



### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

#### STUDENT Events

**Concert Rehearsals at Dee  
Why PS**

**20th, 22nd, 27th, 29th Nov  
Dress Rehearsal 4th Dec**

**Bus Christmas Incursion  
29th November**

**Student Report sent home  
Wed 13th December**

**Last day for students T4  
Fri 15th December**

#### PARENT/CARER Events

**Sensory Room Official  
Opening**

**Friday 24th November 4pm  
Family BBQ**

**Senior School Graduation  
19th November 2017**

**2017 Presentation Day  
Tuesday 6th December  
2017**

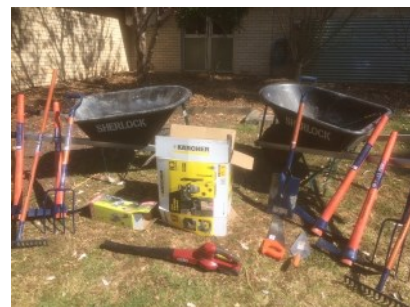
**P&C Meeting**

**Tbd**

## *Increasing community engagement and participation*

Building and promoting the school image in the community ensures community support for the innovative and dynamic programs at Fisher Road that maximise student learning outcomes.

The staff from *Bunnings—Narrabeen* generously volunteered their time to visit our school and 'make over' a much loved area in the school that had become dreary. Our *Willy Walk* now displays colour with the new plants, paving and tactile wall displays providing a quiet and tranquil space for those senior students who request a break. Not only did they donate their time but also the tools that they used to complete this job! Our senior gardening students are very happy with the new wheelbarrows and rakes!



Recently the team from *Salesforce* volunteered their time to beautify our gardens and grounds for our students and paint some of the wall displays.

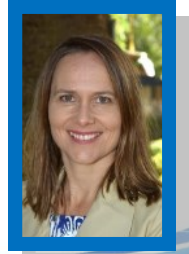
Members of the *Grace City Church* volunteered during the holidays for a whole week to work with our staff on building the senior sandpit, repairing the fence around our variety swing and stained all of our wooden gates around the school.



We are so lucky to have members in our community who recognise that their involvement in our school directly and positively impact on our students. We continue to foster these community partnerships, so please if you ever visit or talk to someone in these groups, say a big thank you !

*'Together we can'*

*A good teacher cares about a child's education.  
A great teacher cares about the whole child.*



unknown

*A few highlights for me this newsletter* include being a part of the SeeSaw trial (a digital platform for teachers and parents showcasing the achievements or engagement of our students in their class program). Class JO started on this trial and we have just increased it into a Senior class and some more junior students. We will be reviewing this form of communication later this term with a view of having this optional in 2018. In leading the management of the school, I have been spending extra time in front of my computer so a walk around our school is always welcome. As I pass the classrooms I jump into whatever program the students are engaged in and have been fortunate to see Russell start his new 'Peer Support Program' with Class JO, watching Class JK prepare and board the bus for Packforce and hearing the individual successes of our students.



*I am incredibly excited to announce that Fran Hartmann* a previous SLSO at our school was the successful applicant and appointed as our School Administration Manager (SAM). Fran displays high level knowledge and experience in office management, high level interpersonal communication skills and abilities to lead and manage the complex dynamics that make up this position. I am already confident that Fran is bringing to our school a wealth of knowledge, passion and initiative in building on the wonderfulness of Fisher Road. She is the positive voice you hear on the phone and the welcoming smile in our office and I look forward to working alongside her in this role.

#### *Thank you to some amazing community supporters*

Last term we had a visit from the Managers at Narrabeen Buntings who became aware that we were in much need of updating our Willy Walk Sensory Space. On our behalf of our school they applied and were successful in winning this application which included a re-design of the pathway, tactile wall panels and much needed vegetation. Their success also included them donating all of the tools that they used to our school on completion. Needless to say our senior 'gardening' students are pretty excited about the new wheelbarrows and tools. We also have Grace City Church volunteer and help our staff build the sandpit, staining wooden fences and a general tidy of equipment. We are so grateful to the volunteers who value the time spent at our school so that our students have a well maintained school environment. Grace City Church have also donated a very generous

\$8000 which has been tagged to the Sensory Room project.

