SEPTEMBER 12TH, 2013

PRINCIPAL’S COMMENT

Book Project

On Wednesday we had all three experts at school helping the children put the final touches on their writing and artistic offerings! Rob Ashton was here to photograph the students in character. We did a whole school shot and this will end up being the front cover - at this stage anyway!! Rob also did individual shots that will be used on each student’s character page.

I would like to thank Leah Tung for her efforts in helping with costumes – the kids have really appreciated your support!

Each student’s double page will contain writing pieces, paintings, sketches and some photography so the book will look spectacular when finished!!

Timeline- students and staff have until the end of term to complete their work. It then goes to an editor and designer (Greg Days partner Sian) who will mesh it all together and then it goes off to the printers. At this stage we are anticipating having a launch of this project in about November 2013- something not to be missed and more information will be forthcoming as we get closer to the time.

*Craig will take over the book launch process in my absence and will inform the community about any details and timelines as they unfold. I thank Craig for taking on this important role as I want the children to be involved in every step that a professional writer/artist would experience and a launch/exhibition is very much a part of the process!!*

Student Free Day

On Monday 9th September staff participated in a Professional Development Day at school. We specifically looked at the MultiLit Program and 21st Century Learning. I thank Kaz for leading some of the day and to the staff for so enthusiastically joining in.

It was a wonderful day full of educational discussions and planning on how best to deliver our curriculum to your children.

Fundraising

Thank you to Sarah Lane for again leading a very successful fundraising effort over the weekend. At this stage we have estimated the profit to be over $400.00 which is fantastic!

I would like to thank all the parent volunteers and community members such as Victoria Moore who gave enormous support on the coffee machine!

Once gain these efforts not only raise much needed funds for the school but also provide a community service to our terrific community.
FORREST PRIMARY SCHOOL

Deans Marsh Artist Day

On Tuesday the whole school travelled to the Deans Marsh PS for an Arts day. The day was coordinated by Jess Gibson and Sonya Dohnt. Our visiting artist was Veronica Phillips who many would know because she is a local. The students all read and made fantastic creatures that looked fantastic. We thank her for the activities and preparation that went into making such a successful day.

As I said to the children before we departed these days are essential for small schools such as ours because the children get the opportunity to socialise with a different group of children and staff have the opportunity to explore different educational conversations as well.

Front Entrance

Once again a huge thank you to Sam Evans who has prepared the concrete base works in preparation for the construction of our new front entrance and bike shelter! It really has been an amazing effort by him to prepare and complete such major works for this small community school.

On behalf of the school community I thank the Evans family for their enormously generous donation!

Active After School Program

The last session for this term will be on Tuesday 10th September

AFL Clinic

For the first time our Year 4-6 students have been invited into Colac West PS for this year’s Toyota AFL Junior Footy Clinic. This event will be held on Thursday 12th September from 12.30-2.00 and will include some of the games greats- Luke Hodge, Patrick Dangerfield, Lenny Hayes, Brian Taylor etc

We will be travelling in by bus and the cost for this excursion is $5.00 per child.

Last Week

I can’t believe it but we are now in the last week of my tenure as Principal of the Forrest PS. I will write a special note in next week’s newsletter but for now it’s business as usual and there are lots of things to do prior to the end of term!

I will be meeting next week with Tara Hulonce and a representative from the department to go through a range of handover procedures.

Last Day of Term

A reminder that school finishes at 2:30 on the last day of Term (20th September). Please make alternative arrangements to have your child picked up at this time unless they are using ASC.

Peter
Junior Tennis Players Wanted

The Barwon Downs Tennis club are seeking kids who are interested in playing tennis for season 2013 -2014. Tennis practise begins Sunday 22nd September 10am at Barwon Downs Tennis courts. Season competition starts 12th October 2013. Please contact me ASAP if your child / children are interested as we need to start organizing teams etc. All welcome to attend the training session. Thank you

Please call Robyn on 52366282 or 0439366282 - email lucrob1@bigpond.com.au

Fundraising News

Thank you, thank you, thank you to all parents (& children) who volunteered time on Saturday 7th September to turn sausages, hamburgers & assemble egg & bacon rolls! A number of parents also put a concerted effort in prior to Saturday (you know who you are…) and I extend an extra big thank you to you too. The event was well supported by parents and many came and enjoyed a BBQ breakfast or lunch.

The BBQ generated much conversation with locals regarding the recent upgrades to the school grounds & many commented on how great it was looking, some were given a bit of a tour around and came back suitably impressed.

We were extremely lucky to secure a volunteer barista who worked away in the hall kitchen making coffees (& running a child minding service!) Thank you to Victoria Moore – her efforts was a bonus to supplement our BBQ and many people appreciated the great coffees she made.

Our takings at the end of the day were good and after expenses we made $305.00 to contribute to the school grounds master plan. Not bad considering the rain and the fact that there had been many people vote early for this election. Thanks everyone!

