PRINCIPAL’S NEWS

Congratulations to our Madeleine Seebeck and Kayla Forssman who represented FPS this week at the District Sports in Colac. The girls had a great day and were able to compete at the last minute in extra events. Well done!

EARLY LEARNING CENTRE— we have had some parent interest in accessing quality childcare over the school holidays. This is a great opportunity for us to pursue and we have begun an application with the Department of Education to alter our license with the Australian Children’s Education and Care Quality Authority (ACECQA) and reflect these new operating hours. Adding to the service hours also enables us to register as LONG DAY CARE— which means we operate 8 hours a day, 48 weeks of the year and parents can claim Child Care Benefit (CCB)! We are quite excited about this, and look forward to sharing more news on the topic shortly as the process continues.

Please let the school office know if you would be interested in childcare over the holidays.

HARMONY DAY 21st MARCH— We are busily preparing activities for this great day. The day is an excellent time to celebrate our cultural diversity through a range of fun inclusive learning experiences. We will have Alvie Consolidated, Deans Marsh and Carlisle River Primary Schools joining us for the festivities. Thanks to our teachers for planning great activities! For more information see the website: www.harmony.gov.au

CAPITAL FACILITIES UPGRADE GRANT— We submitted our detailed application recently to DEECD and have again been in subsequent consultation with our partnership organisations; Colac Otway Shire and Gateways Community Services to provide extra information supporting the application. This is promising, and we hope for a successful outcome in the near future. Thanks to all who have been involved in this process. Fingers crossed!

SCHOOL COUNCIL— Our Annual General Meeting is next Monday 6.30pm followed by a normal monthly meeting. Looking forward to our new school council— see you there.

Have fun, Tara Hulonce
CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR STUDENTS OF THE WEEK!

JUNIOR ROOM: This week’s award goes to Bryanna Crabbe. Bryanna listens in class, doesn’t get distracted, and always tries her best.

SENIOR ROOM: Braeden Kurzman for being enthusiastic and persisting until he finds success.

JUNIOR ROOM NEWS

This has been a short week and although there is only three days to report on we have certainly made the most of them!

Soundwaves

The Preps sounds this week ‘m’ – mummy on the moon, ‘n’ – nanny has a net, and ‘ng’ – ring on the finger, not an easy one to sound out. Students complete activities that help them to identify words beginning with these sounds. Practicing sounds at the beginning of words at home would reinforce what has been learnt at school.

Year 1 and Year 2 students sound of the week, ‘e, ea’ – as in empty eggs. One of the activities requires the Year 1 and Year 2 students to break up (segment) their list of words into phonemes (sounds) as they write them down. Identifying each sound in a word when writing it down enables them to concentrate and think about the spelling choice – what sounds right/looks right. Hopefully this habit will improve their overall spelling ability.

Spelling

Spelling tests are usually conducted on Thursdays. Last Thursday’s school sports and Monday’s public holiday has meant that tests were delayed. New words were given out yesterday. Usually students will get their next spelling list on a Friday for testing the following Thursday.

Maths

We will be starting a unit on Time next week. Finding opportunities at home to discuss the time of day (Preps) and identify the time, both digital and analogue, (Year 1 and Year 2 students) to the quarter hour, will give the students a better understanding for next weeks work.

Science

We busily looked for worms in the garden on Wednesday. With all the dry weather fat worms were difficult to find. After digging up two specimens we examined them under the usb microscope. Students drew the worms and discussed how they move, what they eat, where they like to live and how useful they are. Year 1 and Year 2 students have chosen a mini-beast to write a fact sheet about. Some of the work for this project is to be completed at home. Fact sheet requirements and a list of the essential areas to be covered will be given to the students. The students will have three weeks to finish their fact sheet before classroom presentations begin.

Miss Mac, Junior Room Teacher
Senior Room News

Mathematics
We have now moved onto estimation. This time I approached this unit a little differently. All of the students were given all of the resources they needed to complete the unit in their own time. Interestingly quite a few students took it upon themselves to actually complete many of the learning tasks at home. Also quite a few students have told me that they prefer this method. I think they are right, it seems to be a better method (just more work for me). We are trying to create a culture of self-directed learning and I feel very lucky to be able to experiment with these fantastic kids.

Homework
All students 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 completing uncompleted Maths at home. Next week students will be practicing their times tables.

Spelling Program
The spelling program is going gangbusters. During classroom students are very motivated and into the routines. I have again made it abundantly clear to all students that they are able to develop their spelling at an accelerated pace if they wish to. It is Spellodrome based and it can be accessed at home. My data shows that the program works, but only for students who make the mental commitment to improve. Grades 5&6 students who need to improve their spelling should really be practicing at home at least 2-3 times per week!

Science
This week we continued making observations of our seedling growth and drew pictures of dissected (cross-section) flowers. Mrs Standish organised the purchase of 2 Dino-lite digital handheld microscopes with up to 230x magnification. This made for some really interesting viewing of flower parts. We closely looked at stamens, pistils and ovaries and took some pictures for our class display. It really looked quite incredible, especially the little pollen granules sitting on the anthers and clearly sticky stigmas. Lots of ‘wows’ all around! Although the wows really got going when kids started to look at their cuts, sores, warts and skin using this Dino-lite!

Super Science Facts:
- There are over 200,000 identified plant species and the list is growing all the time.
- Bamboo can be a fast growing plant, some types can grow almost a metre (3.28 feet) in just one day!
All is going well with our Childcare services— but we still have some vacancies left – MONDAY AND WEDNESDAY 9-2pm. If you know anyone who might require care for their under school aged child– please send them our way!

