

## In Learning We Grow

### IMPORTANT DATES!



Tues	18 Feb	Staff Meeting 3.15pm
Wed	19 Feb	P&C Meeting 7pm
Thurs	20 Feb	No Assembly Student Leader's Morning Tea with Parents Uniform Shop 8.15am-9.15am
Fri	21 Feb	Student Census
Mon	24 Feb	Student Leaders—Bickley

### FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

Greetings to parents, students, staff and community members. Welcome to the commencement of another exciting school year! We have started the year with 628 students (K – 6), which is very close to the prediction provided to the department for initial planning in August. We have 3 kindergarten classes, 4 pre-primary classes and 20 classes from years 1-6. We have had many new families move into our area, and I would like to welcome them to our school community. It was great to see everyone back for day one, the excitement on the kids (and staff!) faces as they met their friends and found their new rooms. Although it has been extremely hot, and we have implemented the Hot Weather Policy this week, students and staff have commenced the start in such a positive way. I look forward to seeing the wonderful teaching and learning programs throughout the year.

**Thank You:** Over the holidays the gardening and cleaning staff have worked hard to ensure that staff and students come back to a clean and green school. It is amazing how our new gardener, Robert, has managed to get the surroundings looking so good with the many heatwaves we experienced over the break. Also to Debbie, Fereweini, Lloyd and Nicole our hardworking cleaners who ensured that classes and surrounds were clean and ready for staff to prepare their rooms before students arrived back – THANK YOU. I would also like to acknowledge and thank the office staff Donna Caniglia, Carol McLagan and Sue Gross who worked prior to the commencement of the school being open to ensure that all beginning of the year processes were carried out. This led to an extremely smooth start to the year!

**Staffing 2025:** In the current climate of teacher shortages, we are fortunate to be able to attract quality teachers to Forest Crescent Primary School as well as relief staff to fill short-term vacancies. An updated staff list is attached to this newsletter. I would like to formally welcome new and returning staff to Forest Crescent Primary and trust that they enjoy their teaching and education assistant experience.

**Before and After School:** Our school's policy is that students should not be arriving prior to 8.30am as adequate teacher supervision cannot be guaranteed. Students who do arrive early are directed to the Undercover Area where supervision will be provided from 8.00am. Prior to this time, there may be no-one to supervise children. **When Parents are accompanying children during this time, they too, are asked to assemble in the Undercover Area, and not outside classrooms.**

From 8.30am, all gates will be opened and class teachers will be in their rooms, ready to assume Duty of Care for their students. Parent support is required as the safety of your children is extremely important to us. When children arrive at school (after 8.30am) they should go directly to their classroom. The 8.30am - 8.45am period is used for children to prepare for the morning lessons. Outside play is not permitted during this time. At the end of the school day, children should not remain at school after being dismissed nor play on the equipment as, again, adequate teacher supervision cannot be guaranteed. Camp Australia offers a before and after school service here at Forest Crescent. Parents can register online at: [www.campaaustralia.com.au](http://www.campaaustralia.com.au) or phone Elle our wonderful coordinator, on 0422 578 313.

**Parent/Teacher Class Meetings:** As per the last couple of years, teachers will not be holding whole class Parent Information sessions this year. Teachers will be sending home all of the parent information outlining the teaching and learning programs planned, together with organisational structures to be used in the room. This may be in hard copy or using Connect. Information teachers may outline include Curriculum, Behaviour Management, Homework, Communication and other day-to-day operations of the class. Parents are welcomed to arrange a meeting with their child's classroom teacher if they would like to discuss their child's individual needs.

**Connect:** Connect is a secure online environment developed by the Department of Education for staff, students and parents in public schools. For you, Connect provides easy access to information and relevant to your child's classes and learning programs. Our teachers will be utilising Connect as a form of communication with parents as well as teaching students how to use the platform in lessons. They will keep you updated with information on things like upcoming events, excursions, classroom activities, photos and stories which will be sent to you via email notification, or if you prefer, via the Connect Now app on your phone. It can be downloaded through [google play](https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.connectnow) or [the apple app store](https://apps.apple.com/au/app/connect-now/id1444444444).

