It is at this time of year that we begin to reflect more heavily upon what we have achieved in the past 12 months. At Forrest Primary School the list of our successes is long and varied. From brilliant student results, through to fantastic special events and daily fun activities, so much has happened in 2013! Our School Council and parent community have worked tirelessly to improve school grounds, build a magnificent bike shelter, assist with the book project and various classroom activities and provide much needed support through fundraising events. We should all be very proud of our efforts. You will read more about this in our school magazine (coming home next week with student reports) and hear more about this at our Graduation Night next week. A special thank you to all our volunteers at last weekend’s working bee. (It was one of the best attended ever and our school is looking fantastic!)

The Graduation Night at Forrest Primary School allows us an excellent opportunity for all students to celebrate their achievements and share in the festivities of this time of year.

Children will be singing songs and awards will be presented to three lucky recipients thanks to the Forrest Lions Club. The Graduating Class of 2013 will have a chance to recap and share their experiences of learning at Forrest Primary School. Celebration will be in the air!

Please bring a plate to share for supper, and we’ll see you in the Hall at 6.30 on Wednesday 18th.

2014 will bring many opportunities, to name just a few:

- Early Learning Centre- providing more comprehensive educational programs for the younger members of our community
- Curriculum- Indonesian with our enthusiastic teacher Mr Bimo Soeharto
- Curriculum– SCIENCE will become a focus with Mrs Kaz Kost
- Curriculum- Mrs Jo Ridgeway will be back to teach Music, Drama and assist with Welfare programs
- Active After Schools– Mountain bike program in term 1.
- A community project– still to be determined (AND MUCH MORE!)

Have fun,

Tara Hulonce
**JUNIOR ROOM NEWS**

**Class Activities**

We have a Christmas tree in the classroom and the students have been busy putting their creativity into making decorations. Preparations are well underway for the End of Year Graduation next Wednesday. The students have been practicing their songs – and for some of you the lyrics might be becoming firmly embedded in your minds – I know they are in Nerrida and mine – Keep on, Keep on, Keep on. Students have been asked to wear colourful ‘beach theme’ clothes and beach hats, if they have them, when they are performing next Wednesday. Santa Hats certainly wouldn’t be out of place for the Christmas songs.

The students picked their Kris Kringles out of a hat – and no doubt the ability to keep a secret will prove a challenge for many, if not all of them! I will set up a Christmas letterbox for the students to post secret nice letters to their KK. Small presents to the value of $5.00 or homemade gifts can be left in the Santa Sack under the tree from next week.

**Class Work**

Most students have finished off their page for the school magazine and continue to work on their portfolios. We are still managing to work on areas of Maths, writing, spelling and reading. The students seem to have boundless energy and it is a credit to them that they are managing to stay focussed.

**Forrest Kids Go Bush**

This Friday, the 13th of December will be our final day of the Forrest Kids Go Bush program for this year. I had thought that being mud caked would be a thing of the past, but given this weeks weather…….. 

**Could all parents please ensure that the student’s overalls are washed and returned to school no later than Tuesday the 17th of December in readiness for 2014.**

**The Year that was….**

It has been a huge year of learning for all of us in the Junior room – I can’t believe it is nearly at an end. Thank you to the students for being industrious and enthusiastic learners, it has been a joy to teach each and every one of you! One minute we are counting in 1s and learning how to open up word documents and now counting in 2s, 5s, or 10s is done with ease, the Year 3s are tackling their times tables, and opening up a word document is so ‘last year’. A big THANKS – to you, the parents, for welcoming me into the Forrest Primary School community and supporting me to teach your children. I have really appreciated the positive feedback and the conversations we have had throughout the year and I look forward to 2014.

Finally, thank you Nerrida. Without her assistance in the classroom many of the cooking and science activities could not have been possible. The students have loved these hands-on activities. They help them to understand maths working in the real world and inspire their writing. As Nerrida will be accompanying Zeus into the Senior room next year I will be seeking parent helpers in order for interesting, hands-on integrated activities to continue. Interested?

As I believe this is our final newsletter for 2013 – enjoy a safe and relaxing break and see you in the classroom next year!

**Kristin Mackinlay**

**Junior Room Teacher**

**WEEKLY QUOTABLE QUOTE**

There is no passion to be found playing small - in settling for a life that is less than the one you are capable of living.