PARENT ACCOUNTS WILL BE COMING HOME– IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT YOU GIVE US YOUR CRN to Claim CCB for OSHC! Almost everyone can qualify for this rebate!!!!

NOTE: PLEASE REMEMBER TO BOOK YOUR CHILD IN WITH MILLIE BEFORE 2PM ON THE DAY OF CARE REQUIRED OR CALL THE SCHOOL OFFICE ON 5236 6393. AN ESTIMATE OF COLLECTION TIME IS ALSO APPRECIATED. THANKS!

EARLY LEARNING CENTRE/ OSHC PROGRAM (looks like fun!)

For OSHC bookings please call our Educator: Millie 0433 210886

For Childcare bookings: Caralyn 0412 953366

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<tr>
<th>TIMES</th>
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<tr>
<td>9:00–10:50</td>
<td>OUTDOOR PLAY</td>
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<td>(3 and 4 year olds)</td>
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<td>FORREST KIDS GO BUSH!</td>
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<td>10:50–11:45</td>
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<td>11:45–1:15</td>
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<td>1:15–2:00</td>
<td>CRAFT 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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PRE-SCHOOL NEWS

Doctor’s Surgery
Last week the children showed some great behaviour and were very friendly and nice with each other. They all had great fun playing Doctor’s Surgery, examining the dolls and each other. We have a lot of toys for doctor’s play so they could all play at the same time.

Puppet Show
After showing the children the Puppet Theatre on Wednesday the children had another play with it on Friday. They all had a turn telling a story, it turned out that everybody told the same story about a puppet looking for his friends. I was very impressed with the way they all showed great attention for every show and had great patience watching each other’s shows.

Parent – Teacher interviews
I usually conduct parent-teacher interviews in Term II. This year I’ve decided to start them in Term I and then continue in Term II. I will make a time with each family. Please take this opportunity to discuss your child’s progress and wellbeing.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO AMELIA WHO IS TURNING 5 TOMORROW.

Lena Collopy
Pre-school Teacher

DATES TO REMEMBER

Fri 21/3  Harmony Day – No Bush Program

Thu 27/3  Speech Screening
If you really want to change aspects of your child’s behaviour then first be prepared to change your own.

Many parents wish to change components of their child’s behaviour – some want to increase certain types of behaviour and others want to decrease or eliminate other behaviours. To do this parents need to realise that so often the key to changing their child’s behaviour is changing their own. They need to understand, and take note of, the extent their behaviour effects the child’s.

When other brothers and sisters behave in what seems to be a more appropriate manner, parents can be tempted to “blame” the child rather than looking at different ways to manage the child’s behaviour. True, temperament can make some children more difficult to manage but how others react – especially family – has the greater influence on how behaviours develop.

How parents react or don’t react to their child’s behaviour influences the frequency and/or intensity of children’s behaviour. Unfortunately parents all too often react inappropriately to the more undesirable behaviours but fail to acknowledge and encourage those behaviours which they would like to have more of. This is of importance not only when the child is young and behaviour patterns are developing but also in the teenage years when they are becoming more independent and preparing for the responsibilities of adulthood.

There are many influences on a child’s behaviour and most of these are outside the parent’s control. The one thing however that parents can control is their own parenting. They can encourage and discourage, they can reinforce, they can set limits and boundaries, provide role models, have realistic expectations, communicate openly, encourage responsibility and so forth. There is so much a parent can and should do to influence their child’s behaviour.

Parents need to realise that developing and/or changing a child’s behaviour does not happen overnight but rather is a process that occurs over time. Throughout this process parents need to make sure that their behaviours are consistently appropriate and timely. To do something once or occasionally is not sufficient. It takes time for old habits to die and new ones develop – for both the parent and the child.

Behavioural patterns continue to develop and evolve throughout childhood and adolescence. It is never too late for a parent to try and change behaviour – many behaviours that have become habits are harder to change but under the right conditions and influences change can occur.

For parents, analysing then changing their own behaviour and reactions to their child’s behaviour won’t solve all the problems but it’s often a very good starting point.

It is the child’s behaviour but you can have an influence on it.

References:

“Parenting Idea” Michael Grose
“Raising Responsible Teenagers” Bob Myers
“Positive Parenting” booklet - Victorian Parenting Centre
ITEMS OF INTEREST

WANTED FOR THE SCIENCE PROGRAM

Would anyone have a spare or unwanted free standing clothes rack to house our smart new lab jackets? If you have one please contact Kaz Standish.

OCR FM community radio station are hosting a Spicks and Specks themed music trivia and games night on Friday 21st of March at the Colac RSL. It’s a fun night out with locally donated prizes, plus we have tickets to recordings of Spicks and Specks in Melbourne to give away on the night.

OPEN NIGHT

All grade six students and their families are invited to our Open Night on Wednesday, April 2nd

Presentations will be held at:
5.00 pm, 5.45 pm and 6.30 pm

GUITAR LESSONS

From term 1 this year, guitar lessons are available at Forrest PS with Surf Coast musician Timothy Sims.

Tim has taught both privately and in schools for the last twelve years in Victoria and NSW, and also boasts a wealth of live performance experience playing all over the country.

Lessons will run during school time, all you need is a guitar! To enquire or book a place, please phone Tim directly on 0410 097796, or email: timsuitar42@yahoo.com.au