



Spring Farm Public School
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Spring Farm Newsletter week 3 term 1 2016

Principal's address

Welcome to 2016 at Spring Farm Public School! This is bound to be an extremely exciting year as we embark on the first year at Spring Farm Public School together. We are all looking forward to a fantastic year of learning and we know that there will be great things happening every day.

We would like to welcome Mrs Ellen Pickering, Mrs Danielle Berry, Mrs Rachel Evans, and Mrs Megan Pereira to the staff at Spring Farm Public School. They have been successful in gaining a position at our school. We also have class names that reflect Olympic theme.

Mrs Pereira (K Peru) and Ms Evans (K England) will be on Kindergarten , Mrs Creber (1/2 Canada) will be on Stage 1, Mrs Berry (3/4 Bahamas) will be on Stage 2 and Mr Carmody (5/6 China) will be on Stage 3. Mrs Pickering is the school counsellor who works every Thursday at our school. Mrs Scuteri is the SLSO who will be assisting teachers and the office staff Monday to Thursday. Mrs Neal and Mrs Holt are working in the office. Mrs Cleary and Ms Lucas are temporarily assisting us establish our school.

All of our teachers have been working hard to get to know our students and ensure quality learning is happening in our classes every day. This is a key focus for all staff at our school and we know there will be lots of exciting and amazing things happening which we are looking forward to sharing with our families and friends.

Open Classrooms and afternoon picnic

We would like to invite parents, relatives and friends to open classes Friday 26th February 2016 starting at 1pm at the Narellan Annex. This is an opportunity to visit your child in the classroom and to meet the teacher. In particular, it is an opportunity for first time Kindergarten parents to observe and interact with their child in a classroom setting. From 1:30pm we will have a picnic and sausage sizzle to celebrate the commencement of Spring Farm Public School. This is will also be an opportunity for the community and the school staff to get to know each other.

New school building

At this point of time we have been told that we could move into our new building sometime in March of this year. This is depending on the weather and other logistical issues. Once I get confirmation I will let you know and I would like to organise a moving bee to assist with the move.

Policies development

The school will be developing various policies that will meet the needs of the students, school and community. Some of the policies will require input from students, staff and community. A number of online surveys (through Survey Monkey) will be organised throughout the year to collect your thoughts and ideas on issues such as the school logo, homework, awards and discipline. You will be alerted through your Enews App about how to participate in the surveys.

Morning Routines

Whole school assembly will be every Monday morning. We will sing the national anthem, give reminders about the week ahead, hand out awards and provide recognition of any achievements. Parents, relatives and friends are welcome to stay and join us in our assembly and sing the anthem with us. Please be mindful, when anyone is addressing the assembly or students are singing the national anthem, that we all display good role modelling by being respectful and courteous in these formal occasions. On Thursday morning we will have a quick whole school assembly to provide reminders especially for the eventual PSSA season which will commence in Term 2. More information will be provided to you in due course.

Once the morning bell rings on Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday morning, students are expected to line up and their teacher will take them straight into their class to begin the morning routine. This is an important time to settle in the class and focus on the learning ahead.

We are working to establish successful morning routines so that all of our students and teachers are focused on their teaching and learning. I ask all parents and carers to move to the sides of the lines so that teachers can organise their classes from 8:55am. Once the morning bell rings I ask that parents and carers say their goodbyes and leave as soon as possible as this can minimise separation issues with students.

Seeing your class teacher in the morning

Like in any household, the morning routines can be hectic and busy. This is the same for teachers who are setting up their class and preparing for the day ahead. It is vital that all students are getting a good start in the morning as this can set the tone throughout the day. Therefore, I ask if you really need to see the class teacher in the morning please make it as quick as possible and limit going to the class teacher when the morning bell rings as they have a duty of care to be with their students and take them into their class. Trying to discuss matters with the teacher during this time is very difficult as they are very busy and cannot give you the appropriate one-to-one time to address your concerns. If there is a pressing matter, please email or phone the school for an appointment or see the class teacher after school. This provides the opportunity for the teacher to fully listen and clarify any issues in a less hectic environment. One of the reasons that we have had structures Pick Up Zones after school is for the opportunity for parents or carers to see their class teacher on a regular basis and address any issues, concern or simply have a chat.

Lateness

Having three young children of my own I understand how difficult it can be to get your child/ren to school on time. Things can happen during the night or in the morning (usually not wanting to get out of bed!) which are beyond our control and at times students will be late for school. As a school we understand these things can happen on occasions. When you arrive late, please go to the office to be marked off as the office will be the central area to record attendance and absences. However, if a student is arriving late on a regular basis, under Department of Education guidelines we are required to monitor the partial attendances, record it onto our data base and assist you where we can to improve your child's punctuality. If the pattern continues, we are required to report this to the Home School Liaison Officer (HSLO) who will then become involved with you and the school to improve the lateness. It is vital that you establish a good routine the night before and in the morning so that your child can get to school on time. If you have concerns and difficulties with your child's attendance please do not hesitate to see the school or School Counsellor for advice and assistance.

Enews App

The Enews app has been very effective and has provided everyone with the up to date information about things happening in our school. Please subscribe to it and refer to it as much as possible. Each Wednesday the school will issue any notes via this app. The school's newsletter will be sent through this app in weeks 3, 6 and 9 of each term. The school's website has been complete and can be accessed on the School Locator (type in school locator, type in Spring Farm Public School and our website should come up). We are now waiting for Google and other search engine providers to make it go live!

Spring Farm Public School Facebook page

We have an official Facebook page! <https://www.facebook.com/SpringFarmPublicSchool/>

We invite our family and friends to like our page so they can keep up-to-date with all the exciting things happening in our fabulous school.

We remind parents and carers, if you have not already returned your *Permission to Publish* note, please do so as soon as possible. This is important for us to know your wishes regarding the publishing of things such as student work and photos on our website and Facebook page, our newsletter and other school publications.

Canteen

Made Fresh are organising a school canteen within the Annex and within the new building until it goes to tender. Any students or staff requiring lunch orders can refer to the menu which was sent to everyone via our Enews app last week. Lunch orders can be placed in a security box in the school office which will be picked up around 9:15am. They will prepare the lunch orders and return around 11:25am and be delivered to your child's class. At lunch time a make shift canteen will operate selling iceblocks and drinks. There will be no canteen at recess so please continue to prepare lunch and recess food and any healthy snacks for the day.

As stated previously, myself, the staff, students and parents are very excited about developing Spring Farm Public School into a dynamic, innovative and world class school. There is so much to do and to establish

which is exciting and sometimes daunting. However, I know I can rely on my staff and you as the community to get us through the establishment of the school. Thank you for your overall support and to those who have assisted with the uniforms and covering of reading books. Our main focus will always be on the teaching and learning of your child/ren!

If you have any questions or queries, please contact the school through email or phone. You can see the class teacher preferably in the afternoons or see Miss Urry or myself.

Kind regards

Teachers and staff of Spring Farm Public School