Dear Parents, Students and Staff

Last Friday our Year 7 students handed over the running of parade to the upcoming Year 6 and 7 students and last night we held our Year 7 graduation ceremony. These events mark the end of an era for our Year 7 students. In the time these students have spent at Farnborough State School they have gained not only academic knowledge but also social skills, leadership and strong values. It is these things that they take with them as they start the next stage of their academic journey. On behalf of all the staff of FSS; good luck Year 7 students and we know you will continue to strive for excellence in whatever you do. Farewell also to the families that leave the Farnborough Community this year.

Last week was extremely busy, with our Senior Swimming Carnival, Junior Swim Fun day, Year 7 surfing day and our Year 6 visit to the Japanese Restaurant. Our Senior Carnival was a lovely day, with some excellent results from students. The participation of our Year 4 students was exceptional, with those from Mrs Forrest’s class receiving an ice-block for having the best attendance on the day. Congratulations to our senior swimming age champions Hannah, Colby, Haylee, Ainslie, Finn and Riley. Our junior classes had a fun swim day where they showed parents and others the skills they have learned during swimming classes this term. Thanks Rhya who presented Margie with a special award for organising this event.

We have now finalised our staffing allocation for 2014. Our new Prep teacher will be Pauline Barrum and Jessica O’Donnell will be our Year 1 teacher (this has been changed since an earlier notification in the newsletter). We wish Mrs Scharf who will be leaving us, and Jacienta Hinton and Kathy King who have been on contract with us this term all the best and thank each of you for your hard work at Farnborough State School. We also thank Sheena Waller and Michelle McCann, who have volunteered in the classroom and pool this term.

Our classes for 2014 are still ‘under construction’. Class allocations will be placed around the school from Wednesday 22 January. I have received a number of requests from parents around class preferences and while I will endeavour to meet these requests, this may not always be possible. Once class allocations have been finalised, no changes can be made.

The Uniform shop will be open on Wednesday 22 and Thursday 23 January from 9am to 12noon for those needing to purchase uniforms.
At this stage we are not sure whether we will have moved into our new Administration Building before the start of the year. As such, the first few weeks will be difficult from an administrative point of view as we endeavour to move files, phones and computer systems. We will try to ensure things run smoothly, but ask for your patience during this time. This delay will also impact on one prep class as they wait for the renovation of the existing Administration Block, which will be their new classroom. The wait will be worth it as we all move into our lovely new surrounds.

Finally I would like to thank everyone for their support of the school this year. Thank you to the staff who have worked so hard to provide academic, sporting and social programs and extra-curricular activities of high quality. Thank you to the P&C who do such a fantastic job and the many parents who have helped out this year; through your contributions, our school is enriched in so many ways. I would like to wish everyone a Happy Christmas and a safe and relaxing New Year. I look forward to seeing everyone refreshed after the holidays. On the first day of next term, there will be a Coffee, Cake and Conversation morning in the Kitchen from 9.05am. This is a chance for new parents to mingle and returning parents to re-kindle conversations and welcome new families. We would love to see lots of people there.

Carol Butler- Mader (Principal)

Helping Our Children.

Helpful information from the HOC. (Head of Curriculum)

**Happy holidays—The Gift of Reading.**

As parents one of the best gifts we can give our children is the ability to read. Even though school holidays are here and we can all take a break from homework routines and stresses it is still important to use opportunities that arise to ensure our children are still practicing their reading skills. Reading the Christmas and Boxing Day sale catalogues and writing wish lists are a fun way to practice reading and maths skills. Books are great stocking fillers and gifts for children and are always a favourite in our house. A kindle or ebook reader is a great gift idea for older children or teens.

Visit the town library and discover the many books, DVDs, books on CD/MP3 (which are great for long car trips). Membership is free. If you belong to the Regional library you can also access eBooks from the State Library. Before a trip to the movies, encourage your child to read the book version first, they will quickly discover how much better the movie is when you know the whole story.

Have your children help plan any trips using maps, Navman route planners, online booking and travel sites. Don’t forget Reading Eggs is available over the holidays to our students.

Finally there is no better way to end a hot day than sitting on the veranda and reading a book.

Have a great holiday and happy reading!

Ellen Clayton (HOC)

Gone Missing
The IPod is still missing. It has black sides with a sliver cover on the back. (which has the apple logo sticker on it.) A reward of $20 for any information leading towards it’s whereabouts. Please phone the office.
Thank you.

