

DATE 17th September 2020

From our Principal

Dear parents, carers, families and community members,

Thank you from all of us at school for working with us to ensure that our community is keeping safe and well in these strange times, living with Covid-19. We all really appreciate the care and concern of families and staff in staying home when sick, even if it is not what we would normally do!

Facebook page

We finally have a school Facebook page! This is the Facebook link <https://www.facebook.com/Fernhill-School-103571274826288> and can also be found on the website, alternatively you can search us by typing in our name and looking for the school logo – as there is another Fernhill School in Bonny Scotland, far, far away! And cold and wet, but beautiful.

Therapists in school

We are still receiving requests for therapists to work in school via our email – please note that departmental procedures require that parents need to make a written request for this to occur. When therapists are in school, they are paid for from your child's package, therefore they need your permission to be here before we can give ours! We will let you know when your child's therapist makes a request, and provide you with the necessary form for the written request, which is also available on the website.

I also will be reminding therapists this week that their role is to work with the students within the classroom, just as it is the class teacher's role to keep teaching the whole class. Some therapists want to engage the teacher in their work, which means that they are asking the teacher to ignore all the other students in the class. I am sure that there are brief interactions between the two professionals, but teachers need to concentrate on their role, education, and are unable to support therapy and interact with a therapist as a parent will do when

attending the session with their child. We ask that therapists leave their notes for the teacher who will follow up with their suggestions, and we are more than willing to arrange a meeting with the therapist, but not in class time. I am sure that you understand that with over 40 different therapists working with multiple students in classes, it would lead to so much lost learning for all students in the class.

Teachers provide their program for every student every day, and are also a vital part of every child's learning and development.

Tell Them From Me, the Disability Royal Commission and Parent Voice surveys

A massive thank you to everyone who has taken the time to respond to the surveys that we have brought to your attention this term. Tell them From Me comments and ideas will help inform our planning for the next four years, and the other two surveys are so important for you to have a say in your child's future. If you have not done so already please check out the Facebook page for the relevant links, or ask the ladies in the front office to provide you with a computer at school to do them. Thank you!

Happy holidays

This is the last newsletter before the school holidays, so may we wish you a happy and safe time, and hopefully some sunshine to enjoy in the garden and the local area – looking forward to the amazing renovations and playscapes that the council is asking for our input into over the next few years too!

Warm wishes,



From our Office

COVID- Friendly reminder to all family, visitors and staff– when attending our Admin Foyer please be mindful of social distancing. Under **Covid guidelines** we are only able to have 4 people in our office at any one time, so if there happens to be more than this please be mindful and wait on the outside of Foyer until such times you can then enter. We appreciate your assistance and respect with this and thank you for keeping us all safe.

FEES: Since last newsletter we have had an large number of families who have paid their child's school fees. This year in particular, we know how hard this could be for some and we want to say many thanks to you. For those who haven't we say "all fees paid are gratefully appreciated" and if you are having difficulty in making the payments please do not hesitate to contact our office and have a confidential chat. Keep them coming, and thank you in advance.

Penrith City Council Tench Reserve Upgrade:

In March 2020 our school community was asked to help with ideas on the development of the new Regatta Park in Emu Plains– we have now been asked to help again with the Tench Reserve upgrade. We can help design a wonderful park for our students and their families to use-how exciting to know you will be able to take your child along for a family outing. Please see Page 7. For more information and please please complete the survey online by Tuesday 22nd Sept . If you have any issues with the survey please contact the ladies in our office and they will assist you. Don't forget to stretch your imagination of your wish list– you never know what you may receive.

Stay safe in the holidays and have fun.

Regards

Kisane, Elisha, Chris & April



HOMEBASE YELLOW

Welcome to Yellow Block News

Fun, sun, music and sport in Yellow Block!

We have had a great time in Yellow Block these past few weeks especially as the weather has been changing and our days getting warmer.

