PRINCIPAL’S NEWS
WELCOME BACK
We have just successfully completed our first week of the 2016 school year. It has been great to see our students return with happy smiles and even happier stories about their holiday experiences. Term 1 will be a busy term, maybe even busier than usual. Please do not hesitate to contact the school if unsure on any school matter that comes home with your son/daughter. Wednesdays will be newsletter days and we will endeavour to keep you informed of all things happening at the Primary School & Early Years Centre as best we can. Sarah is in the office on Mondays through to Thursdays from 8.30am until 3.45 pm. On Fridays, the office is unattended however I am available to assist you as best I can on these days. Our Welcome Information Evening is planned for Monday Feb 22nd beginning at 5.45pm at the school/centre. Please put this important date in your busy schedule and we hope to see you there.

HOLIDAY NEWS
Thanks to our hard working team of volunteers who removed the Black Wattle trees which were becoming a safety concern. You did a great job. With the recent disastrous Wye River Fires happening so near to Forrest and District, work has been completed at the school/centre to make our place an even safer place for all our children and staff. A review of our Emergency Management Plan has also occurred in consultation with the Education Department. The safety of your children is our first priority at all times. You will be informed of our plans in advance (to the best of our ability) on Code Red, Extreme and Severe Rating Days Please let us know if you changed contact details recently.

EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES
Information and forms have been sent home about 1) Swimming Lessons at Blue water, 2) Camps for Gr 3―6 and 3) the 2016 Sporting Schools Program. We hope you will support these special fun programs. PE / Health sessions will be held on Tuesdays for Grade F―2 and on Wednesdays for Gr 3―6. This term in preparation for the Polwarth Athletic Sports we will also be conducting athletics practise for all our students (F-6) on Wednesdays at 10am. Appropriate footwear on Tuesdays and Wednesdays is recommended.

MUSIC PROGRAM
Private Instrumental Music Lessons are once again being offered this year. Johanna Latham (0409008818)piano lessons on Mondays, Louise Brown (0407418481) Cello / Singing Lessons on Wednesdays and Timothy Sims (0410097796)guitar on Fridays. Please contact these private teachers directly with any enquiries.

UNWANTED FURNITURE
We have some unwanted furniture needing a “new” home. Please make an offer if interested to Sarah in the office on/before Feb 29th. Thanks

CONGRATULATIONS
One of our priorities was to reduce the number of UNEXPLAINED STUDENT ABSENCES in 2015. We not only reduced unexplained absences but exceeded our goal by a huge amount! (81%) In 2014 unexplained absences totalled 11.52 days per student. In 2015 that figure was 6.35 days. Thanks to all parents for your fantastic support in informing the school about why your child is away from school/centre. We greatly appreciate your ongoing support.

PRINCIPAL: Mr Darryl Harty
Primary School
Pre-School
Child Care
Out of School Hours Care

Grant Street, Forrest VIC 3236
ABN 81 431 426 412
P: (03) 5236 6393
F: (03) 5236 6470
E: forrest.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au
Preschool : Ph: (03) 52366 540

UPCOMING EVENTS
FEBRUARY
3,10,17,24 Recharge Days for Preps
12th — Swimming No 1
15th — SSP Tennis begins
15th — SC Meeting @ 6.30pm
19th—Swimming No 2
20th—Smoothie Bikes Fundraising— Otway Odyssey
22nd—Welcome Evening @ 5.45pm
26th — Swimming No. 3

MARCH
2-4 — Camp for Gr 3-6
9th — Polwarth Aths Sports @AlvieTBC
14th — Labour Day Holiday
11th—Swimming No 4
18th—Swimming No 5
21st—SC Meeting @ 6.30pm
24th — Last Day of Term 2.30pm finish

APRIL
11th First Day of Term 2
What a fabulous start to the school year! The Foundation students and Noah (new to Grade 2) have been warmly welcomed by the Grade 1 and 2 students. They are having plenty of fun in the classroom and in the playground. It has been lovely to work with the students this week and come up with our classroom agreements together.

I will send home a copy for parents later in the week. We have also been completing our Holiday Memory Boxes. They look wonderful—all very individual and I think the students are very proud of them. They have a short piece of Holiday writing inside them. They will go home tomorrow.

