From the Principal...

2016 Class Structures - We were very pleased to be able to form classes last Thursday for the 2016 school year. The students came back settled after the holidays knowing that they would, in most cases, be with their previous teacher. The students have been working on school based units which are both meaningful and relevant to their current grade level. I appreciate the patience, support and understanding of the staff, students and parents, and trust that the decision to wait for structuring our classes has again been valued and will now provide stability for the remainder of this year. I would remind parents that students have been placed in their classes after careful consideration by each child’s 2015 class teacher, grade supervisor and support staff. We have placed students based on their academic needs and parental input provided in Term 4 last year. Classes have not been formed based on social circles and friendship groups. Our students are provided with opportunities throughout the day during recess, lunch and grade activities to interact with friends. Class time is about academic improvement and need. We look forward to a successful and settled year.

22 Classes - This year our numbers were a couple of students short of our school being staffed for 22 classes. However, I have made the decision to form the planned 22 classes and utilise school funding to cover the cost of the additional teacher for the year. I believe this decision is in the best interest of our students and will alleviate larger numbers in classrooms. This decision means I have reworked the school budget to accommodate the additional cost. Obviously the result of this decision will be the need to budget more tightly in other areas.

Contribution Fees - Next week parents will receive the contribution levy note for all students. Given the information provided above (22 Classes), I am asking all parents to pay the contribution fees of $65 by the end of Term 1. Again, our school relies on the fees paid by parents to provide additional resources for classroom and student use.

Grade Information - Grades have all sent home detailed information about both grade and class structures for 2016. Please take the time to read the information provided.

Class Assessments - Over the next few weeks class teachers will be completing a variety of assessments with their new students. The purpose of all assessments is to gauge student learning and provide valuable base line data on your child’s strengths and areas of need. Assessment data also allows teachers to plan and direct teaching content at students’ point of need, ensuring more engaging lessons. Students will complete on-going assessments throughout the year so we can accurately monitor and track their progress.

Notes and Money - Parents are reminded that all money and notes need to be handed in to the front office. All money and notes should be placed in an envelope with the child’s name, class & what the money is for written on the front of the envelope. Parents are reminded to observe cut-off dates for money and notes. Unfortunately due to commitments to venues we are unable to process money after the due date printed on all notes that are sent home.

2016 Kindergarten Students - We would like to welcome our new Kindergarten students and their families to Governor Philip King Public School. All students are starting an exciting journey of learning and making new friends.

After a fun day of meeting their teacher, meeting some of their classmates and Best Start testing, all Kindergarten students had their first day with their entire class on Wednesday 3rd February. By Friday, there were some very tired students heading home. After a weekend of rest, all students arrived back on Monday ready for another exciting week of school.

We look forward to sharing a year of fun, friendship and success with all of our new Kindergarten students and their families.
Main School Entrance - Our procedures for entering and exiting the school in the morning and afternoon have not changed. Parents and students should be using the pathway into the school during morning arrivals. The front pedestrian gate will be open throughout the day for parents to access the front office via the main footpath. We are requesting that in the afternoon parents use the side gate into the infants area and the front gate behind the Year One classrooms to enter and exit the school. There should be no pedestrian traffic down the main footpath. This avoids large volumes of people all trying to leave using the same footpath resulting in the gardens being trampled. Under no circumstances should any parent or student enter or leave the school via the car park gates. Please support us in ensuring the entry into the school remains intact by following our simple routine and reinforcing this with the students. Your support with continuing our procedures will be greatly appreciated.

Student's Extended Leave - Any families planning overseas holidays must complete an Application for Extended Leave - Travel. These are available through the front office and must be completed a minimum of 2 weeks before travel occurs. If families do not complete these forms, the absence of students will then be recorded as an unexplained absence in the roll and on their record cards. A note written after the event will not change the unexplained absence. Parents must seek the approval of the principal prior to the leave being taken. If you have any questions or concerns regarding this please contact the front office.

Community Languages Program - Our school is in the unique and very fortunate position that our school offers 5 different community languages at our school. Students at Governor Philip King have the opportunity of acquiring, maintaining and developing a community language in the course of the normal school day. Many countries around the world recognise the benefits of learning a second and sometimes even a third language at primary school level. Every student at Governor Philip King is involved in our community language program.

Keeping your child safe - Parents are asked to help us to keep their children safe by ensuring they have appropriate supervision arrangements for their children before and after school. **Students should not be at school before 8:30 am as there is no staff supervision available.** If you need help with before and after school care you may want to consider booking your child into the Outside School Hours Care provided by Allambie Road Before and after School Care (located next door to Governor Philip King). If you want your child to access this program please call Allambie Road Before and After School Care directly (98234262) and request a place.

Student and Family Information - We request that parents inform the front office of any changes to contact details which may have occurred over the holiday period. This includes home and mobile numbers. If there have been any changes with family situations including custody arrangements we request that you notify the school as soon as possible.

Approaching Your School

From time to time parents or other members of the school community may need to approach the school in order to:

- Discuss the progress or welfare of own child;
- Express concern about actions of other students;
- Enquire about school policy or practice;
- Express concern about actions of staff.

It is therefore necessary to have procedures that will help solve problems as soon as possible so that a safe and harmonious school environment is maintained. The best results are usually achieved from working together.

