PRINCIPAL’S NEWS
This week I was so proud of our senior students at the Polwarth Cross Country event. All of the children who attended put in their best effort and represented our school to the best of their ability. Both Craig and I were super impressed with the great efforts of Forrest Primary School. To follow up on this four of our students will be competing in the next level of competition on Friday in Colac. We wish Madeleine, Jarrah, Kai and Kaye all the best as they run against students in the Colac Primary Schools level event.

Curriculum– we have all been thoroughly enjoying science lessons with Mrs Standish and feedback has been most positive. Parents are telling me that their children really look forward to school on Tuesdays – which is excellent news. Tomorrow we will be travelling to Ecolinc in Bacchus Marsh. “Ecolinc, established in 2005, provides a wide range of exciting and engaging curriculum programs for P-12 students and teachers, addressing both the Victorian Essential Learning Standards (VELS) and the Australian Curriculum. The award winning Ecolinc facility incorporates innovative ecologically sustainable design (ESD) elements, providing the perfect venue and model for environmental teaching and learning. Ecolinc is set within a created indigenous grassy/woodland landscape featuring a model wetland, designed to intercept and filter stormwater, and to aid in cooling the facility in summer.” For more details see http://ecolinc.vic.edu.au

Next week– school camp is being held for our Grade 3-6 students and we are super excited. Some children have packed their bags already! We look forward to a great time with our friends from Alvie and Deans Marsh.

Next week I have School Review training, which is very important for us to set the direction for the next 3 years at FPS. I am looking forward to completing our self assessment and review process and determining our new School Strategic Plan.

SCHOOL PERFORMANCE/PLAY- There has been a great deal of discussion in our parent community about a school performance/play. We are hoping this will become our project for Term 3. If you are interested in being involved (writing/ choreography/ costumes/ sets/ ideas etc.) please let the office know and we’ll organize a meeting to set plans in motion.

Have fun,

Tara Hulonce
JUNIOR ROOM NEWS

Anzac Day

We spent Thursday morning viewing some fantastic Anzac Day resources on the interactive whiteboard. Some of the areas covered included: the reason for Anzac Day; why it is called Anzac Day; the history of the Anzac biscuit; the significance of poppies; understanding “The Ode” and the inferences therein; listening to the Last Post; and the medals. Making Anzac biscuits, remembrance poppies and working on a mini booklet, followed discussion. It was a very thought provoking and productive two hours. Thanks to Jo for all her help and contributions.

Term 2 Inquiry unit - Farms

Our first lesson investigated what the students know about farms. It was amazing how much they know about different types of farms, the animals, produce, tools and equipment and jobs! Our next task is to start “building” our own farm.

Maths

The students did an excellent job completing their unit on fractions. Preps learnt about ½ of a whole (pizza), Year 1 - ½ of different shapes and collections, Year 2 – ¼ of different shapes, collections and sharing. Over the next week we are concentrating on addition. I am also targeting ‘Reading the Question’ and ‘Looking for clues’. Misreading the question is a common mistake, leading to incorrect answers. Looking for clues encourages the students work out what they know and to have a go at working out the answer for themselves.

Science

The excitement continues. We are establishing great routines. The students are paired in their manager and speaker roles and loved investigating their mixtures. Expect questions about different mixtures around the home - the homework sheet was inserted in their diaries yesterday.

Literacy

On Tuesdays and Thursdays the Preps rotate through different learning centres. These are targeted to reinforce development in specific areas. At the moment letter sounds (phonemes), the alphabet and Golden words are our focus. Please ensure your child reads their Magic words and at least one reader each night.

Year 1 and Year 2 students are concentrating on understanding the components of and writing recounts. I am experimenting with the “20 minute” writing recount – our first ‘go’ was an outstanding success!

Forrest Kids Go Bush

The rain has come – and therefore the mud! As many of the overalls didn’t require washing they are at school. I will check today if all students have a pair and will make a note in their diary if theirs is missing. Gumboots, a wet weather jacket and change of clothes to wear under the overalls, including socks, are essential!

Lost Property

The Freddi and Seebeck families would appreciate it if parents could check school tops, particularly hoodies, to see if their children’s school tops have been accidently taken home by others. Thanks.

Miss Mac. Junior Room Teacher

SUPER SCIENCE FACT:

"everyday a thousand tonnes of meteor dust falls on the earth!"
SENIOR ROOM NEWS

Over the past week all of the Senior Room Students presented their assignments on Famous Indigenous People. After each pair of students completed their presentation, the audience was tested to find out how well they listened. It was an enjoyable and interesting process. I am very proud of how maturely everyone worked on this task. We created pairs mixing older and younger children. This provided an opportunity for younger students to learn new skills and older students to take on the responsibility to teach them.