It is our first session of Forrest Kids Go Bush tomorrow (Thursday) so if you could pack the usual wet weather gear and gumboots that would be great.

Tie dyeing cushions for the book corner today—come and check out the results next week!

Feel free to contact me on 5236 6393 if you have any questions or suggestions,

Kaz Standish
(Junior Room teacher)

LEARNING EFFORT: Reuben Freddi—Excellent holiday writing and his creative approach to his Memory Box!

LEARNING BEHAVIOUR: Foundation Students—Ellen Standish, John Seebeck and Lachlan Crabbe—Great beginnings!
LEARNING EFFORT: Braeden Kurzman—For completing all of his set tasks on time, concentrating and doing his best work.

LEARNING BEHAVIOUR: Indigo Ashton—For her high level of listening skills. Indigo has engaged very constructively in class activities, thinking clearly and critically during discussions and making valuable contributions.

Welcome Back:
Our Garden is full of life! We have been enjoying sweet plums, tart apples, Nashi’s sweet tomatoes and berries. Zucchinis are being picked daily and ideas for recipes and hints that we should really be doing some cooking are become louder. The eggplants, corn and pumpkins will make for good harvest soon. We will have an abundance of tomatoes soon, so send in your recipes for tomatoes! Even better come and show us how to make a pickle, a relish, lasagne or tomato sauce! We have all been enjoying eating raw Purslane (Portulaca oleracea). This is an extremely nutritious plant with very high levels of plant based Omega 3 fatty acids, which we know is great for brain development... so keep eating it kids... Also a great source of vitamin A!

The Forrest and District Lions Club sponsored three children from our class to go to the Licola Wilderness Village Camp this summer. Braeden, Elkin and Alicia say they had a wonderful time over a period of 5 days in Early February. They all really enjoyed, canoeing, swimming, the ‘Leap of Faith’, cooking, the giant swing, woodwork, trampolines, mini-golf and more. Thanks to Bob Brooks and the Lions Club for working with our school to give the chance for these children to attend.
**CHILDCARE & OUT OF SCHOOL HOURS CARE**

Special welcome to Vicki Garner who joins our Early Years Centre Team. Vicki replaces Caralyn who is now on Family Leave.

For Child Care or Out of School Hours Care bookings please call: Vicki on 0427 366 393 or 52 366 393. Casual bookings available.

**OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS**

_Braeden, Alicia and Elkin attended the LIONS CLUB Licola Camp during the school holidays and had a fantastic time, here’s what they had to say:_

“I enjoyed spending time with new friends and just loved the giant swing” Braeden

“I had a great time and made many new friends” Elkin

“I loved the camp and highly recommend that other children go” Alicia

_Did you know?_ The township of Licola is owned entirely by the Lions Clubs of Victoria and Southern New South Wales and is the only privately owned town in Victoria and the only one not on mains power. The town generates its own power, pumps, and treats its own water and is responsible for its waste management.

**School Assembly Invitation**

This year school assemblies will be held on **Fridays at 3.15pm**. Parents, grandparents and interested persons are most welcome to join us at the undercover area near the flagpole to witness the sharing of news, presentations and other important announcements. During terms 2, 3, & 4 we will be holding special monthly assemblies on Fridays beginning at 3pm where students will be performing items of interest e.g. musical pieces/ poetry recitals etc., in addition to news, presentations & announcements. Dates for the special assemblies are planned for April 29, May 27, July 29, Aug 26, Oct 28, Nov 25. Stay tuned for more details!

**PRE LOVED FURNITURE**

_IN FAIR CONDITION_  
POP INTO THE SCHOOL OFFICE & MAKE AN OFFER!!!!!
OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Fundraising News

“VOLUNTEERS NEEDED”

Hope every family had a wonderful break over the school holiday but now school has returned it’s time to organise our next fundraiser.

The school will be running the “Smoothie Bike Fundraiser” again like last year at the Forrest Giant Odyssey mountain bike marathon held on Saturday 20th February 2016. So I’m calling out for volunteers to help out on the day {ride bikes, collect money, cut up fruit, etc.} plus help transport the bikes and set up the site at the Forrest footy oval the night before.

Kids aged 10 and above are welcome to come down on the day and ride the bikes. Age limit applies this year due to the health & hygiene regulations. All kids will be advised to wear gloves, use hand sanitizer etc.

