Principal’s News
The fire season is fast approaching and it is timely to remember the Centre’s procedures in regards to **Code Red Days**. On Code Red Days the centre will be closed and no services will operate. The CFA’s decision to declare a Code Red Day can be taken up to 4 days beforehand, but will be confirmed no later than midday the day before. Once the decision is made it will not change regardless of changes to the weather forecast. On declared Code Red Days, letters will be sent home at the earliest possible time. The centre has registered as a **KONNECTIV** centre which means we will be able to inform registered users by text message of any emergencies like upcoming Code Red Days. This app is free to all registered users. Please read how to register later in this newsletter or see Darryl for more details.

Last week, the centre practiced it’s evacuation drill with everyone including Preschoolers involved. The drill had pleasing results and was completed in an orderly efficient manner. Our next drill will be a Lockdown procedure. Date to be confirmed. This drill is used when an external and immediate danger is identified and its is determined that the students should be secure inside the school’s senior room for their own safety.

The **Kinder Transition Program** begins next Tuesday November 25th. The times are 9.00am till 1.00pm. Miss Mac has lots of fun things planned for our next year’s Prep students. An enrolment pack will be provided on this day.

Two **upcoming Working Bees** are planned one inside and the other outside. One on **SUNDAY DECEMBER 14th** beginning at 10am to trim/prune trees, check spouts for leaves and weeds and tidy garden areas. Free DRINKS will be provided and School Council has decided to make trees along the EAST boundary a focus. An area needing lots of TLC. The second working bee is in the Junior (Gr P—2) Storage Room. This area has major works planned to improve this learning space during the upcoming school holidays. Our FANTASTIC costumes are going to be relocated to a new home. This working bee is planned for **FRIDAY DECEMBER 19** to shift and clean up. It will start at 9am and conclude with a special morning tea at 11am. If you can help with either / both working bees would be great! Please let Darryl/your child’s teacher know if you can help and thanks for considering.

Thank you to everyone who participated in last week’s Fun Friday **Scabies** Event. Your support was greatly appreciated. The school nurse informed us that Scabies is highly contagious and families confronted with this unwelcome problem need to be vigilant.

Our Mountain Bikers as part of the **Active Afters program** went off site for some fun in the local area last Monday. The Forrest Festival on November 29 & 30 has opportunities for our students to demonstrate some of their biking skills on the Sunday. Check out more details later in this newsletter. Active Afters is planning another off site exercise on **DECEMBER 8th** (the last of Active Afters). More info to follow from Coordinator Craig.

Hope you enjoy the remainder of this week
Darryl Harty
Congratulations!

Charles Seebeck has achieved 150 nights reading and will celebrate with a free lunch order this Thursday. Cassia enjoyed her milk shake last week for recording 100 nights of reading, an excellent effort. Magic words certificates awarded this week: Jordi Roberts – Golden words; Luca Sprunt – Red words; William Standish – Green words and Henry Seebeck – Lime words. Well done to these students for achieving their goals.

Budding Authors

This week we have been continuing our writing focus on narratives. The students have been so thoroughly engaged that making them stop to eat their lunch, or pack up for the day, has been a challenge. The gentle reminder of their learning goals is certainly helping to improve the quality of their work.

The Year 1 and Year 2 students completed their stories for the Preps, and these are now laminated and part of our reading ‘library’. The illustrations that accompany their stories are just beautiful. The students want to take a copy home so I will photocopy them and send them home today. Most Year 1 and 2 students have typed and illustrated their ‘Disastrous party’ stories and the whole class have moved on to ‘A Day at the Beach’.

Writing and ICT

The Preps were asked to draw three illustrations to represent the beginning, middle and end of their ‘beach’ story. They then put on their author’s hat and wrote sentences to accompany their drawings. Following this, they have been learning to open a word document, type up their writing and save the document into their folder. Some have also started experimenting with borders, fonts and colours. After I have done a bit of cutting and pasting – the sort with scissors and glue, their stories will also become part of our ‘library’.

