PRINCIPAL’S NEWS
Our February Census data showed some of our children have been absent for 9 days out of the first month of school. This is almost one day in three! Here’s some information from the DEECD website regarding attendance.

Going to school every day is the single most important part of your child’s education. Students learn new things at school every day – missing school puts them behind.

Why it’s important- We all want our students to get a great education, and the building blocks for a great education begin with students coming to school each and every day. If students miss school regularly, they miss out on learning the fundamental skills that will set them up for success in the later years of school.

There is no safe number of days for missing school – each day a student misses puts them behind, and can affect their educational outcomes.

Each missed day is associated with progressively lower achievement

Getting in early- Attendance patterns are established early – a child regularly missing days in kindergarten or in the early years of school will often continue to miss classes in the later years, and receive lower test scores than their classmates. It’s vital that students go to school every day – even in the early years of primary school

What we can do- The main reasons for absence are:

Sickness – There are always times when students need to miss school, such as when they’re ill. It’s vital that they’re only away on the days they are genuinely sick, and setting good sleep patterns, eating well and exercising regularly can make a big difference. It’s vital that holidays are planned during school holidays where possible, and not during the term if it can be avoided.

“Day off” – Think twice before letting your child have a “day off” as they could fall behind their classmates – every day counts.

Truancy – This is when students choose not to go to school without their parent’s permission. There can be many reasons for truancy. The best way to address this is for schools and parents to work together.

If for any reason your child must miss school, there are things you can do with your school to ensure they don’t fall behind:

Speak with your classroom teacher and find out what work your child needs to do to keep up. Develop an absence learning plan with your teacher and ensure your child completes the plan. Remember, every day counts. If your child must miss school, speak with your classroom teacher as early as possible. Openly communicating with your child’s school about all absences is a good way to prevent attendance issues being escalated to a School Attendance Officer. A School Attendance Officer is a Department of Education and Early Childhood Development Regional Director who has authority to follow up attendance issues. Attendance issues that are escalated can lead to an Infringement Notice. If you’re having attendance issues with your child, please let your classroom teacher know so we can work together to get your child to school every day. For more information and resources to help address attendance issues, visit:


Tara Hulonce
CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR STUDENTS OF THE WEEK!

JUNIOR ROOM: This week’s student of the week is Kye Tung. Kye has been consistently trying to do his personal best in all areas of his learning and classroom behaviour. He is an excellent example to others. Well done Kye!

SENIOR ROOM: Claire Macdonald for demonstrating great initiative and consistently thinking of others. Claire has been a brilliant helper all week– thanks Claire!

JUNIOR ROOM NEWS

This week we are really trying as a class to observe the class rules. Our focus has been on not talking. While this is challenging the students, particularly the Preps, have done extremely well to not talk when someone else is having their turn, or when they are busy doing their work, to put up their hand for their turn to talk, or for assistance, and to not yell across the classroom. This contributes to a more focused and calm learning environment.

Classroom routines

Just a reminder that students should keep their diary, home reader journal, spelling words folder and nightly reading books in their blue book bag. Newsletters and forms to return are also put in these bags so that they don’t get lost in the bottomless pit called a school bag.

When they arrive at school students are to take out their blue book bag and morning fruit snack. Diary and home reader journal to be put on the diary shelf; returning notes to be put in the ‘IN’ box on the diary shelf; fruit snack put in the ‘fruit snack’ box and book bag put in the ‘book bag’ box (under the table with the fruit snack box). They then check their water bottle is full and go out to play until the bell rings. Monday and Thursday lunch orders can also be put in the ‘IN’ box. I am trying to reduce interruptions to learning, especially the need to go out to bags during class time to get fruit, books etc. The Year 2 students, in particular, need to remember to follow through on this routine.

Reading

Preps are currently learning to read their magic words – these are the words that will appear most regularly in their nightly reading choices. Some of the strategies we use in the classroom when learning how to read are: Stretchy snake – stretching the word out; Lips the fish – having our lips ready to sound out the first letter of the word; Chunky monkey – breaking the word into chunks in order to sound it out; Mr Detective – looking for clues from the picture; Skipping the word and then coming back to work out what word would make sense. All students are asked to change their readers on a daily basis (or as required by ‘chapter book’ reading students) and should have a selection of 3-5 books in their book bag. Please let me know if this is not happening. It is really important for all students to read aloud on a nightly basis to gain fluency and practice expression.

Maths

The Preps are concentrating on numbers to 10. Counting items (fruit, biscuits, blocks etc.) to 10, forwards and backwards, at home will help their understanding. Year 1 students are working with numbers to 100 and Year 2 students are currently working with numbers to 1000.

Harmony Day

This week the students will enjoy Harmony day activities with visiting schools, Deans Marsh, Alvie and Carlisle River. We will return to our usual Forrest Kids Go Bush program on the following Friday. A reminder, students can dress up in costumes from other countries or wear orange.

