Congratulations to all our fantastic singers who performed so impressively at the Birregurra Festival last Sunday in front of a huge crowd.

Preparing Today’s Students for Tomorrow is the ultimate goal of ours at the Forrest Learning Centre. Today we are teaching differently to the way you were taught in order to prepare students for tomorrow’s world. Education needs to be different and dynamic to meet the new and exciting challenges of a fast-changing world. Many of the jobs our children will be doing in the future haven’t even been invented yet. As parents, I suspect you are interested in knowing even more about how we are preparing children for tomorrow. That is why I would like to draw your attention to a new campaign – ‘Preparing today’s students for tomorrow’. The campaign features advertising and includes a link to updated content on the Department’s website. While jobs featured in the campaign, such as underwater infrastructure planner, hover train designer and bio dome gardener may sound futuristic, there is a serious message behind them. Jobs are changing and many of our children will work in professions that don’t exist today. Our school is doing a lot of work to help prepare our students for this future. We are running programs such as our Primary Science Specialist Program, Bush Kindy, Using technology to facilitate individualised, collaborative student learning, and the recently completed school play event. I encourage you to take a look at the new information designed with parents and students in mind. Visit: www.education.vic.gov.au/futureready

Teresa our Out of School Hours Care Educator will be on leave from Oct 15 until October 28. Lynn Clegg will be replacing Teresa for that period.

Our students receive Free Fresh Fruit on Mondays as part of the school’s sports program. This is at the conclusion of some active exercise at 12.30pm. Children participating in OSHC also have the opportunity to eat fresh fruit.

The October meeting of School Council is planned for next Monday October 20th beginning at 6.30pm.

As part of the "Protect Our Preschools" Stop Work action, the AEU has a petition you may wish to sign in support of the campaign. The petition can be found at the entrance to Early Years Learning Centre (Preschool entrance).

The UV ratings are starting to get higher. It is great to see our students being so sunsmart which includes wearing sun hats outside during recess times. Well done!

Term 4 Active After Schools Program begins next Monday. Craig Donahoo will be conducting Mountain Biking for 20 enthusiasts from 3.30 until 4.30pm over the next 7-8 weeks. Forms will be sent home TOMORROW for those interested. Please note there are only a limited number of positions for this activity.

Hoping you enjoy the remainder of this week.

Darryl Harty
JUNIOR ROOM NEWS

What a fantastic week – the highlight being the OMM performance at Birregurra Festival!

The Birregurra Festival OMM performance

I must say I was very proud of the students’ behaviour, both at the Birregurra PS practice session for the ‘festival’ and on the actual day. I even had members of the public, who didn’t know I was a teacher at Forrest, commenting on how they had met some of the students and how friendly and polite they were. They also added that it must be a reflection of what a wonderful community Forrest must be. How’s that for an unsolicited compliment!

Walk to School month

The students are still as keen as ever – I am afraid any idea I had of keeping up with them has gone by the by. By the look on their faces they all enjoyed our ‘Walk to School’ breakfast this morning. Thanks to the parents who were able to help with the clean up afterwards.

In the Classroom this week

This week we have spent some time working on our learning goals in the areas of behaviour, reading, writing, spelling and math. In small groups, I have had discussions with the students as to the areas they feel confident in, and can do well. It has been very interesting. Generally the students are spot on and able to identify the areas that they need help in or require improvement. Consequently, each student now has a visible reminder, four learning goals which sit on their table. We have also discussed ‘success criteria’ – when do they know they have reached their goal and are ready for a new one? Some goals may take weeks or months to reach, while others are more short term. I will send a copy of your child’s learning goals home later this week so that we can work together to help them achieve success.

Congratulations

This week, Reuben Freddi has proudly reached his goal of 100 nights reading and looking forward to his celebratory milkshake. Congratulations also to Kohima Sprunt, Elijah Freddi, Joe Broomfield, William Hunt and Luca Sprunt who have all read over 200 nights – a huge effort!

Focus Topics

Maths – Time, plus addition for the preps and multiplication for the Year 1 and Year students.
Reading – Reading for understanding and looking for inference.
Writing – Recounts.
Spelling – Sound waves – Preps ‘x’ (sounds like ks) and ‘qu’ (sounds like kw) a tough one, Year 1 and Year 2 students ‘v ve’.
The Preps have now begun to have take-home spelling words, 5 per week. We have extensively practiced the ‘Look, Say, Cover, Write, Check’ system. I have tried to make some spelling folders to help them remember what to do – I don’t know how successful these folders will be but I felt they needed something.

