



Principal's Address

Term 2 was action-packed, with students engaging in many opportunities both inside and outside of the school. As highlighted in this term's newsletter, the students have provided feedback expressing their enjoyment and gratitude for these activities. Congratulations on a great term to our students.

We also conducted reports and Parent/Carer/Teacher Interviews, and parents/carers we appreciate your partnership in the education of your child/ren. A special thank you to the many parents who emailed the school with their gratitude for the information regarding various aspects of the education that is conducted at FWPS—it brightens our day and is greatly appreciated.

A huge thank you to the teachers and SLSOs for their dedication to the students, the school, and their collaboration with one another. We also extend our gratitude to the administration staff for their hard work in the office, the General Assistants, and cleaners for keeping our environment spotless, and the Leadership Team for being the backbone of all that happens at this great school.

I continue to be thankful for being the principal of this outstanding school.

Genelle Goldfinch

EXCITING EVENTS THIS TERM!

- Excursions
- Incursions
- Camp
- Stage Overviews
- Spelling Bee
- External Validation
- National Sorry Day & National Reconciliation Week
- Student Representative Council





EXTERNAL VALIDATION – EXCELLING IN ALL AREAS

Element name	EV Assessment
● Learning Culture	Excelling
● Wellbeing	Excelling
● Curriculum	Excelling
● Assessment	Excelling
● Reporting	Excelling
● Student growth and performance	Excelling
● Effective classroom practice	Excelling
● Data skills and use	Excelling
● Professional standards	Excelling
● Learning and development	Excelling
● Educational leadership	Excelling
● School planning, implementation and reporting	Excelling
● School resources	Excelling
● Management practices and processes	Excelling

External validation is an external process that provides an assurance to the school and the system that the progress being made aligns with the expectations outlined in the School Excellence Framework.

FWPS had external validation on 25 June 2024. The school validated as Excelling in all areas as outlined below.

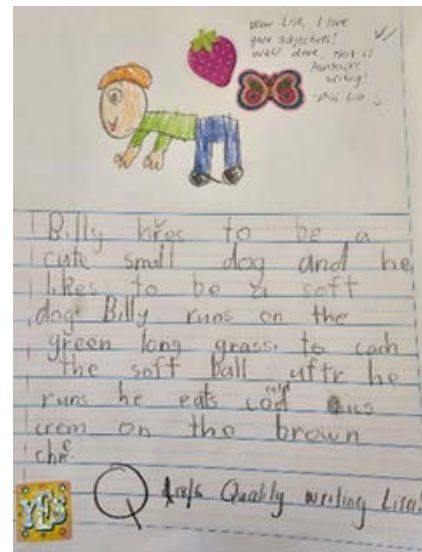
Congratulations to all staff at Fairfield West Public School and to our community partners.

KINDERGARTEN IN TERM 2

Students in Kindergarten this term have had a lot of fun engaging in a range of hands-on, learning activities in and out of the classroom.



In maths, students are focusing on representing numbers from 1-20 and learning that numbers are made up of smaller quantities. KB students are learning how to tell time on analogue and digital clocks.

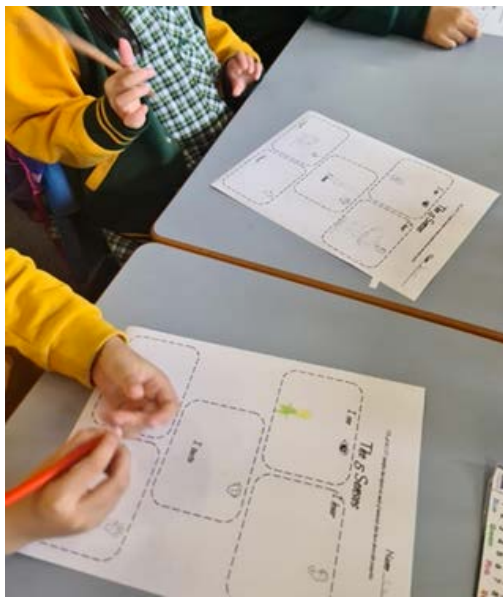


In English, students have been learning the sounds of the alphabet and they have started to apply these sounds to read decodable texts and write CVC words. In writing, students have looked at a range of texts like When Billy Was a Dog, The Very Hungry Caterpillar and Feathers for Phoebe. Students are learning to write a simple sentence independently and some have started to publish their written work. Look at all this marvellous writing! We are very proud of them.

