PRINCIPAL’S NEWS

Information BBQ Evening
It was great to have so many parents and students attend last Monday evening. It is hoped you found the evening informative and enjoyable. The unveiling of a special plaque to acknowledge the excellent works of Evans Excavating was pleasing also. The barbecue was yummy too! Parents unable to attend are invited to contact class teachers to obtain the useful handouts asap.

Clean Up Schools Event
On Friday we plan to have a rubbish pick up from 1.45pm until 2.30pm. This event will start at the school flagpole. Areas to be included in the clean up are the school playground, boundary fences, school car park, and possibly the school public hall zone if time permits. Interested volunteers are most welcome. Children are asked to bring a pair of gloves and 1 supermarket bag each please. This will assist with the “emu bobbing”.

School Council Elections
Nominations for the three 2015/6 School Council parent positions close at 4pm today. More news about the school council will be in next week’s newsletter.

Pre School News
At the AGM of the Preschool held last Friday, Sarah Schuhmann was re-elected President and Kaz Standish was re-elected as Secretary for a further 12 months. Beccy Foster and Caralyn Gragic were elected as committee members. Congratulations and thank you from the Forrest Early Years Learning Centre Community.

What I Want To Be Fun Activity
Our Grade 6 students have decided to hold a “What I Want To Be” Fun Activity Day next Friday Morning March 6th. All children are invited to dress up to help celebrate this fun activity. Gold coin donation is requested. For more info please check out news later in this bulletin!

Education Maintenance Allowance
Please be reminded that EMA is not available this year as a result of a change in federal government policy.

Relay for Life
Forrest Learning Centre has been invited to join the Forrest & District Lions Club team at the Relay for Life event in Colac next weekend. It starts at 2.45pm next Saturday February 28. Our time slot is 3pm until 5pm. Craig and I need as many helpers as possible to join the FLC walking team. If interested please let one of us know. Sponsors are most welcome too!

Hoping you enjoy the last few days of summer!
This week we have been studying bees during Science lessons. We made model bees and flowers to represent how bees pollinate flowers. We will be studying deeper and deeper into flowers and bees.

On Friday we cleaned out the old concrete pipe and we built up our team work skills. First we pulled out all the logs that were in the pipe and then we swept all the leaves out of it. Then we used our best efforts to haul wheelbarrows full of mulch over to the pipe. We spread the mulch on the ground around the pipe so when it rains the mulch stops the ground from getting muddy.

At lunchtime some students were playing around when Britt found this leaf bug crawling up her leg. She was surprised but luckily she was used to creepy crawlies so she let it crawl around on her hands. When the bell rang Britt placed the leaf bug back in its own environment.

Helping Hands

Elkin for getting an ice pack for someone in need.

Reuben for putting down the chairs in the junior room.
The Magical World Under The Well
by Alicia Pain (Year 4)

It all started like any other day, my job was to collect water from the well for my mother. As I leave the house I can smell the freshness of a new day. I can feel my boots sinking slightly, with every step I take. I walk for a few minutes and the well appears in the distance, I keep walking and I arrive at the well. I attached my bucket to the rope, I was unaware that the rope was frayed. As the bucket started to descend into the well I realised that the rope was starting to give way. Suddenly the rope snaps, I lunge for the bucket. In my haste I overbalance and fall in. But instead of water being there, I fall headfirst into a pile of damp, spongy moss.

I look around and feel very dizzy. I wonder where I am. A couple of minutes past. I have recovered sufficiently to notice a tunnel. I think to myself that this tunnel might take me back to the surface, so I start walking.

I finally get to the end of the tunnel, I am shocked to what I can see. I take a step and my boot sinks slightly into the damp earth, it’s like I am at home.

I can smell decomposing leaves as I enter. I feel a connection from home to where I am. I look around at the scene in front of me it’s like an underground oasis. I can hear faint sounds of birds above, the wind is rustling and the wind is turning.

I feel content and I seek something in the water. My attention draws me to the edge a stream. I sit there gazing into the crystal clear blue water, I dip my fingers in and I feel the coolness against my skin.

My mind wonders, I am brought back to the present by the feeling of the water up against my wrist. The water is changing colour. It is turning dark and sinister. I started panicking and became extremely worried. The water is now up to my thighs! I am so freaked out. I swim through the tunnel and I return to the mossy pile.

I DON’T KNOW WHAT TO DO!

