



FIGTREE HEIGHTS PUBLIC SCHOOL

Principal: Mrs Skye Hayward

respect, responsibility, care, integrity, excellence, fairness

Term 1 Friday 27th February 2015

Heights of Excellence

Thank you to our wonderful parent volunteers! Over the past few weeks we have had a very hard working group of parents setting up our school canteen. It has been a lot of hard work and everyone in the Figtree Heights Community would like to thank you for the countless hours you have spent getting this service up and running. To our parent volunteers at Wednesday's District Swimming Carnival, thank you! Not even the teaming rain could prevent you from supporting our students or helping with the running of the carnival.

Central Wollongong District Swimming Carnival

On Wednesday, in the pouring rain, we had 40 students represent our school at the Central Wollongong District Swimming Carnival. Congratulations to each and every competitor, you swam hard and most of all enjoyed the experience. An extra congratulations, to the following students who were very successful at the carnival and will be representing our school and district at the regional carnival next Friday:

Blake McKay	1 st 100m Open Freestyle, 2 nd Snr 50m Breastroke, 1 st Snr 50m Backstroke, 2 nd 12yrs 50m Freestyle, 1 st Snr 50m Butterfly. SENIOR BOYS AGE CHAMPION
Eloise Taylor	1 st 100m Open Freestyle, 1 st Snr 50m Breastroke, SENIOR GIRLS AGE CHAMPION
Mackenzie Smart	2 nd 11yrs 50m Backstroke, 2 nd 11yrs 50m Butterfly RUNNER-UP 11yrs AGE CHAMPION
Jessica Buffett	2 nd Snr 50m Backstroke, 3 rd SENIOR GIRLS AGE CHAMPION
Riley Baird	2 nd 9yrs 50m Freestyle
Senior Girls relay	2 nd 4 x 50m Freestyle relay

Good luck to those students at the next carnival. Although it is never just about winning, I am proud to announce our school was named "Champion School" for the carnival as well. Way to go!

Leadership Induction

On Thursday 12th March, we will be hosting our annual Leadership Induction Ceremony at morning assembly (8:55am). Students who were successful in their application to be part of our leadership teams will be presented with their badges. Parents and loved ones are invited to celebrate this occasion.

The Circus is coming to Town!

Also next Wednesday, the Circus is coming to school, or at least part of the circus. We are lucky enough to have some special guests visit our school to give us a small glimpse into the life of a child in the circus. If we are lucky, they will perform some tricks and bring along with them a very important character from the circus. I can't wait!

Tell Them From Me Survey

I am delighted that this term, our school, like many others in the state, will participate in a Department of Education and Communities initiative: the *Tell Them From Me* student feedback survey. The survey aims to help improve student learning outcomes and measures factors that are known to affect academic achievement and other student outcomes. The focus of the NSW-wide survey is on student wellbeing, engagement and effective teaching practices. The survey is a great opportunity for our students to provide our school with valuable and quick feedback on what they think about school life, how engaged they are with school and the different ways that teachers interact with them. Schools in Australia and around the world have used the *Tell Them From Me* survey to help improve how they do things at school. A consent form and FAQs for parents/carers about the survey is being sent home with student's years 4-6.

Election Day BBQ

Our P&C will be holding an Election Day BBQ here at school on Saturday 28th March. The school hall will be turned into a polling booth and we are looking to find some volunteers to help man the BBQ, prepare the food and sell goods throughout the day. If you can spare an hour please email Tim Davey, our P&C Secretary, at fhpspc@gmail.com

Warm regards, Skye Hayward

www.figtreehts-p.schools.nsw.edu.au

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Facebook:
www.facebook.com/FigtreeHeightsPublicSchool
Twitter:
twitter.com/FigtreeHeights

What's Happening at the Heights?

Week Beginning 2/3

Canteen is open for business from today

Canteen price list accompanies this newsletter

Week Beginning 9/3

Wed 11

Paul Kelly Cup

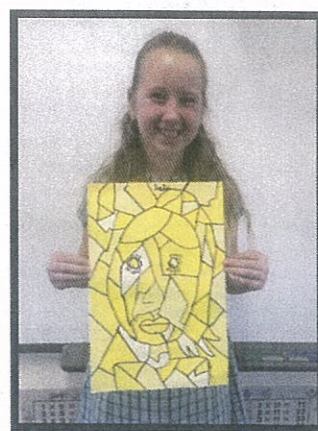
Circus Visit

Thurs 12

Leadership Induction Ceremony

Budding Artists

3/4P are been studying Pablo Picasso and have been creating some inspiring pieces of work. Take a look at Lara and Zali's own masterpieces.



