Situational Analysis— Forrest Pre-school

In 2014 childcare services at Forrest will grow to meet community needs more adequately. To date our preschool has been operating 2 days a week, one an occasional care (12 months- 4 years) and the other pre-school (3-4 years) but in 2014 we will be increasing hours to 15 a week for the 3 and 4 year old program. The children attending Forrest Pre-school generally go on to attend Forrest Primary School and the preschool provides a valuable start to early learning in the town. The Maternal and Child Health nurse also visits families in the area, providing a crucial support for parents.

Anticipated attendance figures are difficult to determine as people are reluctant to commit– having found alternative early learning solutions due to a lack of service in Forrest. We are attempting to collect this data now.

Here is what we currently think the program will look like...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>MONDAY</th>
<th>TUESDAY</th>
<th>WEDNESDAY</th>
<th>THURSDAY</th>
<th>FRIDAY</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9am-2pm</td>
<td>LONG DAY CARE</td>
<td>LONG DAY CARE</td>
<td>PRESCHOOL</td>
<td>PRE-SCHOOL</td>
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<tr>
<td>Staff (EC trained)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>3 and 4 year old</td>
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<td>2pm-6pm</td>
<td>LONG DAY CARE</td>
<td>LONG DAY CARE</td>
<td>OUT OF SCHOOL</td>
<td>LONG DAY CARE</td>
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<tr>
<td>Staff (diploma)</td>
<td>CARE</td>
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<td>Hours Care</td>
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<td>Long Day Care</td>
<td>Out of School</td>
<td>Long Day Care</td>
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<td>Hours Care</td>
<td>Out of School</td>
<td>Hours Care</td>
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<tr>
<td>POTENTIAL FEES AND CHARGES (Pending School Council approval)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pre-school component- $250 a term ($1000 annually)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Health Care Card holders may claim rebate of $860</td>
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<tr>
<td>Three year old program $250 ($1000) but no rebate available</td>
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<tr>
<td>Care Option One. 2-3.30 pm ($15) (CCB claimable- 50%)</td>
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<td>Care Option Two. 2-6pm ($40) (CCB claimable- 50%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Care Option Three. OSH 3.30-6pm ($25) (CCB claimable- 50%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Care Option Four. Long Day Care. 9am- 2pm ($10 hr. $40 a session) (CCB claimable- 50%)</td>
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PLEASE NOTE: this will be discussed at SCHOOL COUNCIL on Monday night so if you have any questions please chat to a school councillor or myself. Suggestions welcome!

We will be seeking firm enrolments after School Council have approved this. Numbers will be necessary for us to proceed. THANKS! :)

Have fun,
Tara Hulonce
Prep Transition Day

It was great to once again spend time with next year’s Prep students.

We all had an excellent day on Wednesday – the chicken eggs incubating in the Junior room starting hatching right on cue - 8.45am to be precise! None of us had ever watched chickens hatching from their eggs and it was amazing! Our morning of ‘chicken’ activities was regularly interrupted as we all headed back to the incubator to watch the next instalment of hatching in progress. Over the hours the chickens gained strength and dried out to become balls of fluff!

Thanks to Kaz and Lena for organising this project and to Caroline for picking up the eggs (and not confusing them with the ones she had bought at the supermarket for her mother!)

I must also thank the Year 1 students for being wonderful role models during the prep transition on Wednesday. They became Year 2 students for the morning and certainly relished the opportunity to demonstrate excellent classroom behaviour.

Class Work

The students continue to complete assessment tasks. The information is enabling me to isolated areas covered in previous terms, particularly in Maths, that require a review. We have nearly completed our ‘Planet’ presentations and the students are finishing off and publishing their writing pieces for insertion into their portfolios. We will continue with our cooking program next Wednesday – probably a dish inspired by our abundant broad bean and beetroot crops?

Reminder - Don’t forget your clothes for ‘Forrest Kids Go Bush’.

