MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Students, Parents and Staff,

GERMAN EXCHANGE VISIT

The school community was sad to see the end of our visit by 14 students from the Ernst Bloch Integrierte Gesamtschule in Ludwigshafen Ogersheim in Germany. The visitors flew out of Australia on Wednesday 15th April after having spent over three weeks experiencing school life at Fairhills, the sights of Melbourne and camps to Wilsons Promontory and Phillip Island. They were well cared for by their host families who made them feel at home. The school continues to be very grateful to our host families for taking the time to look after our international visitors. We would especially like to thank the team within the Language Faculty who supported the visit, especially Ms Karolina Clouston and Mr Jeremy Klitzing. The exchange would not have gone ahead without all the hard work and planning of our German Language Leader, Ms Adelaide MacLeman, and would like to congratulate her on a very successful visit. We know she is looking forward to taking our students on exchange to visit our German sister school in September.

INFORMATION EVENING

Last Thursday evening the school ran a well-attended Open Night. Over 100 families came through the school and were able to observe all areas of the Curriculum in action and gain a good insight into all the fantastic programs the school has to offer. There was a really positive buzz around the school with many current students performing, displaying their work and talking to the visiting families about life at Fairhills. Thank you to all of those involved in setting up for the night, and to the staff and students who helped with the tours. Congratulations to Ms Silvana La Leggia for her organisation of the evening, and for her continued efforts with the Transition program.

PRIMARY SCHOOL VISITS BY VET DANCE CLASS

As a part of the unit "Working with others in the Dance Industry" our Year 11 VET Dance students have spent the last three Wednesdays at Mountain Gate Primary School working with a group of nearly 40 very eager Grade Five and Six students. Our dance students have choreographed routines and over three weeks have taught them to the younger students, culminating in a whole school assembly where they showcased their new dance talents. Well done to all the dancers involved, including Ms Suzie Pedler for organising the program.

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

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<td>Thursday 7th May</td>
<td>Free Dress Day</td>
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MURAL AT MOUNTAIN GATE

Seven of our Year 9 and 10 students have undertaken to complete a mural project at Mountain Gate Shopping Centre. Under the direction of well-known Melbourne graffiti artist Andrew Bourke, the following students; Blair Oram, Beau Sinclair, Janet Munday, Caleb Cowl, Logan Donnelly, James Barnes and Renee Griffin worked many hours last week to produce this colourful and interesting addition to the local community. Thank you to Andrew for making himself available to pass on his skills and knowledge, and working so enthusiastically with our students. Andrew was full of praise for the students’ efforts and complimented them on their work ethic and cooperation.
PRESENTATION BALL

Our Presentation Ball took place on Saturday, the 18th of April at The Grand on Cathies Lane. With over 550 guests to celebrate an incredibly special night, our 31 Presentation Ball couples lit up the dance floor as they looked a million dollars and danced the night away. The eight weeks of dance rehearsals at Marshere Dance Studio paid off as the ‘Presentation Set’ went off without a hitch. Congratulations to our participants and a special thank you to our guests of honour, the Honourable Nick Wakeling (State Member for Ferntree Gully) and the Honourable Alan Tudge (Federal Member for Aston) and his wife, Mrs Terri Tudge. Thanks must also go to our main sponsors, Raw Imagery, Tupperware, Marshere Ferntree Gully, Village Cinemas, Libby Lou and Red Cargo for their donations, and Friends of the Performing Arts for their time and efforts in making this event a wonderful success.

Paul Donaldson
Associate Principal.
During term two and the Easter holidays Fairhills High School was lucky enough to host fourteen students and two teachers from our sister school IGSO in Ludwigshafen, Germany. A huge thank you is extended to the families who hosted a student, as well as a special mention to Mr Brandenburg for hosting. Thanks to Mr Klitzing and Ms Klouston for dedicating their holidays to attending camp at Wilson’s Prom. The experience for Fairhills students and families has been overwhelmingly positive. Since the students returned to their home country, host families have expressed that they miss the presence of their German son or daughter! Strong international friendships have been formed both with host students and with students in the wider Fairhills community and both Australian students and staff are eagerly awaiting the return journey to Germany in September.

The Fairhills’ Languages program is often looking for caring families to host; if you are interested in hosting international visitors long or short term please contact Jessica Winstone, Languages Coordinator, to express your interest.

Adelaide MacLeman
German Exchange Coordinator
The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) 2015 for Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 students will be held on Tuesday 12 May, Wednesday 13 May and Thursday 14 May 2015. NAPLAN tests assess student knowledge and skills in Writing, Reading, Language Conventions (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and Numeracy. If you have any questions about NAPLAN please contact the school on 9758 5022 to talk with Kathryn Middleton or Russell James.

The results of the tests provide information for students, parents, teachers and principals which can be used to improve student achievement.

**All students are expected to participate in the NAPLAN tests.**

Support can be arranged for students with disabilities, if the student regularly uses similar support for classroom assessment tasks.

Large print, braille and black and white versions of the tests are available for students that require them.

Exemptions may be granted to students with significant intellectual disabilities and to students who have been learning English for less than one year.

If your child is eligible for support due to disability or an exemption, you should discuss this with Mr Paul Graham prior to the tests. Parental consent is required before any support due to disability or exemption is granted.

Students may be withdrawn from NAPLAN by their parent or carer. This is a matter for consideration by parents and carers in consultation with the principal. If, after consultation, you decide to withdraw your child, you must sign a Student Withdrawal form. These forms are available at the school.

Later in the year you will receive your child’s personal NAPLAN report. The report will describe your child’s particular skills in Reading, Writing, Language Conventions (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and Numeracy. The report will also show how your child performed in relation to national minimum standards. These describe the minimum acceptable standards for students across Australia.

I am confident that the information you receive as a result of your child's participation in the NAPLAN tests will be valuable in helping you to assess your child’s progress in literacy and numeracy.

For more information about the tests, please visit the VCAA website at www.vcaa.vic.edu.au or the NAP website at [www.nap.edu.au](http://www.nap.edu.au)

Yours sincerely

Kathryn Middleton
Director of Curriculum