PRINCIPAL’S NEWS

Yesterday our school students had an enjoyable morning learning and socialising with students from Deans Marsh PS at the “Off this Planet” incursion. I hope your child was able to share something from the experience—whether it be Neil Armstrong’s moon landing, O’Ryan’s belt, star constellations in the portable planetarium, or the fun completing related activities. Thanks to our parents for returning the permission forms and money so promptly. Special thanks to our science specialist Kaz for organizing the visit from the “Off this Planet” people.

School Bus Service

The school bus program is an extensive school bus network that provides travel at no cost to eligible students living in rural and regional Victoria. The network is administered by Public Transport Victoria and carries over 73,000 students each school day. Students living 4.8kms or more and attending their closest school are eligible to travel on a school bus at no cost. Application forms are obtainable from our school office. Did you know we have 21 eligible bus travellers currently using our bus service? The bus arrives at the school no later than 8.50am and departs at 3.40pm daily. Popes Buslines has been contracted by PTV to operate our bus service.

School Council Elections 2015

I have attached to the newsletter information regarding School Council Elections for the 2015 school year. We will have our final meeting of the 2014/5 School Council on Monday 16th March starting at 6.30 pm. This will be an Annual General Meeting with the Annual Report of school council’s operations shared. School Council meets a total of 9 times each year. Meetings are around 2 hours in length. It is a great way to become more involved. Interested?? Please see Darryl for more details or a nomination form.

Parent Information /Welcome Evening

I am very keen to meet parents/carers and families of the school at the Forrest Parent Information /Welcome evening next Monday 23rd February at the school.

The night will begin in the respective Junior and Senior classrooms with staff outlining their programs and operational matters. This will be followed by a whole school welcome Aussie BBQ. This is a great chance to find out what is going on in your child’s class and to mix informally with staff and other parents so please try and get along.

6.00–6.30 – Teacher/parent information session in classroom
6.30–7.30 – Welcome BBQ in school grounds - Food provided free. BYO drinks and desert (optional)

Clean Up Schools day

Our school has registered to be a part of the Clean Up Australia Day activity on Friday February 27th. We plan to pick up any rubbish and clean up the school grounds and boundaries on this day. Start time will at 1.45pm and conclude at 2.30pm. Children are asked to please bring a pair of gloves on this day. Interested parents/guardians/friends are most welcome.

Hoping you enjoyed the heavy downpour we experienced last Friday!
This Week

On Tuesday the students travelled to Deans Marsh Primary School to be part of the Ecolinc ‘Off the Planet’ presentation. The students enjoyed the space presentation but the highlight was the ‘crawl’ into the portable ‘planetarium’. Inside, stars were projected onto the ceiling of the ‘dark dome’. Star patterns of animals, the saucepan, the Southern Cross and the signs of the zodiac were discovered and highlighted. If only they were as easy to identify in our night sky!

Returning to the Prep/1 classroom the students drew their favourite part of the experience followed by some outdoor fun. This was a great chance for the students to make some new friends, who they will see at the combined school sports, meet again in future activities and eventually go on camp with.

Maths

Working with numbers on a daily basis is a priority of our Maths program. This week the students will also be learning about shapes. Each student now has a Mathletics program tailored to their learning needs.

Mathletics is a program that can be accessed from home. Let me know if you would like their log in details.

Spelling - Sound waves

Preps: Sounds for ‘f’, ‘g’ and ‘h’
Year 1 & Year 2: ‘a’

Magic Words: The Preps ‘homework’ is to practise recognising their Golden Words. Year 1 & 2 will receive their spelling words, 8 words per week today, (commencing from where they left off last year). Spelling tests will be on Tuesdays.

Writing

The Preps are practising letter formation, writing on whiteboards, in their writing books and creating plasticine letters. An additional focus is writing their full name with only one capital letter at the beginning of their first name and surname.

Year 1 students continue to concentrate on correct letter formation and punctuation – full stops and capital letters. They practise writing words and sentences through a range of activities. Nouns and verbs are the focus of their sentence writing.

Year 2 students are increasing the volume and quality of their writing by incorporating adjectives. They are learning to edit their own writing for the correct use of punctuation and spelling.

