FORREST LEARNING CENTRE NEWS
FORRESTPS.VIC.EDU.AU

OCTOBER 29TH 2014

PRINCIPAL’S NEWS
Tomorrow (Thursday) at Forrest Learning Centre, we are celebrating World Teachers Day. This is in addition to the children having some Halloween fun! The day offers a chance to acknowledge our teachers and say thanks. Every day, Victorian teachers are making a difference educating and inspiring young students in preschool, primary and secondary school settings. World Teachers Day is celebrated in more than 100 countries world wide, and was established in 1994 by UNESCO to celebrate the role of teachers in our society. Our Year 6 student leaders are planning some lovely surprises for Lena, Kristin, Craig and Nerrida tomorrow.

Today our Senior Class Students had their Lions Club Peace Posters judged. They have been busily developing their individual posters using lots of creativity, dexterity and persistence. The posters are on display in the Centre’s corridor for all to see. You are invited to view the entries at your leisure any time soon. Congratulations to all students on their efforts. Special mention to Aphrodite Shomaly on being selected with the best Forrest PS entry. Her Peace Poster now goes on to the regional level for judging. Good luck Aphrodite!

On Friday, the centre will be closed for the shire’s Colac Show Day Holiday. Next Monday November 3rd, the school will be conducting its term 4 Pupil Free Day. Our primary school students will not have lessons on this day. Teachers will be preparing the school’s self evaluation in preparation for the review to be held later this year.

SCABIES (ringworm) oh!ah! Evidence of children suffering from Scabies has reappeared at the Forrest Learning Centre. We ask that you check your child TONIGHT and treat immediately if found. A visit to your GP or local chemist is advised. Exclusion from the centre until the day after treatment has commenced is departmental policy. As this has been an ongoing problem for the centre, we ask all families to be vigilant and persist to remove the problem. The centre is considering other preventative measures to assist in the eradication of this difficulty.

Planning for 2015 has commenced. Programming, Budgeting, and Staffing are some of the important planning matters currently being considered. School Council has committed to running all current services in 2015.

Two areas that you can help with are:-
1) payment of any outstanding accounts as soon as possible please, and
2) inform the centre (Darryl/Office staff), if you know of any “prospective” 2015 enrolments for primary schooling, Preschool, Day Care services. The centre has vacancies in all three service areas for 2015.

October Walk To School program ends this coming Friday. On Monday, Forrest PS won the shire’s number of walks competition for a second consecutive week. After 3 weeks, we have an accumulative total of 1,168 walks which is an average of 32.4 walks per child. Certificates will be handed out to all participants at our next whole school assembly on Monday November 10th. Well done Forrest Children!

Hoping you have a great long weekend!

Darryl Harty
JUNIOR ROOM NEWS

This week the students are learning to hone their detective skills!

What are the ‘key’ words in written Math questions?

How do we use math in real life situations? In math the students are looking for the key words in written maths questions. For example, if we had 10 cupcakes and 5 got eaten what sort of maths sentence would this be? Key words ‘got eaten’. What does ‘got eaten’ mean – to take away. Alternatively, if Tess picked 8 flowers and John picked 12 more flowers, how many flowers would there be altogether? Key words, ‘more and ‘altogether’ – to add. Students of all levels in the class can work out 10 – 5 and 8 + 12 but once the calculation is hidden in a written question they become confused. Discussing real life maths problems at home would be a great help to your child.

Science

This week our focus was ‘light’ and ‘dark’. The students did some great thinking about what makes areas in the classroom, and outside, ‘light’ through to ‘dark’. We decided to come up with a scale from 1 – 10, in order to rank different outside areas, and then we went for a walk to test our predictions. Our focus question was, “What determines how light or dark each area is? Why, when we initially ranked the areas under trees (the oak tree and the trees near the FKGB) the same, were they different? The students put their grey cells to good use and came up with some excellent ideas and deductions!

We then created our own tunnel of darkness with an assortment of sheets, bedspreads and blankets. After making predictions about the level of light we tested our theories. We decided that I hadn’t bought enough blankets etc. to make the tunnel pitch black – another time?

Classroom news - Focus Topics

Maths – Preps – Subtraction. Year 1 & 2 students’, volume and capacity.

Reading – Reading for understanding – Comprehension.

Luca practicing counting backwards from 100.

Prep Transition Days

We can’t wait to welcome the ‘Kinder Kids’ into the Junior room. We will have three transition days beginning on Tuesday the 25th of November, and continuing on Tuesday December 2nd and Tuesday December 9th. The sessions will commence at 9.00am with staggered finishing times from 12.30 – 1.30pm. During this time my current Year 2 students will spend time in the Senior room. More details to follow next week.