Exciting News for the Years 5 & 6 Excursion to Canberra May 21st & 22nd

Year 5 and 6 students from our school will be undertaking an education tour of the national capital in May. Students will be given the opportunity to participate in a variety of educational programs with a focus on Australia's history, culture, heritage and democracy. Our students at Figtree Heights will be visiting the New and Old Parliament House, the War Memorial, the Australian Institute of Sport and Questacon.

The Australian Government recognises the importance of all young Australians being able to visit the national capital as part of their Civics and Citizenship education. To assist families in meeting the cost of the excursion the Australian Government is contributing funding of \$20 per student under the Parliament and Civics Education Rebate program towards those costs. The rebate is paid directly to the school upon completion of the excursion. This donation has been factored into the excursion cost. More information regarding the excursion will be distributed closer to the date.

Tournament of Minds (ToM)

Tournament of Minds is a problem solving program for teams of students from both primary and secondary schools. Students will compete in teams and are required to solve thought-provoking, open-ended challenges. This year, Figtree Heights will have two ToM teams, Language Literature and Applied Technology. The teams have been co-ordinated by Miss Emily Corcoran and are very excited at this new adventure. We look forward to hearing more about this in the future.

Language Literature Team



Applied Technology Team



COMMUNITY NOTICES

Happy Birthday to students who are celebrating their birthdays today and next week.

Xavier Cooper, Breanna Luke, Mia Rutledge, Caelan Cook & Olivia Grant.
And to Samuel Pelekanos a belated wish for last week.

Reminder

Yr 6 to Yr 7 High School Expression of Interest forms must be completed and returned to school by 10th March.

Even if students are not enrolling in a government high school forms must be completed and returned to school.

Thank you for your assistance

Payment Reminders:

Nan Tien Temple excursion Yrs. 2-4

\$20 Due now. **POP Payment**

Description: Nan Tien Temple

ICAS competition cost as per note.

POP Payment Description: ICAS

Spelling, ICAS Maths etc

Minnamurra Rainforest excursion Yrs

5 & 6 \$21. Due now. **POP Payment**

Description: Rainforest.

Paul Kelly Cup selected Stage 3

students \$2 (cash please). Due now

Please note: payments do not have to be done by POP. Cash and cheques can be sent into school.

Please DO NOT pay for textbooks by POP

SPARE TENNIS BALLS

Calling for assistance from all families! Our gardens are eating our tennis balls and no matter how many we buy, it never seems to be enough... If you have any spare tennis balls at home could you please donate them to our tennis program.

Thank you from the students!

POP (Parent Online Payment) system has arrived!

An information / instruction booklet has been sent out today. Read carefully and please contact the school office if you are unsure of how to process your online payments.

Please remember it is for school activities only- not P&C, uniforms, fundraisers or canteen business.

Student permission notes **MUST** still need to be completed and sent to the class teacher.

All permission notes that require payment will have a '**Payment Description**' name on them. This name **MUST** be typed into the **Payment Description** box on the online **Payment Details** page. For the ICAS competitions (Yrs. 3-6 students) you **MUST** itemise each comp you are entering e.g. SPELLING \$11, English \$8 etc.

Thank you for your assistance and please do not hesitate in asking at the office if you have any questions.

Books Covers Needed



We have lots of new library books that need covering. If you would like to cover some books please call to the office to collect books and contact. Covering can be done at home and instructions are available if you haven't covered books before. Our staff and students really appreciate your help!

Useful Information

To download our school phone app go to the App Store on iTunes (Google Play for Android users), search for Figtree Heights and simply download. **Username:** community **Password:** figtreehtsps Please make sure you allow notifications from Figtree Heights in your phone's control settings.

The Community Noticeboard is located outside near the office and is used to advertise local sporting groups and community groups who offer services to our students and families.

School Uniform Information

Our school uniform supplies are now available from Lowes at Westfield Figtree. There is still a small amount of new uniforms available from the schools uniform shop. Parents are welcome to purchase these. Second hand uniforms are for sale by way of self-serve. Parents can request the key to the uniform storeroom from the office; they then select garments and bring them to the office to pay. Please assist this process by keeping the stock tidy.

Canteen News

The canteen is opening for 2015 on Monday 2nd March.

A huge thank you to our new committee, our wonderful volunteers and to JDC Services for their generous donation of very high quality pans, skillet, pots and knife block for the canteen.