Reading

Both reading and writing are part of our daily literacy program. I hear the students read at least once per week and they have a range of reading activities: reading quietly to themselves; reading to a partner; guided reading with a teacher and Reading Eggs/Express. I can’t stress enough how important it is for your child to read to an adult/parent on a daily basis. If you can spare any time to hear the children read, one hour - once per month on a Monday or Tuesday morning, please let me know. I would love to have a regular roster of four parents/grandparents and the children love reading to our visiting ‘helpers’.

Miss Mac

Junior room teacher
This week's Senior Room Newsletter is brought to you by Britt Coulter (Grade 6)

This week we have been focusing on good learning behaviours. On the wall we have a chart from “Legendary” to “Consequence two”. We all have pictures of ourselves on the chart. At the start of the day we are all in “your safe” and by the end of the day Mr Donahoo takes a picture of the chart and sees where we are all at.

This week we went to the excursion “Off This Planet” Planetarium and Earth and Space Education featuring a star lab experience, held in Deans Marsh. Before going to the Planetarium, we played some fun games with the Deans Marsh students, like Rapid Fire and Space Jump. In the Planetarium, we first sat on the floor and listened to the staff talk, and then we went into the Planetarium. It was a big blow-up dome, completely dark inside. They showed us a slideshow, then lit up the dome with stars and showed us some star signs.

Last week in library class we made little books on characters we made up, based on the Little Mrs and Mr Men books. We made up our own characters and wrote a story to go with it. Then we got to colour them in, and shared our stories with the class.

This week Kai Broomfield did a great job on assembly. Mr Harty changed the helping hands box, one hole for Seniors and one hole for Juniors so each class gets at least one helping hand, though the senior room’s helping hands were low. Remember to put helping hands in!

Mr Donahoo’s Bit:

Thank you Britt for creating the first ever student written Senior Room Newsletter, you have done an excellent job! Next week we will hand over the Newsletter to Kai Broomfield.

During the next week... we will be getting into some gardening to plant out as much as we can, in an attempt to get a Winter Crop. Students will begin to engage in more scientific investigations in our garden for our Friend or Foe Integrated unit. Children will learn how to create Excel spreadsheets and use them to record their learning goals and results. Our Number and Place Value Units will conclude with post tests and we will move onto Operations. Children will complete their narratives and publish them into a class book that will be shared with parents.

JUNIOR ROOM: This week’s student of the week goes to Jordi Roberts. Jordi is to be congratulated for trying to do his personal best and concentrating on his work. He did a fantastic job finishing his maths work and then offered to help others. Superb!

SENIOR ROOM: This week’s Student of the week goes to Alicia Pain for taking the initiative to solve problems in our classroom and for always helping others.
Off this Planet Science Excursion

The Forrest Primary students enjoyed a fantastic morning visiting the mobile Starlab dome as presented by Lyn and Peter from Off this Planet. As well as much information about astronauts, space research and travel, the students experienced the fabulous night sky in the inflatable Starlab dome. Depending on the age group the students learnt about the solar system, starfields and Greek myth constellations. Thanks to all the students and teachers involved.


SUPER SCIENCE FACT

It’s impossible to sneeze with your eyes open.
**PRE SCHOOL NEWS**

**Welcome Stanley**

Welcome and Happy 3rd Birthday to Stanley who started kinder last week. Stanley went to Child Care last year so he is already familiar with the other children.

**Outdoor Play**

The weather is changing a lot at the moment—some days are cool and others hot. During Term I, we usually go out first thing in the morning to avoid spending time outside when the UV is extreme. Some days we go out for a second play a bit later in the day and use sunscreen if needed. We are currently waiting for a new shade sail to be installed to shade the sandpit and more of the playground from the sun. The children are not allowed to play without shoes in the playground. This is to avoid insect bites, cuts or splinters. The only place the children can be without shoes is in the sandpit, so please make sure that your child has proper footwear, such as runners or sandals that don’t slip off while climbing or running.

**Bush Program**

The children have been very happy and fully engaged during the Bush Program lately. The weather has been sunny and the play has been fairly calm. Many children have been using the fantastic new work bench that Colin has made for them. Kim (Coulter) won’t be participating this year as Hamish has moved into the Senior room. Any parents interested in seeing the Bush Program in action and also doing a bit of supervising are most welcome. Last Friday, Stanley noticed that the Junior children had fruit they could eat during the Bush Program if they got hungry, and that made him very hungry. So we will start to take out some fruit every Friday for ourselves as well. Please make sure your child has a piece of fruit that he/she can take to the Bush Program. Also please remember to dress your child in clothes that protect their skin from scratches—a pair of long pants (old), and a top with long sleeves are best, and of course a hat and boots/gumboots. No need to put the overalls on if the weather is hot and dry.