We have spent a couple of sessions engaging in colonial history. We watched parts of Oliver Twist to help us understand what life must have been like in England 200-250 years ago. Combined with some facts on a timeline, students responded this week comparing and contrasting life then and life now. On Tuesday we began to develop more knowledge on the Victorian Gold Rush, what it was and the impact on the Port Philip Colony.

We have continued our study of fractions. Everyone is realising the importance of properly understanding operations, especially times tables, to solve fractions problems. Many teachers believe that children find fractions difficult, but I believe that it is not ‘fractions’ rather it is the proper understanding of multiplication and division. Fractions concepts and rules are actually very simple to learn and remember. This is why we spend so much time focussing on operations in first term.

Everyone is getting excited about the Sovereign Hill Camp.

Homework: All Students have homework for 5 nights per week. Most children should now be reading a Lexile levelled book every night for a minimum of 20 minutes. Students with a Lexile level of less than 1000 will need to complete a reading record every day. Some students will be finishing off Maths work at home. This term students will be practicing their times tables. Each week they will receive a times table form that they can practice their nominated

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR STUDENTS OF THE WEEK!

JUNIOR ROOM: This week’s student of the week is Julian Tung. Julian’s listening and concentration skills have really improved. He has been able to tell the class what he has learnt and remembered details of a lesson, like the story of Simpson’s Donkey. Excellent effort Julian!

SENIOR ROOM:

This week’s Student of the Week is Britt Coulter for showing us her ability to listen to instructions and produce very high quality pieces of writing.
It’s great to be back into term, after last week’s shortened timetable. Here’s an update on what we have been doing:

- Staff have met to discuss how we can best address the quality outcomes as set in the VEYLDF (Victorian Early Years Development and Learning Framework) and have come up with some great plans to streamline our systems. Areas of focus will be; planning documents, staff records, and student/child observations.

- Today we had Lisa from DIVERSITAT TRAINING out to give us information on courses being offered now in Childcare. We hope to create a study group to help us all upskill.

- Please note: we still have some childcare vacancies—so please let friends and family know.

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**EARLY LEARNING CENTRE/ OSHC PROGRAM**

For OSHC/afternoon bookings please call: Millie 0433 210886

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TIMES</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9:00–10:45</td>
<td>Outside Activities *</td>
<td>Outside Activities *</td>
<td>Outside Activities*</td>
<td>Pre-School</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>
<td>Snack and Chat</td>
<td>Snack and Chat</td>
<td>(3 and 4 year olds)</td>
<td>FORREST KIDS GO BUSH!</td>
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<tr>
<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>
<td>Snack and Chat</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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<tr>
<td>2:00–3:30</td>
<td>Inside play: toys, trucks, drawing,</td>
<td>Colouring pages and decorating art</td>
<td>Inside play: puzzles, drawing, home</td>
<td>Yoga, sing-a-long songs, story-time</td>
<td>Arts and crafts: child centred craft</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>painting</td>
<td>projects</td>
<td>corner, book corner</td>
<td></td>
<td>activities</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:30–4:00</td>
<td>Healthy SNACK</td>
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<tr>
<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>
</tr>
<tr>
<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>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Outside Activities will be held providing weather is suitable.

For MORNING Childcare bookings: Caralyn 0412 953366
Welcome to Term II

I hope everyone had some fun during the school holidays. The children seemed very happy to be back last week. This term, we have taken away the Hospital play, and set up for Restaurant play instead. The children are enjoying playing with the new setting. We have also started to do some creative sewing in polystyrene. Sewing is great for fine motor skills and eye-hand co-ordination. We will do more sewing during the year.

Fire Drill

All of the school had a fire drill last Wednesday. It was very successful, and the children listened very well to the instructions from Caralyn and I. It can sometimes be difficult for young children to understand what a fire drill is. We had a discussion about the drill afterwards, and I wouldn’t be surprised if they talked to you about it as well.

School Playground

The children had a good play in the school playground last week while the school children were inside. The children really like the challenge of the different climbing and balancing options.

Healthy Eating

Tanja Brunner from Otway Health will visit us on Friday 9/5. She teaches healthy eating, brings healthy food and plays games with the children. Tanja usually likes to have a short session with parents as well. Please try to make some time to attend (time to be advised) to learn more about healthy food alternatives for your family.

Welcome Laura

Laura Bamford is studying Certificate III in Children Services. Laura came for a visit last week and will start her practical placement with us today.

Lena Collopy
Pre-school Teacher

DATES TO REMEMBER

Fri 2/5 Committee Meeting, 2pm.

