September 20th, 2013

PRINCIPAL’S COMMENT

This will be my last newsletter as Principal of the Forrest PS. With so many people calling in this week to say thank you, it is important to celebrate and reflect on our time together over the past 21 months! The achievements have been many and varied, but for me the real success has involved the improvement in our school ethos!

To change a school’s ethos involves getting all the structures right – students, staff, parents and community. I am very pleased with the growth that has occurred over my tenure in the above areas and our school is one that everybody should feel very proud to be involved in.

Our students are fantastic kids, who are achieving excellent academic results, conducting and behaving themselves to a high standard, participate in all activities and treat each other and visitors with the care and respect that is now the norm. Their individual and collective growth over the time has been outstanding.

Our staff (pre-school, school, office and cleaner/gardener/bus driver) is awesome and they have been more than willing to learn about new programs, get involved in new challenges, always maintain the highest professional standards, be creative and innovative and have been extremely supportive of me over the journey. Their work has been impressive and has played a significant part in making our school a fantastic place for our children.

Paul Troughton has led the School Council including sub committees – Fundraising, Buildings and Grounds and the Pre-school in a way that has allowed for significant contributions from everyone. All parents have welcomed me from the outset and have been very supportive of all our programs and have involved themselves in whatever ways best suit. You are a very generous and supportive group of people who always put the best interests of your children first.

We have a very strong community presence in this school and the recent book project certainly highlighted just how many people want to be a part of what the school is promoting – inclusiveness! This is something that has grown and should be encouraged at all times.

As a teacher and leader within this school I am very proud of the fact that there is a shared moral understanding amongst our staff to care, nurture and develop your children. We are blessed with staff that always put the interests of your children first and we always put children at the forefront of all decisions that have been made. Craig, Kristin and Lena are a really professional team and I have thoroughly appreciated working with them!

Lastly Forrest has been very good to me and I certainly have appreciated the opportunity to help improve and grow this wonderful community school. I thank everyone for your support over the past 21 months and wish you and your children all the very best for the future!!
FORREST PRIMARY SCHOOL

See you all at the book launch!!!!!!!

Cheers

Peter

NAPLAN

Our school results for this year’s NAPLAN were outstanding – all results were above National Standards. All staff and students should be congratulated for their outstanding achievements.

Our aim is to have all students at or above national benchmarks. For me the main measure of academic success in a school is all students improving and showing growth.

Book Project

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!!*

Sam Evans

Natalie Lane presented Sam with a small gift in appreciation for the enormous contribution that he has made to our buildings and grounds. It is not often you catch Sam short of words but on this occasion he was. We all appreciate your work Sam

AFL Clinic

Wow wee what a great opportunity for the students to meet some of the AFL stars and commentators in at Colac West PS.

It was a real show full of music, questions, skill information and plenty of photo and signature opportunities as well. Hopefully the students enjoyed the excursion and maybe next time they will be game enough to ask the football stars some questions!

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

Go Saints in 2014!
Looking forward to Term 4!

It was with great excitement that I first joined the Forrest Primary School community in 2004, and it is with the same feelings I resume my post as Principal in a few weeks time. I have been incredibly fortunate to have been able to take family leave and return to what I’ve always claimed is the best job in the world. And that it is- as teachers we are honoured with the opportunity and responsibility to make a difference in children’s lives. And it’s also great fun!

Since I left Forrest, I’ve not only added to our little family, but also had many amazing opportunities. We lived in the Middle East for three years working with the Abu Dhabi education system to improve school effectiveness, teacher capacity and children’s learning outcomes. This experience has given me a broadened view on worldwide education and cemented many of my teaching beliefs. We’ve always done a brilliant job at Forrest, and I look forward to working with everyone again.

I’d like to thank Ann Buchanan and Peter Steven for the excellent job they have done in leading the school in my absence. Over the years I’ve enjoyed hearing how FPS is going and need to praise all who’ve been involved in the dramatic and fantastic building and grounds improvements. All is progressing well and the website is looking great! I can’t wait to get back to see familiar faces and meet new ones.

Enjoy the holidays and see you in October.

Tara Hulonce
Principal
Forrest Primary School

---

**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

---

**STUDENT OF THE WEEK**

**JUNIOR ROOM:** Joe Broomfield for concentrating to complete his Lava Lamp experiment write-up in record time!

**SENIOR ROOM:** Morgan Tehan for successfully completing all of his writing and art tasks for the Forrest Characters book.
A big ‘Thank You’ to Sheila, Nerrida and Kaz for relieving for Caralyn and I when we both got sick last week. I’ve had some feedback that everything went well.

As you know, the Responsible Dog Ownership Program was cancelled. The new date is Friday 8/11. Instead we had time to make homemade pasta. Caralyn had prepared the dough beforehand, as this is quite a tedious job to do. The children were very interested and enjoyed turning the handle of the pasta maker while watching the long tagliatelle come out. Everyone was very involved and also very patient waiting their turn. Though they were very involved in the process of making pasta, only three of the children enjoyed eating the cooked pasta afterwards.

**Peter’s farewell**

We will be skipping our own morning tea tomorrow to join the rest of the school for a Farewell morning tea for our departing Acting Principal Peter Steven at 11:00 in the Junior Room. Parents are welcome too (see separate note).

**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 have 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.

**Thank You**

I would like to thank all staff and families for another happy term. A special thanks to Caralyn, and the hard working Pre-school Committee. Also thanks to Kim for her endless work with the Pre-school and the Bush Program. Thanks to Kristin for great teamwork on Fridays. Thanks to Peter for everything he has done for the school during his time as the Acting Principal, and welcome back to Tara, the Principal next term.

**ENJOY THE SCHOOL HOLIDAYS!!! JJ**

Lena Collopy
Pre-school Teacher

**DATES TO REMEMBER**

**Thursday 10/10** Pre-school starts.
Junior Room News

It has been a very busy and productive term. The students have all worked very hard and deserve to take it easy during these holidays.

I wish all of you a safe and relaxing break and look forward to seeing you all in Term 4.

Kristin Mackinlay
Junior Room Teacher

Senior Room

Learning this term has been very different than most, with a large proportion of our learning experiences being focussed around the production of a book. Children have been authors for a term, and it looks like success! The quality of the writing has been fantastic and the creativity and care taken in the artworks have been wonderful. Along with the photos of the children in character, the book is shaping up to be something very special. This week we celebrated our learning by sharing stories and arranging artworks on the walls to reflect the landscape of Forrest and surrounds over the past 120 + years.

The book will not necessarily be a true reflection of the history, rather a snap shot of children’s learning represented in creative forms. Overall it is amazing what has been achieved in less than 50 school days, of which only about half would have been dedicated to the book.

NAPLAN – Congratulations to grade 3 and grade 5 students for their excellent NAPLAN results this year.

The measured growth for all Grade 5 students over the past 2 years (with a reference point of the grade 3 NAPLAN test) has been measured in the high category. This is excellent news for students, families, teachers and the school.

STRENGTH TREE – This week students decorated a 3D tree with pictures that represented how they cope with difficult or stressful situations. This was done in preparation for mental health week coming up in early October.

Mr Steven – It is with great sadness that we say goodbye to our school Principal Peter Steven this week. Peter’s leadership has had a clear and measureable impact on our school over the past 2 years. We have a high level of student engagement, great results in learning, excellent staff satisfaction and motivation, community engagement and significant improvements to our schools facilities. We now must keep the ball rolling! Peter is an excellent individual to work with, I have learnt and enormous amount from him and he will be greatly missed by students, staff and community. Many sincere thankyou’s to you Peter!

Wishing everyone happy and safe holidays