

From our Principal

DATE 10th December 2020

Dear parents, carers, families and community members,

We made it!

I don't think any of us will ever forget 2020 – thank you to whatever the fates or calendar clowns who made this year an easy number to remember – no wondering if it was 2018 or 2019 in the years to come when we try to think back when was it that we had Covid, bushfires and draught... 2020 – unforgettable!!!

Despite all the global dramas, learning has still continued with a fabulous lot of teamwork between home and school. Big thank you to all families and staff – the lengths everyone went to, to manage this most of unusual times was amazing and a credit to all. And our students – what a beautiful group of young people I have the absolute pleasure in greeting each day! So proud of every one of them – all 16 soon to be 18 classes worth!

I am sitting here in our library writing this, surrounded by gifts given to the school by Goods 360 and The Variety Club, and scoured by Kimberley, Julie B and Kisane. Big shout out to these ladies – thank you so much! Giving is just as lovely as receiving, and I hope you all enjoy a little something for your child.

I also have a very large folder at my side, full of information about our school plan for the next four years that I would like to share with you in the new year at a P&C meeting. P&C has been very difficult to organise this year due to Covid regulations we all had mid year on unnecessary social gatherings. I do know that our P&C definitely needs more members to join and have a say about our school – we had a fabulous response to the Tell Them From Me survey with all of you writing about your likes and hopes for the school. P&C is a great forum to let me know what you think and what you want for your child, because usually, there's a heap of others with the same feelings and we can work it out together. P&C isn't about fundraising here at Fernhill – that is a by-product. P&C here at Fernhill is all about parents supporting parents with ideas, coffee and a laugh whenever possible – please make it a new year's resolution to get involved!

Finally, to all, have a very safe and happy summer break. Stay safe, wash your hands and keep your hugs to family members!

Thank you to everyone for an amazing year, I hope we never see the likes of it again!

Kind regards,

Julie

From our Office

PAYMENTS:-

Last date for any Fees and Uniform Purchases will be Monday 14th Dec 2020. We are **unable** to accept any payments after this date. We thank you to all those who have made payments throughout this very difficult year.

Moving forward– we are NO LONGER able to take credit card payments over the phone. We can only receipt payments in CASH or EFTPOS payments over the counter or families are to utilise the On Line Payment option through the Fernhill School Webpage: <https://fernhill-s.schools.nsw.gov.au/>

We have also attached the instructions on page 11. If you need a reminder how to do it or a new to paying on line.

SCHOOL HOLIDAY DATES:

Thursday 17th December 2020–Thursday 28th January 2021– students resume Friday 29th January 2021.

Regards

Kisane, Elisha, Chris & April



Return to School Dates for 2021!

Staff return to school on Wednesday 27th January 2021

Our lovely students return on Friday 29th January 2021.

New students will be advised of their start date

We would like to wish all of our students and their families a very Merry Christmas and a safe and happy New Year!





HOME BASE YELLOW



Welcome to Yellow Block News

Yellow Block have had a great couple of weeks and cannot believe that it is almost Christmas! We are all looking forward to a long deserved break after such a strange year.

The students and staff had a fun time at our Presentation Day Ceremony, it was so lovely to hear about all the wonderful things that have been taking place throughout the classes over the course of the year.

It was great to be back in the hall having an assembly.

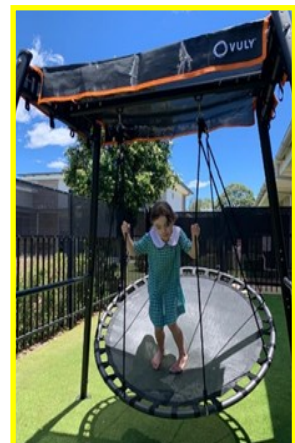
It will be even better next year when we can invite parents in to be a part of the fun.

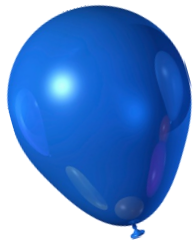
We celebrated afterwards with a disco.

The students loved the fun disco lights, singing and moving to the music.

We are also happy to report that Yellow Block now have a new swing! The students have really enjoyed the opportunity in terms of self-regulation and also just for fun during play time.

*Kirsty, Ash, Rebecca, Julie E, Charisse, Ben,
Danielle, Donna, Krista and Kerry*





HOMEBASE BLUE



Welcome to Blue Block News

Ho Ho Ho!

It's almost Christmas time and Blue Block have gotten into the festive spirit. Our classes have been working on all manner of Christmas delights such as rocky road, ornaments and cards for our nearest and dearest. In English we have read *Pig the Elf*, *The Grinch* and *A Christmas Carol*. It truly is the most wonderful time of the year!

