

FACTA NON VERBA

Term 1 – 04.03.2009



Dear Parents/Caregivers

Unfortunately parking issues around the school continue to be a problem. Please read carefully the note attached to FACTA from our P&C (Safety around Concord Public School) and the accompanying map. Keep this note in your cars to refer to if uncertain of the rules. The local police command was patrolling our streets last week and has reassured me that they will be patrolling our streets frequently.

Remember the following:

- *Children are vulnerable road users.
- *Children need parental/adult carer close supervision in and around traffic to make them safer
- *Parents and caregivers have a key role in educating their children about road safety.
- *Children learn about road safety largely by experience.
- *Anywhere where there is a potential for moving vehicles is a potentially dangerous traffic situation for children.

Children may think they can handle crossing a road by themselves, BUT children:

- *are easily distracted and focus on only one aspect of what is happening
- *are smaller and harder for drivers to see
- *are less predictable than other pedestrians
- *cannot accurately judge the speed and distance of moving vehicles
- *cannot accurately predict the direction sounds are coming from
- *are unable to cope with sudden changes in traffic conditions
- *do not understand abstract ideas - such as road safety
- *are unable to identify safe places to cross the road
- *tend to act inconsistently in and around traffic

It is recommended by Kidsafe that children are closely supervised by a parent or adult carer

until they are at least 10 years of age. Visit the Kidsafe website (www.kidsafensw.org) or phone Kidsafe on (02) 9845 0898 for more information.

Medical Information

Medical information is requested by teachers on all notes where students leave the school eg: sport, excursions, dance, music, choir etc. Please complete as detailed as possible. If your child has a serious medical condition, parents need to make an appointment with me to discuss the completion of a medical plan.

Harmony Day

Concord P.S. will celebrate Harmony Day on Friday 20 March. Information on this event will be sent home soon.

Upcoming Assemblies

Monday 9 th March	SRC
Monday 23 rd March	5/6M
Monday 6 th April	Prefects/ANZAC Assembly

Pina Passarello

Relieving Principal

NEWS FROM THE OFFICE

- Please ensure the correct amount of money is placed in the envelope when sending money to school. It is also important that the envelope is signed by a parent.
- Any changes to address and contact information should be updated with the school ASAP. It is very important that we have updated information regarding your child/children.

SEMINAR FOR PARENTS

A Seminar for Parents with Pat Jewell, has been organised through the Australian Childhood Foundation. Flyers are available from the Front Office.

Talking to learn!

A major focus of our School's Plan this year is to develop each student's ability to communicate through talking. The following notes allow you to see what types of activities are expected from your child at each stage of their development. Please find the time to read through the information sheet and consider ways you may support our efforts in the classroom this year.

Supporting your child in learning to talk

Children develop confidence using spoken language as they learn to talk and listen for different purposes. Talking enables children to clarify their ideas, explore issues, solve problems and to develop understandings in all Key Learning Areas.

In Kindergarten to Year 2 children learn gradually to:

- * engage in conversation with other children and teachers
- * participate in 'news'
- * participate in language games
- * listen for patterns of sounds in words
- * use and respond appropriately to greetings, introductions, farewells
- * recite poems, chants and rhymes
- * ask a variety of appropriate questions
- * listen and respond to others in group discussions
- * engage in dramatic play
- * express feelings and ideas
- * retell a story heard or read
- * give and follow a simple set of instructions
- * contribute ideas and suggestions to discussions.

In Years 3 to 4 children learn gradually to:

- * enjoy using language to explore ideas, issues and feelings

- * listen to guest speakers, spoken cassettes, television and radio programs
- * recite poems and rhymes
- * use spoken language to persuade others towards a point of view or course of action
- * discuss and debate issues
- * use different kinds of questions to interview, research, and classify meaning
- * prepare and present information reports and projects
- * discuss events, incidents, people and personal experiences.

In Years 5 to 6 children learn gradually to:

- * prepare, present or perform spoken texts to different audiences
- * present a point of view on an issue and argue a case
- * engage in debates
- * use appropriate pitch, pace, pause and emphasis in public speaking and performance
- * retell stories heard and read, changing their voice to indicate different characters
- * listen and respond to points of view presented by others in group and class discussion
- * respond to spoken texts in a variety of ways.