KINDERGARTEN IN TERM 2

In History, students are learning about their families and how there are different types of families.

In Creative Arts, students are enthusiastically participating in music lessons with Mr Jarrah. Look at some enthusiastic KL students learning how to play the drums.



In Science, students are learning about the 5 senses and how they can use them to describe different materials and objects. In KA, students used their 5 senses to describe what popcorn feels like, looks like, sounds like, smells like and tastes like. Most students would agree that eating the popcorn was their favourite part of the lesson!

Students have enjoyed participating in grade fitness as well as sports lessons with Fit Futures. This term, we focussed on the skills of throwing, catching and kicking. KR really enjoy working together during cooperative games.

STAGE 1 IN TERM 2

As we reflect on the term, we are thrilled to share the exciting learning experiences our Stage One students have been immersed in. Here's a glimpse into some of the highlights!

In English, our Stage One learners explored the way objects, events and ideas are represented in narrative texts through books, including *The Wall in the Middle of the Book*, *Rosie's Walk*, *Scaly-tailed Possum*, *Echidna* and *Nian* and the Chinese New Year Dragon. Students also deepened their understanding of context by exploring how the language and form of texts varies according to purpose through books, such as *Great White Shark*. In addition, students developed an understanding of how authors describe characters through *The Gruffalo*, *The Good Egg*, *Spoon*, *The Lion* and *The Mouse* and *The Tortoise and the Hare*.



In mathematics, our enthusiastic Stage One learners have been engaging in activities and problem solving tasks to build a strong foundation in mathematical concepts, including:

- identifying different combinations of numbers and recognising what the equals sign means
- collecting and organising categorical data
- describing the lengths of objects
- using different strategies, such as counting on and counting back, to work out the total when combining and separating quantities
- using mathematical tools, such as an equal-arm balance, to determine the mass of a collection
- giving, describing, and comparing the position of objects using positional language
- using repeated addition to solve multiplication problems.
- interpreting simple maps by identifying objects in different locations

STAGE 1 IN TERM 2

In history, Stage One students have investigated the differences in family structures and roles today and how these have changed or remained the same over time. Students also investigated changes and continuities in family life and identified similarities and differences between their family and others.

In science, our Stage One students have been eagerly exploring the fascinating world of materials around us. Through hands-on activities and engaging experiments, they have delved into the properties and uses of various substances. We look forward to further discoveries and exciting experiments next term.

In visual art, students have been experimenting with various techniques. Drawing inspiration from renowned artists and the beauty of nature, our students have created stunning pieces that reflect their unique perspectives. We can't wait to start working on our artwork for the annual art exhibition!

Like last term, all Stage One students have been developing their movement skills in Fit Futures every fortnight. Year Two students have also been participating in Sporting Schools this term. Sporting Schools visited to teach students athletics skills. All Stage One students have participated in all these sporting lessons with enthusiasm.



STAGE 2 IN TERM 2

The term has been filled with non-stop learning for our Year Three and Four students.

In English, the students explored argument and authority through the books *Wandi* and *Ned Kelly and the Green Sash*. They also explored imagery, symbol, connotation and characterisation through the books *Piano Fingers*, *Sonam* and *the Silence*, *Bindi* and *Fire*.