**WHAT YOU NEED TO DO....** Keep your current email details up to date with our Front Office.

- New Users: Miss Sandhu will send you an email (From the Department) that will invite you to join Connect. Use this to set up your account.
- Keep a record of your P Number and password so you can log into Connect. Once you have registered, It will link your children to your account.
- Existing Users: Your children currently at FCPS should be now be linked to your account.

The Connect Portal is where you log in to see your child's classroom. Under the "My Children" tab at the top of the screen is where you can see your child's/ children's: Notices Overview, Attendance and School Reports. At this stage, teachers will be mainly using connect for notice and the occasional lessons to familiarise students. Formal reports will also be sent using connect in Semester 1 and Semester 2.

Anyone who experiences issues logging into Connect can contact the school on 9232 3550 or see staff at the Front Office.





## THE PROPERTY POD

It's your move...





Nicola Lee

Principal/Licensee

Ph: 0413 879 151 | W: [ThePropertyPod.net.au](http://ThePropertyPod.net.au)

**Attendance:** Regular school attendance at school is fundamental to your child's social and academic learning. In Semester 2 2024, we had 67% of our students (393 students) who attended school greater than 90% of the time. We also had 24% of students or 141 students who attended between 80% - 90% who are categorised as "At Risk – Indicated" and 8% or 44 students who were identified "at moderate risk" attending between 60%-80% of the time and 1% or 7 students who were identified at "severe risk" attending less than 60% of the time. As parents or legal guardians of an enrolled child, you are responsible under the School Education Act 1999 to ensure the attendance of your child at school every day. It is important to assist your child's achievement and learning by making regular school attendance a priority in your child's life. The Department of Education's Student Attendance policy requires parents/guardians to provide an acceptable explanation to the school principal for any absence of their children. Principals must authorise all absences. The Act defines health, religious and cultural observances as reasonable cause for a school absence and the absence would be recorded as "authorised" by the principal. Families who are taking family holidays during school term should also write to the Principal with the length of intended absence. Family holidays during term time cannot be authorised by the Principal and will be recorded as an unauthorised absence. Although regular attendance is critical to your child's educational; success, it is important that they are not sent to school when they are unwell or sick.

**School Parking and Traffic:** Safety around schools remains a high priority for the City of Gosnells Ranger Services. To bring about long-term changes to parking and traffic behaviour among school communities, efforts between schools, parent communities and the City to educate and monitor driver behaviour will have a greater benefit. As part of its ongoing commitment to the school community, the City's Rangers will inspect every school at the commencement of each term to ensure the correct parking signage is in place and determine its priority level with regards to parking issues and driver behaviour. Schools that are determined as a high level of importance will be given priority for Ranger attendance. Rangers at the City of Gosnells use the City's *Parking Local Law 2012* to ensure parking remains safe, lawful and allows traffic to flow. Don't risk a fine for parking illegally around the school – many parking infringements are \$100. If you can't find anywhere around the school, consider parking further away and walk the rest of the distance. Better still, if it's possible, leave the car at home and walk or cycle to school to improve your health and reduce congestion on the roads. Please note the following information which is re-printed from the City of Gosnells "Safety Around Schools" brochure: (A copy is attached to the newsletter)

**School zones:** 40km/hr school zones are in place around every school in the City of Gosnells. School zones operate from 7.30am to 9am and 2.30pm to 4pm. Children warning signs and 40km/hr school zone speed signs are the responsibility of Main Roads WA.

**Kiss and Drive:** Kiss and Drive zones typically allow parents to pick up and drop off children adjacent to the main school entrance. Kiss your child, say goodbye, allow them out and drive away as soon as possible. Never leave your car unattended when using the designated Kiss and Drive zone around schools.

**Continuous yellow line markings:** You cannot stop or park anywhere along a single yellow line painted on the edge of the road. This restriction is in place 24 hours a day and attracts a \$100 penalty.

The City will use yellow lines instead of signage where placement of signs may be difficult, pose a hazard or affect the amenity of an area.