**The Very Hungry Caterpillar**

Last week I read the ‘Very Hungry Caterpillar’ story to the children. While I was reading the children took turns putting felt pictures from the story on a felt-board. They enjoyed that very much. After the story they painted their own caterpillar. This week we will put some eyes and feelers on the caterpillars.

**Show and Tell**

I am starting to send home the Show and Tell bag again. The children usually love doing Show and Tell, and is actually good training for speaking in front of a group. Please let your child choose two toys/things to put in the bag.

**AGM THIS FRIDAY AT THE PRE-SCHOOL AT 2.15PM, ALL WELCOME.**

Lena Collopy
Pre-school Teacher

**DATES TO REMEMBER**

Fri 20/2, AGM- All welcome, 2:15pm.

Thu 5/3, Colac Dental Health visit for oral screening.

**Helping Hands Week 2**

Bryanna for helping Ms Mac adjusting the tables.

Hamish for voluntarily completing jobs in the playground.
**Day Care**
Children aged 6 months and up
Mon – Wed (9am-6pm) and Thurs-Fri (2pm – 6pm)

**Pre-School**
3 and 4 year olds for 15 hours p/week
Wed-Fri (9am – 2pm)

**After School Care**
Mon-Fri (3.30pm – 6pm)

And ask us about…

**Forrest Kids Go Bush!**
Fridays only from 9am onwards

The *Forrest School Bus* also operates in the area for children attending our centre.

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**There are places available for your child now!**

Contact: Forrest Primary School  Principal: Darryl Harty
for more information on our service
PH: 52366 393/0427 366 393

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For OSHC/ afternoon bookings please call: Teresa 0419 536340
For MORNING Childcare bookings: Caralyn 0412 953366

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<tr>
<th>TIMES</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9:00– 10:45</td>
<td>Outside Activities *</td>
<td>Outside Activities *</td>
<td>Outside Activities*</td>
<td>Pre-School</td>
<td>Pre-School (3 and 4 year olds)</td>
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<td>FORREST KIDS GO BUSH!</td>
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<td>10:45-11:15</td>
<td>Snack and Chat</td>
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<td>11:15– 12:30</td>
<td>Inside Games and Activities</td>
<td>Inside Song and Dance Activities</td>
<td>Inside Free Play</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:30-1:00</td>
<td>Snack and Chat</td>
<td>Snack and Chat</td>
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<td>1:00– 2:00</td>
<td>QUIET TIME/ CRAFT</td>
<td>QUIET TIME/ Floor Activities</td>
<td>Inside Free Time</td>
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<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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<td>3:30-4:40</td>
<td>Healthy SNACK</td>
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<td>4:00-5:00</td>
<td>Outside play</td>
<td>CRAFT TIME</td>
<td>COOKING</td>
<td>CRAFT TIME</td>
<td>Outside play</td>
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<tr>
<td>5:00-6:00</td>
<td>Weekend storytelling</td>
<td>Outside play</td>
<td>Sing-a-long songs and dance</td>
<td>Outside Play</td>
<td>Relaxation: reading and quiet games</td>
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* Outside Activities will be held providing weather is suitable
OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Fundraising News

The Otway Odyssey mountain bike event is fast approaching and again we have the opportunity to fundraise by riding the smoothie bikes. This year we will be looking for help from parents to set up the bikes & fruit, then help to ride the bikes & produce the smoothies, then a pack up crew to help clean up and put everything away.

If you have time to spare on **Saturday 21st March**, please consider volunteering some time to help with this fundraiser—the more parents the better!!