Sarah Lane

STUDENT OF THE WEEK

JUNIOR ROOM: Hamish Coulter for completing learning tasks by concentrating in class and working without being distracted

SENIOR ROOM: Andrew Evans and Claire Macdonald for their excellent presentation to the Forrest and District Community Group to attract funding to build a new entrance and bike shelter for our school.
Junior Room News

Literacy – book project

The dress rehearsal last Friday certainly got all the students (and their parents) organised in preparation for Wednesday’s photo shoot. On Wednesday the excitement was enormous and Rob (the photographer) couldn’t believe how quickly the students got dressed into their character outfits. Many students in ‘comfortable’ outfits chose to wear them for the day. Thanks to Nerrida and Leah for filling the costume and prop gaps noted during Friday’s session.

At the moment our school, like many others, has a terrible flu/cold knocking students (and staff) about left, right and centre. Thanks to the parents, and sick students (tissue box in hand) who bravely turned up for the photo shoot and did their best to look happy and well. There was only the one opportunity for the photos to be taken (and by such a ‘famous’ photographer) and their page in the book can now proudly display their image.

The number of sick students has certainly come with its own set of challenges. Hopefully, with a concerted effort, all of the students in the Junior room will be able to finish their anecdotal writing and art for this project. Fingers crossed for quick recoveries!

Responsible Pet Ownership

Last Friday all of the Junior room students enjoyed a very informative session learning about dogs and how to react to and approach strange dogs. ‘Storm’ the Persian Mountain Dog was a huge but placid participant in the program. Not a dog for people with small cars – he took up the entire back seat of the trainer’s station wagon!

Forrest Kids Go Bush – Year 1 and 2 students

Due to the Responsible Pet Ownership session our time to participate in Forrest Kids Go Bush program was shortened to one hour. This gave the Kindergarten children the opportunity to ‘take over’ and from all accounts they enjoyed having the entire ‘creek’ to themselves. It has been wonderful to watch the confidence of the Kinder children grow over the time they have participated in this program. Having just the one hour to themselves proved to be perfect timing as they were just beginning to wonder where the Year 1 and 2 students were when we arrived. Once again the weather was on our side!

Staff Professional Development

Thanks to Kaz for running a very informative Multilit session on Monday. I certainly gained a greater understanding of how this program can improve student learning. The discussion with Eve provided an insight as to how integrate some of the concepts into our literacy sessions and how to encourage student engagement with literacy generally.

Kristin Mackinlay
Junior Room Teacher

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Wanted!!!

Baby animals to display in the Birregurra Preschool’s Animal Nursery at the Birregurra Weekend Festival

Saturday 12th October & Sunday 13th October

Please phone 52 362 169 or 0428 133 626 if you have kittens, puppies, etc.
Senior Room

On Tuesday kids had a wonderful time attending the artist day at Deans Marsh. Apart from it being a very good social opportunity for Forrest and Deans Marsh Students, everyone was utterly engaged in the art activity set up by Veronica. Children created a variety of creatively shaped animals using wool and raffia. The raffia was scrunched up to and wool twined around to create the bodies, then the legs were made and attached. Children then chose their colours and wrapped wall around and around until they achieved the shape and structure they were happy with. Afterwards they sewed on eyes, wings etc.. absolutely superb.. But guess what.. Mr Donahoo forgot his camera.. not too late though, kids will finish off their creations during art next Tuesday.

On Wednesday with great excitement and energy, everyone got dressed up as their book characters. We were honoured to have Rob Ashton http://www.robertashton.com.au/home.html photograph the children in character. Having a photographer with the breadth of knowledge, notoriety and experience as Rob, we most certainly will end up with some fantastic images. The kids looked superb! Thanks to parents. We would like to particularly thank Leah Tung for lending us costumes and preparing the kids for their photographs. Also to Nerida Macdonald and Miss Mackinlay for going the extra mile!! Gregory Day attended the day to help out and inspire the children, especially his inspiring singing.

On Tuesday evening Claire Macdonald and Andrew Evans presented a proposal to the Forrest and District Community Group (FDCG). The proposal was to attract funding to help build the front entrance / Bus Shelter and Bike Shelter for our school. The FDCG congratulated Claire and Andrew with applause and very positive feedback after their presentation.

Time to say ‘See you later’ to Mr Steven:

DINNER :
The school council would like to open the invitation to all parents and staff to attend a Farwell Dinner at:

• The Guest House on Monday 16th of September 6pm.
• The cost will be $25 per person for a 2 course meal. It will be a roast. Vegetarians catered for.
Numbers are limited to 30 people (liquor Licence)

**Parents who are able to come please contact Craig Donahoo BEFORE 3.30pm on Friday 13th September

MORNING TEA :
If you are unable to attend on Monday night, on the last day of term:

• Friday 20th September - 11am
• Morning tea at school
Children to bring a Plate of Healthy food
This is especially an opportunity for children to say ‘see you late’ to their Principal. All parents are welcome.
2nd Colac Cub Scouts present the 2013 annual 'Freak Night'

A spooky themed dress up disco and games night for children from 6 – 11 years old. Come along and have some fun on **Friday 13th September at the Otway Plains District Scout Hall** (Log Cabin, down behind the Police Station).

Times: 6 to 8 year olds from 6:30-7:30pm,

9 to 11 year olds from 7:30 - 9:00pm.

Chips and lollies available to buy from the Witches Kitchen.

**Free cordial provided.**

For more information contact Kathy on 52 348 376.