Nelson Mandela
SENIOR ROOM NEWS

Rag Dolls with Leah Tung.

Over the past three weeks on Fridays Leah Tung has come in and taught the Grade Sixes how to make rag dolls.

First they made the bodies with their choice of fabric then they sewed the edges together to stop the stuffing falling out. Once that was done they filled the dolls with stuffing, then they cut a hole in the fabric where the faces were going to go. Next they made the faces from sculpting clay using a large piece for the face and smaller parts for the nose and mouth. When that was done they put marbles in for the eyes and in turn put them in a portable oven to set so that the faces would be ready to be painted. Once the faces were out of the oven Leah brought out some paints to finish off the faces, they painted the face and added some hair with a hot glue gun.

Year Six Orientation Day

On Tuesday the 10th of December the Year Sixes went to Trinity College for their orientation day. They first went on the bus to CSC and then got on another bus to Trinity College then the bell went and they went into a big room where they got introduced to all the Year Seven teachers then they got put into groups with the Peer Support leaders and did some activities to learn each other’s names then we had recess, after that we had to go off and do drama after about an hour of that we went off to science that was so much fun then after we finished we had lunch the school had provided us with sausages and juice they also gave us icy poles after lunch we headed off to music and that was our last subject we got to play lots of different instruments the bell rang at the end of music and we got dismissed and got on the bus and came home.

Bike Ed

On Monday and Tuesday the Senior Room teacher Craig Donahoo did Bike Ed so Eve came to teach us and on Tuesday Eve’s son Griffon joined us too.

On Monday the 16th we are going to bike Ed with Craig so seniors don’t forget to bring a mountain bike that’s in good condition.

BY THE SENIOR CLASS

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR STUDENTS OF THE WEEK!

JUNIOR ROOM: Jack Perry for the consistent effort he has displayed throughout the year and his dedication to homework and schoolwork. Well-done Jack!

SENIOR ROOM: Jahla Wittenberg for organising to completely sort out our sports shed. Superb job Jahla!
WORKING BEE

Thank You to all of the hard-working families that came to the working bee this weekend. A special huge thank you to Sarah Schuhmann. I saw her working tirelessly on Saturday, doing many jobs for the Pre-school.

BUSH PROGRAM SURVEY

All of the parents who have given their consent will receive the survey this week. Narelle Robertson of Deakin University will come for a visit to the Bush Program tomorrow, Friday 13/12. This will be the last Bush Program for this year. During Term I next year, we will run the Bush Program from 9:00-11:00 to avoid being outside when the sun is strongest. The children who are starting Prep next year have to take their overalls home and bring them to school next year. All of the children have received a pair of overalls this year. If they get lost parents need to buy a new pair from George Taylor’s in Colac.

BLUE HATS

Every child received a blue hat to use at the Pre-school. Some have gone home to be washed; please make sure they come back to the Pre-school.

THANK YOU

This will be my last newsletter for the year, so I would like to take the opportunity to thank all of the families, staff and other important people. It’s been a great year full of play, and learning experiences with your amazing children. I wish all the best of luck to the children starting school next year (we will be able to catch up every Friday during the Bush Program…yeh!). Good luck to Viper and Katie who are moving to Colac. Of course a great big thank you to all of the Pre-school Committee Members, Tara, and the School Council. Without you the school wouldn’t be running. I will miss Caralyn in the Pre-school next year as she is taking on the role as the Educator in our Child Care, Mon-Wed 9am-2pm. We will still be able to work alongside each other on Wednesdays, which is good.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS AND
ALL THE BEST FOR THE FESTIVE SEASON

LENA & CARALYN

Pre-school starts on Thursday 30th January 2014, 9:00am-2:00pm.

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<tr>
<td>No ASC program</td>
<td>AASC– Badminton with Jo Cook 3.30-4.40pm (FREE)</td>
<td>Cooking Class</td>
<td>Board Games</td>
<td>Story Time</td>
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<td>Outdoor Activities</td>
<td>Computers</td>
<td>Floor Game activities</td>
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<td>Music/ keyboard</td>
<td>Craft Activities</td>
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FEES: $10 AN HOUR– OR $25 A FULL SESSION. (3.30-4.30 $5)
NOTE: PLEASE REMEMBER TO BOOK YOUR CHILD IN WITH CARALYN BEFORE 2PM ON THE DAY OF CARE REQUIRED. AN ESTIMATE OF COLLECTION TIME IS ALSO APPRECIATED. THANKS!
As parents we play a vitally important role in the development of our children’s view of themselves. Our day to day interactions, the activities that we do with our children plus the things we say and the way we say them all contribute to a child’s perception of who they are.