Presentation Day was a little different this year, with Blue Block getting their awards in the Junior COLA. Although we missed having parents celebrate with us, it was still a wonderful event and a huge congratulations to all our award winners.

Don't forget that our Water Fun Day is on Monday 14th December. Please keep your fingers and toes crossed for no rain so the students can have a nice time celebrating the end of a very strange year.

From everyone in Blue Block we thank you for your support and wish you a Merry Christmas. Have a safe and enjoyable holiday!

***Nathan, Shaniah, Meredith, Jen, Belynda, Nadine, Rianna, Linda,
Shannon, Olivia, Brody and Natasha***





HOMEBASE ORANGE



Welcome to Orange Block News

It may be the end of the year but Orange Block continues to be a hive of activity! We are continuing our learning in all the key learning areas and as we move towards the end of the term, we have incorporated Christmas into some lessons, including literacy where we are completing activities around the books 'Pig the Elf' and 'Macca's Christmas Crackers'.

Students in Year 6 celebrated the end of their primary school days with a graduation lunch. Unfortunately, due to Covid we were unable to have parents attend this event however, our Year 6 students had a wonderful time eating lunch together and receiving their graduation bears and certificates. We wish all our students moving into high school next year the best of luck!

It was a low-key Presentation Day this year. We gathered as a block in Orange 12 as Julie and Alison handed out the awards. Congratulations to all students in Orange Block. It has been fantastic to see the effort all students have put into their learning this year and the progress that has been made. A special congratulations to Sasen who received the Orange Block friendship award and Evie who received the Mulgoa Encouragement Award. Well done!

This week marks the end of the Special Olympics Sports Program. Students have practiced many gross motor skills over the term and have had a lot of fun each week.

From all of Orange Block we thank you for your support and wish you a Merry Christmas. Have a safe and enjoyable holiday!

*Rachael, Lorette, Julie E, Kayla, Tyrone, Daniel, Jess M,
Naomi, Kimberley and Kate*





HOMEBASE GREEN



Welcome to Green Block News

For students this has been a year of varying new experiences along with the many changes which they have needed to manage. Most of the Green Block students have managed to cope with these challenges amazingly well.

Our staff and students have managed to make this year a fantastic year filled with fun as the students of Green Block participated in many learning activities. Whether in their classrooms, at sports, during cooking, visiting our library or tending our garden, the students' enthusiasm, independence and participation has certainly grown as they all try their hardest to participate and enjoy their learning. The students of Green Block continue to inspire the staff every day by their shining personalities, energetic pursuit of knowledge, commitment to learning, tenacity to achieve, and each student's successes.

Congratulations to our school soccer team who represented us at the Soccer Gala Day for International Day of Disabilities. What a day this was for our students who did exceptionally well. Each of the students participated and were great team players throughout the day. Also, a huge shout out to the other schools that were participating on the day and were great sports for our students. What great soccer players Mudji, Arron, Ryan, Breanna, James, Amber and Ethan were on the day, well done.

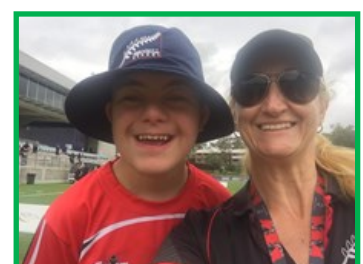
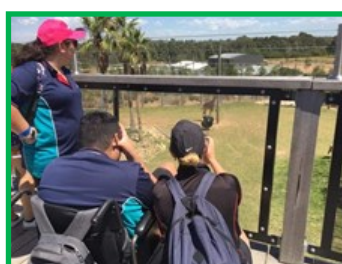
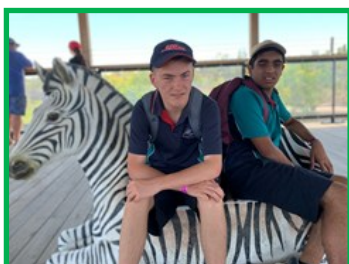
Green Block students thoroughly enjoyed the Science Day as they visited classrooms to explore the Moon, Sun, Mars and Neptune. An exciting day was had by all students as they participated in the various activities offered in each of the classrooms last week.

This week our students participated in their first Block excursion with the emphasis on participation and the real success of everyone having an opportunity to meet and greet with the many animals at the zoo. In this wonderful atmosphere of positivity, the students all certainly enjoyed the day and this was a good way to finish our year.

The staff of Green Block would like to thank the parents and caregivers of Green 13, Green 14, Green 15 and Green 16 students for your help and support in enabling your child to be as independent as possible, thank you for allowing us to teach your very exceptional kids. We cannot believe the end of the year has come so fast, stay safe over the holidays.