The creepy water is now up to my shoulder height.

I shut my eyes and breathe. I lay down on my back as I rise to the top with the water. As I float towards the sunlight, I can feel my body scraping on the wet mossy rocks on the inside of the well.

I climb out of the well and walk away. I feel like I’m dreaming. Is this all real?

SENIOR ROOM NEWS

JUNIOR ROOM: This week’s student of the week goes to Cassia Vermeend-Jones. Cassia is to be congratulated for concentrating on her work and persevering to complete her learning tasks. Magnificent!

SENIOR ROOM: The student of the week is Tim Macdonald for his excellent attention to detail in all of his school work. Also for his valuable contributions to group discussions.
JUNIOR ROOM NEWS

This Week

Parent Welcome Night and Information Session

Thank you to all the parents who were able to come along on Tuesday evening. It was wonderful to have the opportunity to speak with you about some of the learning programs, and ways of learning, in the Junior room. I will send out term outlines of the Targeting Maths and Sound waves programs in the coming week. They will give you an understanding of what your child is learning and enable you to better support them at home.

Forrest Kids Go Bush

On Tuesday we managed to cover most of the formal learning programs adopted in the Junior room. When your child applies their knowledge, to 'real life' situations, their acquired knowledge gains greater meaning. Hands-on, and cooperative learning activities, provide the opportunity for students to test and build on their knowledge and theories. This is particularly evident in the Forrest Kids Go Bush program.

The benefits of unstructured outdoor ‘play’ that FKGB facilitates....

Children participating in FKGB organise their own activities. Teachers primarily observe but offer advice, if asked, encouragement, if required, and ensure the children are behaving in a way that minimises risk. What I love about the program is my observations of:

- The children's approach to problem solving
- The negotiation required to overcome problems and working together to achieve common goals
- Negotiation of roles during imaginative play and the rules of made up games
- Children challenging themselves and achieving their goals, often overcoming physical fears (getting dirty, heights) and the fear of failing in front of their peers (not getting it right the first time – climbing along the rope 'bridge').
- Persistence – if one way doesn't work they think of other approaches to achieve their goal
- Inclusivity - children, include others – even kinder kids, in their activities
- Developing responsibility and leadership skills – looking after tools and equipment. Working together to pack away the tools and equipment – whether they used it or not.

Learning Focus

Spelling

Sound waves: Preps: Sounds for ‘j’, ‘l’, ‘m’and ‘n’. Year 1 & Year 2: ‘k’

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.

Maths: Addition

Thanks

Thanks to Angela Pugh for offering her help on a Tuesday morning. The children enjoyed reading to her and we are looking forward to her return next Tuesday!

Miss Mac
## CHILDCARE AND AWESOME AFTERS (OSHC)

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TIMES</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9:00–10:45</td>
<td>Outside Activities *</td>
<td>Outside Activities *</td>
<td>Outside Activities* Pre-School</td>
<td>Pre-School (3 and 4 year olds)</td>
<td>Pre-School (3 and 4 year olds)</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:45–11:15</td>
<td>Snack and Chat</td>
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<td>FORREST KIDS GO BUSH!</td>
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<tr>
<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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<tr>
<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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<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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<td>3:30–4:00</td>
<td>Healthy SNACK</td>
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<tr>
<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>
</tr>
<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

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**CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA DAY - THIS SUNDAY**

2nd Colac Sea Scout Group invite you to our Clean Up Australia Day event this Sunday at the Lake Colac Foreshore.  
We will be meeting at the 2nd Colac Sea Scout Hall, down near the Yacht Club from 10:30am until midday this Sunday.  
Please wear suitable clothing and footwear, as well as a pair of gloves. 
More information can be found on the 2nd Colac Sea Scout Group Facebook page or contact Jonathan on 0439 329 713.

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**SUPER SCIENCE FACT**

*Only humans sleep on their backs.*
**Fun and Games**

The Pre-school children have all been very happy doing lots of activities. Some of the things they have been doing are: paintings, playing with play-dough, puzzles, Lego, stories, singing, dancing, musical statues, outdoor play, bush play, playing in the school playground and playing with board games. One of the benefits of having a small group is that it’s possible to play board games together. All of the children like to play *The Shopping List* and *The Lunchbox*, and in both games they have to wait and take turns, and try to remember where the right pieces were. Last week we also had a visit from a Koala, which sat high up in the big tree next to the school playground.

