**PRINCIPAL’S NEWS**

Wow— what a busy week it’s been! There seems to be so much to do, but it’s all good fun and everyone has been so welcoming which has made things easier. It is exciting exploring our school, re-learning some processes and learning new ones. I am enjoying learning new names and spending time with our delightful children in the school yard. (I can’t wait until the office is more under control and then I can get back into the fun classroom learning again!)

Big thanks go to our wonderful staff who have made returning to Forrest so easy and enjoyable. Speaking of staff, we wish Leanne Harty all the best and hope she’s feeling better soon. Leanne’s absence from the office for Term 4 is noted, but luckily we have a new Business Manager, Miss Nadeesha, joining us next week so we’ll be all back up and running shortly.

Another thanks to those parents who have managed to call in and say “Hi”. It’s been much appreciated. To help us get to know each other better I’d like to invite all parents (and friends) to pop into the school next Friday (18th OCTOBER) for a MORNING TEA at 11ish! It would be great to see you.

A couple of curriculum items...

**ACTIVE AFTER SCHOOL COMMUNITIES**— We just received word that we have been successful in gaining funding to run AASC again next year— excellent news. It’s such a great program; a fabulous way for us to be more active and learn a range of different sporting (and life) skills. Stay tuned for more info as we plan the activities for 2014. Our current AASC program will begin on Tues 22, with Badminton.

We will send home forms for this terms AASC activity— Badminton next week.

During the next few weeks the children will be walking to the Forrest tennis courts during school hours for Tennis with Mrs Standish on a Monday afternoon. Local excursion permission forms will apply (these have already been signed so no need to worry about more forms!)

We’d also like to wish JESS DOUGLAS all the best for her race on the weekend defending her Women’s World 24hour Solo MTB Endurance Champion title. We hear Jess has a great support team and I’m sure they will all enjoy being part of the action. Go Jess!

And the Birregurra Festival is on this weekend too and looks like loads of fun— for more details see the website...

http://www.birregurra.com/index.php/weekendfestival/festival

Have fun,

Tara Hulonce
It is great to be back and this term promises to be a busy one!

Firstly, a big welcome to our new Principal, Tara Hulonce and our three new students, Henry Seebeck (Prep), Charles Seebeck (Year 1) and Maddy Seebeck (Year 3). We are certainly excited to have you join our class and it has been wonderful to see how quickly you have all settled in.

*A few housekeeping items, particularly for our new students.*

Term 4 means hats are required to be worn for all outdoor activities.
The students all have their own water bottle in the classroom and can access it whenever they require a drink.

When the students arrive in the morning they put their Diary and Home reader journal on the shelf in the classroom and then go out to play, (unless it is raining), until the bell rings.

Students are expected to read aloud to a parent or older sibling every night and the book they read is to be recorded in their Home reader journal. If they are reading a ‘chapter’ book then just the pages read need to be recorded.

I check student diaries each morning for any parent correspondence.

Students receive 3 ‘coins’ for reading and returning their diaries and Home reader journals each day. These ‘coins’ represent 1 minute of time that the students can use to buy ‘free time’ on Fridays.

Monday – Lunch orders c/ Guesthouse.
We have sport on Mondays and so if gumboots are being worn it is also a good idea to bring a pair of shoes suitable for sport.
Piano Lessons – students participating are required to remember to bring their music books.

Tuesday – Spelling words are due back and we have “Toasty Tuesdays” whereby students (if they want to) bring sandwiches that I cook in the sandwich press.

Active After School also commences.

Wednesday – The Year 3 students work in Craig’s Class for the day. The P/1/2 students cook a ‘taste’ of something for the whole school, on alternate Wednesdays, beginning next week. A ‘taste’ meaning that what we cook is not meant to be a lunch substitute.

Thursday – The Community House provides lunch orders.
New spelling words are given out.

