PRINCIPAL’S NEWS

BALLARAT EXCURSION ON FRIDAY REMINDER
Bus leaves at 9am and returns to school at 5pm. Students are to wear school uniform.

KIDS MOUNTAIN BIKE EVENT
One of the school’s big fundraisers is planned for this coming SUNDAY November 29th. Funds raised will go toward helping subsidise our Geelong excursion on December 15th. Hope to see you there. For more information please read details found later in this newsletter.

MOVIE MAKING EVENT
All our students have been/will be preparing a mini movie for you to enjoy. The date for this special event is planned for Wednesday December 16th beginning at 2pm. This event will be free and is open to all interested persons. Please mark in your diary. All families will be given a movie DVD to take home.

TOWN BIKE RIDE
Sixteen cyclists with two parent volunteers and myself successfully cycled around the streets of Forrest on Monday. Next Monday will be the last day of Bike Education (And Sporting Schools—Mountain Biking). We ask that bikes are collected as soon as possible after Monday please.

SICK STUDENTS
We have had an unusually high number of students sick recently. We are thankful to parents for their ongoing support. Of course we hope all our wonderful students make speedy recoveries and we look forward to having them back at school very soon. For extended periods of student absence, teachers are more than happy to provide learning material including books to read to assist with their time recovering. Parents only need to contact the school to put in a request.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR SUMMER
Annually the school/centre is required to review Emergency Management procedures to ensure the safety of all personnel is adequately catered for. Before the end of this year the school/centre will conduct one more emergency drill to make sure adults and students are confident with the emergency procedures. Did you know that the school/centre is a BARR facility (on the Bushfire at Risk Register)? Updating of your phone contacts is essential. Please call the office if your contact details have changed recently.

WALK TO SCHOOL IN OCTOBER RESULT
Forrest PS was successful in winning Week 1 of the Colac Otway Shire WtSiO participation awards Our prize is a $200 gift voucher from sponsors Colac Sportspower. This year the overall award winner was Beeac PS. Congratulations Beeac.

THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS
Throughout the year parents and grandparents volunteer their expertise free to the school/centre in many different ways e.g. in the garden, painting murals/lines, listening to student reading in the classroom, attending operational meetings (school council/Early Years Management committee). As we are coming to the end of another year, it is an appropriate time to acknowledge and thank the large band of volunteer helpers who readily help in many different ways in making our school/centre such a special learning space. Your efforts are greatly appreciated!
This Week
Well, after a few days of full attendance, the students have been ‘going down like flies’. Some of the absences are due to the return of the dreaded stomach aches/fever/coughing, with a touch of gastro thrown in for good measure. I wish all students a quick recovery, with a special mention for William Standish who has just had his tonsils out and will soon be recovering at home.

Prep Transition – Day 1 Tuesday November 24th – 9.00am to 11.00am
On Tuesday it was wonderful to welcome Lachie, Ellen and John into their new learning space for next year. No tears this year, just bountiful energy and excitement!

We began the morning with introductions followed by classroom familiarisation and a tour of the school grounds. The new ‘Preps’ were introduced to their buddies for next year, while they enjoyed their fruit snack and a story. Lachie Crabbe enjoyed time with his buddy, Tim Macdonald. Ellen Standish’s buddy, Braeden Kurzman was away and so Elkin stepped in to work with her. John Seebeck was quite clear that he wanted Maddy Seebeck, his cousin, to be his buddy, and Maddy did an excellent job.
It continues to surprise me how much our current Preps have grown and they were full of advice and helpful hints as to classroom and schoolyard behaviour. I did hear one Prep exclaim from the playground toilets that, “You’re not to put wrappers in this bin, just the used hand towel!” – some of our rules and routines do sink in after all. It was also a bit amusing to see Lachie’s reaction when his father arrived to pick him up. Lachie had returned to the table and was busy continuing with his work – completing ignoring his Dad, he may as well been invisible! It’s a good sign when a child has to be encouraged to leave.

