PRINCIPAL’S NEWS

VIDEO CONFERENCE WITH OTHER SCHOOLS

In our Flexible Learning Classroom (Senior Room), we have an interactive whiteboard that allows for video conferencing. Video Conferencing (VC) is where a group of people can see and talk with each other using an internet video connection. On Monday November 9th we are planning a collaborative learning experience with students from Birregurra, Lismore, Alvie and Beeac schools. The lessons will be broken up into one for our senior (Gr 3—6) class and one for our junior class (Gr P—2).

The classes will be working collaboratively on a project across the five schools with a total student population of 220 children. Our first learning VC experience for this year will relate to Remembrance Day to be held nationally two days later.

WALK TO SCHOOL BREKKY

Thanks to all students, parents and teachers that joined “Wonder Woman” Lucy and “Batman” Casey for the Colac Otway Shire Walk to School Brekky on Tuesday. It was a fun time with Lucy sharing the benefits of eating healthy food and exercising regularly. This special event concluded with a group photo after our morning walk.

After Week 3 of the Walk to School (WTS) program, students have completed a total of 996 walks with a distance of approximately 500 kms covered. The average number of walks per student is currently at 26.2 walks.

WORLD TEACHERS DAY

This coming Friday is World Teachers Day. World Teachers’ Day is a day that celebrates the efforts of teachers on a global scale, acknowledging the important contribution made to communities in an increasingly complex, multicultural and technological world.

Inaugurated in 1994 by the United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), World Teachers’ Day is celebrated annually in over 100 countries. The day allows students, parents and community members to show their appreciation for teachers and the positive impact they make on society.

IT’s NOT OKAY TO BE AWAY

The more children attend school the more they will learn, the more they will like school, and the more likely they will make a positive contribution to society. Please do not allow your child to stay home for minor reasons. Some absences are impossible to avoid. Our school is currently operating at 92% attendance. Our 2015 goal is to be at/better than 90.1% attendance. We need your continued support to ensure we meet this goal. For more information/advice please speak to our wellbeing worker, Kerryn or me.

COLAC SHOW HOLIDAY

Please note next Friday November 6th is Colac Show Holiday. The centre will be closed on this day. Melbourne Cup is NOT a public holiday in the Colac Otway shire. The centre will be operating on this day.
**JUNIOR ROOM NEWS**

**This Week — Colac Rotary Book Presentation**

Over the last three weeks, Sarah Schuhmann, as a friend of Colac Rotary, has been reading a selected book to the Prep students as part of Colac Rotary’s program for improving literacy in local schools. This program has only been run by the Rotarians of Colac for the last few years, and Forrest was the first country school, thanks to Sarah, that has been included in the role out of this initiative. The Prep students chose their favourite book from the three and, on Monday, we had a visit from Graham Snell, from Colac Rotary, to present their book, ‘Where’s Stripey?’ by Wendy Binks. Graham answered some excellent questions about what Rotary is and does to help others — a great volunteering organisation. In the past I think that the travelling distance to country schools has been an impediment. Graham enjoyed a wonderful school tour, given by Kayla, Britt and Jarrah, and was so impressed with Forrest that I have a feeling he will be returning next year, in third term, to read to our new intake of Preps. The Colac Rotarians donated a copy of all three books to the school. The Year 1 and Year 2 students have also benefited and enjoyed my reading of these selected books, now part of our school library.

**Literacy**

*Are Dogs Better Than Cats?*

We have started a unit on persuasive writing. The first topic we did together was ‘Should children have to come to school?’ While students have the ability to argue to get their point across, it is very difficult for them to write compelling reasons arguing for one side of a topic. Our second topic, Dogs vs Cats certainly divided the class. After deciding on their point of view the two teams, Dogs vs Cats, brainstormed reasons why one is better than the other. As a class we examined the structure of persuasive writing and wrote together. The Year 1 and Year 2 students bought their writing books home to finish their third reason and to get some ideas from their family as to a concluding statement. The Year1/2 spelling words are a little tougher this week, but the intention is for students to be familiar with the vocabulary used to write strong statements. Our next topic will be ‘Should Students Have To Wear School Uniforms?’ Families are welcome to help their child to think of some compelling ideas to support their opinion.

**Maths**

*Volume and Capacity*

Fitting in wonderfully with our science topic, the students have been estimating how much water different containers hold. The students benefit greatly from hands on learning and testing their assumptions. Opportunities at home to measure and become familiar with litres and millilitres, and the associated cup, ½ cup measurements, would be a great advantage and consolidate their understanding.

**Congratulations — Student Awards**

*Cassia Jones-Vermeend* for completing 200 nights of reading — a fantastic effort!

Have a great week!
Miss Mac - Junior Room teacher

---

**Helping Hands**

*William S for weeding in our garden at recess time.*

*Indi for helping in the Early Years Centre Playground at the working bee.*
SENIOR ROOM NEWS

The next 5 weeks:
We are all very focussed on what we need to achieve in the next 5 weeks. Weeks 6-10 we will be hard at work completing individually learning tasks. Each student is working their way through the rest of the maths curriculum. Each week individuals are setting goals and advising me when they are ready for assessments. Some children are able to self regulate, whilst others need more prompting and guidance. In literacy, students are aiming to complete 3 writing tasks based on their writing goals. They will need to complete their highest quality narrative, persuasive and informative texts. Children will be self assessing using rubrics commensurate with each genre and an editing checklist, and will then conference with me to confer their marks and set goals for next year. Additionally children will report on how they have progressed in writing over the year by comparing texts over the 10 month period. In Science, children are also ready to showcase their scientific thinking and scientific literacy skills. We plan to start formal summative assessments in week 7 and by week 10, we will be celebrating the end of a great year.