Friday – The Year 3s begin the day in the Junior room and then transfer to the Senior room while the P/1/2 students participate in the “Forrest Kids Go Bush” program with the Kindergarten students. Recess on Fridays is between 10.30am – 11.00am in order for the ‘FKGB’ program to run between 11.00am and 1.00pm.
The students all have overalls (I have some for the new students), and bring a change of clothes (including socks) ‘just in case’. This program goes ahead, rain, hail or shine and so if it’s likely to rain – bring a raincoat! It has been enjoyably muddy over the winter and so the students also bring gumboots to change into.

I will report on other classroom news next week.

Kristin Mackinlay
Junior Room Teacher

*WEEKLY QUOTABLE QUOTE*

A life spent making mistakes is not only more honourable but more useful than a life spent doing nothing.

George Bernard Shaw
SENIOR ROOM NEWS

This Term
Term 4 will see a number of focus areas for our students:

Writing
- Creative writing in response to creation myths and various visual stimulus.
- Report writing – with the garden as the stimulus
- Weekly spelling program – 40 words
- Blogging – garden projects
- Blogging – creative writing feedback
- Portfolio Development
- School Magazine

Reading
- Continuous development of comprehension, analytical and critical thinking skills.
- Research for the garden
- Research for the creation myths project
- Home reading and development based on Lexile levels

Speaking and listening:
- Garden group presentations
- Responding to speaking stimulus

Maths:
- Number review
- Fractions, Algebra and Chance and Data

Garden:
- Rotational Gardening
- Soil development
- Gardening as Science
- Teamwork and critical thinking
- Cooking

Music
- Composition
- Preparation for end of year presentation

Special Events
- Book Launch November
- Graduation night
- TBA

Year 6 students – our grade 6’s are very excited about their last term at primary school. Their term will look a little different than the rest of the senior class. They will have the opportunity to undertake some personal projects and take responsibility for organising the school magazine and some events.

Homework – Students are expected to practice reading at home, preferably a challenging text that is slightly above their reading level. Students are able to have books matched to them at school. All students know which times table they are learning and should be ready each Friday to be tested in front of our Senior Class.

Reminders – All students must wear hats whilst outside during term 4. Please ensure your child has a school hat. If not, we have plenty for sale at school.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR STUDENTS OF THE WEEK:

JUNIOR ROOM:  Henry Seebeck for his excellent attitude and willingness to help to do classroom jobs.

SENIOR ROOM:  Zac Kurzman for showing great leadership in the Garden.
Welcome to Term IV. I hope everyone had a nice break. We certainly have had some wild weather in the Otways lately; hopefully that wind will settle in time for the Bush Program on Friday. Also a warm welcome to Tara Hulonce, our returning Principal.

Transition to School Reports
According with the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD), all of the children that are starting school next year are required to have a Transition to School Report for their new teacher. This is to help the children get the best possible start and to settle in well to school next year. I will soon start to write the reports and then hand them over to parents to read and fill in their sections.

Picnic at Lake Elizabeth, 24/10
To celebrate Children’s Week, we have decided to go for a family picnic to Lake Elizabeth on Thursday 24/10 at 12:30. It takes approx. 10 minutes to drive to Lake Elizabeth from the school. We will run the session as per normal, but we are asking parents to come a ½ hour early to pick up their children so we have enough time at Lake Elizabeth for those families who have to go back to school and pick up their older children. This is a Family event so we hope that everyone is able to bring a picnic lunch and come along.

Missing Overalls!!!
Can all families please have a proper look at home for the bush program overalls? They must have been left behind at home while being washed. We are missing at least four pairs! All of the spare pairs have now gone.

Hats
In Terms I and IV, the children are required to wear sun hats because of the strong UV radiation. The Pre-school Committee has decided to purchase summer hats for all of the children. These hats will stay at the Pre-school so every child has a hat at all times while playing outside.

DATEs TO REMEMBER

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday 18/10</td>
<td>Committee Meeting.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 24/10</td>
<td>12:30 Pick-up time; picnic at Lake Elizabeth.</td>
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MAD SCIENCE FACT!
Every day there are 45,000 thunderstorms on the Earth!
LEARNING TO LOVE BOOKS

When a parent or carer reads aloud to a child they provide an essential element of that child’s experiential development and help them to build a good foundation for later reading and writing. Research on early literacy has shown that shared reading has a significant, positive impact on vocabulary development and listening comprehension. It is not about teaching youngsters to read but for them to know that books are fun as well as full of fascinating pictures and information.