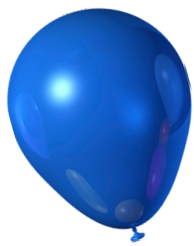
We have been enjoying sport with the Block and building friendships across Yellow Block while playing in the different areas of the school. We have also been having a great time listening to music and following the actions in our favourite songs.

After an unusual start to 2020, it has been so nice to have everyone here everyday for Term 3 and we look forward to an exciting and busy Term 4.

Have a great holiday and we will see you in Term 4.

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





HOMEBASE BLUE

Welcome to Blue Block News

Hello everyone,

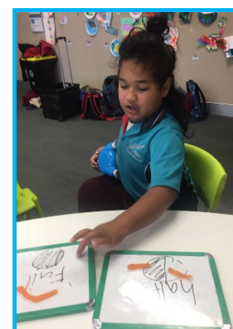
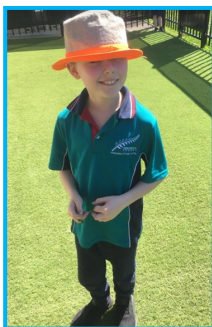
Blue Block has had an amazing couple of weeks with a huge focus on communication. During playtime we have been encouraging our students to use both their systems and the many core-boards across the different playgrounds. With the help of our brilliant Speech Therapist Betty, we have seen students in Blue Block use a range of communication systems to request, comment and be involved during play. Great work everyone!

We are also welcoming Alison for the rest of the term on Blue 5, and we are very excited to have Meredith taking over in term 4 so that Alison can return to her Deputy Principal duties.

We have just finished our author study on Aaron Blabey in English. The undoubted favourite book across all Blue Block classes was definitely 'Busting!' We have certainly seen an increase in our students engaging during shared reading time and it has been brilliant to see all kids interacting through their AAC.

Wishing all our students and families a happy and safe term 3 holidays (can you believe it?)

Alison, Meredith, Jen, Nathan, Shania, Rianna, Linda, Tara, Olivia, Rebecca and Sophia





HOMEBASE ORANGE

Welcome to Orange Block News

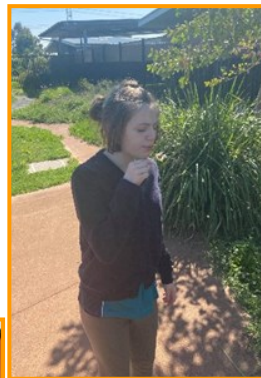
As we move closer to the end of term 3, Orange Block have been making the most of the arrival of spring. Orange 12 enjoyed their trip to the sensory garden, exploring and admiring the sunshine and growth of many plants in the garden. The sunny days have also meant the covers have been off the sandpit, making it the perfect place to play during morning tea and lunch.

With only 11 weeks left until their journey continues from primary to high school, we've had some of our students wearing their very special year 6 shirts. There were many proud students inside and outside the classroom, happy to show off their wonderful new shirts.

Orange 9 have been studying time, learning to correctly order the days of the week and supporting their learning by matching the numbers using a puzzle clock with an analogue clock.

Orange 11 had some fun running their own impromptu talent contest. The students and teachers had the opportunity to enjoy and cheer for many wonderful acts, full of movement and creativity. Everyone left the contest a winner, with many smiles and much cheering for all students.

Daniel, Jess V, Jess M, Rachael, Lorette, Julie E, Kayla, Tyrone, Naomi, Danielle, Kimberley and Kate.





HOMEBASE GREEN

Welcome to Green Block News

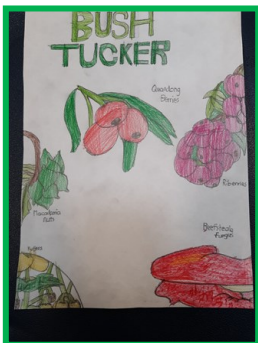
Spring has definitely sprung and Green Block students are enjoying the warm weather. Our studies in Geography and Agriculture this term is based around where our food comes from. We look at what produce comes from different biomes e.g. chocolate and bananas from rainforest/tropical areas, seafood from the oceans and Australian Bush foods from the desert. We are also planting produce in our vegie garden and will cook with it as it grows and becomes available. The worm farm is working beautifully and is producing castings and worm wee to fertilise our plants. We are also studying botanical art this term and have produced some beautiful artworks.