Prep Transition Day 2 – Tuesday December 1st – 9.00am to 12.00pm
Prep Transition Day 3 – Tuesday December 8th 9.00am to 1.30pm

Congratulations
The following Reading certificates were presented at last Monday’s assembly.
50 Nights Reading – Ella Welch-Mayhew, Maddy Pain, Reuben Freddi 100 Nights Reading – Matilda Pearson
150 Nights Reading – Henry Seebeck 200 Nights Reading – Luca Sprunt
Magic Words – Congratulations to William Hunt on achieving his Indigo Certificate

Have a spectacular week. Miss Mac Junior Room Teacher
SENIOR ROOM NEWS

Garden Mural

As mentioned in last week’s newsletter, Beccy Foster has been working with all of the people in our learning community to create a ‘garden mural’. Beccy is a professional artist who completed a Master of Fine Art in recent years and who has also worked with children and as a community artist, to create artworks for many years. She is now studying for a Master of Teaching at Deakin University and has been undertaking some pre-service teaching experiences at our school. Beccy wanted to give back to the school by creating an Artwork that children and all members of the school community could contribute to. Participants were asked to add to the mural by painting something that they might find in a community/school garden. The painting includes everything from sunflowers, to echidnas and chooks to worms, butterflies and rainbows. One of the pre-school children even snuck in a dinosaur! So far most students and teaching staff have painted into the mural, and hopefully everyone will have a chance to contribute before the end of the year, if not term 1 2016. Beccy was delighted to have witnessed how supportive and respectful children were of one another when they created their artworks. During the process at recess and lunchtimes it was lovely to see children watching on and comment on each other’s contributions. If this was interpreted as a model for broader community, then the future certainly looks bright!

Beccy says that she found the experience of pre-service teaching at Forrest PS to be very positive. She was impressed by children’s critical and creative thinking skills as well as their abilities to reflect. She commented on the strategic questioning practices that occur in our classrooms and how these effect children’s thinking. She believes that these skills are crucial for children growing up in contemporary society. Beccy said from her research, the programs happening in Forrest Primary School supports a broad spectrum of contemporary education theory.

Goodbye Chickens

Unfortunately our beloved chickens that were incubated and raised by the children this year were taken by foxes on Saturday night. Someone entered the school grounds not long after 5pm on Saturday night, opened up the gate to the chicken pen, helped themselves to the eggs from the nests and left with the gate open. Sunday Morning the chickens were all gone, except for feathers spread over the school yard. This is very frustrating and a sad outcome for the chickens and the children who so tenderly looked after them each day. We had sown a specific crop for the chickens to forage over the summer months and have been receiving a good quantity of eggs in their first season of laying. At this point we will have to consider whether we get chickens in 2016. If so, we would have to put measures in place to prevent people from entering the pen outside school hours.

JUNIOR ROOM: This week’s student of the week goes to Matilda Pearson. Matilda has really grown as a learner and is focusing on her work to ensure it is her absolute best effort. She proved, during Tuesday’s transition into the Senior Room, that she is ready for Year 3. Well-done Matilda!

SENIOR ROOM: All Senior Students—This week we want to recognise all Grades 3-6 students for the amazing positive learning behaviours they applied to their assessment tasks. We all love being in an environment where everyone is positive, respectful and motivated.
Thanks Lynn
Thanks to Lynn for relieving last Wednesday when I was away. It can be difficult to find teachers on short notice so we are very lucky to have Lynn nearby. I believe everyone had a good day.

Outdoor Play
The children have been very creative during outdoor play lately. Besides playing really co-operatively, they have also started to build different structures using their communication skills and imaginative skills. Last week they made a long tunnel using all sorts of equipment that they could crawl under; it even went up the steps onto the veranda.

Gingerbread Biscuits
The Pre-school children will help me make Gingerbread dough today, and tomorrow we will bake with a group of Junior children. We will keep the rest of the dough in the freezer so we can bake two more times with the rest of the Juniors. Baking Gingerbread biscuits is always fun and creative. It also stimulates the different senses—touch, smell and taste.