**It is important that students who are picked up from school use the Kiss and Drive on Hickory Drive as this is the only staff supervised area for after school for pick up. The area next to the Year 1 block and basketball courts is a parking area, not a Kiss and Drive zone.** Should all parking bays be full (as they usually are by 2.50pm parents are requested not to "double park" along Redheart Drive but continue through the car park and park at the end of the legal single lane parked cars. If you wait for 3-5 minutes after 3.00pm there are a number of carparks available for use, as most parents have collected their kids. You can then pull into the carpark safely and pick up your kids!

**Please be aware that a new School Zone speed limit has been designated for Forest Lakes Drive near our school crosswalk at Hickory Drive. The new speed limit is 40 km from 7.30am – 9.00am and 2.30pm – 4.00pm.**

**School Bike Racks:** It is wonderful to see so many students who ride, scoot or walk to school. As a sustainable school the less car trips we have, the less our carbon footprint, and the less traffic congestion we have before and after school. Just a reminder that bikes in the bike racks should be locked, as even though we lock the gates after 9.00am, there are still opportunities for someone from off site to steal a bike. Should you not have a lock it is possible to park your bike in the courtyard adjacent to the front office, however we would prefer to minimise the congestion in this area. Also a reminder that students who ride their bikes to and from school must wear an approved helmet. Should students ride to school without their helmet, parents will be notified.

**Forest Crescent's Got Talent:** Forest Crescent's Got Talent has been part of the school program for many years. Originally FCGT was coordinated by Ms Britten, and supported by staff and students to provide our students with the opportunities to perform their talents in the Arts in front of an audience after one of our students completed a Primary Extension and Challenge (PEAC) Arts unit. Since then the focus of the program has changed considerably and the time and effort to deliver a quality program has increased markedly. We have also enhanced the Arts program across our school over the last 5 years providing all of our students opportunities to participate in whole school programs in drama, music and visual arts, together with the Year 4-6 choir, 5-6 Instrumental Music and Band Programs, 4-6 TAGS Extension Drama, 5-6 TAGS Extension Art, EDU Dance and Assembly Performances. After reviewing the 2024 program it was decided that FCGT would not run this year and Ms Britten would concentrate on reinvigorating the whole school music program, coordinating the amazing choir and band, assisting with assembly performances and coordinating the end of year Christmas Concert. We will review FCGT towards the end of the year to look towards 2026.

**P&C Meeting:** The Forest Crescent Parents and Citizens Association provides valuable assistance to the students and staff at Forest Crescent Primary School. Under the current leadership of Ryan Jenkins and his committee the P&C oversee the amazing canteen and uniform shop as well as organizing student activities such as whole school discos and fun runs. This in turn raises valuable funds which are used to provide extra resources across the school. The first P&C meeting is on Wednesday 19 February commencing at 7.00pm. Meetings are held in the staffroom and usually take about an hour. It would be wonderful to see new parents attend.

It promises to be another busy year at Forest Crescent Primary School with many outstanding teaching and learning opportunities for our students. The newsletter will be published every fortnight. I look forward to catching up with many of you over the coming term



# Safer School Parking

Where you park matters



- Walk together, bike together or car pool
- Try arriving a bit earlier or later to avoid peak times
- Park a short distance from school and walk the rest of the way



## Wheel or Walk It Friday- starting Week 3

We encourage you to walk, scoot or cycle to school every FRIDAY (starting 21st Feb). Stamping of Star cards will be done by our Your Move Ambassadors each Friday morning in the undercover area between 8.15 and 8.30am. We hope to see you there doing your part to save our environment!



Perth Goju Karate teaches karate classes in your local area.

A special offer for the school's students - 4 WEEKS FREE beginners karate lessons!

Classes are held after school and are a great way for children of all ages to learn self-defense in a fun and safe environment.

We also teach classes for teens and adults and they are fantastic for fitness, wellbeing and of course, self-defense.

Classes continue throughout the school term and the school holidays.

Karate has many benefits which include confidence, respect, discipline, fun and fitness.

Call now to take advantage of this 4 week trial.

Sensei Johnny Moran - 0402 830 402

Facebook pages – perth goju karate

Instagram – perthgojukurate

Google –  
[www.perthgojukurate.wordpress.com](http://www.perthgojukurate.wordpress.com)

