Principal’s Report

It is hard to believe that this is only Week Three of the term. The calendar has been very busy with many highlights to share:

The **Prep students** are commencing their **Yoga program** as part of their study on ‘Looking After Myself’.

The **Grade 1 /2 students** have been immersed in some wonderings about Native Animals through a range of experiences inclusive of an incursion from ‘Bush Babies’ and day trip to **Healesville Sanctuary** last week.

The **Grade 3 /4 students** are also learning about ‘**Healthy Living**’ this term, with a range of themes that they will be exploring. As part of this study, students will be working with **Family Life Victoria**, learning about the onset of puberty and the development of the human body, the importance of nutrition and exercise. There will be a cyber safety component of this study.

The **Grade 5 students** have returned from their camp and are launching into the ‘**Earn and Learn**’ integrated studies project. They are also working on a variety of writing genres in their writing, which we hope to publish later in the year. This term the preparations for our **Tournament Of Minds** teams are commencing.

Our **Grade 6 students** have been engaged with the **Anzac Centenary Ceremonies** at a school and community level. They are finalizing their **Australian Defence Force Research projects** in readiness for their class presentations. I refer parents to the calendar of events further in this newsletter for details and we will send invitations to attend in the coming days. In addition, students are commencing their Science Physics study on ‘**Light and Images**’. This will be their major research for this term.

The **Northcote Leader** presented an article on our **Grade 6 student learning** in relation to the **ANZAC Centenary**. It was great to see our students being able to share their learning in this context. Click here to view the article online.

**Annual Report 2015**

The **Annual Report** was presented at the School Council meeting on Monday evening. This will be made available on the school website in due course. Each year, the **Department of Education and Training** compiles data based on student achievement, our parent opinion survey and the Student Attitudes to School survey. This is a public document and made available through the school and through the DE&T website. We use this information to prioritise areas for improvement and to celebrate our achievement. A contextual overview of the data is presented at the beginning of the document. One area that we are pleased with is in the **strength of our NAPLAN data** in comparison to similar schools. We are aware that our Teacher assessment of AusVels internally is more conservative than similar schools. Hence our focus on assessment across our professional practice for this year. The **Parent Opinion survey** will be conducted in **July** of this year. The **Student Attitudes to School survey** for all Grades 5 and 6 students, is **in process this week**.

**Allana Bryant**
Principal
President’s Report
At our meeting on Monday 27th April, the School Council endorsed the 4 Year School Strategic Plan for 2014 to 2018 and the Annual Implementation Plan which details the immediate steps towards achieving the strategic plan. This has been a product of the School Review which took place last year and input from teachers, parents, students and external reviewers.

As you know, there was a decision made by the Council last year to focus fundraising money on developing a master plan for the outdoor area of the school, to complement the Master Plan which is focused on the teaching and administration spaces. A presentation of the Grounds Master Plan was made on 5 March. Feedback was sought over the last few weeks and the results will be presented at the May Council meeting. We’re very close to seeing tangible works with a staged redevelopment of the school grounds. This is an exercise of balancing priorities against funds and improving the outdoor amenity. We have had extraordinary results in fundraising from a hardworking school community – now it’s time to see the product of that work.

We have our FPS School Open Day this month and there will be a working bee on Sunday 17 May. Let’s showcase our school in its best light. You can volunteer here so we know you’re coming or even just turn up on the day.

Alister Bayston
President, School Council

Communication
Communication. Is it too much? Is it not enough? Is it too late? Is it too early? These are questions you may have when it comes to school communications. Although there’s no magic bullet, work has begun on putting the school communications under the microscope so that the FPS community can be informed about the goings on in and around the school whether it’s school events, curriculum notices, or social events.

To lead this work with Allana and Margot, the school has appointed Carley Tonoli as the school’s Communications and Community Liaison Manager. Carley will be directly responsible for breathing new life and purpose into the newsletters and website. The initial focus of Carley’s work is on the timeliness of newsletters and exploring options for the website, but I assure you there is more to come!