Classroom news - Focus Topics


Reading – Whole Class: Relating the text to themselves; Comparing characters.

Writing – Narratives. The focus varies with each student but generally….

Preps Focus: Letter formation; Capital letters & full stops. Year 1 Focus: Spelling known words correctly. Year 2 Focus: Paragraphs; Using interesting words.

Spelling – Sound waves – Preps ‘ar’ & ‘ir, ur’ Year 1/2 Unit 32 ‘ch/tch’ & ‘sh’

Prep Transition Days – 6 sleeps to go!

Tuesday November 25th from 9.00am – 1.00pm
Tuesday December 2nd from 9.00am – 1.30pm
Tuesday December 9th from 9.00am – 2.00pm

The day will begin with a ‘School’ tour, followed by an introduction to our classroom.

Each Tuesday the students have ‘Show and Share’. This is an opportunity for students to speak in front of the class and for other students to listen and ask questions or make insightful comments. While the Kinder students will not be expected to participate they should bring something from home, - their favourite teddy, a toy or book they love, - it could be as simple as a blue crayon, because that is their favourite colour. Should they chose to they will have something to talk about, either during the ‘Show and Share’ lesson, or informally during their time at school.

Lost – Jordi came home from swimming wearing a size 14 school top. His top is named. Did anyone come home wearing a top that seemed a bit too small? Please check.

Miss Mac—Junior Room Teacher

Helping Hands Week 7

Aphrodite for walking the track with a child needing help.
Braedon for helping a fellow student complete his monitor Job.
**SENIOR ROOM NEWS**

**Science:** Over the last couple of weeks we have been undertaking some assessments to ascertain the learning that has occurred in science this year. The data is being calculated both to assist us in planning learning in Science and to help us evaluate the effectiveness of the program. In the Senior Classroom 4 students undertake specific tasks based on their year level.

The grade 3’s engaged in observational drawing, which assessed their ability to observe carefully, record observations in a variety of ways with a range of foci;

The Grade 4’s undertook a dissolving sugar investigation, where they needed to work out which type of sugar dissolved the quickest. The task required them to design and carry out an investigation in small groups identifying and controlling variables;

The Grade 5’s were required to report on a soap powder investigation. This task was designed to assess the students ability to process and evaluate the data from a fair test investigation, evaluating what is needed to make a test fair, and communicating their findings and reflections.

The Grade 6’s investigated, ‘Which paper towel is best at observing water?’ This task was designed to assess the student’s ability to plan a controlled investigation to answer a scientific question and process and evaluate the data to develop explanations. It covered 5 enquiry skills.

Overall children were very engaged and were able to show us that they had developed a range of scientific skills. Included here are some photos of the Grade 6 undertaking their task.

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**JUNIOR ROOM:** Cassia Jones-Vermeend. Cassia has put in a solid effort to focus on her learning goals. Congratulations Cassia on starting your work quickly and working without being distracted. You have finished some excellent work this week. Well Done!

**SENIOR ROOM:** This week’s Student of the Week is Zac Kurzman for his constant support of maintaining excellent learning behaviours in our classroom and offering to help out to get things done.
**PRE SCHOOL NEWS**

**Fire Drill**

Last Wednesday, the Pre-school and the Child Care had a fire drill. Everything went well, the children walked in a calm manner, holding onto the evacuation rope. In addition to the fire drill, last week’s goal was to learn to ring 000 and to practise saying where you live. This wasn’t easy for the children; only one child knew her full address. Most of them knew what area they lived in, but not the name of the street. Some of the children have really long numbers and street names, so it’s not that easy for them to remember. It’s a good idea for you as parents to talk about these things. Children learn from everything they do, for example driving in the car, or going shopping are great opportunities for children to learn things like: road signs, names of different areas, car types, colours, numbers, and quantities, names of different vegetables and so on.