I received a lovely surprise visit from a students grandparents last week who were delivering, on behalf



Warren and representing Epping Rotary

of the Epping Rotary Club a \$500 cheque. This generous donation will go towards IT support that enable our students to 'have a voice' through various communication systems including Proloquo2go.

Upcoming events include our *Community Breakfast*, held each year on behalf of our students, a thank you breakfast with invitations going out to those members of our community who show support to our school throughout the year. We also are in rehearsal for our *Presentation Day*. If you haven't already please lock this date in your diary, our junior and senior students are rehearsing and absolutely excel in their performance on the day. Your official invitation will be sent early next week.



Inspirational envelopes

Today (Friday 27th October) is the day the Department of Education officially recognises *World Teachers Day*. Our wonderful SASS staff surprised our teachers with envelopes of inspiration and a most delicious thai lunch. As a teacher I can say that teaching truly is a remarkable career and at Fisher Road, for our teachers, a passion! On behalf of our school community I

say thank you to each of our wonderful teachers; Arianne, Matt, Nick, Jen, Sam, Caroline, Virginia, Maria, Rebecca, Trish, Julie, Francine, Kari, Sally for the dedication and expertise they bring to our school!

*Donna Blatchford* School Principal



## Working with Externally Funded Service Providers

Fisher Road School has updated school procedures to comply with the Department of Education guidelines 'Working with Externally Funded Service Providers'.

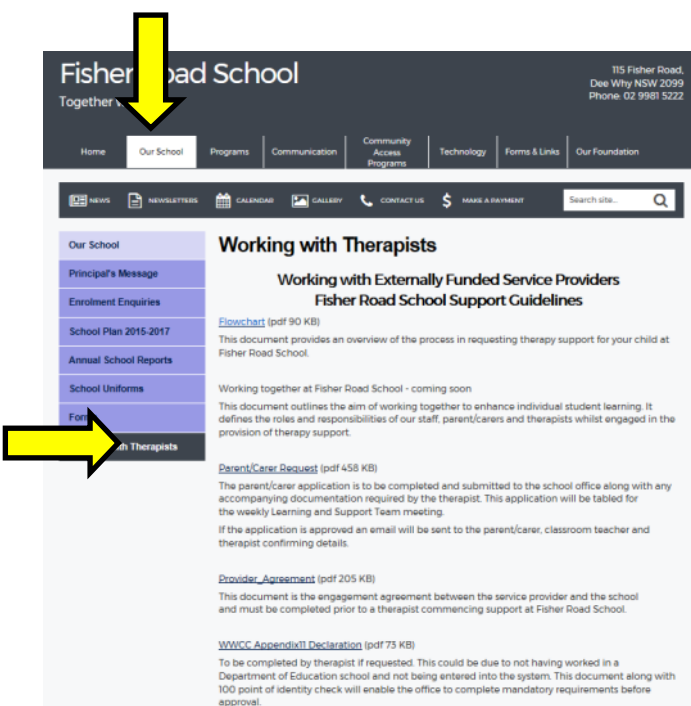
All documentation is available to download from the school website and include an explanation flowchart of the entire process, Parent/Carer Request, Provider Agreement, WWCC Appendix 11.

The school are also finalising 'Working together at Fisher Road School', a document that will outline the aim of working together to enhance individual student learning and define roles and responsibilities of our staff, parent/carers and therapists whilst engaged in the provision of therapy support.

The teachers at school are all aware of this process and are available to discuss this provision with you if you are considering applying.

For any requests to be considered for approval, the provision of therapy must integrate with the delivery of curriculum and educational supports as part of reasonable adjustment for the student, taking account of the operational requirements and education objectives and priorities of the school.

If this is a consideration please speak with your child's teacher.



The screenshot shows the Fisher Road School website. A yellow arrow points to the 'Our School' link in the top navigation bar. Another yellow arrow points to the 'Working with Therapists' link in the left sidebar. The main content area displays the 'Working with Therapists' page, which includes the title 'Working with Externally Funded Service Providers Fisher Road School Support Guidelines' and several downloadable documents: 'Flowchart' (pdf 90 KB), 'Parent/Carer Request' (pdf 458 KB), 'Provider Agreement' (pdf 205 KB), and 'WWCC Appendix 11 Declaration' (pdf 73 KB). Each document has a brief description of its purpose.