To support this work and to help ensure that it delivers to parent’s expectations the School Council has appointed a representative to act as the conduit between the school and parents. That’s me, Mitali (Tali) Ross, mum of Kalam and Lyla! I am here to listen to parents and share progress of the work being done around school communications. I might even slip in the odd survey here and there so that the school knows they’re on the right track. So feel free to contact me if you have any questions, suggestions or general feedback - rhondagarner@bigpond.com. I will also be attending the Community Committee as I appreciate how linked communications is to this forum.

Tali Ross

Important Information
Please note that next Wednesday all students will be out of school grounds for the entire day attending or performing in the senior students production of The Jungle Book.

As a result there will be no lunch orders next Wednesday 6th of May. Students will need to bring their snacks, drink bottle and lunch in a small bag to take with them.

Any lunch orders that have already been placed will need to be cancelled or rescheduled via the Classroom Cuisine website.
 Performing Arts

Our senior students have been extremely busy rehearsing for their production of *The Jungle Book* next week! Our young actors are very excited about performing for their audience and we encourage our school community to support them by coming along to enjoy their wonderful show. Tickets are on sale now and can be purchased online by clicking here.

An email has been sent to Grade 5 and 6 parents regarding last minute concert information. For all concert related enquiries please contact Keri.

 Health and Physical Education

It has been an exhausting start to the term for our senior students! In the first two weeks of term, our Grade 3-6 students participated in a beep (fitness) test and have performed their best in the cross country trials. However this is only the start of our exercise and fitness training for Term 2! For the rest of the term we will be focussing on warming up for our PE lessons by involving ourselves in vigorous exercise. This will be followed up with some recovery as we develop our throwing and catching skills as the main unit of learning during lessons.

Our junior students are engaging well with their skills stations and are focussing on a number of physical skills and activities, as well as strengthening their personal and interpersonal skills involving group co-operation, challenging ourselves and even teaching others.

In sports news, interschool sports commences for our Grade 6 students this week, with the first game taking place at home against Holy Spirit Primary School. Soccer will be played on the school oval, football and netball will be played at Pitcher Park. The roster for the season was sent home with all Grade 6 students and is available on the school website. We would greatly appreciate the support of any parents who are able to come along and assist with walking the children to Pitcher Park, we leave school at 1:10pm, with games commencing at 1:30pm and concluding at 2:50pm. We welcome and encourage parents to come along and watch the games when they are able. The Grade 5 students will also be commencing their unit on circus skills this Friday morning as part of the alternative sport program. These lessons will take place in the school gym and the first group will begin their lesson at 9:00am. This unit will run for four weeks, and the third and fourth lessons will take place in the school gym with a later start time of 11:30am for the first class.

Finally, the District Cross Country Carnival will be held on Tuesday 26th May at Bundoora Park from 10:00am till 12:00pm. The eight highest achieving boys and eight highest achieving girls from our school cross country trials in the 9/10, 11 and 12/13 age groups, will be invited to represent the school at this event. Notices with further details will be coming home with those students soon.

Geoff Mc Shane
Visual Arts
In 2015 our student artists are immersed in how animals are represented in art. From Glover to Mambo, animals have long been the subject of many art forms.

Initially however, we need to develop our understanding of colour. During Term Two, we are exploring the artistic element of colour.

Our Foundations students are discovering the primary colours of red, yellow and blue. They are learning how these colours can be mixed to form secondary colours. They are even understanding how bossy black can be!

Our Grade 1/2 artists are learning about cool and warm colours. Blue is cool, red is warm! What do you prefer?

The Grade 3/4 artists are realising that colours can be complementary. Red and green are opposites on the colour wheel and therefore complementary!

The Grade 5/6 artists are using all of this knowledge and devising colour charts of extraordinary hues.