These guidelines aim to:

- Provide a guide in order that concerns are dealt with in an open and fair manner;
- Ensure that the rights of students, teachers and parents are respected and upheld;
- Support sensitivity and confidentiality;
- Help reach an agreed solution.

On occasion, concerns may cause frustration and anxiety. At such times it is always important to organise a time to talk with school staff in an unhurried and confidential atmosphere.

**Note:** No parent should directly approach another person’s child.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CONCERN</th>
<th>APPROPRIATE ACTION</th>
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<tr>
<td>The academic progress of own child</td>
<td>Directly contact the child’s teacher either by note, phone or in person to arrange a suitable time to discuss any issues.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Actions of other students</td>
<td>Contact the class teacher for a classroom problem. Contact the grade supervisor (Assistant Principal) for playground problems.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School policy or practice</td>
<td>Contact front office. State nature of concern and make an appointment to see Deputy Principal or Principal.</td>
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</table>
Actions of a staff member

- Contact the front office and state concerns to Principal or Deputy Principal
- Arrange to meet with the Principal and staff member concerned.

The classroom teacher or grade supervisor should be the first point of contact when resolving issues or seeking clarification.

In very rare cases, where people wishing to express concerns, do so in an aggressive, threatening or violent manner, the principal (or nominee) has the legal authority under the ‘Inclosed Lands Act’ to:

- Direct the person to immediately leave the school grounds;
- Call the police to remove the person should he/she refuse;
- Withdraw future permission (by letter) for the person to enter the grounds without permission of the Principal;
- Seek further legal avenues.

**Parent Online Payments** - During this term our school will be implementing the Parent Online Payments (POP) system. Once set up our school will be able to accept electronic payments from parents/carers using the Westpac Quick Web. This will allow parents/carers and the community to deposit funds directly into the school’s bank account via a secure Westpac site. Watch the Newsletter for further information about this service.

**GPK 2016 Swimming Carnival** - School Swimming Carnival will be held on Tuesday 23 February for students in Years 3-6 at Prairiewood Leisure Centre commencing at 12.00pm and finishing approximately by 2.30pm to ensure students are back to school by bell time at 3.00pm.

**Upcoming Events** -

- Week 4
- 19 February - PSSA sport commences.

Have a great week!

Jason Corcoran
Principal
**Home Tutor**

- Maths
- English
- Reading
- Writing
- High School
- English
- Maths

Phone: 0425 806 731

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**Fairfield Bulls Soccer Club**

**Whether you call it soccer or football, we love this game and we think you will too.**

Fairfield Bulls Soccer Club welcomes you to the 2016 Soccer season.

Our club has been working with the local community over 45 years to build and maintain a culture of sportsmanship.

We would like to inform you that our juniors’ soccer trial (6-17 Yrs old) has started and it will be running every Monday and Wednesday between 7-9 PM on our home ground, St Johns Park Oval, which is located on Edensor St Johns Park, next to St Johns Bowling Club.

For your enquiry you can call Sabah Nissan on Mob 0439 473 171 or Derek Dankha on Mob 0452 265 759 or visit our website: www.fairfieldbullsoccerclub.com.au

Looking forward to seeing you all.

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**Free seminar**

**Enhancing self-esteem and a positive outlook**

**Families Together** invites mothers, fathers, carers and grandparents with children up to the age of 12. This seminar is presented by Megan Taylor.

Megan is a Clinical Psychologist with over 20 years experience working with adults, adolescents, families and their families.

This seminar aims to teach parents practical skills to enhance their child’s self-esteem and build strong connections. You will gain practical ideas on using validated evidence based children and parenting tools.

This seminar is suitable for parents of children from birth to 12.

**Wednesday 24th February 2016**

6:30 - 8:30pm

Elizabeth Room

Mount Pritchard and District Community Club (Mounties)

101 Woodstock Road

Mount Pritchard

Meetings are essential. Please note: no kids to attend the course.

Families Together is located in the local government area of Fairfield, Liverpool and Bankstown.

Children services workers, teachers, family support workers and other professionals will not be able to attend.

This seminar is being supported by the Department of Education and Employment (Fairfield City Council).

All parents are encouraged to attend.

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**Free seminar**

**Guiding your child’s behaviour**

Canley Vale Public School in partnership with Families Together invites mothers, fathers, carers and grandparents with children up to the age of 12 to this seminar presented by Margie Burton.

Margie Burton is a nationally accredited behaviour specialist. She is an experienced speaker on child behaviour issues and has also had the chance to consult with many parents in the area.

The seminar will cover some of the common challenges that parents face with their children. Parents will learn strategies to improve their children’s behaviour and reduce the stress associated with raising children.

**Wednesday 24th February 2016**

9.15 - 11.15am

Canley Vale Public School

Canley Vale Oval, Canley Vale

Families Together is funded by the Department of Education and Employment and approved by the Fairfield City Council.

Please note the date below as it is important to note: parents of any year level are welcome.

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**Learn Music on the keyboard at Governor Phillip King Public School**

**Great Songs, Musical Fun, Music Theory**

- K-6 welcome
- Convenient at-school venue
- Small group - 45 min weekly lesson
- Competitive rate - $27 per session (GST incl. Please do not forward payment to the school office)
- Limited vacancies!