

# Falcon Flyer

Falcon Primary School Community e-news



ISSUE 1 – FRIDAY, 14 FEBRUARY 2025

## EVENTS

- 10-14.2** Swimming Blocks 4 & 5
- 24.2** School Board Meeting
- 28.2** Clean Up Australia Day
- 3.3** **Labour Day Long Weekend**
- 4.3** School Development Day –  
**Pupil Free Day**
- 7.3** Parent Assembly  
Rms 5.4 & 5.3
- 12-24.3** NAPLAN Testing Y3 & Y5
- 21.3** Y6 Tag Rugby
- 31.3** School Board Meeting  
Harmony Week
- 4.4** Parent Assembly  
Rooms 2.2 & 2.3

## COMPASS

Compass is a web-based system the school uses to communicate with parents and carers regarding their child eg. attendance, newsletters, parent circulars, school photos, events and parent teacher communications.

All new families should have received their login user name and password via email. If you need assistance locating the Compass site link for our school, go to:  
<http://schools.compass.education>.

Please contact the office on 9584 7100 if you require any assistance with Compass.



## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

It is with great pleasure that I welcome back all students, families, and staff to the 2025 school year. We have had a wonderfully settled start to the year, with students quickly adapting to their routines and engaging enthusiastically in their learning. It has been fantastic to see our students reconnect with their peers, new students and new teachers.

A warm welcome to our new staff who have joined the Falcon PS team this year: Casey Tanton (Year 4/5), Theresa Baines (Year 2/3), Kathryn Smith (Year 3), Dane Kruger and Kelly Shepherd (Year 1), and Simone Moerman (Art). We also welcome Joanne Beard as a Mainstream Education Assistant in our PP/1 class and Sarah Merks as Manager Corporate Services. We are confident our new recruits will make a significant impact on our students and school. We are also delighted to welcome back Di Campman-Withers, Bridget Annels and Nicole Gill from leave.

Our staff started the year with two highly productive School Development Days, focusing on key priorities for 2025. Staff engaged in professional learning sessions on our strategic directions, the FPS Business Plan 2025–2027, and a deep dive into our 2024 student achievement data. We also focussed on our instructional model, reinforcing Engagement Norms, Daily Review and our coaching model. Specific sessions on literacy, numeracy, and Positive Behaviour Support (PBS) provided further tools to enhance teaching quality and student outcomes. We are committed to continuing our journey of improvement, ensuring high-impact teaching and learning practices benefit every student.

As always, our focus remains on fostering a safe, supportive, and inclusive learning environment where every student can thrive. Your partnership and support are invaluable as we work together to make 2025 another successful year at Falcon Primary School.

Looking forward to a fantastic term ahead!

Jacquie Abbiss  
**Principal**



# ≡Welcome≡

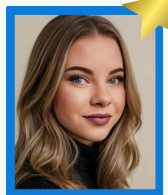
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## **Mrs Sarah Merks – Manager Corporate Services**

I am excited to be appointed to the role of Manager of Corporate Services (MCS) at Falcon PS. I have been the MCS at Charthouse PS in Waikiki for the past four years. I started with the Department of Education as a School Officer at Halls Head College in 2012, I then spent time there as the MCS and MCS at the Ed Support Centre. I gained experience in the role by covering MCS leave at South Halls Head, Meadow Springs ESC and JTC ESC so I have lots of local school experience and have already seen lots of familiar faces.

I have lived in Dawesville for 18 years so it's great to work back in the Mandurah Community. I have two sons who attend Halls Head College in Yr 8 and Yr 11. Both are keen footy players; one for South Mandurah, the other for Halls Head which can keep things interesting!



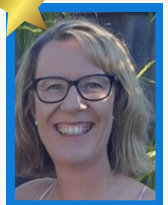
## **Dane Kruger – Teacher Room 1.2**

I was born in South Africa and immigrated to Australia in 2013.

I can fluently speak two languages, Afrikaans and English.

I completed my double bachelors degree through Murdoch University and commenced my teaching career at Wellard Primary school where I taught Pre-Primary over the course of 2 years.

This year I begin my new adventure at Falcon Primary School, teaching Year 1 students! I am so excited for the journey ahead and to further learn and grow along with my colleagues and students!

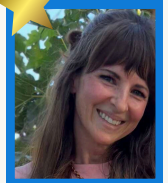


## **Mrs Kelly Shepherd – Teacher Room 1.1**

I have been an Early Childhood teacher for 25 years. I worked in country schools for the Education Department for a few years then had some time off to raise my daughters. I started a role at St Joseph's College in Albany in 2007 and continued to teach in junior primary until my family left our hometown at the end of 2020, to move to Mandurah.

I have taught at a couple of local schools, as well as at Curtin University as an ECE lecturer. Over the last couple of years, I have taught varied units at the Bentley campus a couple of days a week. I also supervise the Pre-Service teachers on placements.

I enjoy spending time with my family and my Ragdoll cat Macey, who is cheeky, very cute and also thinks she runs the house (which is true!).



## **Mrs Simone Moerman – Art Specialist**

I am an Artist with over 17 years' experience in the classroom. I have previously worked at Alkimos Beach and Kingsway Christian College as an Arts Specialist.

I am a mum of two children, both attend Falcon Primary School. I find purpose in creating a fun, safe and engaging space that encourages the creative process for all.



## **Mr Casey Tanton – Teacher Room 4.3**

My name is Casey Tanton, and I'm excited to be teaching year 4/5 at Falcon PS this year.