Are you able to help
Merry Christmas to everyone- our family will be travelling to the Pacific Islands over the holiday namely Vanuatu and two other Islands. I am looking to take some items that could be used in some of the schools as they have very few resources, you name it they need it!!
On a recent visit to Fiji the children did not even have a soccer ball to play with, they were using an old bottle!! The Prep class were all sitting on the floor on grass mats.
If you have anything you no longer need like coloured pencils, books (reading or exercise books), old puzzles even if they are used or new. Anything you would like to donate to a school just let me know or bring them to Prep by this Friday. I can be contacted on phone 49397704 after we break up until the 19th December. I always think how lucky and grateful I am that we live in Australia.

Happy Christmas Sue Memmott (Teacher Aide)

Students of the Week Awards
Prep & Year 1
Jed V A Congratulations of mastering 200 Magic Words
Christian G Congratulations of mastering 200 Magic Words
Hunter L For a great effort in spelling.
Year 2 and 3
Zoe M For positive attitude towards her school work
Lexie M For being a kind and caring classmate
Mia V For hard work in class especially with her sewing
**GARDEN NEWS**

What a great time in the garden the last two weeks! The Year 3, 4/5 and 5/6 classes harvested corn, beetroot, carrots and eggplant; and they weeded and prepared the garden beds for planting out seeds again.

Thank you to the person who left paint outside the garden shed; I’ve already redone some of the signs with it.

The chooks are all on their Christmas vacation with their home-stay families. Thank you to those who are caring for them over the holidays.

Have you seen the frog pond? It looks fantastic! A big thankyou to Larissa & Jase Wenn who have built a cottage fence around it, and thanks to Bruce Sloper from Bluegum Springs for donating some water plants. I’m still chasing some guppies for it if you have too many at home.

We have had the last day of **Green Club** for the year, and I would like to thank all the parents/children who helped with the chooks or worked in the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden this year. Your assistance has helped create a magical spot at FSS. I have enjoyed filling in for Pam whilst she was away.

If anyone is keen to garden over the holidays, please go at any time to the SAKG to weed or water the seedlings. Take your own tools as the shed will be locked.

*All the best for a great green Christmas!*  
*Kathy King*

**TUCKSHOP NEWS**

*Please note*

We have **sold out of wedges, rainbow slice, jelly cups and sausage rolls**.

I would like to thank everyone for your support and to the many helpers who assisted on the tuckshop days “Thank you”.

I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.  
*Stacey*
HPE & SPORT NEWS

FINAL SWIM WEEK.
As Carol mentioned on the front page all students had the opportunity to participate in the annual swim events. Thank you to the many parents (esp at our Junior day) who were able to come along and support or assist out where possible. A note was given out to some of our 9, 10 and 11 year old students regarding the Interschool Swim carnival in Rocky early next year. Please do not forget to let me know your intentions by week one (Term 1) next year!

HELPERS & SUPPORTERS 2013-THANK YOU.
Thank you to our many parents, grandparents and other community members who may have assisted in any small way with our HPE & SPORT programmes in 2013. The list would be too long to type out BUT I know your support certainly does make the “job” a lot easier. I look forward to hopefully this continued support in 2014.

CHESS TOURNAMENT
This lunchtime competition is still going on as this newsletter goes to print. All final results will be published next year. The presentation of the medallions may be done this week depending on our recipients. Congratulations to all of our participants and thanks to Rick to once again supporting this Lunchtime pursuit.

RELOCATION
Next year I will most probably be “living” in the “Penthouse” (the existing staffroom) as the “Dungeon” as my little office is affectionately called (funny calling an office with affection!) is to be “squashed”. I’m actually hoping to shift a bit of my weight over the coming years which will happen going up and down those stairways more regularly!

Good Luck to our departing big bunch of Year 7’s - work hard to achieve your goals.

MERRY CHRISTMAS to all of our families.
Enjoy your break together – keep safe and sort of healthy over the festive season! Margie
FARNBOROUGH STATE SCHOOL
End of Year Concert 2013
Wednesday 11th December
Begins at 6:30 pm

Opening Welcome Address by the Principal

Item 1 Farnborough SS Concert Band

Ham Draw #1

Item 2 Prep: When Goldilocks Went To The House Of The Bears & Gummy Bears

Item 3 Prep/Year 1: Throw It Out The Window

Item 4 Year 1: My Island Home

Item 5 Year 2: I Love The Whole World, On Top of the World & Together We Can Change The World

Item 6 Year 2/3: True Colours and Own Composition - 2013 The Year That Was

Ham Draws #2 and #3

INTERVAL

Item 7 Year 4: Bring Out The Clowns

Item 8 Year 4/5: Dance Off

Item 9 Year 5/6: I Like the Way you Move and What Does the Fox Say?

Item 10 Year 6: Grease Lightning

Item 11 Year 7: Classic Hits

ACADEMIC & CITIZENSHIP AWARDS—Years 4-6 will be awarded between Acts