PRINCIPAL’S NEWS

Yesterday I had the pleasure of attending a Childcare Roundtable with other childcare Operators across Corangamite Shire. With the purpose of discussing our concerns with Sarah Henderson MP and the Hon. Sussan Ley MP (Assistant Minister for Education). The purpose was for the Assistant Minister to hear directly from us and take ideas as to how we can build a stronger childcare system. The meeting also linked in with the current Productivity Commission inquiry into flexible childcare options. It was a brilliant opportunity to clearly state our needs; firstly a review of the CCB system so we at Forrest (a small, geographically challenged centre) can provide certain services for under school aged children which can attract the parent rebate and make childcare affordable for all, and secondly to mention the difficulties attached to using the Child Care Management Systems (Computer programs that process fees, charges and rebates) within already overstretched school administrations.

I left the meeting incredibly proud of all we have accomplished here within our small setting and thrilled we have such dedicated staff, school council and parent community to make these things happen. Our current service offerings are a testament to the hard work of all. The meeting was also an excellent forum for me to publically garner support for our other big news this week—**we have been invited to submit a detailed application for Children’s Capital Facility Upgrade Grant we expressed interest in late last year.** You may recall we submitted an idea to build onto the school, between the main building and Gerangamete Room, providing better kitchen facilities, an improved office space, a sleeping area for our younger children, enlarging the Pre-School/ Early Learning Centre room and adding an extra classroom space for our junior classroom. All this fits within the Victorian Early Years Development Learning Framework aimed to improve outcomes for children from birth-8 years. This is very exciting development and will prompt some more work, but hopefully we will be able to secure the sizable grant and our Learning Centre will become even better! Fingers crossed!!

Also— School Uniforms are available at the office. Thanks

Have fun,

Tara Hulonce
JUNIOR ROOM NEWS

A big WELCOME back to all our returning students and an even bigger WELCOME to the students, (and parents), starting Prep and those who are new to our school.

Life in the Junior room has had a great start! During the last week the students have spent time getting to know each other, learning about the values of our school, and the attitudes that create successful learners and a happy learning environment.

We have 10 new names in our classroom and so classroom routines, and the location of learning materials, have also been a focus.

General News

Mondays – lunch orders from the Guest House will continue this year on a Monday. Menu sent home yesterday and placed in office.

Tuesdays – Toastie Tuesdays are back! I put sandwiches/wraps in the sandwich press at lunch time. There are always many interesting combinations but lettuce is to be avoided if your child would like to have their lunch ‘toasted’.

Wednesdays – We have started Indonesian with ‘Pak Bimo’. This was a very exciting addition to our learning this week and all of the students, at this stage Year 1 and Year 2, really enjoyed their time starting to learn a new language. We will also be doing Cooking or Gardening (on a rotation) during the last hour.

Thursdays – The Community House provides lunch orders on a Thursday, look for the menu in your child’s bag. We also have PE on a Thursday and so appropriate shoes (no gumboots) are required. The school sports aren’t far away!

Fridays – Forrest Kids Go Bush will start up again this Friday between 9.00am and 11.00am. Could all of the children please have a spare pair of long pants to change into for this program. As the weather turns wet their overalls and a full change of clothes will be required. Could all overalls from last year please be returned in preparation for the wetter months and in order to determine new overall numbers to be ordered.

In addition to Indonesian, Science and Health and Welfare will also be forming a formal part of the curriculum.

We are currently waiting on our order of Student Diaries. Once they arrive these will enable communication between parents and teachers. Students have received their Homereader diaries and these are used to record the book your child has read each night. They are checked on a daily basis and I do endeavour to make sure the children change their readers each day. The Preps have been very keen to start reading and at this stage have been choosing their own books. Their book choice will be more appropriate over the next weeks but at this stage please enjoy looking at the pictures with your child and using them to work out the story. Strategies to help your child learn to read will be covered during the Parent Information Evening scheduled in the coming weeks.

If you have any spare plastic ice-cream containers (2 litre) with lids, could you please send them to school with your child. I need them to store playdough.

That is probably enough information to bombard you all with at this stage. Please don’t hesitate to contact me about any concerns you may have regarding your child.

Looking forward to a fantastic and fun year of learning!

Kristin Mackinlay
Junior Room Teacher

WEWKLY QUOTABLE QUOTE

Genius without education is like silver in the mine
- Benjamin Franklin
SENIOR ROOM NEWS

This term we welcome a group of 10 wonderful Grades 3 & 4 children into the Senior Classroom. After a week of settling it is clear that we have a very focussed and well behaved group of students.