Supporting your Child in Learning to Talk

Your child has learned to talk and listen with your help and encouragement. You can continue to support your child's language development at school by doing some of the following:

- * actively listen and respond to your child's talk
- * encourage your child to talk about their interests, friends, pets, favourite books and favourite movies
- * show your child ways of talking for different purposes, eg using the telephone, inviting a friend to play, giving a message
- * encourage your child to talk about television, video and radio programs

The Education Tax Refund – Get 50% back

- * give your child a series of instructions to follow
- * encourage your child to give messages to other family members
- * encourage your child to play a variety of games such as 'The Shopping Game' (one child begins by saying 'I went shopping and bought an apple'. Each child has to remember what has been said before and add a new shopping item)
- * encourage your child to talk about things they have made using blocks, plasticine, cardboard and/or junk material
- * encourage your child to listen to stories being read by family members
- * have your child listen to stories and retell them to friends and family
- * encourage your child to talk about drawings, paintings and models that they bring home from school
- * encourage your child to read a variety of books and to retell the story in their own words
- * encourage your child to read a variety of non-fiction (factual texts) and talk about the information presented in these
- * encourage your child to talk about their imaginary play
- * encourage your child to talk to known adults as well as other children
- * plan and discuss family outings, eg going to the beach, park, friend's place, movie, zoo, museum, art gallery, sports events
- * encourage your child to discuss and debate issues in the news and newspapers.



Happy talking everyone

Ms L Sharpe
Assistant Principal

Under the new Education Tax Refund, parents and others who are eligible can now claim 50% of their eligible education expenses up to \$750 for primary students and \$1500 for secondary students.

This means you could receive a refund each year of up to \$375 for each primary and \$750 for each secondary school student in your care.

Are you eligible?

To be eligible you must have received Family Tax Benefit Part A for each child whose education expenses you wish to claim. You can also claim the Education Tax Refund if you were stopped from receiving Family Tax Benefit Part A because your child received any of the following:

- Youth Allowance (student) aged 18
- Disability Support Pension
- ABSTUDY
- The Veteran's Children Education Scheme
- The Student Financial Supplement Scheme
- A scheme under s258 of the Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004
- An Australian Postgraduate Award.

Independent students are also eligible to claim.

What can you claim?

You can claim the purchase, lease, hire or hire-purchase costs, repairs and running costs of:

- Laptops, home computers and associated costs – for example, internet and paper
- Educational software, printers, USB flash drives, disability aids to assist in the use of computer equipment for students with special needs
- Stationary and art supplies
- School textbooks and associated learning materials
- Trade tools and safety equipment for secondary school trade courses

Some of the expenses you cannot claim include school fees or the cost of school uniforms,

school excursions or travel to and from school, musical instruments or sporting equipment, clothing or footwear. For a comprehensive list visit www.educationtaxrefund.gov.au

When can you claim?

You can claim your education expenses in your 2009 tax return. If you do not have to lodge a tax return, you will be able to lodge a separate claim with the Tax Office from 1 July 2009.

Remember you need to keep all receipts for expenses you claim.

If your education expenses in one year are more than the claim limit for your children, you can add the excess to your education expenses for the following year.

For more information:

- Visit www.educationtaxrefund.gov.au
- Phone Tax Office on 13 28 61.

You Can Do It!"

This term the students are being introduced to the five foundations that lead to improved achievement, positive relationships and behaviour and emotional well-being. These five foundations are: organisation, getting along, persistence, confidence and resilience. The focus this term is on organisation.

Organisation means setting a goal to do one's best in schoolwork, planning one's time so as not to be rushed and having all one's supplies ready.

Getting Along means getting along with classmates and adults including those who are different, working well with one's classmates, solving problems without fighting and following school rules.

Persistence means trying hard and not giving up when something feels like it's too hard to do.

Confidence means feeling that one can do it and not being afraid to make mistakes or to try something new.

Resilience means when faced with difficult and challenging situations and people being able to a) stop getting extremely angry, down or worried; b) controlling one's behaviour when upset; c) calming down and d) bouncing back to work and play.

Peter Goldie

UNIFORM CORNER

Dear all,

My name is Sofia Mathioudakis and I am the Uniform Shop Co-ordinator at Concord Public School. On behalf of the P&C and all the CPS Families I would like to acknowledge and thank Carole Giles for her wonderful work in co-ordinating the uniform shop for the last 4 years. I am also very grateful for her training and guidance during the transition period.