These advertisers support us, please support them:

Con's Music Drama
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5 BELLEVUE ROAD, FIGTREE **PHONE: 4228-5641** **FAX: 4428-5091**
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Figtree Surgery

Opening Hours:
Monday to Friday 8am - 7pm
Saturday 9am - 1pm

177 The Avenue Figtree NSW 2525 (opp Westfield Centre)

Dr. Khanh Diep
Dr. Vinh Nguyen

Dr. Catherine Pham
Dr. Sudhendra Prabhu

www.figtreesurgery.com.au **Phone (02) 4225 7822**

The Hungry Figtree



Canteen Menu 2015

Recess

●	Cheese triangles (1/2 slice)	\$0.30
●	Piklets - <i>freshly made</i>	\$0.30
●	Popcorn - <i>freshly made</i>	\$0.30
●	Muffin of the week	\$0.50
●	Raisin toast (1/2 slice)	\$0.25
●	Yogurt	\$2.00

Available Everyday

Fruit and Vegetables

●	Frozen Orange Segment	\$0.10
●	Frozen Watermelon	\$0.25
●	Banana Choc Pop	\$0.50
●	Assorted Whole fruit	\$0.60
●	Carrot and Celery Sticks with Hummus	\$0.60

Drinks

●	Bottled Water	\$0.80
●	Big M flavoured milk: <i>strawberry, choc</i>	\$1.20
●	100% Juice: <i>Orange, apple, blackcurrant</i>	\$1.20
●	Flavoured mineral water: <i>Lol's or juice bomb cans: Tropical, Blackcurrant, Raspberry.</i>	\$1.50

Snacks and Ice Creams

Available at lunchtime only

●	Red Rock Deli Chips: <i>plain, honey soy chicken</i>	\$1.20
●	Grainwaves Chips: <i>Sour cream & Onion</i>	\$1.20
●	Popcorn Bags	\$1.00
●	Yogurt	\$2.00

●	Frozen fruit cups	\$0.50
●	Mony: <i>choc, cola, strawberry</i>	\$0.60
●	Frozen yogurt: <i>strawberry, mango</i>	\$1.50
●	Vanilla ice-cream cup	\$1.50
●	Berri Quelch Fruit Sticks - <i>100% juice</i>	\$0.50

Due to certain circumstances, some items may not be available. We shall endeavor to

Lunches

Sandwiches and Salads

Available Mon, Wed & Fri

●	Vegemite	\$1.20
●	Cheese	\$1.30
●	Cheese & Vegemite	\$1.50
●	Cheese & Tomato	\$1.50
●	Cheese & Salad	\$2.00
●	Ham	\$2.00
●	Ham & Cheese	\$2.30
●	Ham & Tomato	\$2.30
●	Ham, Cheese & Salad	\$3.00
●	Egg	\$2.00
●	Egg & Salad	\$3.00
●	Salad plate	\$2.50
●	Salad with Ham, Egg or Tuna	\$3.50

Toasted - add 50c.
White bread
available on
request

Hot Lunch Specials

Monday

●	Lasagne	\$3.00
●	Chicken Wrap: <i>Tortilla, 3 chicken fingers, salad & mayo</i>	\$3.00

Wednesday

●	Hamburger: <i>freshly cooked beef pattie with salad & sauce</i>	\$3.00
●	Meat pie and Salad	\$3.00

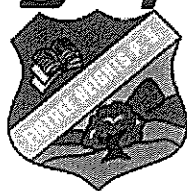
Friday

●	Chicken burger: <i>freshly cooked chicken breast fillet with salad & mayo</i>	\$3.00
●	Macaroni Cheese	\$3.00

Miscellaneous

Sauce Portion	\$0.20
Lunch bag	\$0.30

The Hungry Figtree



Canteen Menu 2015

Canteen Mission Statement

The Canteen is a service provided for the Figtree Heights Public School community. The Canteen is an important part of the school's life and provides a variety of food and drinks to support the children's nutritional needs.

The Canteen aims to:

- Provide a variety of food and drinks
- Encourage development of good choices and good eating habits
- Provide a friendly environment
- Provide special dietary needs for some students i.e. food intolerances, nut allergies, etc.
- High standard of food safety and hygiene in preparing and storing of food
- Provide parental involvement through volunteer help within the Canteen

Whilst we have these aims in place, parents and guardians as primary carers are responsible for the nutritional and dietary needs of their children and will be supported by the Canteen.