Advent Calendar (?)
I have bought an Advent Calendar with chocolate. If none of the parents have any objections, I will start to use it in December. Please let me know if you object to it.

Crazy Hair/Clothes Day-Today
The Pre-school will participate this morning if they have dressed up.

Lena Collopy
Pre-school Teacher

Dates to remember
Fri 4/12 Committee Meeting.
Thu 17/12 Last Day – End of the Year Celebration.

Helping Hands
Kayla for helping with the World Teachers Day Celebration for our teachers.
Bryanna for taking down the classroom water bottles to the FKGB area for the Junior students.

SUPER SCIENCE FACT
A single hair has the lifespan of about 5 years.
For Child Care or Out of School Hours Care bookings please call: Caralyn 0412 953366

CRAZY HAIR DAY
OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Fundraising News

Hoping to see as many parents and children as possible this **Sunday 29th November** ready to race at the Kids Mountain Bike Races, great prizes donated to this event from the Forrest General Store (Thanks Sally!!)

Registrations@11am at the trailhead car park—**SEE YOU THERE!!!**

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Kids Mountain Bike Races

Proudly hosted by the
FORREST PRIMARY SCHOOL & EARLY YEARS CENTRE

Sunday 29th November 2015
Southern Trailhead Car Park,
Grant Street, Forrest

Registration open at 11am

Four races open to kids aged 15 and under:

- **Mini Mauler**  Quick and easy race around the flat surface of the Southern Trailhead—specifically for the littlest of racers
- **Dust Digger**  A fast paced race course plotted around the Southern Trailhead—First Back Wins!!
- **Mud Muncher**  2km course on the wide, smooth, free flowing trail a.k.a Roller coaster
- **Cliff Climber**  Not for the faint hearted kids, a 4km course incorporating jumps & tricky corners, this course will thrill those that dare to race...

Prizes awarded to the winners, sponsored by the Forrest General Store

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THE PERFECT FAMILY DAY OUT TO START THE COUNTDOWN TO CHRISTMAS!

Saturday 5th December
The Geelong Showgrounds
11am – 4pm

MAGICAL Christmas Wonderland GEELONG

@magicalchristmaswonderland
@magicalchristmaswonderland
magicalchristmaswonderland

VISIT THE WEBSITE TO BOOK YOUR TICKETS
Group discounts apply.
OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

MINUSCULE
small works exhibition
Saturday Dec 5th 2015 – Sunday Jan 31st 2016
Red Rock Regional Gallery
520 Corangamite Lake Road, Cororooke 3254

Don’t miss this fabulous Community Exhibition of small, unframed works on canvas in our beautiful gallery space.

All works are for sale.

Over 300 entries from students, emerging and professional artists will be on display with prizes awarded in various categories.

Entry to Exhibition by Donation

Gallery open on weekends 11am – 4pm
Closing for Christmas break at 4pm Sunday 13th Dec and re-opening at 11am Saturday 2nd January 2016

Otway derby dolls
FRIDAY 27TH NOVEMBER
6.00-8.00 PM
FAMILY ROLLER DISCO
THE OTWAY DERBY DOLLS ARE HOSTING A FABULOUS ALL AGES ROLLER DISCO. WE HAVE SKATES AVAILABLE OR YOU CAN BRING YOUR OWN SKATES OR BLADES AND ROCK OUT TO SOME AWESOME TUNES. WE WILL HAVE SOME GREAT PRIZES, LOLLY BAGS AND SOME FOOD AVAILABLE.
GUEST APPEARANCE BY OTWAY PANTHER - SCRATCH-YA!!

$5 ENTRY (INCLUDES SKATE HIRE)
COLAC
SOUTHWEST CHURCH
516 MURRAY ST, COLAC

email: otwayderbydolls@gmail.com or find us on Facebook