Short Films:
The production of short films is a celebration of children’s creative literacy skills and is an opportunity for them to use visual mediums to tell stories, or to provide information. This week children have been working in pairs or individually to develop ideas for their films. They have been learning about the process and importance of good planning. Children planned each scene, indicating the materials required, the shots to be undertaken, script and sound effects…. Of course everyone wanted to get straight into the filming, however we had to keep reinforcing the value of careful planning. Filming will start next week for the years 3-5 students. The year 6’s are working on more comprehensive films and they have spent more time preparing and some have started filming.

Garden
Thanks to Stu Crabbe and the Troughton family, we have received three large bales of straw for our garden. The straw is being used for weed suppression and will be useful for maintaining soil moisture during an expected warm and dry summer period. Becci and Stanley Foster have planted out one of the chicken foraging yards with pumpkins, sunflowers, broad beans, peas, beans and a range of foraging species (chook mix). Becci has also painted the side wall of the shed in preparation for a collaborative garden inspired painting. This week we will plant a wide variety of seedlings and seeds. We are hoping to convert at least one of the garden beds into a ‘keyhole’ garden bed, with the goal of eventually creating a total of five of them. They are a very ergonomic and creative way of designing food gardens. Additionally we plan for the centres of these gardens to be collaborative learning spaces, complete with seating and mosaics… watch this space, as this is shaping up to be a whole of school community project, volunteers are most welcome!!

Peace Posters
The Lions Club Peace Poster Competition judging will occur next Thursday 5th November at 10.30am with morning tea provided by the Forrest and District Lions Club. All parents are most welcome (we need more judges!).

JUNIOR ROOM: This week’s student of the week goes to Cassia Jones-Vermecend. Cassia has put great effort into improving her reading. She also does an excellent job supporting others in her learning teams. Her valuable contributions to our class discussions become an advantage to her team when formulating arguments to persuade. Well Done Cassia!

SENIOR ROOM: This week’s student of the week goes to Jarrah Ashton for being very persistent in all learning tasks. Jarrah is very organised and focussed on achieving his learning goals, he demonstrates excellent attention to detail and always seeks accuracy when completing tasks. Well done Jarrah!
Thank You

A big Thank You to all the helpers at the working bee. The Pre-school playground looks great with another layer of soft fall. It will be a safer place for the children to play in. We also received new sand and the ivy was removed from the wall. The Forrest Kids Go Bush area was brush cut which was great, as the grass had grown very tall.

A big Thank You too to Beccy (Stanley’s Mum), for organising an art- activity on Friday. Beccy brought her collection of shells for the children to look at, and be inspired by, before turning to making a Mono-print with paint. She also had a short film about shells for the children to watch on the laptop. The children really engaged showing great interest.

Children’s Week - Tomorrow J

A day full of fun in the Botanic Gardens. I think everyone is able to come, though please be sure to let me know otherwise. We will be meeting at the carpark outside the Botanic Café at 10:30, or if you arrive later, please meet up inside the gardens. Don’t forget to bring a picnic lunch, hats and sunscreen.

Please remember that we have library every Friday.

Lena Collopy
Pre-school Teacher

Dates to remember

- Thu 29/10  Colac Botanic Gardens, 10:30 AM— 2:00 PM.
- Fri 6/11  Colac Show Day Holiday.
- Fri 4/12  Committee Meeting.
- Thu 17/12  Last Day – End of the Year Celebration.

SUPER SCIENCE FACT

The human body has enough fat to produce 7 bars of soap.
For Child Care or After School Care bookings please call: Caralyn 0412 953366

**FORREST PRIMARY SCHOOL HALLOWEEN DRESS UP DAY**
**FRIDAY 30TH OCT**
**COSTUME PARADE @ 9AM**
**GOLD COIN DONATION**

**EGGS, EGGS & More EGGS!!!!**

The chooks have been busy laying and the school has free range eggs to sell—Anyone needing to pick up a dozen, please call by the School Office (Mon-Thurs) to collect.

Only $4 a dozen

A friendly blue tongue lizard popped into the school corridor on Tuesday—Thanks Nerrida for safely relocating him back outside into the sunshine!

The by-election for the Polwarth District will be held this Saturday 31st October and the polling station will be located in the Senior Room at Forrest Primary School. Voting commences at 8am and concludes at 6pm. Don’t forget to vote!
Fundraising News

Our fundraising efforts will be in action this Saturday supplying the refreshments for the movie screening of Oddball at the Forrest Hall. If you haven’t already got your ticket/s, please purchase them from the Forrest General Store.

Tickets just $5!!!
OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

HALLOWEEN HAUNTED HOUSE

FRIDAY 30TH OCTOBER 5:30 TO 8:30 ALL AGES
SATURDAY 31ST OCTOBER 5:30 TO 7:00 TRICK OR TREATERS
SATURDAY 31ST OCTOBER 7:00 TO 9:00 ONLY THE BRAVE!

LOG CABIN
SCOUT HALL

ENTRY $5

Find us on: facebook.

Tomb Fun or Not Tomb Fun

SCOUTS
AUSTRALIA

Puberty Clues
A fast moving session looking at the many changes that occur at the time of puberty for 10-12 year olds

Mothers and Daughters
The Blue Room, Colac Area Health
Wednesday November 25
Wednesday December 2
Other Date TBC

Fathers and Sons
The Blue Room, Colac Area Health
Thursday November 5
Thursday November 12
Other Date TBC

Time:- 6.00 pm to 8.00 pm
Cost:- $10.00 per couple
Bookings essential by phoning 5232 5140

Because I Matter
Courthouse Youth Arts, Geelong
November 16 - 21
Bookings (03) 5224 2895

Quality Care Close to Home