Miss Mac,
Junior Room Teacher
OTHER INFO:

**Fundraising News**

Keep an eye out over the next week as a GIANT basket of Easter Eggs will soon appear at the school!!!!

Bring in your gold coins and for every gold coin you donate to the school you can have a guess at the weight of the basket full of eggs – the person with the correct weight will win the basket. The basket and the guess record sheet will appear soon outside the office – **Keep a lookout & good luck guessing!!!!**

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**POTATO ROSTI Recipe**

**Ingredients:-**
- 2 Large potatoes, peeled, grated
- 1 Egg
- 1 tbls plain flour
- 50g parmesan
- 1 tbl olive oil
- 1 piece of salmon

**Steps:-**
- To make rosti, using your hands, squeeze excess moisture out of potato. Combine potato with egg, flour and parmesan. Season.
- Heat oil in a large frying pan over medium heat. Spoon potato into pan to form four roti, ensuring each one is evenly thick. Cook on both sides until golden brown & crisp.
- Heat a lightly oiled frying pan over medium heat. Cook salmon skin-side down for about 3 mins or until crisp. Turn & cook for about a further 2 mins.
- Remove from pan & set aside.

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**TIM’S SPECIAL SAUCE**
- Greek yoghurt
- Hot Chilli paste
- Wholegrain Mustard
- Tomato Sauce

Method: Mix to taste

**CLAIRE’S SPECIAL SAUCE**
- Wholegrain mustard
- Chilli Paste
- Greek Yoghurt

Method: Mix to taste
CHILDCARE AND AWESOME AFTERS (OSHC)

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TIMES</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9:00–10:50</td>
<td>OUTDOOR PLAY</td>
<td>OUTDOOR PLAY</td>
<td>OUTDOOR PLAY</td>
<td>Pre-School</td>
<td>Pre-School (3 and 4 year olds)</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:50–11:45</td>
<td>Snack/ Lunch</td>
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<td>FORREST KIDS GO BUSH!</td>
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<td>11:45–1:15</td>
<td>Indoor Play</td>
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<td>1:15–2:00</td>
<td>CRAFT TIME</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:00–3:30</td>
<td>Inside play: toys,</td>
<td>Colouring pages</td>
<td>Inside play: puzzles,</td>
<td>Yoga,</td>
<td>Arts and crafts: child</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>trucks, drawing,</td>
<td>and decorating art</td>
<td>drawing, home corner,</td>
<td>sing-a-long songs,</td>
<td>centred craft activities</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>painting</td>
<td>projects</td>
<td>book corner</td>
<td>story-time</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>
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<tr>
<td>5:00–6:00</td>
<td>Weekend storytelling</td>
<td>Outside play</td>
<td>Sing-a-long songs and</td>
<td>Outside Play</td>
<td>Relaxation: reading</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>dance</td>
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<td>and quiet games</td>
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FORREST KIDS GO BUSH!
A big ‘Thank You’ to Poppy’s Grandpa, Colin, who replaced the old rotten steps to the storage shed last week. Colin also donated a big strong wooden toolbox and tools to the Bush Program.

**Bush Program**

The children seem to really enjoy the time we spend doing the Bush Program with the older children. They are all very busy investigating, climbing, digging and playing all the time. Many of the children have already learnt how to climb up the climbing tree by themselves. The weather has been very dry and warm lately, so I haven’t bothered with the overalls. As soon as it gets wetter we will definitely use them. Also make sure that the children have a waterproof jacket and gumboots. Proper thick socks for the gumboots are very good, thin socks tend to slip down and become uncomfortable. **Please note that there is no Bush program tomorrow due to Harmony Day.**

**Birthday Treat**

Last Friday the children enjoyed some delicious chocolate cupcakes to celebrate Amelia’s birthday.

**Laundry**

Each week, one family is helping with the washing of the children’s hand towels. This is greatly appreciated and it helps us run a more sustainable pre-school, avoiding the use of expensive paper towels.

**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.

Lena Collopy, Pre-school Teacher

**DATES TO REMEMBER**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 21/3</td>
<td>Harmony Day – No Bush Program</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thu 27/3</td>
<td>Speech Screening</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 4/4</td>
<td>Last Day Term II</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 4/4</td>
<td>Committee Meeting, 2pm.</td>
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SCHOOL COUNCIL SUMMARY

Monday 17th MARCH 2014

EARLY LEARNING CENTRE-

Indigenous species for planning in the Forrest Goes Bush Indigenous area. Complete – Craig has contacted Mandy at West Barwon Landcare – it looks like they will supply plants to us.

Preschool Report Tabled

Sarah Schuhmann President
Karen Standish Secretary

Fire Blankets for Bushfire Plan

A number of procedures and operational matters have been worked on.

Quite a bit of maintenance being undertaken in the pre-school area.

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS-

Removal of Pine trees and Wattles that have fallen over, Craig has done some
Andrew to ask Danny Hunt to drop some trees (Craig to mark them)
Future plans- VALUES WALK? Water feature.