Julie B, Jodie P, Tania, Cheryl, Ashana, Courtney,

Leanne, Vicki, Deb, Jodie C and Kate





Dear Families,

Whilst 2020 has been a disappointing year for everybody, our P&C had started work on some really great plans, due to Covid-19 arriving, we are now looking forward to putting them in place next year.

At our last P&C meeting we unanimously agreed that we wanted to gift the school \$4000. We met with the school Occupational Therapist Kyla and began to purchase some playground equipment and toys and some low cost classroom items. We also funded the purchase of an adult size/weighted swing for our high school children to enjoy.

We will be continuing our purchasing, in consultation with our Fernhill School staff in 2021. 2020 Covid restrictions had made P&C meetings very difficult, we are hoping that the restrictions continue to ease and we can get back into full swing again.

The P&C is a very small band of individuals, family members of our students, who all have busy lives.

We would really love people to consider joining us in 2021 we have a lot to offer, for eg:

- * Meeting like-minded families forming new friendships
- * Sharing coffee and chats together in the school environment
- * Helping fundraise for resources for your child's school and bringing our community together

Many hands make light work and our current group are a fantastic group of people carrying a lot which they would love to share and also hear fresh ideas and enthusiasm – it's all for our children. Please consider joining us in 2021.

Many thanks to the current members of the P&C for their contributions and support under very difficult circumstances this year.

Many thanks to our Principal Julie and her team for their commitment and care of our children in a challenging and difficult year.

We sincerely hope that with the increased lifting of COVID safety measures we can begin to get out and about even more and feel safer about doing so especially at this time of year.

The P&C wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a safe, happy and especially healthy New Year.

Take care
Fernhill P&C

FERNHILL COMMUNITY NOTICES

Little By Little Inc

Our many thanks to the wonderful staff of Kurrambee School and Little by Little Inc who have kindly allowed us to use their bus for our excursion to the Sydney Zoo, without their help we would have been unable to get all of our students there on the day.

Little By Little Inc Charity objectives are -

- * to support the work of Kurrambee School in meeting the needs of it's students and ex-students,
- * to promote the provision of additional and appropriate services for persons with an intellectual disability and/or high support needs,
- * to liase with community groups to extend existing or establish additional and appropriate services,
- * to provide services to meet the needs of Kurrambee students and ex-students.

If you wish to donate or learn more about what they do you can follow them on facebook or check out their website.

Phone - (02) 9833 7400

www.littlebylittle.org.au

info@littlebylittle.org.au

<https://www.facebook.com/LittleByLittleInc/>



FERNHILL COMMUNITY NOTICES



Through our Partnership with Good360, Fernhill school has been lucky enough to receive a donation of clothing from BIG W. With Summer now upon us and warmer weather arriving being sun safe is definitely something we all prepare for. With that in mind, we have a small delivery of long sleeve rash shirts, swim pants and bucket hats.

Below is a list of available sizes and the quantities we received.

Rash Shirts

| Size | Quantity |
|------|----------|
| 8 | 7 |
| 10 | 7 |
| 12 | 5 |
| 14 | 4 |
| 16 | 4 |

Swim pants

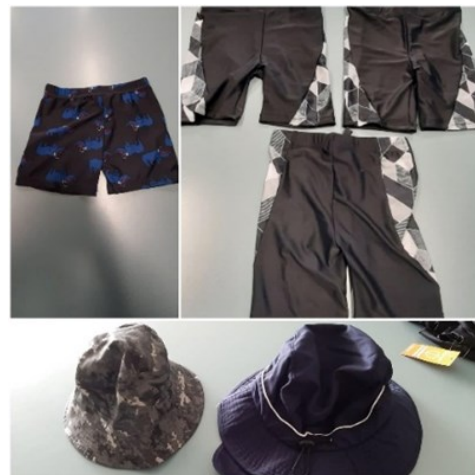
| Size | Quantity |
|------|----------|
| 8 | 3 |
| 5 | 1 |

Bucket hats

| Size | Quantity |
|------|----------|
| o/s | 13 |

These items are **FREE** to our school community and will be available for collections at the school office on a first come basis. If you would like any of these items just pop into the office and our wonderful office ladies will help you. Remember if your child comes by transport contact the school and we will organise for your items to be sent home.

A BIG thank you to Good360 and BIG W for helping us support our school community in this way. Remember to keep an eye out for more items coming very soon!



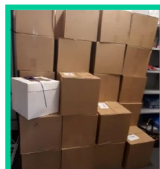
FERNHILL COMMUNITY NOTICES



Some special deliveries have arrived!

Thanks to the generosity of the Sydney Special Children's Christmas Party and Good360, every student will be receiving a little surprise home this week. We know that you will join with us in saying a BIG "Thank you" to the sponsors of the Special Children's Christmas Party and Good360.