In mathematics, the students explored a range of big ideas:

- that our number system extends infinitely to very large and very small numbers.
- that multiplicative thinking involves flexible use of multiplication and division concepts, strategies and representations.
- that visual representation helps us to understand aspects of our world (chance and position).
- that what needs to be measured determines the unit of measurement.
- that angles are the primary structural component of many shapes.

In History, the Stage Two students explored the historical features and diversity of their community. They examined local, state and national symbols and emblems of significance, and celebrations and commemorations, both locally and in other places around the world.

In Science, the students examined the survival of living things as well as food and fibre production.

In Creative Arts, it was Year Three's turn to go to Mr Jarrah for drumming lessons where they improved their understanding of rhythm and beat. The students were also busy working on their artworks for the Art Exhibition in Term 3.

The students were lucky to work with the Fit Futures team on developing their movement skills this term as well as participating in Friday sport and the cross country carnival.

STAGE 3 IN TERM 2

The term has been filled with non-stop learning for our Year Five and Six students.

In English, the students explored argument and authority through the books *One Island* and *Rabbit, Soldier, Angel Thief*. They also explored imagery, symbol, connotation and characterisation through the books *Spotlight* and *Rabbit, Soldier, Angel Thief*. The students participated in The Multicultural Perspectives Public Speaking Competition.

In mathematics, the students explored a range of big ideas:

- that our number system extends infinitely to very large and very small numbers.
- that addition and subtraction problems can be solved by using a variety of strategies.
- that what needs to be measured determines the unit of measurement.
- that fractions represent multiple ideas and can be represented in different ways.
- that questions can be asked and answered by collecting and interpreting data.



STAGE 3 IN TERM 2

In History, the Stage 3 students explored Australia as a Nation. Students learned about the causes and effects of change on Australian society including key figures and events that led to Australia's Federation.

In Science, the students looked at Material World and how properties of a range of materials work. Students investigated the different properties of solids, liquids, and gases, and considered combining and separating mixtures.

In Creative Arts, it was the Year 5 students' turn to go to Mr Jarrah for drumming lessons where they improved their understanding of rhythm and beat. The students were also busy working on their artworks for the Art Exhibition in Term 3.

The students were lucky to work with the Fit Futures team on developing their movement skills this term as well as participating in Friday sport and using the play equipment.



SUPPORT UNIT IN TERM 2

The students in the Support Unit have had a great term. K-6A welcomed Emily to their class this term. All of the students have had lots of fun learning new concepts across all key learning areas. Over the term, the students also enjoyed participating in the K-2 Cross Country, Fit Futures sporting lessons, Ballet Without Borders and drumming lessons with Mr Jarrah.



Other highlights of Term 2 included, K-6B going on the excursion to Featherdale Wildlife Park to see in person some of the Australian animals that they had been learning about.



SUPPORT UNIT IN TERM 2

Students in K-6J attended the Responsible Pet incursion. This program discussed and modelled dog safety and how to stay safe around dogs. The students role played how to be safe when a dog is scared, nervous and excited.



Each class also acknowledged National Sorry Day and National Reconciliation Week by creating artworks that are proudly displayed in the classrooms. Lots of discussions and hands on activities were provided to engage the students.



SUPPORT UNIT IN TERM 2

Some students from the Support Unit enjoyed the opportunity to participate in weekly Ballet Without Borders ballet lessons where they were taught and practised basic ballet movements. Chloe, Sidney, Brodie and Mariam from K-6A enjoyed the opportunity to attend the NSW School Sport Unit Boccia Competition. They had lots of fun competing against other primary schools and representing Fairfield West Public School.



K- 2 CROSS COUNTRY

On Thursday 23 May, K-2 students participated in the annual Cross Country event, which was held on the back oval at school. Students participated enthusiastically in the race and there was a remarkable display of determination and school spirit. Thank you to the parents for their support and encouragement in cheering the students on as they ran around the course. Congratulations to all the students for trying their best.