Of course there are also a number of other factors that influence a child’s self confidence. The main factors include: how many friends a child has in school; how they are doing academically; how competent they are physically and how comfortable they are with their physical appearance. We can have some control over some of these but not all.

As a parent we can ask ourselves: Do I like my children? And, how do I show them that I do? If our children know that we enjoy spending time with them, they are more likely to feel good about themselves.

**Tips for parents:**

1. Show your child plenty of physical affection. This can take the form of hugs, cuddles and kisses. As children get older they may prefer a pat on the back or a ‘hi-five’.

2. Try to say three or four positive statements to every negative comment to your children. If the only time we talk to our children is to tell them off or to stop doing something, they may just misbehave to get our attention. If you have to say something negative, try to precede it with a positive comment.

3. ‘Catch your child being good’ and tell them specifically what you like. For example: ‘You are playing so nicely with your little brother.’

4. Praise your child for their effort. For example: ‘You put a lot of work into your school project, well done’ or ‘You played good defence in your basketball game.’

5. As children get older, ‘let go’. Allow children increased responsibility and autonomy. They need to make some of their own decisions and choices, even if they may not be the same as what we would choose.

6. Try to be available when your child wants to show you something or tell you about their day. Give them your attention and be interested in what they have to say.

7. Avoid always giving advice or telling your child what to do. Ask what they think they should do about a problem and give them credit for their ideas.

8. Acknowledge when they have done what you have asked. For example: ‘Thank you for cleaning up your room when I asked, that looks great, good job.’

9. Set clear limits and let your child know what the consequences will be if they break the rules. Children feel more secure if they know where the boundaries lie.

10. Children feel good about themselves if a parent is able to spend one on one time with them having shared fun.

**Happy parenting!**

**SUPER SCIENCE FACT**

Jupiter is the largest planet in the solar system, but it spins very quickly on its axis. A day on Jupiter lasts only 9 hours and 55 minutes. Ack, I get dizzy just thinking about it!

Jupiter is so big that you could fit all the other planets in the solar system inside it. The red spot of Jupiter is the biggest, most violent storm in the known universe -- that spot is at least three times the size of earth!
Fundraising News

For Australia Day next year (26 Jan 2014) the celebrations will be held outside the school & hall in Forrest – this represents a chance to host a few stalls and make some fundraising dollars. Here’s what we will be running:

Homemade Lemonade stall
“Characters” Book stall (also selling raffle tickets)
Preparing cheese & fruit platters for invited dignitaries (for a pre-determined fee)
Catering tea & coffee for invited dignitaries

I have been eagerly collecting lemons and took the opportunity to squeeze what lemons we did have with Natalie at home however, please donate any more spare lemons to the school as many more are needed...

If anyone would like to volunteer some time on Saturday 26th January to help chop fruit, slice cheese & arrange platters of biscuits please let me know, likewise if there are parents and children who would like to be involved in selling the books & raffle tickets, please let me know.

I am intending to organize for raffle books to go out to all families before the Christmas break, with a draw date post Australia Day so we can sell tickets over the busiest times for our town. Prizes will include a kids mountain bike and any others that I am able to secure, if anyone knows of anyone willing to donate a raffle prize, again, please let me know.

Thanks Sarah Lane  5236-6172 or 0421 103 042 or thelanes.54@bigpond.com

WANTED: Volunteers to help with Australia Day Celebrations

Pre-loved kids mountain bike for sale. purple and simple gear with it. approx. for 4-6yr, $40. Contact Shizu 0434 55 1350

INVITATION FORREST PRIMARY & PRE-SCHOOL PARENTS
BREKKY BREAKUP
Forrest Brewery: FRIDAY 13th December 9.15am
(after school and Pre-School drop off.) Hope to see you all there!
Contact: Sarah Schuhmann 5236 6125