



Principal's Farewell

This will most likely be my last Newsletter message as principal. It is a sad time for me but I am fortunate to have had 38 years of teaching with 23 years of wonderful memories of being principal at Fisher Road School. During those years I did have some periods of time away from the school doing other consultancy and principal roles at other schools, but my heart was always at Fisher Road. Over the years I have had the joy and honour of working with so many wonderful students, inspiring families and amazing staff. The gains made and establishment of the excellent school that Fisher Road School is, has come about through the team effort of all those people and to each and every one of you I am truly grateful. The Fisher Road community spreads even further with volunteers and organisations and individuals who have donated both their time and money to our great school.

It has been an amazing journey for me and I hope that I have in some ways been able to support and help others through my work. I leave with the knowledge that the future looks even brighter with a very skilled new leader in Donna Blatchford, a very experienced and professional Executive staff and a fantastic group of dedicated and talented teachers and support staff. Special thanks to Helen and Robb in the office for their patience, skills and support in all things management and financial.

I have always taken the approach that we need to be open to change and innovation, supported by validated research, in a continuing effort to improve the learning outcomes for our students. It is not always an easy path but the benefits have been worth the journey. Best of all is the sense of humour we have all maintained throughout our work, which has kept the school a happy place in which to work and learn.

To all our families, past and present, my heartfelt respect to each and every one of you for your continued dedication to your lovely children and your resilience. To all those students with whom I have worked, you have amazed me, moved me emotionally and sometimes caused me grief but have made it all worthwhile. I hope that in some way I have added something positive to your lives as you have to mine. My thanks to the P & C families for their kind thoughts, morning tea and beautiful gift.

To my wonderful staff and volunteers words cannot express my thanks to you for your brilliance, skills, ongoing work, support and tolerance of me and my, sometimes "odd" ways.

I will miss you all.

Susan Barisic (Principalfor a few more weeks)



A question: Why are parents now not able to have freer access to the school?

A good question. In this politically correct, litigious and suspicious world in which we now live there are an ever increasing number of policies around a number of practises. Child Protection and Workplace, Health and Safety are now critical policies that must be adhered to. Anyone who has entered an office building of late will know you must be “tagged”, signed in with your destination and reasons for being there and run through WPH emergency procedures before you even get to the lift. Anyone who volunteers at the school, family member or not, now needs to complete paperwork and be given a one page WHS form to follow. If you work regularly you even need to complete an online course. This applies to work people on site also. It is sensible that in case of fire or accidents the Workplace Manager (principal) needs to be aware of who is on site.

We welcome family members to come and work with us and several do on excursions, in the classroom and particularly for swimming. We do like people to work when they are here and not just observe. However, if you wish to chat with your child’s teacher when you drop your child off they do need notice. They are on duty and working with students from 8.45 on. Unlike in a mainstream setting our students generally don’t sit quietly whilst the teacher is distracted. Making a time to talk is a much better way to ensure both of you can attend to the discussion.

Many of our students have major behavioural and emotional problems that is why they come to the school. These students have set procedures to follow to maintain them and sometimes don’t cope. For their dignity and safety it can be difficult if people who do not know them are around.

We know how concerned families are about their children and we do have a detailed format for reporting incidents. Particularly so with our students who can’t tell you how they feel and in many cases don’t know themselves how they feel. Sadly we do have to say that we don’t see everything that happens, as much as people try. If you notice anything about your child after a day at school and we have not noted it please tell us and we will investigate.

A long winded response, but hope it answers the question

From the Office

Don't forget school photos are this Monday and school uniform must be worn. All envelopes must be returned by Monday to be handed in when having photos taken.

Remember when ordering uniforms that they can take up to a month before you receive them, as all the tops need to go from the supplier to the embroiderer and then back to the supplier and then to us. Please allow sufficient time when ordering.

A special thankyou to Fight Gym Manly, Tom & Sumi (Maia's parents) for their super donation of \$400 from their Sparring Night in August, it is very much appreciated.

A reminder to parents/carers there will be a graduation committee meeting on Thursday 21st August at 3.15pm at Fisher Road School. We urgently need helpers to organise the graduation party for the 4 school leavers who will be moving onto post school options.

A big thankyou to Tyre Rite at Brookvale, they generously repaired the flat tyre on our school bus without charge.

Please send in any spare plastic bags, as we are desperately short for use in the toilet areas.

Class MP

It's been a wonderful start to term 3 with Jasper, Arun, Geoffrey, Henry and Olivia actively participating in all class activities. The four boys are starting to get the feel of being in control when riding a three-wheeler bike. There is so much coordination required that Geoffrey, Arun, Jasper and Henry find it too much to keep their hands on the steering wheel for a reasonable time. One achievement they're all proud of is keeping their feet on the pedals. Olivia on the other hand, is busy doing ball exercises, walking on even and uneven surfaces and using the trampoline. Other activities they all enjoy and progressing very well are swimming and music therapy. We hope to tell you more about these and other activities by next news.