Ms Mac
Junior room teacher

Helping Hands Week 4

Sophie for arriving early and helping prepare her classroom for the day.

William H. for regularly putting down all the classroom chairs in his classroom in preparation for learning.
**SENIOR ROOM NEWS**

**Persuasive writing** – This week the grades 3-5 students have been learning some new ‘tricks’ for writing persuasive texts. We spent 1.5 hrs on Friday learning how to use a detailed graphic organiser. This tool will help students to properly structure their persuasive texts. Additionally the tool uses a number of prompts to assist / remind students about language, language features, persuasive devices that they ‘should’ use in their texts. The idea is for the students to continue using the graphic organiser until they are able to automatically recall the process. This activity will continue for another 5 lessons.

**Garden** – we are going to plant our summer crops late this term, with the goal of reaping the rewards at the beginning of term 1, 2015. In previous years most of the crops are maturing during the summer break and going to waste. We will just need to make sure we water over the summer period. We will begin to prepare the garden this week.

**Earth Ed Excursion** – After two previous incursions, we went to the Earth Ed Centre on Tuesday with the Deans Marsh PS grades 5&6 students to undertake the rest of the ‘It’s Electrifying’ experience. Based in an attractive bush setting adjacent to Mount Clear College in Ballarat, Earth Ed (an abbreviation of ‘Earth Education’) is a state-of-the-art specialty science and mathematics education centre. Learning focusses on Renewable Energy, Climate Science, Sustainability and Geology. The programs provide access to specialist scientific equipment, innovative digital resources, and promote a scientific inquiry approach to learning.

It’s Electrifying focuses on electrical energy by providing students with an engaging hands-on experience while investigating the concepts of electric charge and the flow of electricity in circuits. The program provides excellent support to the Primary Connection’s ‘It’s electrifying unit’ that we are starting this week.

In the Electrical Energy session, students learnt about electric charge by investigating the build-up of static electricity using Earth Ed’s impressive Van de Graaff generator. Children loved this experience, with plenty of hair standing on end! Children tried a number of different experiments to reinforce their learning and understanding of electrical charge.

In the Electric Circuits session, students construct their own electrical circuits when investigating and modelling the way electric charge travels in a circuit. In small groups they work their way through Earth Ed’s circuit challenges to design circuits to solve simple electrical problems. This created many interesting challenges.

Overall it was a fantastic learning experience. Thank you to all of the Forrest Children who represented our school, themselves and their families brilliantly. And a big THANK YOU to Kaz Standish for organising this excellent excursion!

Mr Donahoo
Senior room teacher

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**JUNIOR ROOM:** This week’s student of the week goes to Bryanna Crabbe. Bryanna consistently works hard in class and takes great care to write her letters starting in the correct position. Well Done Bryanna!

**SENIOR ROOM:** This week’s Student of the Week is Madeleine Seebeck for consistently achieving very highly in all of her learning tasks. ‘Maddy’ always demonstrates excellent learning behaviours, which contribute greatly to her fantastic results.
**Pre School News**

Children’s Week – excursion to Colac

Thank you to all the parents (and one grandparent) who came along and made the excursion to Colac possible. I was very impressed with all the activities that Glastonbury had organised in the Neighbourhood House. It looked like the children had a great time doing lots of different activities. I still have the big rain-stick that some of the children made, in my car; it keeps making the rain noise when I turn. The hospital visit was also a great hit with Sick Teddy, and trying out of the dental chair. When I asked the children what they thought had been the best thing during the excursion, most of them answered the face painting and the live animals.

The children will get another chance to learn about the snakes and lizards today (Wednesday), during the Roaming Reptiles incursion. I will make sure I have the camera at hand this time. The school is asking for a contribution of $6 towards the cost of the incursion.

**Transition to School**

We have five children starting prep next year, and these children are starting to get excited. Parents can help their children getting ready for school by letting them train their independence skills. It’s very important that children feel confident in their own abilities when starting school. Make sure your child is able to dress and undress themselves, unpack and pack a lunchbox. Also let them carry their own bag and look after their own belongings. Basically, try to not help your child too much with these things; rather show them how to pack a bag, open zips, close lids and so on. Miss Mac is organising transition days for the new preppies during November and December. During November I will write a Transition to School Report for every child who is starting school, and parents (together with their child) will also write as well. I will give you more info shortly.