With this colour knowledge, we are examining the shapes and lines of animals of all kinds; cats and cows, Australian animals, dragons, and so on. Representing them in a realistic form provides a challenge in itself; however, a further challenge and sense of excitement comes from painting, printing and drawing them in all sorts of fantastical ways.

Our paintings are continually evolving as we work on them this term. Throughout the term our budding artists are patterning, collaging, detailing and enlarging.

We have also discovered the German artist Franz Marc who loved to paint animals in a very colourful ways...just like us!

French Blog
This term the French captains in Grade 6 have started to take charge of the French blog by using it as a forum to share their classroom learning. We encourage our school community to support our students by visiting the French blog and reading the students posts regarding their learning!

Bonne lecture (enjoy reading!)

Elsa Klockenbring

http://fpsfrench.global2.vic.edu.au/
**Literacy Information Evening**

On Tuesday 21st April a well-attended information evening was held to discuss **strategies used to support students in becoming successful readers**. Teachers from different parts of the school shared their professional expertise about **how children learn to read** and the **whole school approach** to the teaching of reading used at Fairfield Primary School.

A parent, Fiona Lee, also spoke and introduced a useful discussion about **how parents can support their child to develop reading skills**. The key theme of this discussion was that reading regularly with your child at home makes a terrific difference to their reading confidence and development.

**Teaching and Learning about Reading at Fairfield Primary School**

The whole school approach used at FPS is based on professional research about how children learn to read. **Key ideas which underpin the approach include**:

- Reading is primarily a thinking process in which the reader builds meaning.
- Successful readers use information both within and outside the text – to read with understanding.
- Reading with understanding combines knowledge of language (phonemic letter/sound knowledge, vocabulary and grammar), decoding skills (making sense of words) and comprehension strategies (thinking about text meaning).

At FPS children are supported to develop reading skills in a sequence which is varied or differentiated according to their development. Whole school assessment methods enable instruction to be differentiated according to individual needs.

Across the school comprehension strategies are explicitly taught and practised by students during independent reading. These are **thinking strategies** which proficient readers (including adults) use to understand what they read. **Key comprehension strategies include**:

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<tr>
<th>Use Prior Knowledge</th>
<th>Predict</th>
<th>Ask Questions</th>
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<tr>
<td>Make Connections</td>
<td>Use text features and structures</td>
<td>Summarise</td>
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<tr>
<td>Visualise</td>
<td>Think Aloud</td>
<td>Infer</td>
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**How can parents help their child to become a successful reader?**

- **All students benefit from reading daily** with and to their parents to build reading fluency and confidence, practise strategies, and develop enjoyment of reading.
- **It is beneficial for children to hear examples of fluent reading** by an adult or older sibling.
- Children benefit most from independently reading “just right” or relatively easy books which build confidence and fluency.
- Children can read books from school, home, Darebin Library or the local book shop.
- No child is too old to enjoy a picture story book with great illustrations.
- Many children enjoy reading **factual books** about topics of interest (dinosaurs, castles, animals, history, natural world etc.) The library is a useful source.
- **Talk about what your child is reading**. Discuss what is happening in the story, encourage questions or predictions, try making connections with other books, experiences or general knowledge. Discussion is beneficial for building comprehension.
- **Enjoy sharing great books and reading together**!

If you are interested in learning more, the Power Point presentation that was displayed at the literacy evening will be made available via the school website.

Hamish McPherson  
Literacy Co-ordinator
Area Spotlight

This term our Grade 1 and 2 students are researching Australian native animals for their Inquiry Studies. To enhance their learning on this topic they have enjoyed a Bush Babies incursion and an excursion to visit Healesville Sanctuary.

Bush Babies
We recently enjoyed a visit from the ‘Bush Babies’ group who introduced students to some amazing Australian animals and helped to deepen students understanding of our native animals. Students had close encounters with animals including a wombat, wallaby, parrots and cockatoos, blue tongue lizard, bearded dragon, Murray-darling python and salt-water crocodile!