Spare School windcheaters

I now have a selection of washed, unclaimed and unnamed windcheaters waiting for new good homes. Please feel free to help yourself, the only catch being that you have to use my permanent marker to write your child’s initials the top before it leaves the classroom. Thanks.

Miss Mac
Junior Room Teacher

Helping Hands Week 2

Kohima for helping a fellow student with their playpus work.
Cassia for helping pick up a fellow student’s windcheater left out in the playground.
**SENIOR ROOM NEWS**

Over the past week many students undertook PAT testing. These tests cover Numeracy, Literacy and Science. We have subscribed to Acer to deliver a range of PAT tests online to replace On-Demand testing which we have used for many years. We have been advised that the On-Demand testing has become too unreliable, and that PAT testing would be a great replacement.

We are very pleased with the purchase. Once tests are complete, the program gives teachers diagnostic information about student’s relative strengths and weaknesses, which gives rise to more focussed planning. The program also gives teachers a range of resources / activities that students can undertake to help them develop further in particular areas of weakness.

We have already had some very good results arising from the testing process and we will be focussing very hard on areas of improvement over the next 6 weeks. Students will then resit tests to measure their improvement.

**PEACE POSTERS** — all Senior Room students are making peace posters based on the theme ‘Peace. Love and Understanding’. This is a global competition run by the Lions Club. The winning student at Forrest will have their poster judged at regional level and then it will progress all of the way to a national winner and then to the world! The display and judging of posters will occur at Forrest PS on **Wednesday 29th October** between 10.30am and 11.30am. The Lions Club will organise morning tea for students and parents.

**BIKE ED** — Don’t forget Mountain Bike Education will occur for 7 weeks beginning next Monday. Students are only able to be part of the program if their bike is in good mechanical condition. If your child is going to be part of this program, please organise for the bike to be in very good mechanical condition. Brakes in particular need particular attention to detail, as students will need to be able to conduct emergency stopping procedures during the course. **Students will be able to go onto the tracks on the proviso that their bikes are in good mechanical condition.** Notes will be distributed on Thursday.

Mr. D.

Senior Room Teacher

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**JUNIOR ROOM:** This week’s student of the week goes to Charles Seebeck. Charles’ enthusiasm and determination to focus on his work and to do his best is outstanding. Fantastic Achievement Charles!

**SENIOR ROOM:** This week’s Student of the Week is Aphrodite Shomaly for her persistence making artwork for the Peace Love and Understanding Poster.
PRE SCHOOL NEWS

Bush Program
As the School children left before 10:00 during last week’s Bush Program, the Pre-school children had some play without their older peers. First they seemed to be a little lost, but then after a while they all had a go on the tyre swing, which is not that easy to get up on and stay on. We also played a memory game, where everyone goes and gets something from nature, and then sits in a circle with all the things in the middle. Then we took turns closing our eyes while the next person took away something. They were all really good at remembering and guessing what had been taken away. One of the children wanted to play the Sugar Plum action song, so we did that too before it was time to go inside. Thanks to Kim for staying with us to 11:00, and Mr Harty for relieving, so I could have a short break (this happens every Friday).

School Breakfast today (Wednesday)
I hope everyone who took advantage of the opportunity to have breakfast at the school had a pleasant experience. It is certainly something the children would have enjoyed.

Children’s Week – excursion to Colac
Please remember to return the permission slip this week for the excursion next week.

Industrial action- NO PRE-SCHOOL SESSION ON WEDNESDAY
Last term, I gave everyone information about the industrial action that has been planned, and why, by Australian Education Union (AEU) members. As negotiations have stalled, pre-school staff who are members of AEU will stop work on Wednesday 22/10. As an AEU member, I will not be working on that day. Caralyn and Teresa will operate as normal. If you need any more information please talk to me or Mr Harty. I have put a petition on the sign-in table. Please sign it if you wish to add support to the message that we need more funding for pre-schools.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO MADELEINE, 5 YEARS-OLD
Lena Collsopy
Pre-school Teacher

DATES TO REMEMBER
Wed 22/10    Stop work action - Lena.
Thu 23/10    10:00 AM – 1:15 PM, Excursion to Colac.
Wed 29/10    Roaming Reptiles Incursion.
Friday 31/10  Colac Show Day Holiday.
A REMINDER TO PARENTS USING OUR DAY CARE SERVICES

Parents who want a permanent position for their child/children please call Caralyn or Teresa to confirm this for term 4.

