Principal’s Message

On behalf of the Ferny Creek school community, I extend to you a warm welcome and sincerely hope that the association of your family with the school will be fulfilling and educationally rewarding.

We at Ferny Creek see the education process as the joint responsibility of school and home and seek to involve parents and the community in the children's educational programs.

Through newsletters, interviews, information nights and other opportunities as they arise, we will keep you informed of school happenings generally and specifically your child's progress. These and other forums will facilitate community input into the school.

This booklet has been prepared to acquaint you with the school and its organisation. Please feel free to contact us at any time if you have any further questions or concerns.

Matthew Coyle
Principal

SCHOOL CONTACT DETAILS
Ferny Creek Primary School No. 3228
School Road, Ferny Creek  VIC  3786
Principal: Matthew Coyle
Business Manager: Jill Heathcote
Phone: 03 9755 1522    Fax:  03 9755 2493
Email: ferny.creek.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au

www.fernycreekps.vic.edu.au
Contents

History .................................................. 4
School Profile ........................................ 5
Environment .......................................... 5
Technology ............................................ 6
Values ................................................... 6
Education ............................................... 7
Term Dates for 2013 .................................. 8

School Information ................................... 9
School Hours .......................................... 9
Education Funding Levels ............................ 9
Money at School ....................................... 9
Curriculum/Reporting Days .......................... 9
Early Dismissal ........................................ 10
Late Arrival ............................................ 10
Supervision of Children ............................... 10
Home Learning ........................................ 10
Interviews and Reports ............................... 10
Transfers ................................................ 10
Community Use of School Facilities ............... 10
Class Photographs .................................... 10
Lunch ..................................................... 11
Naming of Articles .................................... 11
Wet Days and Slippers ................................. 11
Lost Property ......................................... 11
Jewellery and Valuables .............................. 11
Uniform ............................................... 12
Bookclub ................................................ 12
Accidents at School ................................... 12
Medication at School .................................. 13
Emergency Contacts .................................. 13
Health .................................................... 13
Financial Difficulties ................................. 13
Parents Club .......................................... 13
Maintenance of Buildings and Playgrounds .... 13
Newsletter .............................................. 14
Emergency Management Plan ...................... 14
Before and After School School Care ............. 14
Student Engagement .................................. 15
Excursions and Camps ............................... 17
Special Assistance .................................... 18
European settlement of Ferny Creek dates from 1878, with the selection of land in the One Tree Hill area by William Murphy, his brother Richard Murphy, William Fetherstonough and Robert Hughes. In July 1884, William Murphy wrote to the Education Department requesting the establishment of a school to serve the needs of the community. This was refused and the cudgels were taken up by his wife, the redoubtable Jane Murphy who, between 1884 and 1894, persistently and strenuously pressed the Education Department on this issue. The Department's standard response was that the number of children involved did not warrant the provision of a school.

The economic recession of the 1890's brought with it widespread unemployment. Among the measures taken in response was the Settlement in Land Act in September 1893, as a result of which the Scoresby Village Settlement came into being. It involved approximately 1,000 acres south of the present One Tree Hill Road, which was made available to the village settlers in 10 acre allotments. One of the early collective moves by the new settlers was the organisation of an action group which, in June 1894, drew up a petition calling for the establishment of a school. A deputation consulted with the Minister of Education, and in October 1894, the Education Department requested the Lands Department to reserve a suitable site. The vacant school house at Sandy Creek near Macedon was transported by bullock wagon and erected on the chosen site opposite the present school.

State School Number 3228, One Tree Hill, was opened on 5 August, 1895 with George J. Mead as Head Teacher. (It was not until 1937 that the school's name was changed to that of Ferny Creek.) Only months later the school building was almost destroyed when, in January 1896, a bushfire raged throughout the district. Apart from the threat of fire, the school in its early years, was faced with closure because of fluctuating attendances, mainly due to the differing circumstances of many families who had to either move about to find work or needed their children to work their own allotments. Amalgamation with Sassafras Creek and Upper Ferntree Gully State Schools was proposed on a number of occasions.

During the 1920s, many elderly people retired to the area and the school population fell. This trend was reversed in the 1950s asweekenders gave way to permanent residents commuting to work in the city and suburbs. An additional classroom was added in 1961 and another in 1965. As the school population continued to grow the need for a larger area became more pressing. In 1972, the present ten acre site was purchased. There then followed a struggle, almost as protracted as that waged by Jane Murphy, to secure a modern school facility upon this site. Finally, due to the combined efforts of many parents, the present school was erected late in 1982 and officially opened in November 1983.

The school celebrated its centenary in 1995 and a plaque commemorating the occasion is located by the flagpole.
Ferny Creek Primary School was established in 1895 and today continues to serve a residential community on Melbourne’s outer-suburban fringe in the environmentally sensitive Dandenong Ranges. The school provides a focal point for its community, and enjoys a high level of parent participation in classroom programs and school activities. Our core purpose is to provide the Ferny Creek Community with a comprehensive primary education for all students that will empower them, to reach their full academic, social and physical potential, thus providing them with the necessary skills for Life Long Learning. Our school is a school whose children, parents and teachers are treated with respect and dignity; a school where everyone is welcome and accepted as they are; a school where staff, parents and School Council are responsive to the needs of students; a school which reflects the character, nature and values of its community. Ferny Creek Primary School promotes integrity, lifelong learning and the attainment of excellence. Student engagement and school connectedness is vital for effective student learning. A key to our engagement and connectedness is our Student Engagement Statement. The three areas we focus on are;

**Behavioural engagement** - a student’s participation in education, including academic, social and extracurricular activities of the school.