Maria & Mandy



Class RR

This term's Sensory Story is called 'Galaxies'. It tells the story of Bruce and Sheila who are astronauts from Australia who discover a new planet. Bruce shakes with fear (massager) as they leave the transfer pod, but Sheila calms him down (an heroic woman) and points out all the unusual features on the new planet- reeds (glitter wands), slime, warm winds (hairdryer) and unusual smells (air fresheners). It ends with the planting of the Australian flag and a CD of children singing the National Anthem. Each week the children take turns to spend extra time exploring one of the props, and it is proving to be a thoroughly enjoyable session!

Ruth & Carmel

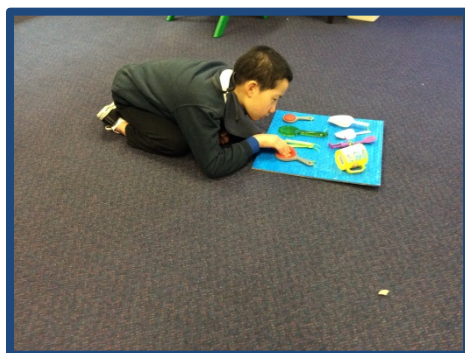


Class VR

During art lessons we have begun making and painting props for the concert coming up in term 4. Our students are encouraged to work independently where possible and we are very pleased with the results so far. Thanks to the resourcefulness of our volunteer team we have recently acquired some new sensory boards, these boards help stimulate visual, auditory and tactile senses and our students have enjoyed interacting with them during daily sessions out of their wheelchairs.

With the swimming pool being used for swim school, we have enjoyed spending our usual swim time down at the oval playing ball games and using the Liberty swing.

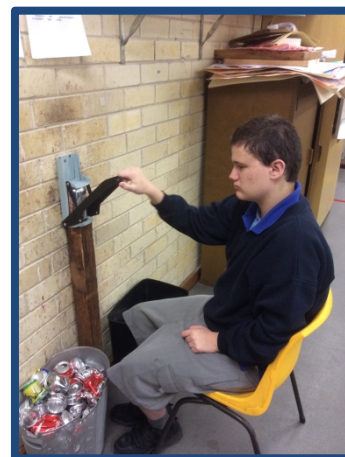
Virginia & Amy



Class AM

This term Class AM have been working hard developing our work skills. Lots of time is spent in the industrial arts room using the paper shredder and can crusher. Class AM are keen gardeners and play a major role in keeping the gardens looking beautiful at Fisher Road.

Arianne, Sue & Jenny



Class TH

This term has started very busy for Class TH. We have just finished two weeks of 'Swim School'. All students participated with enthusiasm, and demonstrated a greater level of skills by the end of it. Class TH have also started a 'Gymnastics' program which 'Manly Warringah Gymnastics Club' run. This is a new program for Fisher Road School, which we are very fortunate to be a part of. The students are fully engaged and interact extremely well with all activities, especially the trampolining, and floor exercises.

Trish & Sue



Class JM

Class JM have had a very busy term so far. We have all enjoyed music therapy where the children are all vocalising to the music and playing the drums and chimes when asked. Kate, the music therapist, is wonderful with the students and they are all keen during her sessions. We have also been learning to sit at our desks and stay on task for short periods of time. Puzzles seem to be a firm favourite as well as using iPads.

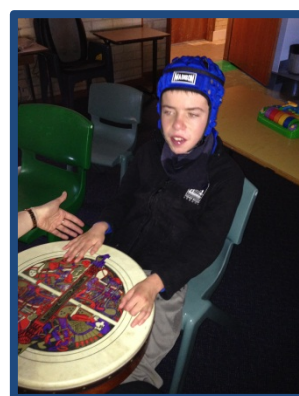
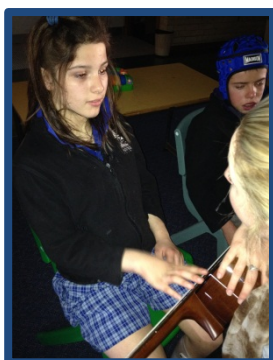
Julie & Sue



Class NS

Music therapy is an important part of our curriculum here at Fisher Road and is an activity that our students really enjoy and look forward to each week. The combination of touch (touching and playing various instruments) and sound (hearing the various sounds) provides a very stimulating and dynamic learning environment that encourages the students' on-task behaviour and also their sitting skills. In the attached photos you can see Eddie and Laragh both enjoying playing a variety of instruments.