## Sailing

Through the Winds Of Joy program, organised by Sailors With Disabilities SWD, students at Fisher Road School had the opportunity to go sailing on Sydney Harbour in a yacht similar to those in the Sydney to Hobart yacht race. Students and staff got on the boat at the Cruising Yacht Club marina at Rushcutters Bay for an afternoon of fun.

The outing provided an extraordinary sensory experience. Students felt the wind on their face, smelt the ocean, listened to the sounds of the harbour and enjoyed the sensation of the boat 'heeling' as the yacht leaned over in the wind and 'tacking' to change direction.

The experience of being out in the harbour was very relaxing and calming for students. They learnt about landmarks such as the Harbour Bridge, Opera House and Fort Denison. Students built confidence, self-esteem and new friendships by helping to steer the boat, hold the ropes and meet the crew.

What a fantastic day out for students. We hope to have more opportunities to sail with SWD in the future.



# Class JO

Jen and Carmel

Class JO would like to say a huge thank you to the kind people from the Inner Wheel Northern Beaches.

We are extremely grateful for their kind donation. We were able to purchase two sensory toys which can be used by all students across the school. The toys stimulate a range of senses which assist our students in learning and engaging.

Here are some photos of the students using the toys.



The school has also purchased a new piece of software. It is a puzzle creator and can be used with a switch. Here is Kai using a head switch to make a puzzle. Go Kai!!



# Class VR

Virginia, Donna and Wendy

Our class continue to enjoy the season of spring outside in the vegetable garden. Last week we collected some caterpillars which were eating our vegetables. We put them into our caterpillar habitat and watched them make a chrysalis. After about four days we were excited to see a butterfly had emerged. We have now had three butterflies hatch and we have released them outside to lay eggs and continue their life cycle. Authentic experiences such as this lead to much discussion, reading, and interesting worksheets.



play



When it is raining and we can't go outside we sometimes play games such as hopscotch where we are learning to take turns and enjoy playing together.



turn

Turn

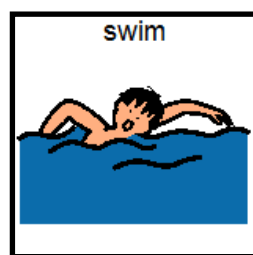
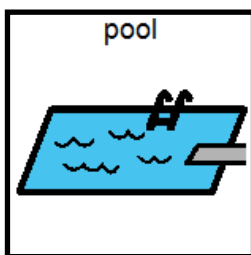




# Class NS

Nick and Alena

In Class NS we are continuing to work on the students' water safety, swimming and dressing skills during our twice-weekly swimming sessions. Many of the students in Class NS have made good progress over the year in swimming, and some have even gone from being very nervous in the pool and requiring flotation devices to being confidently able to jump into the deep end and then swim to the side of the pool without any flotation devices. Well done to all of the swimming stars in Class NS!



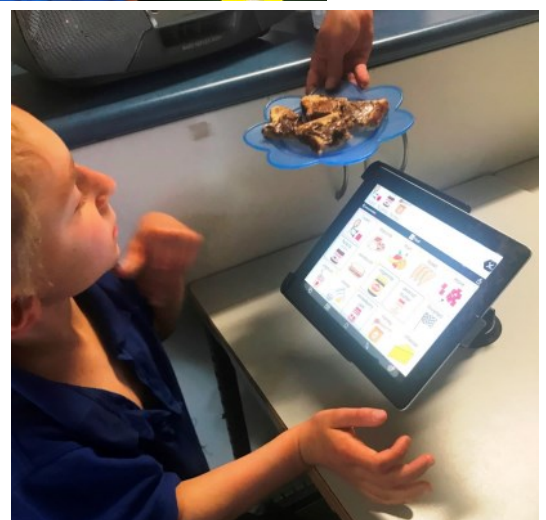
# Class CW

Caroline and

Jenny

Class CW have been practising communication skills to start term 4. Arun has been learning to touch picture symbols on the daily schedule as we transition to places in the school or activities. Henry has made progress in making food choices and has shown he can choose a "hot food" picture symbol from two choices. Riley can use Proloquo2go by pressing "I want" and then presses on a symbol that represents a choice from his lunchbox. Using Proloquo2go, Andrew has requested toast with honey and Charlie has asked for toast with vegemite and cheese. Lachlan is very excited to request Nutella on toast.