A focus of the shared component of our Balanced Literacy program is Australian authors and everyone is enjoying poems and stories from authors such as Henry Lawson, Banjo Patterson, CJ Dennis, Jeannie Baker and Bronwyn Bancroft. We really enjoyed 'The Loaded Dog', Jack Thompson reading 'The Man from Snowy River' and have created a freeze frame drama PowerPoint of 'Hist' by CJ Dennis which will be shared soon. Watch out for this one, it is a great production!

Just another reminder to please remember to put names in jumpers and on other items that come to school. The warmer weather leads to jumpers being taken off in the playground and we want to do our best to see they get home with the right person.

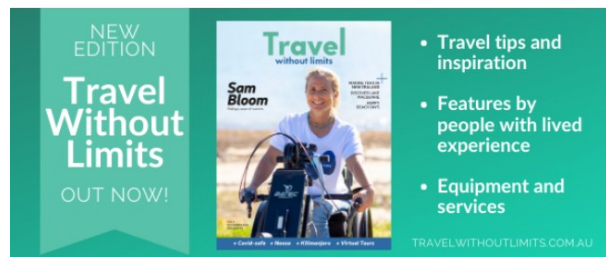
Thank you so much for another wonderful term, we really enjoy working together; families, students and staff and wish you all a safe and happy holiday!

The Green Block Team



Dear Families,

"Travel Without Limits is a biannual magazine packed with travel tips, inspiration, recommendations, and advice for people with a disability and their loved ones. It was co-founded by a Mum with first-hand experience of travelling with her son (who lives with cerebral palsy and is a wheelchair user), who understands the importance of representation and accessibility in travel and in day-to-day life. The September 2020 issue is jam-packed with features and ideas, including COVID-safe travel, accessible tips for the Gold Coast, Canberra, Noosa and more. Plus, an interview with the incredible cover girl Sam Bloom. It is available now via their website: travelwithoutlimits.com.au.



FERNHILL SPEECH PATHOLOGIST UPDATE

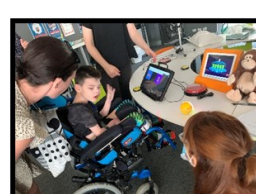
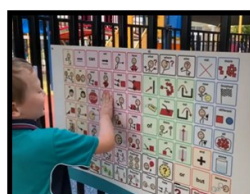
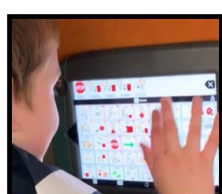
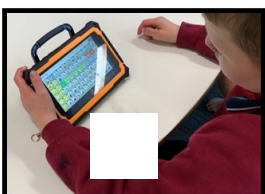
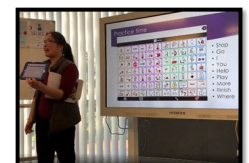
Hello everyone. For those who I haven't met yet, I am Betty and I am a Speech Pathologist employed by Fernhill School. I have been at the school since its first year of operation in 2017. I currently work at the school on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

My role here at Fernhill is a little bit different to the therapists you work with through NDIS. Things I do include:

- Supporting the teachers to embed more communication into their teaching. In this role I may provide limited individual support to specific students.
- Upskilling the teachers and SLSO's in their use of various communication systems and extending their knowledge of Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) systems.
- Exploring possible communication supports for students who do not yet have a system or giving suggestions on how to better incorporate students' existing systems. This often involves collaboration with the external therapists.
- Supporting the trial of communication systems at school. Most recently I have also collaborated with Liberator to run an eye gaze / switch access clinic at school.
- Prior to COVID-19 restrictions, I supervised multiple Speech Pathology Students who provided free sessions to our students at school.
- Reaching out to parents either directly or by running workshops around communication.

