Principal’s message
Dear parents, students and staff,

Firstly, a warm welcome back to students, their families and the staff, in particular it’s lovely to welcome back Mrs Stewart who has been on leave with baby James since 2013. Mrs Stewart has returned to work 2 days a week, covering the Science syllabus, K to 6.

Huge congratulations to Rianne, Yr 6, who has made it through to the grand final of the Premier’s Spelling Bee. This will be held at the ABC studios, Ultimo. Good luck Rianne, you’re a great speller!

Thank you to Mr Harris for bringing together an interesting newsletter covering all of week one’s events. As you would be aware we are in the process of permanently filling a second Assistant Principal position at the school. I would like to thank the panel for undertaking the role and generously giving their valuable time to considering the applications. We are currently still in the early stages - with lots more to follow.

Good luck to all the finalists involved in the FSPS Public Speaking ‘Speak Offs’ being held this Wednesday. All welcome.

Warm regards 😊
Michele

Calendar

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<tr>
<th>Monday 13 October</th>
<th>Dance Fever begins</th>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 15 October</td>
<td>Speak Off (school hall @ 9.30 am)</td>
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<td>Sydney Dance Company workshop (2/3L and 4K @ 2-3 pm)</td>
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<td>Reading Friends resumes</td>
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<td>Thursday 16 October</td>
<td>Sydney Dance Company workshop (2/3L and 4K @ 10.30-11.30 am)</td>
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<td>Friday 17 October</td>
<td>BPSSA sports begin for Term 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 20 October</td>
<td>Public Speaking Regional Finals @ Birchgrove PS</td>
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<td>Monday 27 October</td>
<td>Mrs Gramellini returns!</td>
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This week Fortsea was in 2/3L

We value Positivity @ FSPS
Mrs Stewart returns to FSPS

Mrs Stewart is back from maternity leave to teach Science on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The staff and students alike are delighted to have her back at FSPS.

Have you popped around to our back playground lately? It looks a little different thanks to our friends at Lend Lease. Our next project is to install netball hoops.

StartSmart Financial Literacy

After being postponed last term, the students of FSPS enjoyed financial literacy lessons with Heather aka Money Girl today.

It’s never too early to teach children the value of money. Research indicates that it is crucial to develop financial literacy skills from an early age. The StartSmart Primary program teaches these skills in a way that students can understand and enjoy. It was developed with a panel of leading specialists in primary education, cognitive development, instructional design and financial literacy.

For more information about the program, please visit:  
The Last Bird

Rianne, 5/6L (Year 6)

Rianne entered this piece of writing in the Write On competition (http://writeon.bos.nsw.edu.au/) and was positively “bewildered” to discover she won a Bronze Award! Well done, Rianne. This is certainly a year of great academic success for you!

“Mrs. Dee, get up! Get up, please!!” Carson cried as he shook his teacher.

Carson wailed in horror as he looked around. Mrs. Dee’s lifeless eyes stared into nothingness. Broken pieces of the airplane’s fuselage lay everywhere, some of them impaled into his now deceased classmates.

“This can’t be. A school camp shouldn’t end like this,” Carson wept.

Tears tinged Carson’s clothes. His left leg was bleeding from a deep cut. Abruptly, reality struck him -- he was wounded and stranded on what seemed to be an uninhabited island.

“What… is this place?” he muttered.

As Carson looked up, a flock of birds freely soared across the hot midday air. One bird was lagging, flying lower and lower until it landed bumpily near the crash site. Carson staggered to it, tripping over a pair of binoculars.

The bird lay motionless on the ground. Carson looked at its body. Its feathers were a deep auburn colour like autumn leaves, its beak a radiant yellow. He picked it up.

A bristly twig was lodged in its right wing.

The twig looked excruciating as he pulled it out gently. Blood trickled down the bird’s shoulder.

With the bird in his hands, Carson slowly walked towards the ocean. There, the water washed away the dirt and blood. The bird lay very still on his lap. Its wings were folded, its eyes closed.

As he collapsed in despair, hope swiftly slipped through his fingers while death was in his tight embrace. The random cruelty of life had crushed his dream and hope. No one was to mourn his loss but himself.

Beside him the bird started ruffling its feathers. Moments later, it began beating its wings furiously, making it ascend through the air.

Carson was utterly shocked. He thought the bird was as hopeless as he was. He was ready to die.

But the bird was not. It fought--and survived.

A flicker of hope sparked in his mind. He heard a noise, no, a sound… a familiar sound.

He squinted in the distance, trying to see what it was. He then remembered the binoculars at the crash site.

With every ounce of his remaining strength, he forced his battered legs to walk back to the wrecked plane. There, he quickly picked up the binoculars and searched the ocean. Carson couldn’t believe his eyes.

“It’s a ship!! It’s a ship!” he screamed. In front of it, he could see two fast boats speeding towards the island.

A thought crossed his mind. If he had given up hope, he would not have cared about this ship. If the bird hadn’t shown him that he must strive to survive, he would have accepted his fate to die.

Tears of joy filled Carson’s eyes at the thought of going home. He almost had given up living. On the island, there was blood, carnage, death. But high up in the sky, flying courageously against all odds, there was hope.
Sydney’s most fun 5km family run
3 pm Saturday 18 October Centennial Park

Run, skip, walk with your dog, or pram a 5km route that ends with a fun family festival of arts & crafts, food & drink, music, jumping castles, a petting zoo, Captain Starlights and so much more including your favourite sporting stars and our amazing Ambassador Libby Trickett
... all while you raise money to brighten the lives of seriously ill children and their families.

come join us:
tickets available at raceforthekids.com.au
or call 02 8425 5927
adults: $47 | 5 – 16 yrs: $21.50
4 yrs & under: FREE 😊