Kristin Mackinlay
Junior Room Teacher

WEEKLY QUOTABLE QUOTE

CHILDREN ARE NOT THINGS TO BE MOLDED, BUT ARE PEOPLE TO BE UNFOLDED.
Book Launch: Our Book Launch of “Characters” is scheduled for Friday 29th November from 6-7 pm, followed by supper, at the Forrest Community Hall. Please come and support the launch of this wonderful book. All students are very excited – they will not see the book until it is presented to them at the launch. We strongly encourage all parents, students, relatives and friends to come – spread the word!! This is truly a very special event for us. The books have arrived and are being kept under lock and key! Students will choose four writing pieces to place into the four envelopes contained in the book this week. Mr Donahoo and Ms Mackinlay will be putting all of the chosen writing pieces in to the book envelopes next week -- all 800 of them!! The BOOKS will make excellent Christmas Gifts to family and friends! They will be available for purchase on the evening of the launch.

ALGEBRA – Grades 3-6 students are now all engaged in the last mathematics topic for the term: patterns, balancing equations and algebra. This will bring together much of their learning this year. Everyone (including the Grade 6’s) is responding well as we continue with a mastery approach. We should complete this topic by the end of next week and the following week we will complete testing across all of the maths domains in preparation for end of year reports.

Times tables – it is great to see most students focussing on their times tables. Every Friday at 11am students are tested. Those who have clearly not practiced receive an automatic lunch time detention when they can practice for 20 minutes.

Practice improves results!! The best readers, spellers and mathematicians in the Senior Class are those who practice regularly, the correlation is absolutely black and white. Like anything, practice improves performance and results. Some students are believing they can rest on their laurels but are now finding out that it doesn’t actually work like that.. HOMEWORK is reading, times tables and spelling practice. Do not believe your child if they tell you that they have no homework!!

SPELLING – every child in the Senior Class has their own individualised spelling program active on Spellodrome. Ask your child how they are going in spelling and if possible allow them to practice at home on Spellodrome at least twice per week. We expect those who need improvement in spelling to practice more regularly.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR STUDENTS OF THE WEEK!

JUNIOR ROOM: Maddy Seebeck for displaying excellent classroom behaviour and an enthusiastic approach to learning

SENIOR ROOM: Kaye Troughton, for her clear improvements in spelling and writing.
Thanks to Michelle Perry for relieving on Friday when Caralyn was unwell. We had a good day with some follow-up activities from the Responsible Pet Program, and of course the Bush Program. The children are starting to get really good at putting on their own overalls, gumboots and even putting the elastic strip under their boots. We had a great day with some really happy children playing in the mud but also a great interest in the tools again. The children were hammering, sawing and drilling into pieces of wood or tree stumps.

Play-dough
On Thursday the children helped making a new play-dough. Some of the children wanted it yellow and others wanted it red, so we started off making it yellow, and then added some red to half of the dough. It turned out really nicely with the two colours. Play-dough is great for the children to play with. Besides being fun, it’s really strength-building for hands and fingers.

Planting
Some of the children planted sunflower seeds and corn in the vegie box last week. We haven’t got much space to use because the Snap Dragons are absolutely thriving, almost taking over the whole box. If you haven’t seen them outside, it’s worth a look; they are so colourful.

School Transition Program
I hope all Preppies for next year had a chance to do their school visit yesterday.
Some children can get anxious about starting school. The transition visits give the children a chance to see their classroom, and get an idea about what it’s like being in the P-2 class. They also get to meet their Teacher and the older students. Next transition visit is December 4th.

Live Eggs
Kaz Standish has organised for the whole school to have a ‘Live Eggs’ experience. The children will have the chance to see the eggs hatch, watch the little chicks grow, get close up to them, and possibly even hold them. This is usually a very exciting experience for the preschoolers. Caralyn picked up the eggs in Geelong on Tuesday and they are already hatching. The eggs/chickens will stay for approximately two weeks. The chickens grow so quickly they will be too big to keep any longer than that. Craig has expressed an interest in keeping some chickens for the school. Let us know if you are interested in getting some chickens, or even having them for a while before they are big enough to mix with the school chickens.

Lena Collopy
Pre-school Teacher

DATES TO REMEMBER
Friday 22/11  Committee Meeting.
Sat/Sun 7+8/12  Working Bee – whole school.
Thursday 19/12  Christmas Party and Clean Up Day.