If you see me at school please feel free to come up and say hello!

Betty Campbell (Speech Pathologist, CPSP)



FERNHILL COMMUNITY NOTICES

Further from Page 1:

Please get behind this great opportunity to have your say in the future upgrade of Tench Reserve. Some of our staff have completed the survey and requested such things as a liberty swing, fenced play areas, water play areas, and more.....the louder our voices the bigger the hopes to be heard.

We live in a fantastic area-so lets get behind it's development.

Penrith City Council–
Tench Reserve Upgrade
HAVE YOUR SAY :

<https://dpie.mysocialpinpoint.com.au/tench-reserve>



Dear Fernhill,

The revitalisation of the Nepean River continues with the announcement of a new \$10 million open space area at Tench Reserve.

This project is being funded through the NSW Government's Parks for People Program which aims to improve communities' access to high quality open space areas and encourage active living.

This is great news for Penrith and for everyone who loves Tench Reserve with the project set to deliver more useable open space and create more opportunities for eating, meeting, relaxing, celebrating and being active in the great outdoors.

Consultation has begun with the community and key stakeholders invited to share what they value about Tench Reserve, and what they would like to see there in the future, in a short online survey and interactive map.

The pandemic has highlighted the importance of open space areas to the health and wellbeing of communities. This is your chance to help create a well-designed, vibrant green space for the people of all ages to experience and enjoy.

The survey is open until 22 September. Complete the survey at <https://dpie.mysocialpinpoint.com.au/tench-reserve>.

To find out more about the project head to: planning.nsw.gov.au/parksforpeople

Regards

Alison Randall
City Precinct Facilitator - Nepean River

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www.penrithcity.nsw.gov.au



HELP INFORM THE
12-YEAR COMMUNITY
STRATEGIC PLAN

Register
now



Stay informed with the SkoolBag App

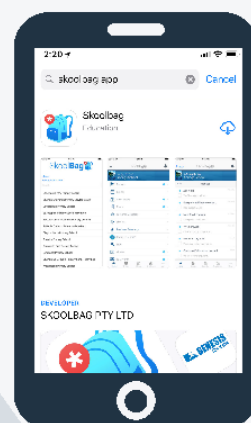


The SkoolBag app is the easiest way to stay up-to-date with school events, last minutes notices, newsletters and **all** school communications.

1

Download the app

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



2

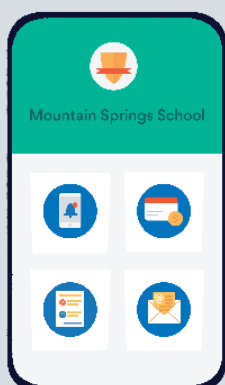
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Sign up in seconds with your email address