Reading with your child can start at a very early age. Even a very young baby will enjoy the experience of snuggling up together while looking at colourful illustrations. It is obviously very important to turn off the TV or radio - your child likes to hear the sound of your voice.

Babies like pictures of babies or smiling faces and of simple things like balls or dogs or flowers. Moving to the beat of a song or rhyme is fun, especially ones that are repeated and they get to know when to expect the enjoyable drama of an “oops” or a “bump”. As they start to reach out and explore their world more consciously, they can feel different textures and participate in turning pages over or opening little flaps to see what surprises lie underneath. Cardboard pages are more resilient and easier to turn.

Young toddlers like to see bright colours and pictures of familiar things. They are starting to name them or make the sounds that go with an animal or machine. They will often have favourite books and it’s great to encourage them to choose what book they want this time. If you point to the words as you read, the child will understand that this is how you know what the story is about. Most children will enjoy rhyme and repetition and often want the same story read many times. They will correct you if you try to cut corners or leave anything out!

Older toddlers like alphabet / number books and simple stories. By the time they are in preschool, they are starting to explore different ideas and consequences so respond well to simple jokes or ridiculous events. The whole experience is made more fun if you take your time reading - use different voices for different characters, ask the child what happens next, ask them to find things in the pictures. Many children will love to “be” characters and want to dress up or collect pictures from other sources. This has the potential to move into wonderful social experiences when they use their imagination in play with other children.

All the time you are handling books with children, you are teaching them a whole range of skills that will help them later at school. As a parent, you are the child’s first teacher and you will set the scene for their future attitude. They see how you turn the pages carefully, the direction of the words, how pictures fit with the writing, how books are so enjoyable and entertaining as well as full of interesting information.

There are many, many stories that touch on life events in ways that help children to learn how to deal with them. Parents can look for appropriate themes for particular events - such as going to the dentist, moving house, getting a new baby in the family, potty training, death of a pet, etc.

For more information:

- Local Libraries have reading times for different age groups of children. It is a chance to sit down and listen and also for children to learn that they can borrow some different books and find out all kinds of thing. Check at your local library for information about these times and talk to the Librarian about the books suitable for your child.

Try www.letsread.com.au for information about the Lets Read pre-reading project.
Fundraising News

Unfortunately I was too late in submitting our application for a stall at the Birregurra Festival so we will not have a fund raising presence at this event – that just means we can all go to the festival and enjoy ourselves without having to worry about working!!!

I will now concentrate our fund raising efforts on the next event in Forrest which will be the Forrest Festival on Nov 30th/ Dec 1st – a mountain biking event. Last year we sold raffle tickets, this year I will investigate whether we can offer smoothies or something food related so as to maximise our profits!

I’ll keep you informed via the newsletter but I also tend to email those that I know are interested in helping out – if you’d like to be added to the email list please let me know, likewise if you’d like to be removed from the list, let me know. I can be contacted on 5236-6172 or thelanes.54@bigpond.com

Thanks everyone, Sarah Lane

Colac Little Athletics Come and Try Day – Saturday Oct 12th 9am At Central Reserve

Not sure if Little Aths is for you???? Why not come down and get a feel for the club and the activities on offer. Try your hand at Shot Put, Sprints, Long Jump etc. Have some fun in a non competitive atmosphere, and see if it’s something you would like to continue to do every week J

OR

If you already know that Little Aths is for you, then why not come along to our Registration morning on Oct 5th from 9-11am at the Central Reserve. Registration for the year is only $80!! Or you can jump online at http://www.lavic.com.au and click on the Join Up/Register tab. Too easy.

The only requirements are that you have turned 5 by the 1st of October this year, and that you are under 16 years of age.

We hope to see your smiling faces all ready to give Little Aths a good old try.

For more information contact Kim Tucker, 0411452046, or email colac@lavic.com.au for further details. And don’t forget to join our Facebook page Little Athletics Colac to be kept up to date.