**Colac Show Day Holiday – Friday 31/10 - No Pre-school session**

Enjoy the long weekend,

Lena Collopy

Pre-school Teacher
For OSHC/ afternoon bookings please call: Teresa 0419 536340

For MORNING Childcare bookings: Caralyn 0412 953366

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<tr>
<th>TIMES</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</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 (3 and 4 year olds)</td>
<td>Pre-School (3 and 4 year olds)</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:45–11:15</td>
<td>Snack and Chat</td>
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<td>FORREST KIDS GO BUSH!</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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<tr>
<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, book corner</td>
<td>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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<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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* Outside Activities will he held providing weather is suitable

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SUPER SCIENCE FACT

_Spy satellites circling the Earth take pictures of secret sites around the world. They can listen to secret radio messages from military ships or aircrafts._
The Internet offers kids many opportunities for learning, constructive entertainment and personal growth. At the same time, parents are concerned about the risks kids face online. The challenge for parents is to educate themselves and their children about how to use the Internet safely.

Parents need to stay in close touch with their kids as they explore the Internet in order to keep them safe. It’s not uncommon for children to know more about the Internet and computers than their parents. If this is the case, don’t despair. Use this as an opportunity to let your child teach you a thing or two about the Internet. Ask them where they like to go on the Internet and to talk about what’s good and not so good about their Internet experience. You still need to provide guidance no matter how Web-literate your children are.

The challenges posed by the Internet can be positive ones. Learning how to make good choices is a valuable life skill. So learning to make good choices on the Internet can help young people to think critically about the choices they will face. Today it’s the Internet, tomorrow it maybe deciding whether it’s safe to get into the car of someone a teenager has met at a party.

To help kids stay safe, don’t overreact if you find out if your teenager has been exposed to inappropriate material on the Internet. Try not to blame or punish your child if he tells you about an uncomfortable online encounter. Your best strategy is to work with them, so you can both learn from what happened and figure out a way to stop it from happening again.

Children are often more computer savvy than their parents, they can easily sign up for a game or subscribe to a chat room service but they don’t understand the consequences of revealing personal information to strangers. A good rule is that children should not reveal personal information about themselves online without a parent’s permission. This includes their full name, email address, postal address, phone number, photo, school address etc.

Some of the types of risks that children can be exposed to on the Internet include:

- Meeting someone online
- Getting into online fights
- Chat room dangers
- Loss of privacy
- Making threats
- Inappropriate material
- Is what I read online true?
- Drugs and other substances

Children entering high school usually need to start using the Internet to help with schoolwork if they haven’t already used it. As parents you should be concerned not just about what kids see and do on the Internet but also how long they are online. Your job is to help them manage this technology by setting limits on how often and how long kids can be online. Make sure that they are also involved in other activities such as playing sport, other hobbies, music and reading.

Help your children stay safe online by being an involved parent, interested in what they are doing.
Birregurra Primary School is turning 150 years old

Join us for the Celebration Saturday 29th November 2014

- The school will be open 10.00am to 4.00pm
- Official opening and cake cutting at 11.00am
- Take tours of the school 11.30 - 3.00pm
- Bring back old memories with a great display of school memorabilia
- Enjoy listening to Jarvis Brown performing with current students
- Take home some locally baked treats
- Join in old style school yard games and activities

All past students, families, teachers and members of the Birregurra community welcome

Enquiries to birregurra.ps@edumail.vic.edu.au or phone Ange on 0422 379 535
To whom it may concern,

As you may know VICSWIM has provided Victorians with fun and educational aquatic holiday programs since 1976.

My name is Kellie Ellingworth; I am the coordinator for the VICSWIM Summer Kidz program at Aquatics and Recreation Victoria (ARV). On behalf of ARV and VICSWIM, I would like to invite you to help us in promoting this valuable and respected January holiday program to your students and parents.

The Victorian Government has committed to fund the 2015 VICSWIM Summer Kidz program which enables the delivery of a cost effective aquatic education and water safety program to all Victorian children for only $25.00.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Start date</th>
<th>End date</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Monday 5 January</td>
<td>Friday 9 January</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Monday 12 January</td>
<td>Friday 16 January</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Monday 19 January</td>
<td>Friday 23 January</td>
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For all locations and times visit [www.vicswim.com.au](http://www.vicswim.com.au)

Can you please share this information with your parents, teachers and students through placing the enclosed DL flyers at an appropriate location at your school or with your weekly newsletter.

There is also an electronic copy of the flyer available through contacting me directly at [kellingworth@aquaticsandrecreation.org.au](mailto:kellingworth@aquaticsandrecreation.org.au)

Thanks you for your help,

Kellie Ellingworth
VICSWIM Summer Kidz Coordinator