**Fire Safety**

Can all families please send a bag of fire-safe clothes to the Centre. These clothes are going to protect your child from radiant heat in case of a bush fire. The bag should have a pair of long pants, a long sleeved T-shirt, socks and a scarf. The material should be cotton or wool only, no synthetics. We will keep the bags in a box at the Centre, and hopefully they will never have to be used.

**Colac Oral Screening Program**

Next Thursday, March 5, is the first visit from the Dentist. She will do a simple check of the children’s teeth and give all the parents a written report. The children usually get a small bag with a few different things in it after the examination. I will tell the children about the visit on the Wednesday before so that they know what is going to happen. Please talk about it at home as well. Kaz will be relieving for me on the day of the visit as I’m doing a course in *Positive Parenting* that day.

**Shade Sail**

The shade sail is up and it looks great. Thank you to Craig Donahoo and Richard Schuhmann for digging the holes for the poles during summer. It helped us save money.

Lena Collopy

Pre-school Teacher

**DATES TO REMEMBER**

Thu 5/3, 10:00 AM, Colac Dental Health visit for oral screening.
OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Fundraising News**

Anyone with any time to spare on **Saturday 21st March**, please consider volunteering to help with a school fundraiser at the Otway Odyssey mountain bike event. **ALL VOLUNTEERS WELCOME & APPRECIATED!!!!!!!!!**

The school is hoping to be able to use Matt Bradshaw’s smoothie bikes to blend fruit, milk & ice to make delicious smoothies to sell down at the Forrest Recreation Reserve. Ideally I am looking for 2 parents to assist with setting up the marquee & bikes on the Friday night, then 4-6 parents to help ride the bikes and make the smoothies on the Saturday, then 2 parents to help pack it all away & transport the equipment back to Forrest on the Saturday evening. If you can help, please let me know!!

Sarah Lane 5236-6172 0421 103 042 sjlane@swarh.vic.gov.au

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**Forrest & District Neighbourhood House Program February 2015**

- **REGULAR ACTIVITIES AT THE FORREST HALL** (unless indicated otherwise)
  - **MEDITATION** 6.30-7.30pm with Sue Fyddman
  - **BINGO** 1-3pm, $2 (first Monday of the month)
  - **COFFEE FILLEWS** Class 11am
  - **BIKING CHALLENGE** 12.30-2pm $6

- **WEDNESDAY** Tai Chi 6.30-8pm Scotia Turn $10/$6 conc.

- **THURSDAY**
  - **Gentle Exercise Class** 10-11am, $2
  - **Mini Games** 11am-12noon, $2
  - **Community Lunch** 12.30-2pm at the Forrest Recreation Reserve

- **FRIDAY**
  - **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 any 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 Sumner'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**
    - **EASTER SUNDAY MADE & FOUND MARKET & EGG HUNT**
  - **MAY 16-18** **BLUEGRASS JAM CAMP**

**THE NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE WILL BE CLOSED ON DAYS OF TOTAL FIRE禁**
OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

12 WEEK FUNDAMENTALS OF ROLLER DERBY

Do you want to join The OTWAY DERBY DOLLS but don’t know where to start? Why not sign up for our 12 week skating fundamentals course. We will teach you all the basic skating skills needed for the sport of roller derby.

This course is open to anybody 16 and over!

No experience necessary!

When? Monday nights from 23rd Feb for 12 weeks

Time? 6:30 - 8:30pm

Where? Winchelsea Leisure Time Centre

Gosney St, Winchelsea

Cost? $130 (inc insurance)

for more info/register: otwayderbydolls@gmail.com

No skates or pads? No worries! email odcoaches@gmail.com and we will make sure we have some available for you to use.

DROP IN SESSIONS @ THE YOUTH HEALTH HUB

MONDAY’S & WEDNESDAY’S

From 3:45 to 5pm

Come an hang out in the building

FREE WIFI & FREE FOOD

THURSDAY’S JAM SESSION

From 3:45 to 5pm

Bring along your instrument and jam along with others or just come to listen

Meat new people

Make new friends

Watch TV

Listen to music

Have some food

Play some games

Laptop & Ipad available

For further details please contact

Emma Warton, Youth Development Worker

phone: 0400 131 697

Or find us on Facebook YHHCOLAC

Quality Care Close to Home