



Forest Crescent News

Newsletter No. 1 2 February 2024

Primary School 9232 3550

www.forestcrescentps.com

In Learning We Grow

IMPORTANT DATES!



Tues	13 Feb	P&C Meeting 7pm
Wed	21 Feb	School Board 7pm

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK



Greetings to parents, students, staff and community members, welcome to the commencement of another exciting school year! We have started the year with 661 students (K – 6), which is very close to the prediction provided to the department for initial planning in August. We have 4 kindergarten classes, 4 pre-primary classes and 20 classes from year 1-6. We have had many new families move into our area and I would like to welcome them to our school community. It was great to see everyone back for day one, the excitement on the kids (and staff!) faces as they met their friends and found their new rooms. Although it has been extremely hot, and we have implemented the Hot Weather Policy this week, students and staff have commenced the start in such a positive way. I look forward to seeing the wonderful teaching and learning programs throughout the year.

Thank You. Over the holidays gardening and cleaning staff have worked hard to ensure that staff and students come back to a clean and green school. It is amazing how Sandra and John, our hard working gardeners have managed to get the surrounds looking so good. Also to Debbie, Fereweini, Lloyd and Nicole our hardworking cleaners who ensured that classes and surrounds were clean and ready for staff to prepare their rooms before students arrived back – THANK YOU. I would also like to acknowledge and thank the office staff Donna Caniglia, Carol McLagan and Sue Gross who worked prior to the commencement of the school being open to ensure that all beginning of the year processes were carried out. This led to an extremely smooth start to the year!

Staffing 2024: In the current climate of teacher shortages, we are fortunate to be able to attract quality teachers to Forest Crescent Primary School as well as relief staff to fill

short term vacancies. An updated staff list is attached to this newsletter. I would like to formally welcome new staff Kylie Church, Brooke Slater, Mel Griffis, Amy Fortnum, Renae Armstrong and Emma Kleinig to Forest Crescent Primary and trust that they enjoy their teaching experience.

Before and After School: Our school's policy is that students should not be arriving prior to 8.30am as adequate teacher supervision cannot be guaranteed. Students who do arrive early are directed to the Undercover Area where supervision will be provided from 8.00am. Prior to this time, there may be no-one to supervise children. **When Parents are accompanying children during this time, they too, are asked to assemble in the Undercover Area, and not outside classrooms.** From 8.30am, all gates will be opened and class teachers will be in their room, ready to assume Duty of Care for their students. Parent support is required as the safety of your children is extremely important to us. When children arrive at school (after 8.30am) they should go directly to their classroom. The 8.30am - 8.45am period is used for children to prepare for the morning lessons. Outside play is not permitted during this time. At the end of the school day, children should not remain at school after being dismissed nor play on the equipment as, again, adequate teacher supervision cannot be guaranteed. Camp Australia offers a before and after school service here at Forest Crescent. Parents can register online at: www.campaustralia.com.au or phone Ellie our wonderful new coordinator, on 0422 578 313.

Parent/Teacher Class Meetings: As per the last couple of years, teachers will not be holding whole class Parent Information sessions this year. Teachers will be sending home all of the parent information outlining the teaching and learning programs planned, together with organisational structures to be used in the room. This may be in hard copy or using Connect. Information teachers may outline include Curriculum, Behaviour Management, Homework, Communication and other day to day operations of the class. Parents are welcomed to arrange a meeting with their child's classroom teacher if they would like to discuss their child's individual needs.





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Connect: Connect is a secure online environment developed by the Department of Education for staff, students and parents in public schools. For you, Connect provides easy access to information and relevant to your child's classes and learning programs. Our teachers will be utilising Connect as a form of communication with parents as well as teaching students how to use the platform in lessons. They will keep you updated with information on things like upcoming events, excursions, classroom activities, photos and stories which will be sent to you via email notification, or if you prefer, via the Connect Now app on your phone. It can be downloaded through [google play](#) or [the apple app store](#).

WHAT YOU NEED TO DO.... Keep your current email details up to date with our Front Office.

- **New Users:** Miss Sandhu will send you an email (From the Department) that will invite you to join Connect. Use this to set up your account.

- Keep a record of your P Number and password so you can log into Connect. Once you have registered, It will link your children to your account.

Existing Users: Your children currently at FCPS should be now linked to your account.

The Connect Portal is where you log in to see your child's classroom. Under the "My Children" tab at the top of the screen is where you can see your child's/children's: Notices Overview, Attendance and School Reports. At this stage, teachers will be mainly using connect for notice and the occasional lessons to familiarise students. Formal reports will also be sent using connect in Semester 1 and Semester 2.

Anyone who experiences issues logging into Connect can contact the school on 9232 3550 or see staff at the Front Office.

Gifted and Talented Applications 2025: Students entering Year 7 in 2025 are eligible to apply to attend a school offering a Gifted and Talented program. Applications for Gifted and Talented Secondary Selective Entrance programs are now open. These exceptional academic, arts and languages programs are available at select public secondary schools. They include a fully selective academic school and an arts college. If selected, students will learn with like-minded peers, following an extended curriculum designed specifically for their needs and delivered by teachers with expert skills and knowledge. Applications are now open at www.education.wa.edu.au/giftedandtalented. The website also contains information about the programs, where they are offered and upcoming parent information evenings. The PowerPoint parent presentation will be made available on the website in early December if you are unable to attend a session. For more information, you can contact the Gifted and Talented Selection Unit on 9264 4307 or at gtsu@education.wa.edu.au.