ACADEMIC CHALLENGE

A small group of Year 5 students represented Fairfield West PS at the Academic Challenge at Fairfield High School in Week 5 where they competed against other neighbouring primary schools. The students completed challenges in the areas of mathematics and PDHPE. They showed enthusiasm and active participation and were rewarded with 1st place for the day.



RESPONSIBLE PET INCURSION

K-2 and some Support Unit students participated in the Responsible Pet Education Program on Wednesday, 15 May. Students were excited to meet the dog that visited with the presenter. The program was highly engaging, teaching students how to behave safely around dogs. Students also learnt how to say hello to dogs with their owners. Some lucky students were also selected to demonstrate how we pat a dog by walking up slowly, making a stop, asking the owner, letting the dog smell your hand and stroking gently.





K-2 NATIONAL SIMULTANEOUS STORYTIME

Fairfield West PS students love reading! K-2 students and some Support Unit students participated in National Simultaneous Storytime this term. All students gathered in the hall and listened to this year's story, 'Bowerbird Blues' by Aura Parker. Students loved learning about bowerbirds and their obsession with blue items! Many classes enjoyed creating artworks of bowerbirds with collections of blue things!

NATIONAL SORRY DAY & NATIONAL RECONCILIATION WEEK

On Thursday 30 May, our school acknowledged and celebrated National Sorry Day and National Reconciliation Week. Students and staff came to school wearing colours from the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags. In class, students engaged in activities to learn about the history of the flags and what each colour and symbol represents. Each class also created their own Acknowledgement of Country as a way of showing their ongoing respect for the Traditional Custodians of the Land.



STAGE 2 - SYDNEY OPERA HOUSE EXCURSION



This term our Stage Two students enjoyed a walk through the Botanic Gardens of Sydney as well as a performance at the Opera House. The students watched a dynamic performance where the highs and lows of sport were represented through dance. The students then had an opportunity to ask questions of the performers and director about their craft. The students couldn't believe that they were actually inside the Opera House and outside they enjoyed views of the Sydney Harbour Bridge as well. There was even a cruise ship docked and the students wanted to know if that could be their next excursion!

Student quotes!

"I enjoyed the show. The acting and music and the dancing" Anna 3/4P

"I liked how they danced but also showed us different sports. Zoe 3M

We went to the Botanic Gardens and we walked around, then ate our recess. We went out through the gates near the Opera House and then we ate our lunch. We watched the dance and then headed back to school. Vivian 3M

At the Sydney Opera House excursion I loved how we went to the city. The dance performance was really fun and exciting to watch. Angelina 4AV

I had a fun time looking at all of the boats crossing around us at the Opera House. Geroges 3L



STAGE 1 - FEATHERDALE WILDLIFE PARK EXCURSION



On Wednesday 22 May, Stage 1 students and K/6B visited Featherdale Wildlife Park. Students had an amazing time exploring the park and learning about many Australian native animals. They were so excited to have their photo taken with a koala, and even got to take home their photo to share with their families! Students also loved patting some animals such as koalas, kangaroos, cows and goats. Many were surprised at how nice and calm the animals were. It was a fun filled day with lots of learning and excitement!

YEAR 5 EXCURSION TO THE PARLIAMENT HOUSE

On Thursday 23 May, Year 5 students visited the Parliament House in Sydney, as part of their history unit of work about the development of Australia as a nation. The bus trip to the city was an exciting adventure with glorious views of Sydney's most iconic structure, the Harbour Bridge!

Once students arrived at Parliament House, they had a guided tour and sat in two historic legislative chambers. They had the opportunity to participate in various role plays, arguing for and against the extension of school hours. Students performed their roles with respect and enjoyed the interactive activity.



From there they walked down to Hyde Park to have lunch and were excited to pose with a statue of Lachlan Macquarie, the Governor of NSW from 1810 – 1821. Students read about him in class through the text *One Small Island* by Alison Lester.