**Pre-school and Occasional Care News**

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**After School Care News**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No ASC program</td>
<td>AASC– Badminton with Jo Cook 3.30-4.40pm (FREE) Outdoor Activities Music/ keyboard</td>
<td>Cooking Class Computers Craft Activities</td>
<td>Board Games Floor Game activities Painting</td>
<td>Story Time Yoga/ Meditation Jewellery Making Free drawing</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**FEES:** $10 AN HOUR– OR $25 A FULL SESSION. (3.30-4.30 $5)

**NOTE:** PLEASE REMEMBER TO BOOK YOUR CHILD IN WITH CARALYN BEFORE 2PM ON THE DAY OF CARE REQUIRED. AN ESTIMATE OF COLLECTION TIME IS ALSO APPRECIATED. THANKS!
**ITEMS OF INTEREST**

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**Guitar Lessons**

Private guitar lessons are now available at school.

Surf Coast musician and guitar tutor, Timothy Sims (currently teaching at Deans Marsh, Winchelsea, and in Geelong) will be attending the school each Thursday. Lessons will run for 30 minutes, with students taken out of class at a different time each week to ensure minimal disruption to school work.

All levels and ages catered for, all styles of contemporary guitar / bass / ukulele taught. Group lessons at discounted rates available upon request (and sufficient demand). $20 for an individual lesson.

All enquiries welcome, please phone Tim directly on 0410097796, or email timsguitars42@yahoo.com.au

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**PEST CONTROL – it’s that time again!**

Fly Co Environmentally friendly Pest Control. Specialising in Flies, Spiders & Mozzies is coming to our area in a few weeks. If you would like your house treated they will donate $10 back to the school for each new customer, if you let them know when your booking that you are sponsoring the Forrest Primary School.

They don’t charge travelling and they start at $132.00 for a 15sq home. To book ph - 1800 008420 or checkout the website [www.flycompany.com.au](http://www.flycompany.com.au) to book or Facebook page FlyCo Environmentally friendly Pest Control

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**SCARED of being bitten?**

GET RID OF...

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- Spiders
- Mozzies
- Lots of other insects

**Free call- 1800 008 420**

- ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY
- QUICK • SAFE • COST EFFECTIVE
- SERVICES ALL AREAS

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**SUPER SCIENCE FACT!**

Flying fish cannot really fly. They use their wing-like fins to keep them in the air as long as 30 seconds though!
School procedures for the bushfire season

The way schools in Victoria respond to bushfires is being constantly revised. Fire danger ratings and warnings are used in Victoria to provide clear direction on the safest options for preserving life.

Schools – and children’s services – identified as being at highest bushfire risk have been included on the Bushfire-At Risk Register (BARR) and will be closed on days determined by fire authorities to be Code Red. Our school has been identified as a school at highest bushfire risk and is listed on the BARR.

Where possible, we will provide parents with up to three days notice of a planned closure following the issue of a Code Red warning by the CFA. We will contact you directly by email or letter sent home with your child [and SMS message/phone tree] with advice on planned closures and will confirm the decision to close by 12 noon the day before the planned closure.

Once confirmed, the decision to close will not change, regardless of improvements in the weather forecast. This is to avoid confusion and help your family plan alternative care arrangements for your child.

No staff will be on site on days when the school is closed by the risk of fire.

Out-of-school care will be cancelled on these days.

School camps will be cancelled if the area where the camp is taking place is at risk.

There may also be changes to school bus routes. Depending on routes, this may also occur on days when the school is not closed.

On these Code Red days families are encouraged to enact their Bushfire Survival Plan – on such days, children should never be left at home unattended or in the care of older children.

For those of us living in a bushfire-prone area, the safest option when a Code Red day is declared may be to leave the night before, or early in the morning of the Code Red day.

As part of preparing our school for the threat of fire we have updated our emergency management plan; reprioritised any maintenance works that may assist in preparing for the threat of fire and are clearing our school grounds.

What can parents do?

Make sure your family’s Bushfire Survival Plan is up-to-date and includes alternative care arrangements for your children in the event that our school is closed.

Ensure we have your current contact details, including your mobile phone numbers. Keep in touch with us by reading our newsletters, by checking our website forestps.vic.gov.au, and by talking to your child’s teacher or any other member of the teaching staff about our emergency plans.

Most importantly at this time of year, if you’re planning a holiday or short stay in the bush or in a coastal area, you should check warnings in advance of travel and remain vigilant during your stay.

If your child is old enough, talk to them about bushfires and your family’s Bushfire Survival Plan.


For up-to-date information on this year’s fire season and Bushfire Survival Planning, visit the CFA website at www.cfa.vic.gov.au or call the 24-hour Victorian Bushfires Information Line on 1800 240 667.