As a small school community, fundraising can be a difficult but with the mountain bike events at our door step it is a wonderful opportunity to raise extra funds for our growing school. We would appreciate if every family could help out in some way. Our upcoming swimming program will be subsidised with fundraising monies from this event.

So since we have less than 3 weeks till the event can you please contact Robyn ASAP {details below} so I can organize a roster.

Thank you
Robyn Ferguson

Home phone no: 03-52366282, Mobile: 0439366282
Email: lucrob1@bigpond.com.au

Produce currently available:
Apples, Plums, Zucchinis, Silverbeet & a variety of herbs.

Coming soon: Tomatoes
Donations welcome, pop in and grab your produce today!
OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Group Parent Education Events for the Barwon South Western Region Term 1, 2016

Geelong Region

Positive Parenting Program - Lara
For Parents of children aged 2-6 years. Groups run for four weeks, followed by up to two weekly telephone sessions.

Commmencing: Tuesday 16th February
Time: 6.30pm – 8.30pm
Location: Lara Lake Kindergarten
Cost: $20 or $6.50 conc.
Contact: Regional Parenting Service
Ph: 5272 4817

Toddlers Series
A series of talks for parents on issues relating to toddlers aged between 18 months and 2 1/2 years.

Bedtime Behaviour
Wednesday Date TBC
Behaviour
Wednesday Date TBC
Toilet Training & Food
Wednesday Date TBC
Time: 9.30-11.30 am
Location: Salvation Army
Ph: 5272 4817
Cost: Gold Coin Donation LIMITED PLACES

Programs being Conducted By

Bringing Up Great Kids - Geelong
The Bringing Up Great Kids program is a six-week program for parents of children aged 5-12 yrs which aims to equip parents with the skills to enhance their patterns of communication with their children, promote more respectful interactions and encourage the development of children's positive self identity.

Commmencing: Thursday 10th February
Time: 10am-2pm
Location: Grovedale Child & Family Centre, Heyers Rd
Contact: Regional Parenting Service
Ph: 5272 4817

Positive Parenting Program - Bellarine
For Parents of children aged 2-5 years. Groups run for four weeks, followed by up to two weekly telephone sessions.

Commmencing: Thursday 10th February
Time: 10am-2pm
Location: Boorol Centre, Ocean Grove
Cost: $20 or $6.50 Conc.
Contact: Regional Parenting Service
Ph: 5272 4817

Tuning into Kids

Tuning into Kids is a six session parenting program to help children learn to understand and regulate their emotions which in turn leads to becoming more resilient.

Commmencing: Thursday 10th February
Time: 7.00pm – 9.00pm
Location: Arston, 245-249 Pakington St, Newhaven
Contact: Regional Parenting Service
Ph: 5272 4817

Bringing Up Great Kids - Northern Bay Family Centre
The Bringing Up Great Kids program is a six-week program for parents of children aged 5-12 yrs which aims to equip parents with the skills to enhance their patterns of communication with their children, promote more respectful interactions and encourage the development of children's positive self identity.

Commmencing: Wednesday 17th February
Time: 9.30-11.30 am
Location: Northern Bay Family Centre
Contact: Regional Parenting Service
Ph: 5272 4817 Cost: $20 or $6.50 conc.

Building Connections
A 3 hour seminar to help separated parents have healthy & strong relationships with their children. Learn more about the impact of separation and conflict on children; ways of communicating with the other parent; setting goals for future parenting & support services available to you.

Date: Time:
Wed 10th Feb 5.00pm – 8.00pm
Thurs 17th March 9.30am – 12.30pm
Location: Bellarine Community Support, 16 Ballarat Road, Hamlyn Heights
Contact: Bellarine Community Support
Ph: 5278 8122 Cost: FREE

Parenting after Separation
Parenting after Separation is a 5-week program designed to support separated parents and their children. This is not a group to teach parents how to parent, but rather how to adapt to separated parenting and manage challenges such as parenting from a distance, conflict with an ex-partner and the children's reactions and responses. The group allows plenty of time for questions and discussion.

Date: Time:
Fit 26th Feb 5:00 – 9:00pm
Wed 23rd March 9:30am – 12:30pm
Location: Family Relationship Centre, 27-41 Myth Street, Geelong
Contact: Family Relationship Centre
Ph: 5246 5600

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