Permanent positions will ensure a spot on the day that you require.

Permanent positions require payment for the full term, even if your child is absent.

One off care requires a phone call prior to the day to either Caralyn or Teresa to confirm this and you will only be billed for this day.

Parents also please remember, because we are a sun smart school, children are required to wear a hat during term four whilst playing outside.

Thank you,
Caralyn and Teresa

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TIMES | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday
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9:00–10:45 | Outside Activities * | Outside Activities * | Outside Activities* Pre-School | Pre-School (3 and 4 year olds) | Pre-School FORREST KIDS GO BLUSH!
10:45-11:15 | Snack and Chat | Snack and Chat | Snack and Chat | Snack and Chat | Snack and Chat
11:15–12:30 | Inside Games and Activities | Inside Song and Dance Activities | Inside Free Play | Snack and Chat | Snack and Chat
12:30-1:00 | Snack and Chat | Snack and Chat | Snack and Chat | Snack and Chat | Snack and Chat
1:00–2:00 | QUIET TIME/ CRAFT | QUIET TIME/ Floor Activities | Inside Free Time | Yoga, sing-a-long songs, story-time | Arts and crafts: child centred craft activities
2:00–3:30 | Inside play: toys, trucks, drawing, painting | Colouring pages and decorating art projects | Inside play: puzzles, drawing, home corner, book corner | Healthy SNACK | Healthy SNACK
3:30–4:00 | Healthy SNACK | Healthy SNACK | Healthy SNACK | Healthy SNACK | Healthy SNACK
4:00–5:00 | Outside play | CRAFT TIME | COOKING | CRAFT TIME | Outside play
5:00–6:00 | Weekend storytelling | Outside play | Sing-a-long songs and dance | Outside Play | Relaxation: reading and quiet games

* Outside Activities will be held providing weather is suitable
OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE EARLY SETTLEMENT OF OUR DISTRICT

We are very lucky to live at a time when we are only two or three generations from those early settlers who pioneered our district. Future generations will possibly lose contact with their past.

Here is a unique opportunity to hear an account of how our district was settled by one of our pioneer families.

You are invited to hear

JOHN CALLAHAN

At Forrest Community Hall
Sunday 26th October, at 11am
(Tea and coffee from 10.30am)

John Callahan’s grandparents came to the district in the mid-1800’s. The family’s continuous history with all the events that have occurred over more than a century and a half and the immense changes in lifestyle virtually sum up the history of the whole area.

FORREST AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY
New members welcome: Tel 52 366 327 Email Kenw@pipeline.com.au

REMINDER:
Hello Parents,

Could you please return the parents direct & chalk catalogues for fundraising? They were due last Friday. If you could please return them by 23 of October. Thanks!
SMALL AND SNOTTY TO TALL AND SPOTTY
The BOUNCE Program Parent/Carer Education Session
Birregurra Primary School MPR
Wednesday October 22nd - 7pm

The best youth work happens in Primary School. This 2 hr interactive session is a chance to come together and look at ways in which we can build resilience in our children through play, role modelling and conversation, learning to celebrate their "I CAN" lists whilst introducing the concept of having a plan.

Presenter Leigh Bartlett has a background in education, wellbeing, sports coaching has practiced the content on a few Kids of her own. Leigh has presented over 60 parent education sessions and truly believes that the best youth work DOES happen long before our Kids hit their teens.

What parents who have been part of the session have said:

'Strategies to use at home, not just theories'......'Very informative, helpful strategies and would love, need follow up sessions'..........'Learning to teach kids resilience and to make a plan'....'Great tips for getting kids to talk about things'......'Promotes conversational confidence'.......'Reiteration of ideas with regards to helping them 'learn to fail' and information about technology'...........'.New ideas that can be simple to introduce'........'Very funny and knowledgeable' 'Relaxed enough for a few laughs from attendees, well done'.........'All of it. Came last year and enjoyed it just as much this year!'.........'Down to earth, presented with humour respect and honesty.'

For more information refer to the information kit.
Looking forward to meeting you and sharing the experience.

From The Team at BAT Force

We will / will not be able to attend the SHORT AND SNOTTY AND TALL AND SPOTTY community forum

Date: .................................................................
Name: .................................................................
Child/s Class: .............................................................

(The BOUNCE program information kit can be found on the front desk at the school)