Canteen Committee

Committee President – Belinda Monkman Volunteer Roster – Christina Bonnacina Canteen Purchasers – Natalie Dzeperoski, Sonya De Bruyn & Julie Jones. Canteen Treasurer – Lee Brett

Canteen committee meetings will be held throughout the year to discuss continual improvements to our menu, pricing, and procedures. We would love to have lots of the school community attend these meetings and we welcome all feedback, ideas and input. Dates and times of these meetings will be published in the school newsletter. If you need to contact the committee between meetings, you can email us on fhpscanteen@gmail.com.

Canteen Volunteers

The ongoing operation of the canteen relies solely upon the assistance of volunteers to ensure it is open 5 days a week for the children. If you would like to volunteer your services, (it could be one day a month or just a couple of hours) please leave your contact details at the front office. Your assistance is always greatly appreciated.

Lunch Orders

All lunch orders (lunch and recess) should be either written on a paper bag or the reusable lunch bags. Orders can also be placed for Recess, however, please fill out a separate bag. If you do not have a lunch bag, write your child's order on an envelope and include \$0.30 for a lunch bag.

Filling Out Your Order

When ordering, please ensure that you include your child's name, class and the amount enclosed. Wrap money in foil or something similar and then place in lunch bag. We have found in the past that money often falls out of the lunch bags.

Special Menu Days

In addition to our everyday menu, we have over the counter specials and hold **Special Days** throughout the year. Information on any specials will be advertised in the weekly school newsletter.



Year 6 Fundraising Easter Raffle



Donations of Chocolate Eggs and Bunnies

Every year, Year 6 run various fundraising events. The money raised goes towards purchasing items for the school, as well as school improvements.

Some of the things Year 6 have purchased over the past few years include the park bench in the Fairy Garden, Technology equipment (Cameras, Laptops, PA Systems), FHPS banners, flag poles and our 'Value' signage. Money raised has also been used for school beautification items such as gardens and retaining walls.

This year one of our fundraising events focuses on FHPS Easter celebrations (on Thursday 2nd of April), Year 6 will be having a BBQ lunch (further details and order form to come) and an Easter basket raffle.

Every year our wonderful school community donates Chocolate Easter eggs and bunnies for our baskets.

Each morning at assembly Year 6 'Easter Bunnies' will be hopping along collecting your generous donations. Collections will start on Monday the 2nd of March.

We will also be collecting any baskets that can be used (or even reused from previous years).

Keep an eye out for our Year 6 Easter bunnies at assembly!

**Thank you for your support,
Year 6**





2014-2015 Family Energy Rebate

Apply before Midnight
16 June 2015



2 MINUTES TO FILL IN A FORM

<https://applications.fer.trade.nsw.gov.au/>

* eligibility criteria apply

WHAT IS THE FAMILY ENERGY REBATE?

The Family Energy Rebate helps to cover the cost of energy bills for NSW households with dependent children. In 2014-2015 the rebate gives:

- Up to \$150 credit on electricity bills for eligible applicants who hold an account with an electricity retailer
- Up to \$165 direct payment to nominated bank accounts for eligible applicants who live in a residential community (caravan or mobile home park) and receive electricity from the park operator.

AM I ELIGIBLE FOR THE REBATE?

To be eligible you **MUST**:

- Be a NSW resident; and
- Have been assessed by the Federal Department of Human Services (DHS) as being eligible for the Family Tax Benefit (FTB) A or B at any time during the 2013-2014 financial year, and have received an FTB payment in respect of that eligibility; and
- Be an account holder of an electricity retailer, or a long-term resident of a residential community (caravan or mobile home park), whose name appears on the electricity account for supply to her or his principal place of residence.

WHAT DO I NEED TO DO BEFORE I APPLY?

Before you apply, here's a quick checklist. Have you:

- Lodged your tax return for 2013-2014 with the Australian Taxation Office or informed the Department of Human Services (DHS) if you are not required to lodge a tax return?
- Received confirmation from DHS as to your eligibility for Family Tax Benefit A or B for 2013-2014?

HOW TO APPLY

- **ONLINE** – it takes just two minutes to submit an application. Processing starts immediately.
- **PAPER** – download a form from the website, complete and submit by email, fax or post. Use this form if you receive your electricity from the operator of the residential community where you live.

**APPLY
ONLINE
NOW!**

FOR MORE INFORMATION & ASSISTANCE

PHONE Service NSW 13 77 88

EMAIL fer.program@trade.nsw.gov.au

WEB www.resourcesandenergy.nsw.gov.au/info/familyenergyrebate