I want toast eat





# Class SH

Sam, Kari and  
Rosie

Every Friday morning class SH visit

the school **canteen**  for an opportunity to engage with senior students and staff while also making a choice

between the **food**  items for sale. It's one of our favourite activities and is a chance for the students to collect

their wallets and use their **money**  to purchase a healthy choice food item. This week we chose:



Yogurt

Popcorn

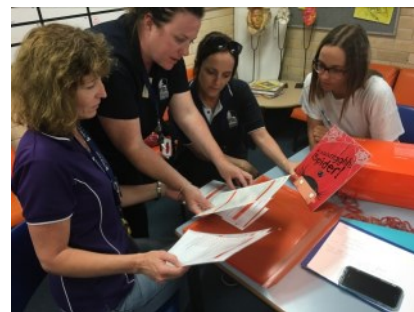


Cheese

Banana

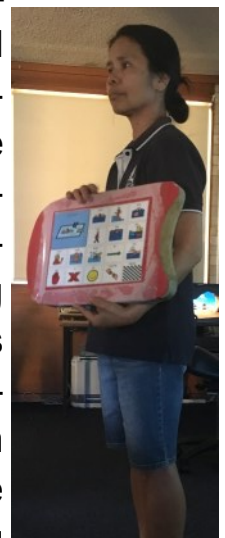
## Professional Learning

**Pre-Lit**—Teachers, Julie and Sally have been working this year on updating our school Literacy program. They completed a workshop with staff on implementing Pre-Lit into class literacy programs. Staff had the chance to role play a teacher and student literacy lesson and engage in the new resources purchased to engage students in reading and comprehension.



### Communication Team—

Last week our school communication team presented to our staff the many wonderful initiatives they have been designing and displaying around our school. This included our communication boards located in specific areas to engage students in expressing wants/needs including a specialised board attached to a pool kickboard so that communication can complement this highly engaging activity.





## An online learning platform

### – Fisher Road School Trial –

Jen, our experience Class JO teacher and IT guru here at Fisher Road School has been leading a trial with her class using the online learning platform Seesaw. This was in response to feedback by parent/carers and staff and aims to increase our positive communications with families in providing more timely information on their child's learning strategies and achievements. Jen sat down and answered some questions in relation to her experience trialling Seesaw.

**Jen, what has been the biggest benefit you have noticed as a teacher when using Seesaw to engage your families?**

Being able to quickly share achievements and moments in class

**Were there any limitations in using this digital platform?**

Not really. A shared understanding that teachers may not post photos or videos every day or week and it is individual y up to the teacher. Also that the communication book is still the main form of communication

**Were there any surprises, things you didn't expect to happen?**

It was lovely to see the positive remarks and comments from parents who were excited about what was posted.

**I know you gauged parent feedback, what was the general feeling from those families on the trial?** Make it permanent. The parents overall have loved this trial and being able to see what the class is doing. Easier than writing in the communication book. It's great, love it!

**What's next for Seesaw at Fisher Road School?**

Broadening the trial to other classes/groups of students or individual students. Continuing to gathering feedback from staff and parents. Establishing clear guideines for future use.

## PDHPE

### – School Bike Riding Program –

With an increased number of students now riding 2 wheeled bikes we have had to buy a new bike. Thanks to the staff at Dee Why Cycles (<http://www.deewhycycles.com.au/>) who looked after us when we purchased this fancy new Cannondale mountain bike. This now gives us 14 bikes ranging in sizes and with various modifications to suit the different needs of our students. As well as being a fun activity riding a bike also has great health benefits including:

- increased cardiovascular fitness.
- increased muscle strength and flexibility.
- improved joint mobility.
- decreased stress levels.
- improved posture and coordination.
- strengthened bones.
- decreased body fat levels.



If you would like help, purchasing the correct bike for your child contact the school and Matt Tonkin can help with bike selection.



## School messages

### ***Sun Safety for Children***

Thank you for working with us to keep our students sun safe. There has been an increase in the number of students who attend school with a hat in their bag which is fabulous!

