**PRINCIPAL’S NEWS**

**“CHARACTERS” BOOK LAUNCH**

A special thank you to all parents, friends and community members who attended our Book Launch on Friday night. The event was a huge success and a great testament to what can be achieved when we all work together as a learning community.

I was proud to be a part of the event, and more than a little disappointed to have missed all the fun that went into creating “Characters”. Our children have done a marvelous job and should be most proud of their efforts. The looks on all the young faces as their books were unwrapped was priceless. A big thank you also to our dedicated staff for the mammoth effort that went into the entire project. From the learning experiences, research tasks, lesson planning, writing and artwork activities and editing through to proofreading, publicizing, planning the launch and even decorating the hall.

WELL DONE! I am so incredibly happy to have you on our team at Forrest.

And a final thank you to our great parent and friend helpers who ensured supper was organized and well managed. Thanks— you helped make our night a success.

We still have some copies for sale ($15 each), so please pop into the office if you need some excellent Christmas gifts!

**A WORKING BEE REMINDER**— this weekend (7-8th December) is our school and pre-school working bee. A major focus on this will be the construction of our bike shelter at the front of school. This amazing structure has been semi assembled by our dedicated Richard S and helpers. On Sunday 8th we will be having a BBQ lunch for volunteers and will hopefully get many jobs completed. Our working bee list (aside from the bike shelter) includes:

- Clearing garden beds/ Pruning
- Cutting up dead tree— rear of school
- Slashing overgrown areas
- Checking guttering (fire safety)
- Pressure washing paths/ walls?

If you think you could help out, please call in either day! Thanks

AASC 3.30-4.30pm – badminton finished this week. Thanks Jo Cook for a great program!

Have fun and enjoy your long weekend— hopefully the weather will be fine for our working bee!

Tara Hulonce
JUNIOR ROOM NEWS

Book Launch

Although, no doubt mentioned elsewhere in this newsletter, I would like to thank Tara for being so supportive of the “Characters” book launch and Craig, in particular, for all the effort he put into preparing for the night and doing a fine job as the MC. Wonderful speeches, fantastically behaved students, hard working parents, who prepared and served a wonderful selection of food, and all those who help clean up afterwards - not to mention the amazing book – made for a very successful ‘launch’. I thought it was a top night!

Science

Last Thursday the whole class, working in small groups, made rubber band cars. After giving detailed instructions the students broke into their groups and began the task of cutting, gluing and assembling their cars. This was a fantastic exercise in co-operative and inquiry learning. The Year 3s were wonderful team leaders, ensuring everyone had a job to do and remained on task. Although none of the cars worked quite as expected, this brought about detailed conversations as to the reasons for lack of performance and design modifications were introduced. I can’t praise the students enough for the excellent behaviour, teamwork and the thought processes they demonstrated to create their cars. A final examination of the cars, and class discussion, revealed that each of the four cars had design merits – put altogether we had the design prototype for a car that we were sure would work!

Class Work

The students have been busy finishing off writing pieces for their portfolio and continue to work on their page for the school magazine. In Mathematics many students have finished their assessments and we are working on areas that require a brief review. The students must be congratulated for all the great work they continue to produce at a busy and tiring time of year. I have started writing reports and it has been a wonderful to see the progress the students have made since the beginning of the year. Well Done.

Forrest Kids Go Bush

As this Friday is a student free day, and the Kinder children will already have finished for the year on the final day of term, Friday the 13th of December will be our final day of the Forrest Kids Go Bush program for this year. 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.

Kris Kringle or Kris Kindle (both are correct)

This year we will be doing Kris Kringle – whereby students pick a name of a fellow class member out of a ‘hat’ and become their secret Santa. The idea is to do good deeds or write nice notes to their ‘person’ without revealing who they are. On the final Thursday of term students bring a small homemade or bought gift to the value of $5.00 to school for their ‘person’ and will then enjoy guessing who their Kris Kringle was. The idea is that the name of the person they chose should not be revealed, it should be kept secret – That’s the hard part!

Kristin Mackinlay
Junior Room Teacher

WEEKLY QUOTABLE QUOTE

If we each selfishly pursue only what we believe to be in our own interest, without caring about the needs of others, we not only end up harming others but also ourselves. - THE DALAI LAMA
CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR STUDENTS OF THE WEEK!

JUNIOR ROOM: Charles Seebeck for displaying a positive attitude to learning and working to the best of his ability on writing tasks. Well Done Charles.

SENIOR ROOM: Jarrah Ashton for his great On-Demand test results and growth in all learning areas.
Exciting news for next year…we will be able to run a kinder program for 15 hours a week for the 3-4 year olds, and also provide Child Care every day! This will provide a great service for families with young children in Forrest and surrounding areas. To make this service viable we need children to attend the Child Care. Please spread the news around the community. I’ll be teaching the Kinder Group Wednesday-Friday 9 AM—2 PM. On Wednesdays we will share the room with the children attending Child Care, and on Thursdays and Fridays it will be just the 3-4 year olds.

CHICKENS
The Live Eggs experience was a great success. The children really enjoyed holding them and watch them. Last week the chickens started to get quite jumpy and active, ready to move on to a bigger space. Half the brood have now gone to Caralyn’s house to grow big enough to come back to the School’s chicken pen. The other half of the brood has gone to Cassia’s home. Thanks to Kaz for organising the chickens.

BUBBAY
The end of the year is approaching very fast and we have been busy making more props for the play. The children are very engaged in the story and show great enthusiasm in doing the play. See separate invitation.

BUSH PROGRAM SURVEY
Last week, all the 4-5year olds’ parents received information about a research project conducted by Deakin University. Sorry for giving you another writing task in addition to the report. I know that most people are really busy this time of the year but it seems like an important thing to participate in as we are breaking new ground in Australia by having a Bush Program. Please take the time to fill in the survey (I’ll give it to you). Narelle Robertson of Deakin University will come for a visit to the Bush Program on Friday 13/12. That 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.