Fri 9/5 Tanja from Otway Health visits.
COMMUNITY NEWS

FREE Regional Parenting Expo

‘Let’s Talk’ - addressing childhood anxiety and building resilience in children (aged 4-12yrs)

For parents and professionals

Tuesday 20th May 2014 11.15am -2.30pm

Geelong West Town Hall, 153 Pakington Street Geelong West.

Guest Speakers: Dr. Michael Carr Gregg & Nicky Johnston

Community organisation will be available on the day – Feel free to come and talk with professionals from community organisations with a focus on child mental health.

TAKE HOME A BIG BROTHER OR BIG SISTER

Give your children the wonderful opportunity to have an international big brother or big sister by volunteering to host one of our exceptional international students arriving in Australia in July 2014 for their 3, 5, or 10 month programs. Our international students from France, Germany, Italy, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Finland, Spain and Colombia will live as a local, attend a local secondary school, arrive with their own spending money, and comprehensive insurance cover, all arranged by Southern Cross Cultural Exchange. You choose the nationality, the gender, the duration and the interests of the student that you feel is the best match for your family. Visit us at www.scce.com.au, email scceaust@scce.com.au or call us toll free on 1800 500 501, request our international student profiles, and capture the spirit of family and friendship!

Fundraising News

Thank you to all who contributed gold coins and had a guess at the weight of the donated Easter Basket – the school made $55 from donations. The winner was a lucky recipient who had had a guess on the day of the draw from the Forrest Neighbourhood House.

Thank you also to all the parents who volunteered time on Saturday and Sunday to help make the smoothie peddling at the Otway Odyssey a success. Despite colder weather and less people to sell smoothies to, we still managed to get the bikes spinning consistently and sell approximately 100 smoothies!!! The final numbers on the monies raised will be communicated next week – Garden of Eden in Colac have very kindly bought back some of the fruit we had an excess of and Woolworths also donated some money back to the school for the excess of milk and juice. Thank you, thank you, thank you to you all – the success of these events is very much dependant on parents volunteering time and I am so proud that our small school community donates so much of it.

Next fundraiser – TBA!!!!

Sarah Lane
LISTENING TO YOUR TEENAGER

In everyday conversation with teenagers, the question “What concerns you most about your relationship with your parents” usually prompts the following reply, “They don’t listen, they never listen to what I have to say”. Ironically, in parent education classes the complaint voiced by most parents about the relationship with their teenagers is “they just don’t listen, I can tell them over and over, but they just don’t listen.”

Clearly, relationships between people thrive on being heard, but parents and teenagers appear to be hearing messages from each other at times, which say, “I’m not interested in what you think, say or feel.” So how can parents and teenagers improve their communication and demonstrate a willingness to listen and understand each other.

One method increasingly taught to mums and dads in parent education courses is “Active Listening”, an easily learned technique that gives full attention to the speaker and shows an interest in and understanding of what is being said. When using Active Listening skills parents choose to hear both the message and the feelings that underlie the message. Then they check back to ensure they have understood the meaning of the message.

Here are some examples of active listening:

Teenager: Dad, we have a new kid in class who plays basketball too.

Parent: You seem really happy the new kid plays basketball?

Teenager: You bet. He’s just what our team needs.

Parent: So you’re really disappointed that your new maths teacher is not helping you?

Teenager: Yeah, I wish I could do something about it.

In both cases the parent has checked back to ensure they have understood the teenagers’ message and feelings. The parent avoided using interrogation, advice or lecturing which tend to block communication and hence spoil opportunities for understanding and acceptance of their teenager’s ideas.

Good listeners do not judge, criticise or guide a conversation to suit their own ends. Good listeners do communicate by words and actions they are willing to hear views and ideas with empathy and ultimately keep the door open for a teenager to return over and over again to talk about their concerns.

Remember that old proverb “what you give in this world you receive”. So start role modelling good listening skills to your teenagers now and you’ll be surprised how quickly they will start listening to you.
News from the Forrest Science Lab-

Here are a few uncut samples of Senior Room student work taken from our investigation work yesterday. The students are fully immersed in the scientific process and the team work is fantastic. Well done Senior Room!

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Summary
What we did:

We thought about ways to melt and liquefy milk. We melted milk using friction by separating it in milk and put it in hot water and it took 2.07 minutes.

What we learned:

I learnt that friction melts things well.

By Aliciia

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Summary
29/4/14

What we did:

Today we did Science and we had to make a way to melt a frozen milk block. We used ice and put it over the ice cube in a cup and put it on hot water and then heated it up. The milk was 65°C.

What we learned:

What I learnt to say is that there is lots of different ways to defrost frozen milk.

Zoe Kerman