During this the transition period we have had some delays with our ordering. I apologise for any inconvenience this may have caused and thank you for your patience.

Except in the case of either myself or my daughter being sick, the uniform shop is open every second Thursday commencing from the 12th March between 2.45pm and 3.15.

In between this time if you require any uniform items please fill out an order form and place it in the blue box with the correct money. I will endeavour to process orders every Thursday and deliver them to children in class.

Whilst there is no strict policy on refund and exchange, please appreciate that we will not exchange or refund on worn garments due to reasons of hygiene.

We have a pool of pre-loved uniforms which have been donated by parents whose children either have moved on to high school or have outgrown them. The proceeds from the sale of these items will go to P&C funds which will benefit all the children. Below is the list of the costs.

Pre-loved Garments

- Summer and Winter dress - \$5 each
- Winter Gabardine Pants, Skort, Polo Shirts, Track Pants, Sloppy Joe, Fleece jacket – all \$3 each
- All Shorts - \$2 each

We also have a **limited size and stock** of **new** but discontinued items such as **white skivvy** and **boy blue sport shorts** for \$6.00 each. Any parents who are interested please see me on Thursdays or contact me on 0425 297 755.

Thank you for your support and co-operation.

Sofia. On behalf of P&C Association

NEWS FROM THE P&C

February Meeting

Our first P&C meeting for the year was held on Wednesday 18th February and we were delighted to welcome some new members to the meeting.

We had some vacant executive positions held over from our AGM (held in November 08) and our Committee for 2009 is now as follows:

President	Kylie Montague
Vice President	Allie Oweis
Secretary	Nadia Young
Treasurer	Tasha Ward
Ass. Treasurer	Jo Turner
Parent Rep	Genevieve Clarke

Many thanks to our Committee members for donating their time and energy in support of the school.

Our February meeting generated some lively discussion over several hot issues:

Parking and Pedestrian Safety

One item for discussion was the issue of parking and pedestrian safety around the school environment. We ask that you carefully read the note regarding parking issues, which has been distributed with this newsletter. You might wish to keep the note and map in your car for easy reference regarding parking zones.

Canteen

Most families will be aware that Mrs Kerrie Abela had co-ordinated the smooth running of the canteen in a completely voluntary capacity for many years. The co-ordination of the canteen has been kindly taken over this year by a small committee and we have a healthy list of volunteers who, together, are keeping our canteen running for snacks and drinks at lunchtimes, as well as Friday afternoons after school. For various reasons some members of the canteen committee are unable to continue into term 2, so we need to reassess where we will go from here, particularly with regards to providing lunches.

After much discussion at the P&C meeting we have decided to gather all canteen volunteers and other interested parties together for a **Morning Tea and "Canteen Meeting"**.

So we invite you to join us on:

Tuesday, 10th March

From 9am

At school (in the spare room, downstairs in the Gardiya Building).

We hope that you are able to come along to find out more about the canteen and how you can become involved.

And in other news...

VICTORIAN BUSHFIRE APPEAL

Hearty congratulations to EVERYONE who joined in the 'Help-a-thon' to raise funds for the victims of the recent bushfires in Victoria. Together we raised a grand total of **\$1395.30** which is a fabulous effort. The money raised has been banked directly into the Red Cross Bushfire Appeal Fund and will go toward helping the victims rebuild their lives.

Our children from CPS have been incredibly busy with their various jobs. Here are some examples of the interesting jobs which children have recorded on their sponsor forms to raise funds:

Watching the baby, listening at Football, Washing/vacuuming/sweeping the floor, helping fix a cupboard, getting the clothes off the washing line/folding the washing, feeding pets, listening to father, head massage, watering plants, helping mum, college improvement, cleaning own room/tidying room, taking care of little brother, writing letter to grandparent in Korea, making bed, cleaning the shoes, help cook dinner, cleaning the windows, take dog for a walk, setting the table, cleaning the mirrors, and many other interesting jobs

A total of 95 children took part and we would like to thank you for your efforts.

Next P&C Meeting

Our next meeting will be on **Wednesday 18th March** from 7pm in the staff room. Everyone is welcome – please join us.

Thank you,
P&C Committee

The Law and Safety Advice for bicycles, rollerblades, scooters and skateboards.

Information for parents and carers about safety on wheels.