Nick, Monika & Fran



Senior High School Students

Senior students started the 'Thermomix Program' this term. We had a lot of interest from students across the school – thank you to everyone who is participating! The students are enjoying learning how to use the thermomix and our delivery skills are improving. The pasta bolognese is delicious and all seem to be enjoying their hot, nutritious lunch!

I would also like to mention the wonderful work experience program that is currently happening at 'Best and Less' at Warringah Mall. Two senior girls are currently spending Monday mornings working hard to learn new skills in the work force. They are learning to open boxes and hang clothing onto racks while staying on task without prompting. They are both improving each week gaining independence and building on specific skills. Well Done Emily and Chelsea for representing Fisher Road School!

Jen, Donna, Caroline & John



Class MT

Our class has had a fantastic 2 weeks participating in the swim school program. All our students have improved their swimming skills and had a great time doing it! Swimming through the hoops and retrieving rings from the bottom of the pool were the favourite activities.

Matt and Wendy

Fisher Road Stars



Group RR - Angelina

Terrific standing in her new electric standing frame.

Group MP - Geoffrey

Great work with PECs

Group JM - Ben

Good use of cutlery during restaurant.

Group NS - Dylan

Good use of a fork

Group LE - Ella

For eating and drinking well

- Kiang Kiang

For wonderful switch work

Group TH - Ella

For improvement in stroke and breathing correction in swimming.

Group JP - Emily

For improved skills at Best and Less.

- Chelsea

For improved skills at Best and Less.



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Financial
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Financial Counselling Services

Naremburn Family Centre

Main contact:

(02) 8425 8700

email: naremburnfc@dbb.org.au

40 Merrenburn Avenue

Naremburn NSW 2065

Monday to Friday

9:00am – 5:00pm

Brookvale Family Centre

(02) 8968 5100

Unit 9B, 44 Wattle Road

Brookvale NSW 2100

By appointment

9:00am – 5:00pm

If you require an interpreter, please call
TIS National 131450

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Transition for Carers Forum

Wednesday 15th October 2014, 9.15am-2.30pm

Lorimer Dods, Education Centre, Level 4
The Children's Hospital at Westmead
Corner of Hawkesbury Rd and Hainsworth St, Westmead

To register for this **free** Forum, please complete the registration form and return it to the seminar organiser by **Friday 3rd October 2014**.

By post:

Carer Support Program
The Children's Hospital at Westmead
Locked Bag 4001
Westmead NSW 2145

By email:

SCHN-CarerSupport@health.nsw.gov.au

By phone: 9845 3590

Title:		First name*:		Surname*:	
Address:					Post code*:
Home phone*:			Mobile:		
Email*:					

* Required information

Do you have any dietary requirements? <i>(Morning tea and lunch will be provided.)</i>	
Do you have any other requirements? Please let a know if you need help to cover parking?	
The disability(s) that my child has is? The health condition(s) that my child has is? <i>(This information may also be used for evaluation and planning purposes.)</i>	
How did you hear about the Forum?	

Type of registration: This seminar is aimed at parents and carers so priority will be given to them! If the numbers allow it, professionals will be able to attend.

Parent or Carer	
Staff/Professional <i>(You will be offered a place dependent upon availability after close of registrations)</i>	

Would you like to go on our email list for the quarterly Carer Support newsletter and information on carer activities coming up at the Hospital? And through other organisations	
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For any queries contact: Carer Support Program
Ph. 9845 3590
SCHN-CarerSupport@health.nsw.gov.au

Carer Support Program
the children's hospital at Westmead



TRANSITION FOR CARERS FORUM

Transition is the period when a child moves from adolescence to adulthood. It is a complicated process for children with chronic health conditions, but is far more complex for those who have additional issues such as an intellectual disability, cognitive impairment, autism or brain injury.

As a part of our Carers Week activities, The Carer Support Program at the Children's Hospital at Westmead invites parents and carers to attend the Transition for Carers forum and expo .

REGISTRATION IS FREE. Morning Tea and lunch provided.

WHO: This forum is for parents & carers of young people aged 14 – 18 years who have a chronic health condition & who, because of a disability, will have difficulty managing their own care as adults.

WHEN: 15th October 2014, 9.15am - 2.30pm

WHERE: Lorimar Dods, Education Centre
The Children's Hospital at Westmead.
Cnr Hawkesbury Rd and Hainsworth St,
Westmead.

Topics include;

- Navigating the adult Health system
- Consent and decision making
- Employment and post-school programs
- Panel discussion with carers who have transitioned
- Expo of services and organisations providing support after transitioning

REGISTRATION IS ESSENTIAL

To register call 9845 3590.

Email

SCHN-CarerSupport@health.nsw.gov.au

Registrations close on 10/10/2014.

Places are limited.

NOTE: Professionals in this field may register, but will only be offered a place if all available places have not been filled by parents and carers at close of Registration. Registration is on first come basis.

Carer Support Program
the children's hospital at Westmead