Thanks—Sarah Lane

Please let me know of your availability 5236-6172  0421 103 042  sjlane@swarh.vic.gov.au

Forrest & District Neighbourhood House Program February 2015

REGULAR ACTIVITIES AT THE FORREST HALL (unless indicated otherwise)
MONDAY Meditation 6.30-7.30pm with Sue Frydman $12 or $10 term payment. Includes gentle yoga warm ups.
BINGO 1-3pm. $5 (first Monday of the month)
TUESDAY COS Fitness Class 11am Gentle weights exercise for all ages $3
WEDNESDAY Tai Chi 6.30-8pm Seona Gunn $10/8con
THURSDAY Gentle Exercise Class 10-11am. $2
Mind Games 11am-12noon. $2
Community Lunch 12.30-2pm $6
Southern Otways Food Co-op 3-6pm.
FRIDAY (SCHOOL TERM)
Diploma/Cert IV Visual Arts 10am-4pm. Vacancies are still available - get in quick.

COMING UP
LAST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH THIS SUNDAY 22 FEB
FORREST MUSIC & PIZZA ARVO usually 2pm but NEW TIME this week only 5.30pm Bring an instrument or come & enjoy the vibes. BYO pizza to cook or buy one from us. Wood oven will be hot (weather permitting!)
TUESDAY 24 FEB - 7PM Community Fire Guard Summer’s not over yet - are you ready? Learn what you need to know to be ahead of the game for next year.
SAVE THE DATE - DETAILS TO COME APRIL 5 EASTER SUNDAY MADE & FOUND MARKET & EGG HUNT Quality ‘made and found’ stallholders wanted
MAY 16-18 BLUEGRASS JAM CAMP
THE NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE WILL BE CLOSED ON DAYS OF TOTAL FIRE BAN

For more information please contact Gillian Brew
T: 5236 6591 Email: forrest.nh@gmail.com

Office Hours: Mon 10-5pm & Thur 10-6pm

Uniforms & Lost Property

This last week the lost property box has been cleaned out & you may find your children bringing home some old items of uniform! The items that have been sent home are the items that have been clearly labelled—There are plenty of items still in the box that are not labelled so please, if you have a spare couple of minutes and you are at the school, poke through the box & take home any uniform that belongs to your child.

Additionally, the lost property box is full of non-uniform items. Please identify any that belong to your child and take it home. At the end of the month the unclaimed clothing will be taken from the lost property box and utilised for the ‘Fire Safety’ clothing box.

Friday Bike Ride & Coffee
Meet @ the school 9.15am
Contact: Sarah Schuhmann 5236-6125
OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

South West Cheer
Be part of Australia’s fastest growing sport
Allstar Cheerleading
Colac & Warrnambool
Cheer | Stunting | Pom | Hip Hop | Acro

Competitive & Recreational Teams
5 - 25yrs

Contact us for 2015 info!

Gym Owner: Kirralea Badham
Accredited and award winning cheer & dance coaches

0417557422
www.southwestcheergym.com.au
FORREST SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTIONS 2015

It’s time for our School Council Elections and we are now calling for nominations from interested persons. Nominations close at 4.00pm next Wednesday 25th February.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all School Council members for the great job they have done over last year ensuring the Forrest Learning Centre continues to be a safe, secure and engaging place for all our children.

This year we see the following members retiring from their positions:

- Parent Representatives
  - Paul Troughton
  - Andrew Broomfield
  - Peter Ashton

- Teacher representatives
  - Craig Donahoo

- Co-opted Members
  - Vacant (12 months) 2 positions

Retiring eligible members can renominate for a second term.

I encourage everyone to think about taking part on School Council to fill our three parent and two Co-opted member positions. (Note the Co-opted members are not elected to school council but selected by the new school council once it is formed. School council is interested in hearing from anyone in the community who may be interested in being co-opted.)

**How can you become involved?**

The most obvious way is to vote in the elections, which are held in Term 1 each year. However, ballots are only held if more people nominate as candidates than there are positions vacant.

In view of this, you might seriously consider

- standing for election as a member of the school council.
- encouraging another person to stand for election.

**Do I need special experience to be on school council?**

No. What you do need is an interest in your child's school and the desire to work in partnership with others to help shape the school’s future.

**What do you need to do to stand for election?**

If you decide to stand for election, you can arrange for someone to nominate you as a candidate or you can nominate yourself in the Parent Category.

Once the nomination form *(Obtained from the school office)* is completed, return it to the principal by 4.00pm on Wednesday 25th February 2015. On Thursday 26th Feb, a list of nominations will be published. If there are more nominations received than there are vacancies on council, a ballot will be conducted during the week after the call for nominations has closed.