Applications close 11:59 pm Sunday, 11 February 2024. Late applications are not accepted.

Attendance: Regular attendance at school is fundamental to your child's social and academic learning. In Semester 2 2023, we had 68% of our students (406 students) who attended school greater than 90% of the time. We also had 23% of students or 139 students who attended between 80% - 90% who are categorised as "At Risk – Indicated" and 8% or 46 students who were identified "at moderate risk" attending between 60%-80% of the time. As parents, or legal guardians of an enrolled child, you are responsible under the School Education Act 1999 to ensure the attendance of your child at school every day. It is important to assist your child's achievement and learning by making regular school attendance a priority in your child's life. The Department of Education's Student Attendance policy requires parents/guardians to provide an acceptable explanation to the school principal for any absence of their children. Principals must authorise all absences. The Act defines health, religious and cultural observances as reasonable cause for a school absence and the absence would be recorded as "authorised" by the principal. Families who are taking family holidays during school term should also write to the Principal with the length of intended absence. Family holidays during term time cannot be authorised by the Principal and will be recorded as an unauthorised absence. Although regular attendance is critical to your child's educational; success, it is important that they are not sent to school when they are unwell or sick.

School Parking and Traffic: Safety around schools remains a high priority for the City of Gosnells Ranger Services. To bring about long term changes to parking and traffic behaviour among school communities, efforts between schools, parent communities and the City to educate and monitor driver behaviour will have a greater benefit. As part of its ongoing commitment to the school community, the City's Rangers will inspect every school at the commencement of each term to ensure the correct parking signage is in place and determine its priority level with regards to parking issues and driver behaviour. Schools that are determined as a high level of importance will be given priority for Ranger attendance. Rangers at the City of Gosnells use the City's *Parking Local Law 2012* to ensure parking remains safe, lawful and allows traffic to flow. Don't risk a fine for parking illegally around the school – many parking infringements are \$100. If you can't find anywhere around the school, consider parking further away and walk the rest of the distance. Better still, if it's possible, leave the car at home and walk or cycle to school to improve your health and reduce congestion on the roads.

Please note the following information which is re-printed from the City of Gosnells "Safety Around Schools" brochure: (A copy is attached to the newsletter)

School zones: 40km/hr school zones are in place around every school in the City of Gosnells. School zones operate from 7.30am to 9am and 2.30pm to 4pm. Children warning signs and 40km/hr school zone speed signs are the responsibility of Main Roads WA.

Kiss and Drive: Kiss and Drive zones typically allow parents to pick up and drop off children adjacent to the main school entrance. Kiss your child, say goodbye, allow them out and drive away as soon as possible. When using the designated Kiss and Drive zone around schools, never leave your car unattended.

Continuous yellow line markings: You cannot stop or park anywhere along a single yellow line painted on the edge of the road. This restriction is in place 24 hours a day and attracts a \$100 penalty. The City will use yellow lines instead of signage where placement of signs may be difficult, pose a hazard or affect the amenity of an area.

It is important that students who are picked up from school use the Kiss and Drive on Hickory Drive as this is the only staff supervised area for after school for pick up. The area next to the Year 1 block and basketball courts is a parking area and not a Kiss and Drive zone. Should all parking bays be full (as they usually are by 2.50pm parents are requested to not "double park" along Redheart Drive but continue through the car park and park at the end of the legal single lane parked cars. If you wait for 3-5 minutes after 3.00pm there are a number of carparks available for use, as most parents have collected their kids. You can then pull into the carpark safely and pick up your kids!

School Bike Racks: It is wonderful to see so many students who ride, scoot or walk to school. As a sustainable school the less car trips we have, the less our carbon footprint, and the less traffic congestion we have before and after school. Just a reminder that bikes in the bike racks should be locked, as even though we lock the gates after 9.00am, there are still opportunities for someone from off site to steal a bike. Should you not have a lock it is possible to park your bike in the courtyard adjacent to the front office, however we would prefer to minimise the congestion in this area. Also a reminder that students who ride their bikes to and from school must wear an approved helmet. Should students ride to school without their helmet, parents will be notified.

P&C Meeting: The Forest Crescent Parents and Citizens Association provides valuable assistance to the students and staff at Forest Crescent Primary School. Under the current leadership of Ryan Jenkins and his committee the P&C oversee the amazing canteen and uniform shop as well as organizing student activities such as whole school discos and fun runs. This in turn raises valuable funds which are used to provide extra resources across the school. The first P&C meeting is on Tuesday 13 February commencing at 7.00pm. Meetings are held in the staffroom and usually take about an hour. It would be wonderful to see new parents attend.

It promises to be another busy year at Forest Crescent Primary School with many outstanding learning opportunities for our students. I look forward to catching up with many of you over the coming term.