It was a very informative day which helped students make greater connections in class about Australia as a nation.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

Our Student Representative Council (SRC) have been honing their leadership skills and discussing how they can make an impact on our school. Students have been improving their communication and teamwork skills with students of different ages and determining the necessary qualities of a good leader. The team is excited to implement new initiatives in the coming weeks and in term 3 and put into practice all the skills they have been learning.



On May 29 selected students from years 3-6 attended the Sydney Writers' Festival at the Sydney Town Hall. Students were able to listen to talks from amazing authors including Kate and Jol Temple and Nova Weetman. They gained some valuable tips on how to create their own stories by building interesting characters. Nova Weetman showed us some examples of how she uses mind maps to formulate characters so they are interesting and engage the reader. Some students were lucky enough to purchase books and have them autographed by these authors!

SYDNEY WRITERS FESTIVAL



DEBATING



This term, our debating teams had the chance to put into practice the skills they have been learning for the past 10 weeks.

Round 1

Our two teams, the Wranglers and the Pow Wows, debated against Harrington Street Public School teams.

The Pow Wows were the affirmative team in their debate and debated the topic 'that all kids should have to learn a musical instrument from K-12'. The Wranglers were the affirmative team in their debate and debated the topic 'that primary schools should have a three day weekend'.

Both teams presented some fantastic ideas and did our school proud. Unfortunately, both teams lost. The feedback we received from the adjudicator was extremely positive and will be useful for future rounds of the competition.





STAGE 2 - AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM EXCURSION

Split over two weeks, the Stage Two students visited the Australian Museum. The students loved exploring the museum artefacts in the many galleries. Some of the favourite galleries were the dinosaurs, wild planet, minerals and 200 treasures. The students also engaged in a workshop where they explored natural fibres and their uses as well as a range of traditional weaving techniques. Students learnt to make a bracelet with a form of coil weaving. The students were excited to discover that the museum entry is free and they are looking forward to returning with their families.



SPELLING BEE



The Fairfield West PS spelling bee competitions were held this term in Week 6.

Students in Year 2, Year 3 and Year 4 competed in the junior competition where they had to spell impressive words such as 'aversion', 'ponderous' and 'lethargy'. Congratulations to Heamoni in 4S who won the junior competition by spelling the word 'syndrome' correctly.

Students in Year 5 and 6 competed in the senior competition and showcased their spelling prowess with words such as 'vitriol', 'arduous' and 'insubordinate'. Congratulations to Eva in 6L who spelled 'investigation' correctly and won the senior spelling bee.

Heamoni and Eva will represent our school at the regional spelling bee in Term 3. Well done to all students who participated!



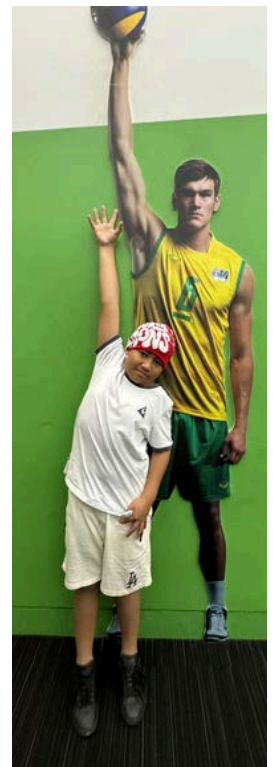
STAGE 3 GO TO CANBERRA FOR CAMP

Stage 3 students departed Fairfield West just before 6.30am, and after one stop mid-trip, arrived in Canberra just before 10.

After visiting Parliament House, including seeing both the House of Representatives and Senate rooms, the students went to the National Film and Sound Archive.

Arriving at the Cabins soon after proved very exciting for the students as they were very eager to settle into their accommodation.

After eating dinner and having some dessert the students retired to their cabins for the rest of the evening.



The start of day 2 saw the students eating breakfast at 7am before departing for the AIS where they were taken on tour by an athletics, football and volleyball tour guide. The highlight was being given time in the games room where they could take part in many activities that our Aussie Olympians get to do.