We spent 5 days focussing on values and learning behaviours. Students collaborated in response to a number of key questions such as, “What makes a good teacher?” “What makes a good Teacher?” “What makes a good classroom?” The responses to these types of questions will assist us to develop Forrest specific values. The process of the children undertaking these activities enables them to collaboratively agree on what is and what is not productive, acceptable behaviours at school.

Students also worked with Mrs Ridgeway on developing a Forrest PS values song and in a separate session they responded to indigenous values through stories and artworks. During Art, The Seniors worked on the Hope signs for Relay for Life (we’ve run the artwork prized for the past 3 years). I believe this year’s artworks were the best so far, so we’ll see how we go.

Everyone really enjoyed our two hour Indonesian Language session with Bak Bimo on Wednesday. Along with language acquisition, Bak Bimo will work with us on cultural studies and cooking.

In terms of how we are going to be running our curriculum and the expectations of students, next week I will provide more information.

Thanks
Craig Donahoo

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR STUDENTS OF THE WEEK!

JUNIOR ROOM: Year 1 and Year 2 students for all the kindness, patience and appreciation they have displayed in the classroom.

SENIOR ROOM: Lachlan Pain for being extra thoughtful and showing great initiative when looking after our school.
Dear Parents and Families,

As part of the Science program this year we are looking to stock up on a few items before the program fully takes off!

To support our science activities we would love you to collect items at home and bring them into school.

We require:
- glass jars (especially Dolmio)
- yoghurt containers
- icecream containers
- plastic bottle lids
- clean tin cans
- metal patty pans (eg. mince pie containers)
- styrofoam meat trays
- postage tubes
- bubble wrap
- unwanted metal bolts and screws
- electrical wire (especially copper wire)
- 500ml water bottles
- 1.25 plastic soft drink bottles
- unwanted fish tanks (preferably smaller ones)
- unwanted balls - eg. rubber bouncy balls,
- marbles
- tennis balls
- cardboard rolls from paper towel and glad wrap (no toilet rolls)
- shoe boxes
- margarine containers
- strawberry containers
- small white buckets with lids
- large vitamin containers

Any other donations of science based educational items would be greatly appreciated.

Thanks!

Kaz Standish
Science Specialist
Forrest PS, Deans Marsh PS

SUPER SCIENCE FACTS
- Mosquitoes can be annoying insects but did you know that it's only the female mosquito that actually bites humans
- The average housefly only lives for 2 or 3 weeks.
THE GROUP
The first couple of days with the children have been very enjoyable. They are all very special little individuals. Many of the children are very good at imaginative role-playing and are getting to know each other through playing. Some of the things the children have been doing include: water-play, sand play, climbing, using swings, stilts, playing the Mushroom game (guess who is missing), painting, using blocks, cars, plastic animals, play-dough, hand prints, puzzles, board games etc. etc.

REMITNDER
I just want to remind you all that I’m the only educator with the children for most of the sessions this year. This makes it harder for me to be flexible and talk to you in the mornings, as I can’t leave the children alone outside for even a moment. I would really appreciate it if parents could make sure that their child puts his/her water bottle in the container provided, and make sure they have a hat on before going outside. We have sunscreen at the Pre-school, which I will use if we go out a second time in the day. Please make sure that you put sunscreen on your child at home in the morning.

INFO BOOKLET
You would have received the new Info booklet for the Forrest Early Learning Centre last week. Please take the time to read it. It is especially important that parents are aware of what to do in case of Code Red days or bushfire warnings. Everyone living or working in the Forrest area has to be vigilant during the bushfire season as Forrest is in the highest bushfire risk zone.

ENROLMENT FORMS AND PERMISSION SLIPS
Please make sure you fill these in as soon as possible. The Bush Program starts tomorrow and we need your permission for your child to participate.

FORREST KIDS GO BUSH
Starts tomorrow at 9:00-11:00. Please make sure that your child has a hat, long pants and boots on. It’s too hot and dry for overalls at this stage.

CONGRATULATIONS
TO THE KIRK FAMILY FOR THE ARRIVAL OF BABY MILLIE.

TO JAXON WHO TURNED 4 YESTERDAY
AND
TO RUBY WHO TURNED 3 DURING THE HOLIDAYS.

