club Brochures will be sent home regularly throughout the year. There is no obligation to purchase. The school does receive points from your purchases we can use to obtain resources. If you are interested in purchasing ***please order online as no cash or orders will be taken through the school.***

With compliments  
Leanne Hayes  
Book Club Co-ordinator.

Issue 6 Orders Close:  
13/09/19

FERNHILL SCHOOL | 12-40 Ridgetop Drive, GLENMORE PARK NSW 2745 |  
PH: 02 4733 0388 | FAX: 02 4733 0644 | E: [fernhill-s.school@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:fernhill-s.school@det.nsw.edu.au) | [www.fernhill-s.schools.nsw.edu.au](http://www.fernhill-s.schools.nsw.edu.au)



## CONTACT US

FERNHILL SCHOOL | 12-40 Ridgetop Drive, GLENMORE PARK NSW 2745 | PRINCIPAL: Julie Raciborska |  
PH: 02 4733 0388 | FAX: 02 4733 0644 | E: [fernhill-s.school@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:fernhill-s.school@det.nsw.edu.au) | [www.fernhill-s.schools.nsw.edu.au](http://www.fernhill-s.schools.nsw.edu.au)