Welcome to 2019! We are very happy to have 64 eager students enrolled and we have been working hard to ensure that the year ahead for each of them will be one of learning and positive experiences. Our four classes this year are:
Wilai (Kindergarten/Year 1) Mrs Nichole O'Neill
Pirama (Years 2/3/4) Mr Jay Cahill
Makoro (Years 4/5/6) Miss Gerri Brown
School Learning Support Officers, Mrs Nikki Fergusson and Ms Danielle Greig, will be working in Pirama and Makoro, respectively.

A fourth class, a Learning and Support class, will be led by Ms Pam Tomassetti, and it will be called Mowane, the Awabakal name for "kangaroo". This class will be from 9.00am - 11.00am Monday to Thursday, and targeted students across the school will benefit from Ms Tomassetti’s experience and enthusiasm for learning.
Mrs Karen Baker will continue to be at Fassifern for two days a week as Instructional Leader, and she will drive our progress in Literacy and Numeracy.

As always, my door is open to you. I welcome conversation with families about students, their learning and their progress. I will be seeking your feedback about various aspects of school management and learning throughout the year. Please feel free to discuss any of these issues with me.

Regina

New Kindergarten students are using effective fine motor skills to cut and paste a sentence. A calm, productive working environment ...
It's all happening at Fassifern Public!

INTEREST GROUPS
Each Friday, the classes will rotate around directed activities that have been designed to encourage and foster interest in Creative & Performing Arts. Mrs. O’Neill, assisted by Mrs Fergusson, will lead Visual Arts; Mr Cahill, assisted by Ms Greig, will lead Choir and Music; Mr Geddes will lead Dance/Drama. All students will participate in 40-minute lessons in the middle session.

ASSEMBLY
There will be a whole-school Assembly every Friday at 2.30pm. The Assembly will be led by the School Captains, Olivia Neist and Phoebe Lorentzen, and they will be assisted by class students. The Assembly will begin at 2.30pm and families are invited to attend each week.

HOMEWORK
All students will be expected to participate in Homework this year. The core of the work will be Home Reading, supported by practise work in English and Maths. Class teachers will be happy to discuss aspects of Homework with you.

CLASS INFORMATION SESSIONS
In Week 3, all classes will conduct information sessions for families. Advice about these sessions will be supplied by class teachers.

STUDENT LEADERSHIP TEAM
Students leaders of the school are School Captains, Olivia and Phoebe. This year they will be supported in their duties by Class Advisors. Together they will make up the Student Leadership Team. Class Advisors are:
Year 2: Chetana Thornton, Max Punton
Year 3: Jora Hilditch, Kobi Berry
Year 4: Malavika Thornton, Hugh Johnson
Year 5: Sasha Gardner, Lachlan Matthews
Year 6: Preston Como, Noah Scott

The Student Leadership Team will meet with me every Wednesday in a formal meeting, where student questions, concerns and feedback about matters relating to Student Wellbeing will be tabled and discussed. The content of these meetings will inform whole-school planning.

PARENTS & CITIZENS’ ASSOCIATION
Consistent liaison between families and myself is vital for clear communication and effective goal-setting. The Fassifern group meets monthly, where information about fundraising activities and school-based activities is shared. I also present a report and I seek direction from families through this process. The first meeting for the year will be on Friday, February 15th, beginning at 9.30am. The group will meet in the Library and a major issue for discussion at this meeting will be the timing of P&C Meetings. Please come along and put your ideas and opinions forward; if you can’t make it please let me know if you would like to express an opinion about this.

SPECIAL RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
The Department of Education requires that all students be offered Special Religious Education. Your choice for your child to participate and to not participate will be offered in the General Consent that will go home with your child this week.

Quote of the week (from a Year 2 student): This isn’t daycare, Mrs Stoltenberg, this is learning!
Wilai has had a fantastic start to the school year. Our Kindergarten students have really settled well into class and school routines. Our Year 1 students have been so helpful in assisting our new students to settle in. I'm looking forward to a fabulous year full of learning, exploring and fun. Mrs O'Neill
This is the Fassifern Public School team to participate in the Premier’s Debating Challenge for Years 5&6. Our students—Olivia, Phoebe, Lillian, Regan, Garett, Elijah, Lauren, and Lyla—will attend Valentine Public School next Tuesday to participate in their first coaching day for the Hunter/Central Coast teams. They will be accompanied by Makoro teacher, Miss Brown. Adjudicators and coaches will be conducting the sessions and students will learn the fine points of debating, including rebuttal, arguments, definitions and speakers’ roles. While the day will also include games and activities, students will be delivering a short debating speech and get some expert feedback.

This is a great opportunity for our students to participate across the region and to learn about the fine art of public speaking. Detailed information about the day will go home this week.

NOTICE: The Staff Car Park at the School is not open to the Public. Visitors, including families collecting their children, should enter the school via the small gate on Miller Road. This is a statutory requirement.
The students of Makoro have had a busy and productive return to school. As a way of ‘getting to know each other’, we have been participating in activities that involve collaboration, respect and trust.
Hope everyone had a great holiday break. Exciting to see our students graduate to their new year and class and see all the new Kindergarten faces as well. We are looking forward to the year to come.

Canteen will be open, starting this Friday, 8th February. At the moment canteen will be only open on Fridays until we are able to get more volunteers. If you can assist please see the office and leave your details to contact ASAP.

Our next P&C meeting will be held on Friday, 15th February, 9:30am, in the library. Everyone is welcome to join and this is a great way to have your say, see what is going to go on throughout the year, help make decisions, see if you are interested to be part of the P&C or just to come and watch and listen if you’re not too sure. We hope to see you there.

Thank you.

Office News!
*General Permission Note is accompanying this newsletter.

*Book Club No 1 is accompanying the newsletter and is due back 15th February.

Facebook Page:
Don’t forget to keep up with the latest school news via Facebook or Fassifern PS website.
www.fassifern-p.school.nsw.edu.au

Good for Kids good for life
FUN IN THE SUN

Summer is the perfect opportunity to ditch the technology and get outside to have fun in the sun! And you don’t have to spend a lot of money with these great ideas:

- Create a slip and slide in your yard with a tarp, water and detergent
- Go for a bike or scooter ride to the park
- Go for a picnic and take the soccer ball with you
- Plan a scavenger hunt
- Use chalk to draw on the paths outside your house and play games such as hopscotch
- Get involved in gardening

Have a look online for more great ideas!

NSW Health
Health Hunter New England Local Health District
PHONE 4924 6499