Craig to check for paint brushes at school- Craig to get brushes and paint
Craig to investigate signs for the entrance “Forrest 2708”

Entrance Artworks – look at how we can get this done – Craig / Richard (Sam)

Rear entrance – work out how to put in an entrance-Paul to organize this
Began a discussion of a feature in the school between community house and school
Need to have Rocks put into the Drain way where the Forrest Goes Bush Activity exists
Paul to arrange Rocks
Discussed the need for the kids to safely use the site without going through the carpark
Andrew Broomfield Brought up Louise Brown to involved Forrest in the Festival- Louise to contact us

PRINCIPAL’S REPORT-

High level of absence – need to develop strategies to reduce

Data collection/ Will be making data more visible

“KidsWizz” being set up, parent accounts to go out this week.

FUNDRAISING-

Easter Egg Raffle

Kona – Rapid Ascent - Forms to fill out for Smoothie store. Need to send out note to parents to select the time / job that they can do.

Sarah contacted Kylie – Corner Store re 6Hr – Saturday 3rd May – Suggest cup of soup

CAMPS AND EXCURSIONS-

1/5/2014- Excursion to Ecolinc (Bacchus Marsh Secondary College). All day, Whole school.

School Camp 7th, 8th 9th May

5/5/2014- Incursion for the Senior Room for Change Detectives. Earth ed. am

Junior room- mini beasts, senior room- Plants in action.


6th JUNE- SCIENCE COMMON CURRICULUM DAY, for staff at Birregurra PS
OPTIMISTIC KIDS

Children learn optimism or pessimism from their experiences of success and through their interaction with parents, teachers and significant adults. An optimistic attitude is a great asset to a child as it teaches them to keep trying and not to give up. An optimistic child believes in themselves and their ability to make a difference. Pessimists on the other hand often feel helpless and often look on the worst side of a situation.

What can parents do?

Be a good role model. Parents model an optimistic or pessimistic attitude by the way they react to both adverse and positive experiences in their lives.

Help your child to experience success no matter how small. When children come to try new experiences they can draw on past experiences when they succeeded.

Use optimistic language and explanatory style when things don’t go as you planned. Optimists explain adverse situations in the following way.

Adverse events are temporary rather than permanent.
“It takes time to make new friends at a new school” rather than “No one likes me.”

Situations or causes are specific not global.
“I am not so good at football” rather than “I am hopeless at sport.”

Blame is rationalised rather than personalised.
“I got a C on my test because I didn’t study” rather than “I got a C on my test because I’m stupid.”

Avoid excessive negative exaggerations when things don’t go as planned.
“You are hopeless” rather than keeping comments relevant to the specific issue.

Expose your children to stories and videos that have a theme of optimism, i.e. The Lion King, The Tortoise and the Hare, The Little Red Engine, The Karate Kid, and Little Giants.

Draw your child’s attention to media and/or public figures that have overcome hardships or have persisted and achieved their dreams.

Give encouragement. Every time children achieve something, they start to believe they are capable individuals who are capable of success.

Encourage children to use positive self-talk. An “I can do it” or “I’ll give it my best shot” attitude.

Catch children when they do use pessimistic language and help them to think about things in a more rational way. Stating “You have passed all your other maths exams and you just need some extra help on this topic” could challenge “I am hopeless”.

Build the basic foundations of optimism by encouraging kids to have a go, come to terms with both success and failure, plan for the best outcome and problem solve, have the belief and confidence to try again.

ITEMS OF INTEREST

Deans Marsh Festival Sunday 23 March 2014

Come and celebrate the rich and diverse hinterland community of artists, crafts people, local producers and musicians at the annual Deans Marsh Festival.

In it’s 18th year the festival welcomes thousands of visitors to the quirky town of Deans Marsh to enjoy great live music, street performers, otway food and wine and a unique artisans craft market.

Kids can enjoy activities all day including woolly creatures workshops, bag decorating, badge making, treasure hunt, giant maze, lawn games, dress ups, face painting, jumping castle and boxology……

Foodies will love the new local harvest tent showcasing cheese making and goat milking! With the opportunity to taste the regions beer, wine and amazing local produce.

For those with a competitive nature, come and try your luck in the Deans Marsh Gift, gumboot toss or sheaf toss.

Or feeling nostalgic, how about vintage modes of transport, fashion and farm machinery.

The annual dog jump and jack russell races are also back for another year, as are the working dog demos. This years new addition is the Top Dog Competition, including prizes for ‘most like owner’, ‘best trick’, ‘best golden oldie’ and top prize ‘2014 Marsh Top Dog’.

Bring your family & friends, enjoy the sunshine and colourful atmosphere, there is something for everyone.

Deans Marsh Festival
Date: 23 March 2014 10am -5pm
Location: Recreation Reserve, Pennyroyal Valley Rd, Deans Marsh
Admission: Gold Coin Donation

info@deansmarshfestival.com.au
deeansmarshfestival.com.au
facebook/DeansMarshFestival

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.
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

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: timsguitars42@yahoo.com.au