**Bush Program**

Please remember that the children still need their overalls and gumboots for the Bush Program. Also make sure they have long pants underneath in case we take the overalls off. The children need to wear long pants (old ones that can get dirty) to stay protected from prickly bushes and twigs.

The children are very interested in making things, using hammers, nails, saws and drills at the moment. Unfortunately we have almost run out of bits of wood for them to use. We would happily accept any timber off-cuts if you have any to spare.

**Advent Calendar**

This year, I have for the first time, bought an Advent Calendar for the children to open every day in December until we finish. It has chocolate behind each number and every child would get approximately three pieces of chocolate through December. Please let me know if you don’t agree with the Advent Calendar and I won’t use it.

**Documenting the day**

In addition to the Program plan, I’m trying out a new way to document what’s happening during the session. I am using a big notebook to write down things we do as the day progresses. I will leave the notebook at the table next to the sign-in book for you to look at. Of course it’s not possible to capture everything that’s going on, but I’m hoping it will give you, as a parent, more of an idea of what we are doing during the day. It would be great to get some feedback, as this is just a trial at the moment.

**Transition to School**

Don’t forget that the first school visit is on **Tuesday 25/11**. The transition days have been organised by Miss Mac so the children can get a chance to familiarise themselves with the classroom and some of the routines before they start school next year.

Lena Collopy
Pre-school Teacher

**DATES TO REMEMBER**

- **Fri 05/12**  Committee Meeting, 6:30 PM at the Guest House.
- **Thu 18/12**  Christmas Break-up Party and Clean-up of the Pre-school. Last day for the Pre-school.
The Early Learning Centre is asking parents to collect recyclables (cardboard tubes and small boxes etc.) to be used for craft. Please leave at the centre.

Thanks, Teresa

### CHILDCARE AND AWESOME AFTERS (OSHC)

#### Cake Competition

The Cake Boxes are a fundraising initiative for the ‘Marshmallows’ – a Deans Marsh 9-12 year old youth group. They are raising money to pay for the activities on their wish list. The Cake boxes cost $2.00 and full instructions are inside. Cakes need to be delivered to the Deans Marsh market by 9.30am, Sunday 23rd November. There are 2 categories- Student and Adult. 1st Prize in each section is weekend accommodation in St Kilda. Happy Baking!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TIMES</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9:00– 10:45</td>
<td>Outside Activities *</td>
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<td>Outside Activities*</td>
<td>Pre-School</td>
<td>Pre-School (3 and 4 year olds)</td>
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<td>Pre-School</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>
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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, 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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<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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</tbody>
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* Outside Activities will be held providing weather is suitable
Forrest Primary School is going mobile!

Get notices, news and events sent straight to your smartphone

Add events to your calendar and set reminders

Be alerted to new or changed information

Konnective is a mobile app solution that will allow us to communicate with you, our parents, straight to your smartphone. We will be sending news, events, photos and more so that you can be even more connected with your children’s activities and events at the school. We plan to use Konnective as one of the ways to communicate Code Red Days to our school community if/when needed.

Using the Konnective app, you can add events directly to your phone's calendar, set reminders for things you need to do and receive important alerts (similar to a text message) as soon as they are released.

Via the app, we can send communication to specific grade levels, so you will receive information specific to your child’s grade as well as general news, events and updates that will go to everyone. This will extend and enhance our existing communications (eg. Newsletter, website).

For those without a smartphone there is a web mobile version as well as a website version.

To be invited to join Konnective, please provide your email address and name to the school by FRIDAY NOVEMBER 28th.

If you have already supplied your email address to the school but do not wish your email address to be included in this initiative please respond to Darryl Harty, forrest.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au or 52 366 393 by FRIDAY November 28th.
Thanks to all those who have volunteered time for the kids race!! I encourage all of you to be at the event, preferably with your kids to support the races. Prizes will be awarded to the winners, as will a certificate.