Last year, I was living and working in Japan, teaching English. Before that, I taught at a primary school in Newman for around 3 years. My hobbies are all things Japanese, and running.

I'm looking forward to a great year at Falcon!



## **Mrs Theresa Baines – Teacher Room 2.4**

Hello! My name is Theresa Baines. With 32 years of experience in teaching, my passion for helping young people grow, learn, and thrive has only deepened over the years. It's truly a joy to watch students develop and succeed. I'm so excited to be part of the Falcon School community. I have lived in Wannanup for 20 years and have just recently moved to Melros. When I'm not teaching, you can find me spending time with my friends and family, around the pool, crabbing, enjoying the beautiful areas around Mandurah or out and about in our caravan. I'm looking forward to getting to know you all better and being part of this amazing school community!



## **Mrs Kathryn Smith – Teacher Room 3.3**

Hi...My name is Mrs Smith. I have been teaching for a long time. I have taught Maths, Science and in the classroom. I started my teaching in Newman at the high school. I have been teaching in primary schools since then. Many years ago, I was at Falcon doing relief and working in a class for a term. I have 3 children who went to Ocean Road Primary and then Halls Head College. I have had a lot to do with South Mandurah Football Club over the years. I love the water – crabbing, boating, snorkelling and swimming. My family also like adventures – camping, climbing bridges, going on zip lines and giant swings. Our favourite holidays in WA have been in Exmouth, Coral Bay and Karijini. It is great to be a part of the Falcon Primary School community.





## P&C INVOLVEMENT

If you are interested in participating on our P&C we are actively recruiting new members. We are calling for 2 parent representatives from each class. You don't have to attend all of the meetings, but just be available to lend some support where you can. The P&C is instrumental in supporting our students with enriched opportunities and additional resources. The only commitment is your attendance at some of the meetings, your valuable input and support with fundraising activities. **Please register your interest via email to [fps.pc@outlook.com](mailto:fps.pc@outlook.com) (see page 4 for further details).**

## KISS AND DRIVE PROTOCOLS

1. Arrive on or after 2.50pm.
2. Remain in your vehicle. Never park your vehicle in any area of the Kiss and Drive zone.
3. If you need to leave your car, find a parking space.
4. Move as far forward in the zone as traffic permits.
5. If your child is not waiting in the designated bay, complete a lap.
6. Train your child to look out for your vehicle.
7. Train your children how to exit and enter the vehicle quickly and safely.
8. Never park and call for your child to move through the queue or carpark.
9. Remind your child to walk safely on the path to the kiss and drive bay (no cutting through car park bays).
10. Be calm, patient and courteous.

The safety of students is our priority. Consequently, staff members are deployed to assist the smooth and efficient process of collection. They have been instructed to remind drivers to comply with the protocols listed above. Your respect for these staff members is expected and appreciated.



## LATENESS REMINDER

We strongly encourage punctuality to school, but understand that students may be late to school at times due to appointments. All students arriving late must sign in at the front office. Parents may escort students in Kindergarten and Pre-Primary to class following sign in. All other year groups will be escorted to class by staff.

## ATTENDANCE/ABSENCES

When your child is absent, please make sure that you note this on Compass or inform the front office or classroom teacher. We need your help to ensure that we are providing your child with the best possible education. So please bring them to school every day and on time where possible. Please make sure that you are planning your family vacations around the school calendar. It is imperative that your child attends school every day. The only way our students will continue to improve academically and socially is by being active participants in the classroom and they can only do so if they are here at school.

On behalf of the staff, I look forward to working with you to provide each and every student an outstanding learning experience.



**P&C Need Your Support**

**Calling For**

**CLASSROOM  
PARENT REPS  
2025**

**Role of CPR**

- Attend P&C meetings twice per term.
- Become involved (if possible) in fundraising activities and promote these in your class.
- Share issues/concerns from meetings with others.

**Register your support via email to:**

**[fps.pc@outlook.com](mailto:fps.pc@outlook.com)**

**Include your name, contact details and the classroom you would like to represent. The P&C will liaise with you and the classroom teacher to confirm representation as they are looking for 2 reps per classroom!**





# Compass Parent Support



A copy of this page will be placed in every student's diary for easy access.

## WHAT IS COMPASS?

- Compass is a web-based system the school uses to communicate with parents and carers regarding their child and the school eg. attendance, newsletters, parent circulars, school photos, events and parent teacher communication.
- New families will receive a login via email after their child has commenced at Falcon Primary School.

## PASSWORD CHANGE UPDATE

- If you need assistance locating the Compass site link for our school, go to: <http://schools.compass.education>. You will then be able to search for our school.
- To login, you will require your unique family username and password. Please contact the office on **9584 7100** if you require this to be resent to you again.
- Please advise the school if your contact details change, in particular your **email address** as this links you to the Compass system.

## COMPASS APP / OPEN IN BROWSER ON YOUR PHONE

There are two main ways to view Compass:

1. **Compass App** - Open app to only view newsfeeds from school.
  2. **Compass App/Open in Browser** - To view the full dashboard on Compass to access your **child's/rens** information and menu options available on the Home Page such as **Calendar, Teaching and Learning Menu, Organisation Menu, Community Menu, email teacher, view reports**, click on the 3 lines (circled in red) to **open in browser**.
- There is a **Compass Parent Guide** along with other school information saved under the **Community Tab** / in **School Documentation** for further information.
  - Naomi, Andrea or Kate are available in the office Monday to Friday 8.00am to 4.00pm and are happy to assist you in setting up your Compass login or resetting your password.