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.

WORKING BEE
Please support the Pre-school/School and attend the working bee this weekend.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
Last Wednesday I went to the Gowrie Centre in Melbourne for some ‘PD’. It was called Physical Environment to Support Relationships with Children. The Gowrie Centre is a Child Care Centre in Carlton North that also has the facilities to run training and education. They have observation boxes above the rooms so that students/visitors can observe the groups during their daily programs. The Gowrie Centre runs a program where the older children can choose outdoor or indoor play themselves. They also have progressive meal times, where the children come and sit at the table in small groups, not all at the same time. This is to provide a more calm and relaxed environment where the children are very much in charge of their time. The Gowrie Centre also has a very big garden/playground that is very natural with lots of native trees and grasses, flowers and exciting paths and little private spaces. They also had chickens walking around freely. It was very inspiring for me to see and I really would like to make our playground more exciting with different plants.

Lena Collopy
Pre-school Teacher

DATES TO REMEMBER

Sat/Sun 7+8/12 Working Bee – whole school.
Thursday 19/12 Christmas Party and Clean Up Day. (See invitation)

AFTER SCHOOL CARE NEWS

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<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>
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<td>Outdoor Activities</td>
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<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!
ITEMS OF INTEREST– BEAT HOLIDAY BOREDOM

Holidays need not be boring nor cost parents a small fortune to keep their children “occupied”. Rather, holidays provide a wonderful opportunity for parents and children to do things together. Children love doing things with parents. Consider planning activities for the holidays now and involve the whole family in the planning process. Set a small budget and involve the children in spending the budget wisely. Planning ahead and adding activities to your calendar will give children something to look forward to and take their mind off “there is nothing to do”.

Start by looking through your local newspapers for any upcoming activities held over the school holidays. Local Government Services, Art Galleries, Neighborhood Centers and Libraries often offer free activities during the holiday break. Keep in mind that you may need to book for these activities and be sure to mark them on your calendar.

If you have a tent, consider pitching it in your back yard and allowing the children to make use of it for the holiday period. Help them in the planning of setting up the tent and providing them with equipment and food that they would use if they were actually away from home camping. If your children are still too young to sleep away from you at night consider sleeping in the tent with them.

Family picnics can also be fun. Think of venues near home or having one in the garden at home can also be fun. Getting children involved in preparing a shopping list for the picnic and planning the day can enjoyable. Consider inviting friends over for the day and asking them to contribute to your picnic lunch. Involve the children in planning games for the picnic such as backyard cricket, building a cubby house using sheets, making play dough or setting up an obstacle course can all help to make you picnic fun.

Consider a train trip to Melbourne. Travel off-peak to save travel costs and for a more leisurely trip. Plan this event and again take a picnic lunch to be eaten at perhaps along the Yarra, in the Botanical Gardens or Federation square. Taking your own food and drinks helps to keep the cost of a family day minimal. While in Melbourne catch the free circuit tram, visit the State Library, Arts Center, War museum and so forth. Check out if there are any holiday activities on in the city.

Have a cooking day - even young children love to help cook. Let children decide on the menu for dinner (within reason), go with you to shop for it and then cook, or help cook it.

Organise a games day for your children and some of their friends. Dust off some of the “old family board games” like snakes and ladders, or find a deck of cards. If you can’t remember many card games just making card towers can be fun.

Go for a family bike ride along a cycle track or in the park.

Just getting out into different surroundings starts lots of new play ideas for children. Find out about parks and playgrounds in your neighborhood and around the city.

By planning ahead, booking, setting dates to catch up with friends in advance holidays can be very positive family times for both parent and child.

SUPER SCIENCE FACT

Mercury takes 59 days to make a rotation but only 88 days to circle the Sun. That means that there are fewer than 2 days in a year! Many astronomers believe that Mercury might be the core of what was once a much larger planet -- it appears to be a huge ball of iron covered by a thin layer of rock.
Fundraising News

Wow! The Forrest Festival weekend has been and gone & the school managed to fundraise $450 for all our efforts! My thanks go to those parents who helped out wherever & whenever needed, I’d dare say the Kids Mountain Bike Race was the success it was because of all the helpers especially Andrew Broomfield’s trusty directives to start the races!!! – Huge thanks to Tania & Andrew Evans & Sarah, Lily & Claudia Schuhmann who volunteered for both days, and also Tania’s friend Betty. We might not have wanted to see another watermelon or orange at the end of day on Saturday but it was definitely a hit with the riders.....

Congratulations to our own Kai Broomfield who on Sunday, came first in the mountain bike race he competed in and also to Charles Seebeck who bought home third place in his race. It was GREAT to see so many of our children having fun.

Next week I will start organizing our next fundraising event which will be for Australia Day, however I have put out a call for anyone with any spare lemons to donate them to the school. I will set a date for lemon squeezing, probably in the next week – stay tuned to your newsletter!

Thanks
Sarah Lane

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

Forrest Family Fun evening run by Forrest MTB Club

Friday 6th December

Forrest Recreation Reserve (Footy, netball and cricket ground on Yaugher rd)

Arrive 6pm for a 6:30pm start.

BBQ provided.

This event will have a fun format "race"

However the focus is... on bringing the whole family from young Johnny with the balance bike to mum and dad who think that racing "is not for them".

The more people that turn up, the more fun it’s going to be.

Not a member of Forrest MTB Club?

No worries, we can talk turkey with you on the night,

or you can buy participation licenses for $5 and entry is $5 = $10 all up.

Members pay $5, bring your MTBA license please.