We were very excited to see the trucks when they arrived with the delivery!





Below are some of the major sponsors who helped supply your magnificent presents.
Please take the time to send a thank you letter to some of these kind hearted businesses to say a huge thank you!

- ICT Networks - Amanda Howcroft - L10/ 153 Walker St, North Sydney, NSW, 2060
- OSHClub - Samantha Wallace - Suite 2, Level 1, 1183 Toorak Road, Camberwell North, VIC, 3124
- Barclay Pearce Capital - Richard Warner - Level 17, 115 Pitt Street, Sydney, NSW, 2000
- Hardi Aged Care Group - Jess Watt - 178 Stephens Street, Blacktown, NSW, 2148
- Prouds The Jewellers - Melissa Jacobs - Po Box 157, Summer Hill, NSW, 2130
- Load & Go - George Saad - 185 Fifteenth Ave, West Hoxton, NSW, 2171
- Mini-Tankers Australia - Chris Thomsen - PO Box 399, Pymble, NSW, 2073
- Valvoline - Peter Besgrove - Lock Bag 5400 Baulkham Hills NSW 2153
- Parramatta Leagues Club - Maria Debnikov - 1 Eels Place, Parramatta, NSW, 2150
- Yamaha Motor Australia - Amanda Hieronymus - Locked Bag 48, Wetherill Park, NSW, 2164

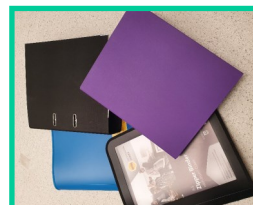
We wish you a Safe and Merry
Christmas



Please go to www.santasmesssage.com.au/sydney.html or scan

Stationery Donations

Fernhill School would like to also say a BIG "Thank you" to ACCO Internal for their generous donation of stationery that our school will be able to put to good use in the new year.



Around Our School

Braille and Large Print Services Artwork Calendar Competition

Our lovely Vision Teacher Di entered two of our students' artwork into the Braille and Large Print Services Artwork Calendar Competition and they were selected!!

Bobby and Liam from Yellow Block will be receiving a copy of the calendar that will have their artwork displayed. *Congratulations Bobby and Liam!*



Bobby



Liam

*Here are some more photos from The Zoo Excursion and
the Soccer Gala Day!*



FERNHILL COMMUNITY NOTICES

\$ Make a Payment on Line

It is now possible for parents to make online payments to the school for amounts owing for students, via a secure payment page hosted by Westpac. Payments can be made using either a Visa or MasterCard credit or debit card, and can be made via computer, tablet or mobile phone. The payment page is accessed from the front page of the schools website by selecting \$ Make a payment

Items that can be paid include voluntary school contributions, subject contributions, excursions, sales to students and creative and practical arts activities (these include band, drama and dance). There is also a category called 'Other' this to cover items not covered in the previous headings, Other can be used to make a complete payment of a school invoice.

When you access the \$ Make a payment you must enter:

- the students name, and
- class and reference number OR
- the students name, and
- date of birth.

These details are entered each time you make a payment as student information is not held within the payment system. **There is also the option to enter the Student Registration Number and Invoice number if you are aware of them, these are optional fields OR there is also the option to enter the Student Registration Number and Invoice number these are not used at our school, please leave blank.**

This is a secure payment system hosted by Westpac to ensure that your credit/debit card details are captured in a secure manner, these details are not passed back to the school.

You have the ability to check and change any details of the payment before the payment is processed. Receipts can be emailed and/or printed.

Details of the payments are passed daily to the school where they will be receipted against your child's account. As a receipt has been issued from the payment page a further receipt will not be issued by the school.



Stay informed with the SkoolBag App

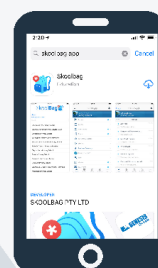


The SkoolBag app is the easiest way to stay up-to-date with school events, last minutes notices, newsletters and **all** school communications.

1

Download the app

Search for the free SkoolBag app in the Apple App or Google Play Store



2

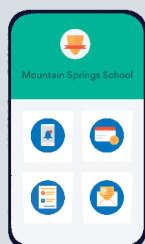
Create an account

Sign up in seconds with your email address


3

Add your school

Search for your school and add your subscription groups



SkoolBag

|  FERNHILL School - Term 4 2020 | | | | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Term 4 | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY |
| 10 | 14 th Dec | 15 th Dec | 16 th Dec LAST DAY FOR STUDENTS | 17 th Dec SDD | 18 th Dec SDD |
| Hols | Hols | Hols | Hols | Hols | Hols |



CONTACT US

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