The experience promoted some great questions about these creatures:

“Why did the lizard feel so smooth?” - Chris

“Why did the crocodile have spikes?” - Freya

“Why do some animals sleep during the day?” - Bonnie

“Why do wallabies have small babies?” - Will

“Why did the Tawny Frogmouth have horns?” - Isla

Following the visit, students came together to reflect on their learning during the incursion. The feedback the children provided is evidence of their developing understandings:

“I didn’t know that Tawny Frogmouths sleep in the daytime.” - Lauren

“The spikes on the Bearded Dragon scare other animals away.” - Scarlett

“I found out that Crocodiles have more than one eye lid.” - Lily

“The Blue tongue lizard’s tongue looked like a blue icy pole stick.” - Finn

“I thought it was amazing how the snake moved and held its neck up.” - Kian

Healesville Sanctuary

On Friday 24th of April the Grade 1/2 classes visited Healesville Sanctuary as part of our Inquiry Studies. Many students interacted directly with the keepers and were particularly interested in the special animal shows on Birds of Prey and the Platypus. A presentation by the Sanctuary’s indigenous educator, about the importance of flora and fauna to our Aboriginal community, was especially informative. Here are some of our students reflections on their experience:

“We got to see a platypus in the water. We saw a turtle.” - Dominic

“We saw a dingo. It was hiding from us.” - Leo

“We saw the ducks. We saw a photo of a disease on a Tasmanian Devil.” - Luka

“We saw cute animals. We saw an electric eel. We went to the platypus show.” - Soleil

“Some Tasmanian Devils have cancer and they are endangered. The koala is a greedy guts because it eats all day. Gum leaves don’t have much energy in them so they need to eat loads.” - Oliver
Community News

Home Cooked Comic Festival 26th April 2015
On Sunday, many of our Fairfield Primary School ‘published’ comic artists from 2014 operated a stall at the Home Cooked Comic Festival at the Northcote Town Hall from 12-5pm. There was much public interest in the Fairfield Primary School stall and our school was publically acknowledged for all the work we have invested in promoting and providing experiences in comic work for future generations.

The students spoke to festival goers about their comic work from 2014, which focused on a Unit of Inquiry about Marine Ecosystems. The students raised funds by selling the comics to locals (a ‘gold coin donation’). We managed to raise $47.20 and all monies raised will go towards supporting Australian Marine Conservation Society.

The children had a wonderful afternoon and enjoyed getting their face professionally painted as an Australian animal. (Australian Animals is our current Unit of Inquiry!)

Marcus Prince was interviewed by well-known Melbourne-based comic artist, Bernard Caleo, and spoke about the program and students’ learning in more depth.

It was a wonderful afternoon and we extend our thanks to all the year 1, 2, 3 and 4 comic artists and families who attended.

Marcus Prince and Elly Kalenjuk

Lunchtime @FPS
We like to encourage all of our students to get outside in the fresh air and run around at lunchtime with their friends. For some of our students, the lunch break is a long time to be outside without some structured activities.

Art Zone
We have a team of students who are our Art Zone Captains who support children who like to sit and draw during lunchtimes. Children are able to sit and draw near the gym foyer during lunchtime from Monday to Friday.

Library
As the colder weather approaches, we will now be opening the school fiction library each Thursday for the second half of lunch. Thanks to Zoe and Rebecca for supporting this activity.

Chess Club
Children who are interested in playing chess at lunchtime will now be able to play a game with a friend in our Prep building. Chess club started on Tuesday, and thanks to Cathy for enabling this activity.

Safety Matters
The school office has been notified of unsafe driving practices by some FPS parents when children are being dropped off at school. As you are aware, safety is of paramount importance and we cannot put our children or other community members at risk.

We once again remind parents that it is essential that all members of our community respect our neighbours and obey the parking regulations and road laws when driving children to and from school.