As detailed in the note sent home last week, please ensure hats are available and that 4hour water resistant sun-screen is provided if you would the staff to support your child to re-apply this throughout the day. We ask that you apply sunscreen in the morning as needed.

The staff have looked at the UV chart and have sun safe strategies in place including supporting students to move into the shade, change of play locations (where there is more shade options), opening classrooms with air conditioning and a movie on the days with extreme heat conditions and reminding students to drink water and keep cool.

Please speak with your child's teacher regarding this matter if required.

### ***Semester 1 and 2 Student Voluntary Contribution Fees & Extra Curricular Activity Fees***

As we near the end of the year, we kindly ask that you finalise any 2017 student voluntary contribution fees and extra curricular fees that may be outstanding for your child. The office will be sending out reminders, however, please give them a call if you would like another invoice.

### ***Fisher Road Facebook***

As you know we launched our official school facebook group this term. The permission to publish consent form that we have on file for you also includes permission for school media including Facebook. Please contact the office if you need to check this permission or would like to change. Please promote your family and friends to like our group to see the wonderful school initiatives.



Your friendly office staff,



*Fran*

School Administration  
Manager  
(SAM)



*Donna.G*

School Administration  
Officer  
(SAO—Relieving)



# Class RP

**Staff: Rebecca, Sue & Ebony**



We've sailed into Term 4 with lots of smiles and good times!

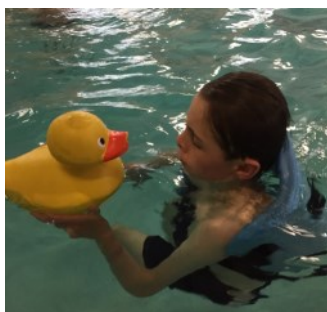


Two of our students were lucky to enjoy a beautiful time on Sydney Harbour as part of the 'Winds of Joy' program. See Jasper at the steering wheel above! RP was also fortunate to be offered an extra session at Sailability in Manly too – of course! It's always a highlight.

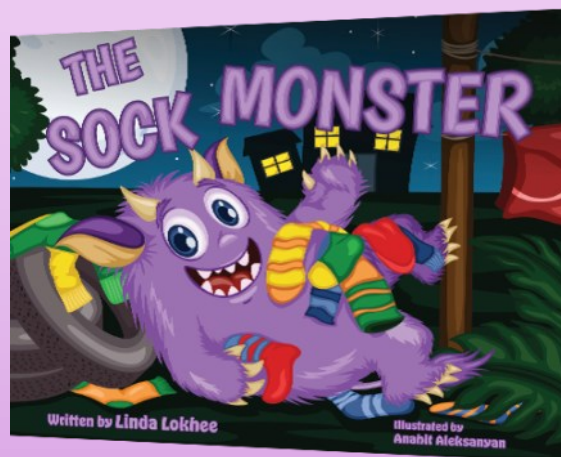
What are we cooking in the Thermomix this term I hear you ask? Nachos are on the menu... and already a big hit with all!



We continue to go to Collaroy beach each week and swim in our school pool. James has been using our floating communication board to request the duck!



## The Book Monster



One of our highly valued casual teachers also became an author with the release of her first book *The Book Monster*. During a day at Fisher Road teaching Class SH, Linda read her own story to the students who sat and engaged with delight listening to the story of Ike who gets up to a little mischief before learning a very valuable lesson in friendship.

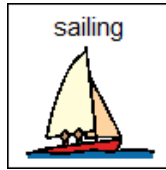
We are thrilled to have a personalised signed copy of Linda's book as part of our school library where all students can watch, listen and read about Ike and his adventures.



# Class TH

**Staff: Trish, John & Justine**

## Sailing



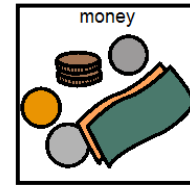
Class TH are participating in Sailability at Pittwater this term. This is a wonderful opportunity and experience for the boys. James and Jake enjoy the social interaction, especially the welcome chit-chat with the volunteers. Dylan demonstrated he's familiar with sailing, by recognising some of the volunteer members. He was eager to put his life jacket on and set sail. Jonathan was excited to take his turn in the boat. He enjoyed the different sensory experience offered. Lachlan is working towards going in the sailing boat. He was able to accept wearing a life jacket, and hopefully will set sail next time.