Having visited the AIS, we went to the Mount Ainslie lookout where we enjoyed a fantastic view of the Canberra triangle before heading to the War Museum.

The students were taken on a tour in small groups where they learnt historic information about worldwide conflicts.

STAGE 3 GO TO CANBERRA FOR CAMP

Students visited the national museum of Australia before ending their day at the arboretum and Questacon by night.

On the last day, students enjoyed a delicious breakfast before heading off to our destination, Old Parliament House, and then returning home.

Students from our school undertook an education tour of the national capital. Students were given the opportunity to participate in a variety of educational programs with a focus on Australia's history, culture, heritage, and democracy.

The Australian Government recognises the importance for all young Australians to be able to visit the national capital as part of their Civics and Citizenship education.

To assist families in meeting the cost of the excursion the Australian Government contributed \$45 per student under the Parliament and Civics Education Rebate program. The rebate was paid directly to the school upon completion of the excursion.



2024 MULTICULTURAL PERSPECTIVE PUBLIC SPEAKING COMPETITION



Students in stage two and three had the opportunity to take part in a Public Speaking competition in class. From there, two students were chosen to represent their class at the Stage Public Speaking competition at school in the hall.

Congratulations to Alex Nguyen from 5/6B and Armiya Kahak from 5/6B who won the stage three competition and congratulations to the stage two winners, Vincent Ma from 3M and Nguyen Tue Lam from 4S.

These four students will now attend the local finals competition at Marsden Road Public School on Tuesday 25 June 2024.



STAGE 3 EXCURSION TO RIVERSIDE THEATRE: THE PEASANT PRINCE



Earlier this term, our Year 5 and 6 students embarked on a thrilling journey to Riverside Theatre in Parramatta for an unforgettable performance of *The Peasant Prince*. This captivating production, based on the inspiring true story of Li Cunxin, left our students mesmerised and enriched.



Guided by the tale of determination and triumph, our students witnessed firsthand the transformative power of art and storytelling. The actors' compelling portrayal and the immersive set design transported them to another world, sparking their imagination and igniting discussions long after the curtains closed.

Through *The Peasant Prince*, our students gained valuable insights into resilience, perseverance, and the power of pursuing one's dreams against all odds. This experience not only broadened their cultural horizons but also inspired them to embrace challenges with determination and optimism.

This excursion was a chance for our students to engage with the arts in a meaningful way, expanding their understanding of storytelling beyond the pages of a book.



CALMSLEY HILL CITY FARM EXCURSION



On Wednesday 26 June, Kindergarten and some Support Unit students went on their very first school excursion to Calmsley Hill City Farm. This experience was not only fun but also educational, offering our students a hands-on opportunity to learn about living things.

Throughout the day, students enjoyed interacting with various farm animals and watching different shows, including petting the goats, milking the cow and watching sheep being rounded up and shorn.

Some students even cracked a whip with the help of the farmer! One of the highlights was a tractor ride around the farm, where students could see the different paddocks of grazing animals and had a blast coming down the bumpy hill.

We had perfect weather and students had an amazing time experiencing a working farm. It was an unforgettable day for all.



STAGE 1 EXCURSION TO THE ART GALLERY EXCURSION



Stage 1 students had an excellent time visiting the Art Gallery of NSW this term. For many students, this was their first time visiting an art gallery!

The theme of our excursion was 'Portraiture: Big Heads, Big Ideas'. On the day, we split into grade groups. Year 1 began with a learning tour of the gallery, including visiting the Archibald Prize portraits. Students and teachers were shocked at the talent of the artists and couldn't believe that some of the artworks weren't photos!

Meanwhile, Year 2 were able to become artists themselves during a collaborative artmaking workshop. Students worked together to create portraits of each other and were given many great tips by the wonderful educators at the gallery. The grades then swapped activities, so Year 2 were able to be impressed by the artworks while Year 1 were able to create their own artworks. All students were particularly interested in the 'Young Archies' portraits, which are Archibald Prize portraits created by artists aged 5-18 years old.

