

STUDENT FREE DAYS

In order to provide families reasonable prior notice of student free days this term, a Compass post was sent last week.

The dates are replicated here:

<u>Monday, 21st April</u> - Easter Monday public holiday
<u>Friday, 25th April</u> (Week 1) - ANZAC Day public holiday
<u>Monday, 26th May</u> (Week 6) for a Curriculum Day (Berry Street Education Model - Day 4 Staff Training)
<u>Tuesday, 27th May</u> (Week 6) for a Professional Practice Day for Report Writing
<u>Monday, 9th June</u> (Week 8) - King's Birthday public holiday
<u>Friday, 4th July</u> (Week 11) - Last Day Term 2 (2:20pm Early Finish)

PEN RECYCLING LOCATION AT OFFICE

The Environment Team is supporting a pen recycling program and this was reported on at last week's assembly. While the students were focussed on the many hundreds of pens and textas that eventually wear out at school, you're welcome to send in some from home.



STUDENT REFERENCES

Due to an ever-increasing workload and in agreement with our local network schools, FWPS teachers and leadership will no longer provide written letters of recommendation / support for scholarship applications for students who are transitioning to independent or Catholic schools. This applies for Year 6 to 7 transitions, as well as transitions in earlier year levels. With written consent from parents/carers (via an email to the school office), we are able to pass on copies of school reports and have a conversation with a students' new school for the purpose of supporting the transition process.

INFORM AND EMPOWER PROGRAM / RAISING KIDS IN A DIGITAL WORLD INFORMATION EVENING

A replay of Marty and Carley's first rate presentation and family resources are available here:

Raising Kids in a Digital World - Parent Resources

www.informandempower.com.au/schools-webinars/footscray-west-ps

- Replay - Available for 30 days
- Toolkit (slides, links and resources from the session)
- Blog posts
- Printable family poster

ROAD SAFETY REMINDER

A week rarely passes without multiple examples of worrying behaviour from motorists during the busy drop off and pick up times. The rush to do so often leads to students being put at risk by being encouraged to walk between double parked cars and crossing Argyle Street away from the pedestrian crossing. We can all recall the tragedy that occurred at a Melbourne primary school last year. No one wants to see a similar experience at FWPS.

SCHOOL SAVER BONUS

The office team and in particular our Business Manager, Sandra have continued to be busy every day assisting parents and carers in making sure that they are registered and able to access the \$400 one off School Saver Bonus. If this has got away from you, or you just need some assistance, please contact the office team for some practical assistance. The team loves to help. We want every family to fully make use of this opportunity.

CURRICULUM CONTRIBUTIONS

A parent / carer payment contribution Compass post was sent to all families early in term. We really appreciate your support in making this payment for each of your children as soon as possible. Funds received are directed to subsidising the many curriculum costs in managing a school of this size. FWPS is a school that is underfunded based on the Schooling Resource Standard <https://www.education.gov.au/recurrent-funding-schools/schooling-resource-standard> for Australian schools. At FWPS we receive a lower rate of equity funding due to our local demographic than many other western suburbs schools. This may be deemed as fair from a systemic perspective, but doesn't help us pay the bills! With annual fees topped at \$300 (prep) we really think our community can do better than the 69% of families (grades 1-6) last year who contributed their expected contribution. There is an opportunity to pay by instalments. Please contact the office team if you would like more information or assistance.

PHOTO AND VIDEO PERMISSION FORM

The Department of Education now requires parents and carers to sign this permission form annually (this used to be a requirement only when students started school, or moved to FWPS). This requirement has made a 'once off task' for every child now a x7 task for every child. That is a lot of parent time and you can imagine how that is magnified from a schools' administration perspective. If you haven't done this yet, please make this a priority to complete and return to the office (or classroom).

We really wish to encourage parents and carers to tick all 3 boxes to enable pictures or videos from class events (incursions, excursions, assemblies, sporting events and camps) and special moments (such as presentations and reports from assembly) to be able to be shown (or linked) in the newsletter and official school Facebook page.