We work in partnership with the City of Darebin, who support us in managing local traffic issues and we have contacted them to alert them to these unsafe driving practices.
OSHClub Curriculum Day Bookings

OSHClub have been informed about the upcoming curriculum day and are hopeful that a session will run, however, this is dependent on numbers.

When / what / how:

Date: Monday 25th May Please book prior to Monday 18th May.
Times: 7.30am to 6:00pm
Cost: $9.00 - $50.00 (Not including 50% tax rebate)

What happens: Loads of fun for all ages including art/craft, games, sports, drama, board games and fun with friends.
What to bring: Morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea. Also wear/provide appropriate clothing including hats.
Please Remember: Once you have enrolled into this day there are no refunds for cancellations. All regular before and After Care bookings have been removed.

Please note: we require a minimum of 15 children to run the day, parents will be notified on Monday 18th May if the day will proceed.

Further Important Information for this Day:
• Once you have enrolled there are no refunds for cancellations.
• A $10 late booking fee applies for any casual attendances on the day.
• All regular Before and After Care bookings have been removed.

If you have an account query, need help logging into your account or no longer wish to receive email please contact your account manager Georgia on georgia@oshclub.com.au or 03 85649025.

FPS Family Maths Information and Activity Evening
Foundation to Grade 6

Wednesday 20th May
6.00 – 7.30 pm
In the Old Hall

Enjoy an evening of information, fun maths games and activities that your entire family will enjoy!

Bring your children along (Foundation to Grade 6) for an evening of fun! We will be running maths games and activities to showcase the teaching and learning that happens in our school. You will also have the opportunity to talk to the teachers about ways to help your child at home.
Fairfield Primary School Community Committee is once again proud to present our:

Mother’s Day Stall

Thursday May 7
11.30am – 1.30pm
In the gym foyer

Prices range from $4.00 to $12.00

Please send your child with a separate bag to bring the gift home for their mother or special person.
Fairfield Primary School’s Production of

The Jungle Book

Music and Lyrics by Richard M. Sherman, Robert B. Sherman and Terry Gilkyson
Book Adapted and Additional Lyrics by Marcy Heisler
Music Adapted and Arranged by Bryan Louiselle
Based on the Screenplay by Larry Clemmons
Based on the Novel The Jungle Book by Rudyard Kipling
By arrangement with Hal Leonard Australia Pty Ltd
exclusive agent for Music Theatre International.

Please join Mowgli, Baloo, Bagheera, King Louie, Shere Khan and all of your Jungle friends for this exciting evening!
Wednesday 6th May
12 pm and 7pm,
$22

Click here to buy your tickets online from Friday 17th of April

The Community Committee proudly presents:

Guess Who’s Coming to Dinner?

Are you interested in meeting new people in the school community? Are you game for a bit of an adventure?
We are holding the inaugural
Guess who’s coming to dinner? Mystery Dinner Event
on Saturday 20 June 2015.

More details will follow, but initially we are looking for 10 hosts who are willing to offer their home as a venue for a dinner party. You must live within 10 minutes walking distance of the school and be able to accommodate 10 people (including yourself) for dinner. All food will be provided.

If you are interested and would like to know more, contact Julie Anderson on 0419 635 486 or jfand1@gmail.com. If you’re happy to sign up right now, then click here.
Hello from OSHClub!

ANZAC Week was a huge success! Children were able to discover the meaning of ANZAC Day, make commemorative medals, poppies and even got to cook ANZAC biscuits! The ANZAC biscuits were definitely a highlight of the week along with the our home made pizza treat at the end of the week.

This week our theme is all about Autumn. We have exciting activities planned such as making an autumn pinwheel, going on a nature walk, playing games such as Harvest Dash and Scarecrow Tiggy as well as making pumpkin scones and having pumpkin soup for afternoon tea!

Next week we will be celebrating and learning to appreciate all the wonderful things our Mothers, Grandmothers, Aunts, Big Sisters, Teachers and all the wonderful women in our lives do for us! Feel free to come and see us so we can say a massive THANK YOU and perhaps receive something special too!