Students had a wonderful time learning more about creative arts and portraiture. We may have some budding young artists at Fairfield West PS!



'THE BEST ME' AT FWPS

'The Best Me' is a framework that sets high expectations for students and staff at FWPS. This framework has strengthened a school culture strongly focused on attendance and wellbeing, ensuring that each student and teacher be the best version of themselves by: coming to school every day to learn; never giving up when challenged academically, socially, emotionally or physically; and caring for themselves, others, the learning community and the world.



ATTENDANCE & ABSENCES



Attending school every day allows your child to get the most out of their learning and improve their career and life options.

Regular school attendance can help expand your child's learning and create positive relationships with their peers.

Attendance is recorded each day, including partial absences for arriving late or leaving early. Your child must come to the office.

If your child is late to school, you must visit the Front Office in order to explain the partial absence.

If you need to pick your child up from school before 3pm, you must visit the Front Office in order to request an early leaver's note. Students can only be picked up by an authorised adult (must be 18 years old or over) listed, or someone prearranged by the parent/carer.

If your child is absent for a full day, please contact the Front Office to explain the absence or reply to the text sent via School Bytes. All absences need a reason given within seven days. The school has processes in place to contact parents regarding absences.

Days missed = years lost

A day here and there doesn't seem like much, but...



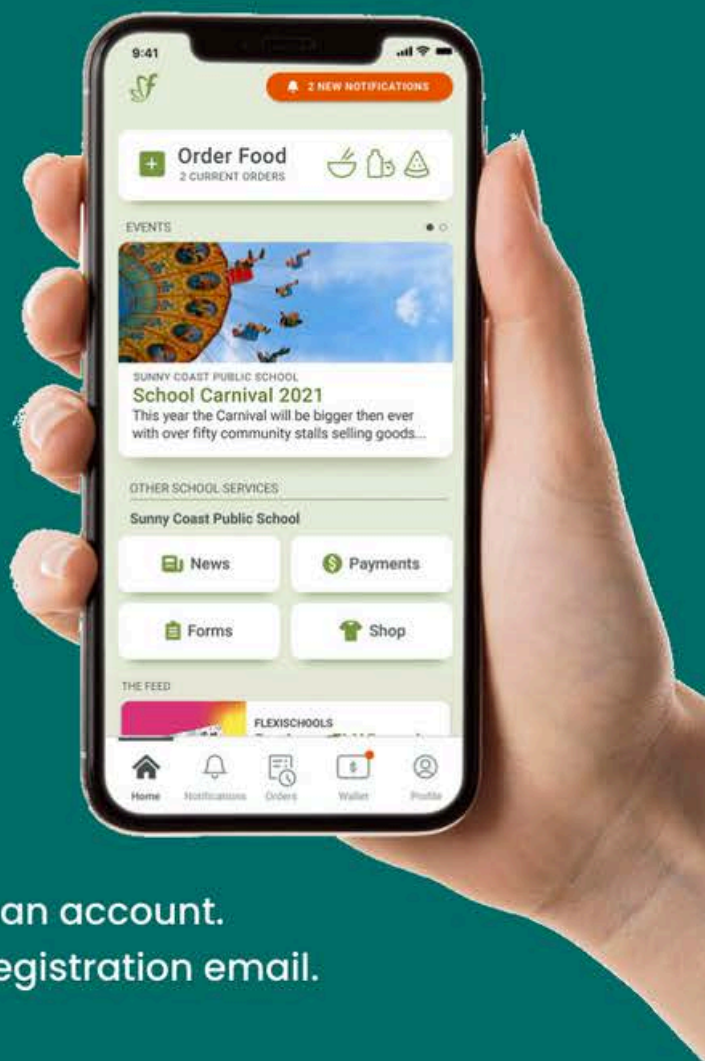


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