3

Add your school

Search for your school and add your subscription groups

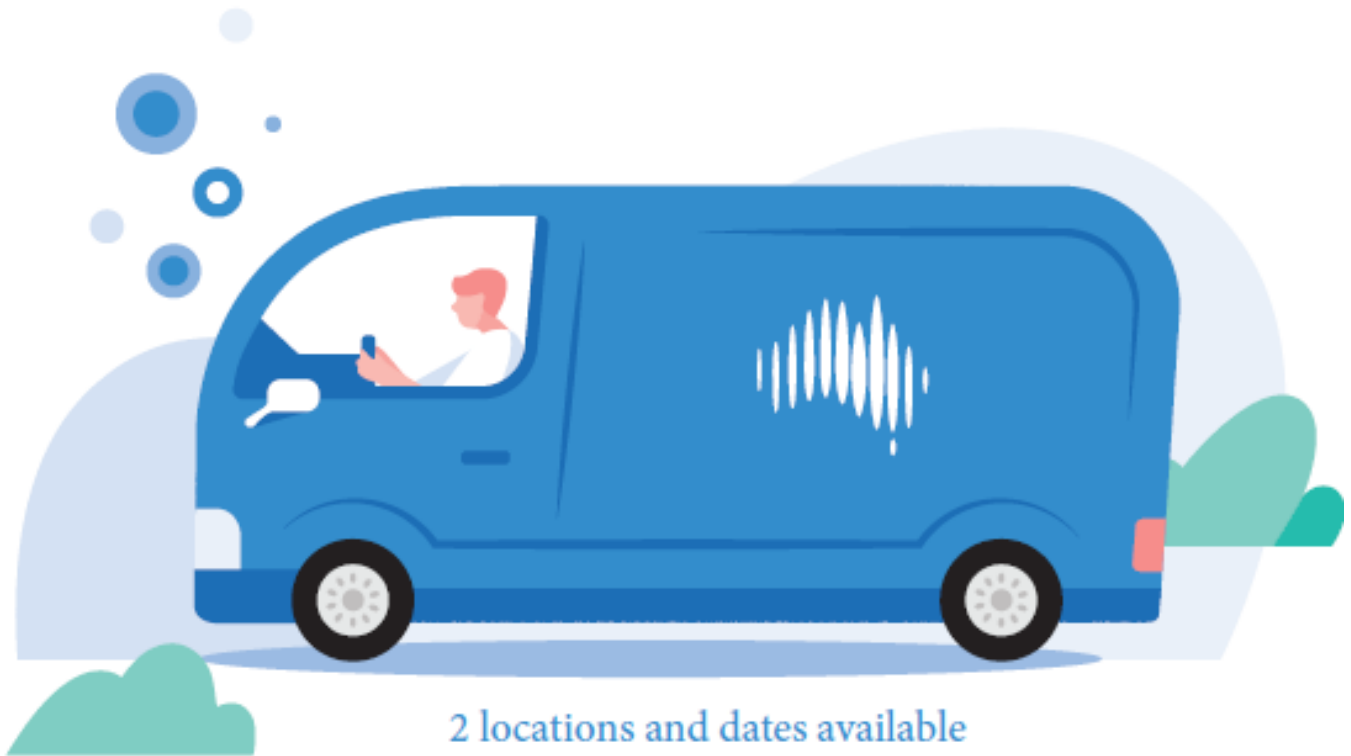


SkoolBag 

FERNHILL COMMUNITY NOTICES



Hearing Australia is coming to you



2 locations and dates available

Hop aboard for a free* hearing check

Carpark outside Aldi North Richmond

Date 25/09/2020, **Time** 9:00am – 12:30pm

47–55 Bells Line of Rd

North Richmond NSW 2754

02 4720 3400

Cambridge Gardens Coles Carpark

Date 22/09/2020, **Time** 8:30am – 1:00pm

Richmond Rd & Boomerang Place

Cambridge Gardens NSW 2747

02 4752 2800



*Only 15 minute hearing checks are free. Other services may attract charges/fees or may be subsidised for those eligible under the Australian Government Hearing Services Program, to which conditions apply.

A hearing check is a screening that helps identify people that may have hearing loss.

FUN AROUND FERNHILL



Sunsmart Snippet

Vitamin D



Sensible sun protection does not put people at risk of vitamin D deficiency.

Most kids need just a few minutes of sun exposure, such as playing outside at morning tea, to get enough vitamin D.

Protect your skin when UV is 3 or above.

www.sunsmartnsw.com.au



Cancer Council
Healthy Lunch Box



Cancer Council
Healthy Lunch Box

Nutrition Snippet

The simplest way

... to make healthy party food.

Celebration season is upon us – but party food doesn't have to be unhealthy. Fruit and veg are bright and colourful and make the perfect ingredient for special party foods. Try these fun ideas:

- Watermelon fruit salad bowl
- Pita bread Christmas trees
- Frozen yoghurt pops
- Watermelon cookie cutter shapes
- Banana and strawberry candy cane



healthylunchbox.com.au

Return to School Dates for Term 4!

Staff and students return to
school on Monday 12th
October 2020.



CONTACT US

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