One person’s junk is another ones treasure
Parents, if you have any craft items at home that don’t quite fit in the recycle bin, we would love them. Our creative OSHClub students would like to recycle your ‘rubbish’ and turn them into masterpieces. We are looking for old jars, cans, paper rolls, newspapers, scrap material, milk cartons and more. Please make sure items are cleaned prior to bringing them in. Thank you.
Please drop by the room to say hello and to see the fun and exciting activities that are planned for this week.

Best Regards
Ashlee and Meaghan
OSHClub Program Coordinators

Next Week’s Activities

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<tr>
<td>Before Care Activities</td>
<td>Mother’s Day Certificates</td>
<td>Wrist Ball</td>
<td>Mother’s Day Heart Pin</td>
<td>Tissue Paper Flowers</td>
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<td>After Care Activities</td>
<td>Musical Statues</td>
<td>“Reasons why I love you…”</td>
<td>Heart and stars cookies</td>
<td>Mother’s Day Coupons</td>
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Parent Information

OSHC program phone: 0432 680 504
Coordinator: Ashlee de Leon
Assistant: Meaghan, Lishette and Alexis
OSHClub Head Office: 03 85649000
All families must be enrolled to attend the program, remember this is Free! Please create account online at www.oshclub.com.au all bookings and cancellations can also be managed via your online account. For on the day bookings please contact the Coordinator direct at the program.

www.oshclub.com.au
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<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 4 May - Tuesday 5 May</td>
<td>Grade 3/4 Family Life Program</td>
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<td>Wednesday 6 May</td>
<td>Senior Concert @ Darebin Arts &amp; Entertainment Centre</td>
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<td>Thursday 7 May</td>
<td>Grade 4 Girls Family Life</td>
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<td>Mothers Day Stall</td>
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<td>School Tour for prospective 2016 student enrolments 9.30am</td>
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<td>Friday 8 May</td>
<td>Preps Drama Tool Box ‘The Body Investigators’</td>
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<td>Tuesday 12 May - Thursday 14 May</td>
<td>Year 3 and 5 Naplan Testing</td>
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<td>Tuesday 12 May</td>
<td>Grade 5/6 Australian Defence Force Research Exhibition</td>
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<td>Thursday 14 May</td>
<td>Prep A &amp; B Excursion Jets Gymnastics</td>
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<td>Sunday 17 May</td>
<td>Working Bee</td>
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<td>Wednesday 20 May</td>
<td>Family Maths Night</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 21 May</td>
<td>OPEN DAY School Tour for prospective 2016 student enrolments 9.30am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 25 May</td>
<td>Pupil Free Day – No students at school</td>
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<td>Tuesday 26 May</td>
<td>District Cross Country 10am—12 noon</td>
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<td>Thursday 28 May</td>
<td>Prep C &amp; D Excursion GYM Gymnastics</td>
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<td>Friday 29 May</td>
<td>Prep—1/2 Assembly</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 8 June</td>
<td>Queen’s Birthday Public Holiday - No students at school</td>
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<td>Tuesday 9 June</td>
<td>Grade 6 Excursion ACMI</td>
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<td>Wednesday 10 June</td>
<td>Division Cross Country</td>
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<td>Friday 12 June</td>
<td>Grade 3/4 MCG&amp; Sports Museum</td>
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<td>Saturday 13 June</td>
<td>Parent Social Evening TBC</td>
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<td>Monday 15 June</td>
<td>Buildings &amp; Grounds Committee Meeting—3/4 class 7pm</td>
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<td>Monday 22 June</td>
<td>School Council Meeting – Staffroom 6.30pm</td>
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<td>Wednesday 24 June</td>
<td>Student Reports sent home</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 26 June</td>
<td>End of Term 2 – Early dismissal 2.30pm</td>
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