# Class JK

**Staff: Fran, Kari & Mandy**

## Shopping



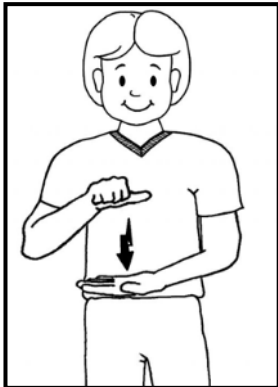
Class JK run the senior café each week. Part of this job means we go shopping on Fridays. We like to go to Coles at Manly Vale where the staff and other customers are always helpful. We write our shopping list using the Symwriter program and each member of our class is given a small list of items to buy. The students are responsible for finding the items, scanning them at the counter and putting the money into the payment machine. Harrison and Zane like to count the vegetables into bags, Kane and Michael are great at pushing the trolley, Thomas marks all the shopping items off the list, Adam carries the basket and Hannah loves to get a catalogue at the end of the shop if she has shopped well. Friday shopping is always busy but fun!





# Class SB

**Staff: Sally & Sue W**



Class SB have been mixing up their shopping program recently.

We have been walking to Coles in Dee Why and practicing some very important road crossing skills along the way. These have involved stopping at the lights, and looking both ways before being instructed to cross the road.

The students have also been fantastic at finding known products in a new supermarket environment. Russell was able to locate the cheese and milk in the freezer department, whilst Andy and Ella were able to find the bread and fruit cups.

They are also independent at packing away the groceries ready for the lunch order program.

It's been awesome to see how far their shopping skills have come throughout the year.



# Class MP

**Staff: Maria and Sue R**

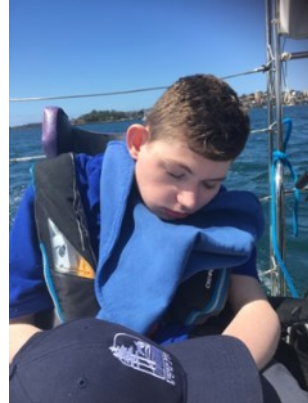
It has been a great start to Term 4 for our class. We were lucky to be invited to participate in the sailability program organised by Sailors With Disabilities (DSW), a not-for-profit organisation, based at Rush-



cutters Bay. Laragh, Maia, Gwyneth, Nathaniel and Connor had a lovely time on the water. The sensory experiences of being on a big boat and the sensa-



tion of the wind blowing on their faces was calming for some but too much for others.



It was a lovely opportunity for our high support class to be involved in such a wonderful activity.

Thankyou Bunnings for making "The Willy Walk" so beautiful.

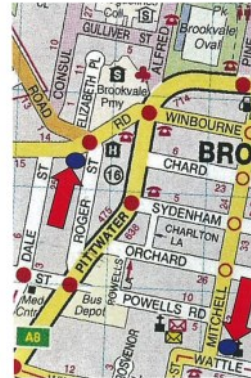
Thank  
You



A huge thank you to "That Bali shop".

They have, again, kindly donated colourful flags to our school. These flags are in both the junior and senior playground. They look fabulous in our gardens and provide colour and movement for our students.

Thank you so much to That Bali shop for their kind donation.



*that*  
**.BALI SHOP.**

Cnr Old Pittwater Rd, Beacon Hill Rd  
and Roger St Brookvale, NSW 2100  
(4/40 Roger St)  
Ph: 02 9905 2205  
Fax: 02 9905 2849  
Email: info@thatbalishop.com.au  
www.thatbalishop.com.au

Open 7 days 10am-5pm  
Rooftop parking available

Warehouse open to the public  
Unit 55, 42-46 Wattle Rd Brookvale  
Ph: 02 9905 1313

Open 6 days Mon-Sat 10am-5pm  
Upper level parking avail. in front of warehouse unit



## Visuals to support student learning at home

Please let the office know if there are any visuals that we could include in each newsletter that will support your child at home. You will notice that teachers include visuals to accompany their article which directly relate to the learning they have been engaged in. Feel free to cut out, laminate, magnet or velcro around your home :)

In the morning I put my hat in my bag and sunscreen on