Lena Collopy
Pre-school Teacher

DATES TO REMEMBER
Fri 7/2 The Bush Program starts.
Fri 21/2 2pm, AGM – ALL WELCOME
Thur 27/2 Colac Dental Health visiting.
CHILDCARE AND AWESOME AFTERS (OSHC)

Our year has started very well, with some excellent activities designed by our friendly educators Millie and Caralyn. Caralyn looks after our morning sessions on Monday-Wednesday (9-2pm) for before school aged children and Millie takes over from 2-6pm each day.

CUDDLY KOALAS: We still have vacancies for Childcare with Caralyn on Monday and Wednesday 9am-2pm. If there is another day which suits you better please see Tara in the office. Charges are $25 a session (5 hours care) and places are booked for the term regardless of attendance.

DAZZLING DOLPHINS: 2:00-3:30 with Millie ($7.50) a session is also subject for full term bookings (child absences are still paid by parents as places are strictly limited)

FRIENDLY FROGS: 2-6pm ($20, conditions are above) for 4 hours care with Millie links in with OSHC after 3:30 and children experience activities with the older children through mixed age groupings.

AWESOME AFTERS: Millie has been working hard to come up with lots of fun activities for you after Pre-School and also after school. Please see her program below. Fees (determined by school council) $25 flat rate for OSHC from 3:30pm–6:00pm every night. This is CCB claimable which will be reflected on your invoice at the end of the month. Thank you

NOTE: PLEASE REMEMBER TO BOOK YOUR CHILD IN WITH MILLIE BEFORE 2PM ON THE DAY OF CARE REQUIRED OR CALL THE SCHOOL OFFICE ON 5236 6393. AN ESTIMATE OF COLLECTION TIME IS ALSO APPRECIATED. THANKS!

THE CHILDCARE/OSHC PROGRAM (looks like fun!)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TIMES</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2:00-3:30</td>
<td>Inside play: toys, trucks, drawing, painting</td>
<td>Colouring pages and decorating art projects</td>
<td>Inside play: puzzles, drawing, home corner, book corner</td>
<td>Yoga, sing-a-long songs, story-time</td>
<td>Arts and crafts: child centred craft activities</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:30-4:00</td>
<td>Healthy SNACK</td>
<td>Healthy SNACK</td>
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<td>Healthy SNACK</td>
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<tr>
<td>4:00-5:00</td>
<td>Outside play</td>
<td>Craft: Jewellery making</td>
<td>Cooking: choc-chip pancakes</td>
<td>Craft: Jellyfish cups</td>
<td>Outside play</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:00-6:00</td>
<td>Weekend storytelling and sharing</td>
<td>Outside play</td>
<td>Group time: Sing-a-long songs Share and tell</td>
<td>Outside Play</td>
<td>Relaxation: reading and quiet games</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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For bookings please call our Educator: Millie 0433 210886
Fundraising News

The Australia Day event was a big success for the school and personally, I was so proud to have been part of it all on the day. So many parents volunteered and I had many helpers all filling in to any job I asked of them without any fuss. I’d like to send out a big THANK YOU to all who volunteered and helped in the lead up to and on the day, together we made it a success!!!

A quick summation of our fundraising efforts:

Lemonade stand - $168.00
Catering for the dignitaries & new citizens - $200.00
Raffle tickets sold - $87.00
Characters books - $45.00

We also gratefully accepted monies from Lynnette Parrott who sold handmade cards and donated part of the takings to the school and we also managed to make a small (very small!) donation for our car parking efforts at the footy ground (BIG thank you to Phil Kurzman & Ant Coulter for standing out there waiting!!!)

Our expenses were very minimal too – with Woolworths donating all the goods on the shopping list for the catering. The emphasis for the event however, was never about making lots of money (although we didn’t do too badly!) It was to promote a happy healthy community. The bonus was being able to showcase our fabulous school and show our wider community what a great facility we have. It was uplifting to hear so many positive comments and compliments about the school as people wandered through, most with their mouths full of the to-die-for lamingtons ( thanks Robyn–your baking skills are superb). Many were impressed and enjoyed their afternoon.

The Australia Day raffle was drawn this week & the lucky winners were:

1  Davina McDonald
2  Anthony McDonald
3  Ruby Kirk
4  Paul Troughton
5  Kate Leahy

In total we made $806.00 from selling raffle tickets – a fantastic contribution to our school!

Thank you to all who sold tickets, and thank you to our magnificent donators of prizes – The Forrest Guest House, The Forrest 6 hour Race, The Sprunt Family Farm, Mandy Bishop and Ruby & Tasman Kirks Nanna!!!!!!

Without you this wouldn’t have been possible……