**Emotional engagement** – a student’s emotional reactions in the classroom and in the school, a sense of belonging and connectedness.

**Cognitive engagement** – a student’s investment in learning and their intrinsic motivation and self regulation.

The school strongly emphasises the importance, for successful education, of the home-school partnership and there is a high level of co-operation between parents, staff and children. This emphasis is reflected in the day-to-day involvement of parents in a range of school activities and in the teamwork and shared ownership that is evident in the consultative and collaborative decision making processes which are in place.

### Environment

The school, situated on 3.5 hectares of grounds, bordered on one side by Ferny Creek, is well maintained and features many established trees. We are also committed to a three year re-greening program to replace our ageing trees. The school is proud of its courtyards, oval, basketball court and two adventure playgrounds bordered by a beautiful creek and bushland.

As part of the Federal government’s Building Education Revolution (BER) a new prep-2 learning centre has been completed and is fully operational. The classrooms and buildings provide excellent flexible learning spaces.

The school is situated in an environmentally sensitive area which is close to bushfire areas. This is an ongoing concern for parents and does impact on student attendance. There is a fire refuge on site.
Technology

Our school is continuing to work toward implementing the Ultranet for utilisation by students, parents and staff. Our P-2 classrooms are running an innovative iPad program from 2011. There are over 30 iPads to share between classes in all Literacy and Numeracy sessions. There are also over a dozen flat screen PCs to work with in a common area and all classrooms are equipped with new interactive whiteboards. Year 3 and 4 have over 15 new flat screen desktops between the three classes and have 4 high performing Apple iMac systems to engage students further in this area. All Year 3 and 4 classrooms are equipped with new interactive whiteboards. Year 5 and 6 have developed an ICT hub where students can access one, two, four or six computers, depending on challenge and the number of students involved in the challenge. Senior students also use the iMacs to produce a DVD each term based on our achievements centring around our term mantra. All Year 5 and 6 classrooms are equipped with new interactive whiteboards. We also operate a lab with 15 networked desktops connected to a large screen and an interactive whiteboard.

Values

Our school values are;
- Pride – recognising and celebrating achievement
- Responsibility – being accountable for our actions
- Respect – having regard for self, others, property and our environment
- Honesty – being honest and fair
- Optimism – having a positive outlook

We underpin our student engagement strategies with programs strategies outlined in our Student Well Being Statement. The school works closely with our neighbouring schools and the Shire of Yarra Ranges in running Restorative Practices Program in order to create a common language throughout the broader local community. The school also bases its values education on our whole school mantra.

‘TOGETHER WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE’.

Since 2010 the school has introduced a student pledge to be recited at each school assembly. It was written by the school’s School Captains in 2009.

As a student of Ferny Creek Primary
I am honest and considerate of others,
I am responsible for my own actions.
I will respect my environment,
Take pride in my work –
And have fun while I learn.
In 2010 the school underwent a review of the curriculum presented at Ferny Creek. With consultation between staff, students and parents we have committed ourselves to a new Four Year Strategic Plan. The key goals of this plan are:

To significantly improve the performance of all students in Literacy and Numeracy and at the same time narrow the gap between the lowest and the highest achievers.
To have all students feel safe, engaged, connected and excited about their learning.
To enhance the transition of students into, within and out of the school in order to realise their full academic and social potential.

The following enrichment programs are also offered over a one or two year timeline:

**Transition to Primary School**
We have developed strong links with the Sassafras pre-school and conduct a weekly playgroup open to all our community. The school council also runs a weekly out of school hours care program.

**Cultural**
Our curriculum is broad and, in keeping with the local community, has a very strong arts and environmental focus. The school has a school choir, two senior school rock bands, a biennial musical production involving all students, regular soirees and instrumental tuition and performance opportunities, and visiting performers.

**Citizenship**
ANZAC Ceremony at the Shrine, Senior School Captains, Student Citizen of the year Award (to a Student going into Year 6), Student of the Year (whole school), Star of the Week and our Great Play Award.

**Education Enhancement**
Intervention programs and extension programs are offered to students from year prep to year 6. Additionally, all Preps have an individual learning plan as do the upper and lower 20% achievers from years 1 – 6 and students operating under the Disabilities and Impairments program. Some of the programs offered are; Cross-age tutoring, extensive reading resources, our unique Reading Improvement Program, Kids Hope Mentoring Program, Quicksmart Maths, Thinking Outside the Box, Maths Talent Quest/Family Maths projects and involvement in the NSW University Primary Schools' Competition.

The school also has a highly valued kitchen garden program and our henhouse program. A large percentage of students receive instrumental music and drama lessons during the school day. Specialist classes are provided in, physical education, library, music and visual arts.

Additional programs, many introduced with our new Strategic Plan, which enrich the children's learning, include cross age programs, excursions, a "Buddy" system for Prep/Grade 5, House Captains, Sport Captains, ICT Captains, Library Leaders, Social Service Leaders and Environment Captains, open use of water bottles in class, a daily 10am fresh fruit or veg break across the school, lunchtime chess, music and art clubs, (some student led), and agreed rules and consequences across the school.

**Sporting/Leisure**
Specialist skills clinics (e.g. golf, netball, tennis, Aussie Rules, Rugby League), whole school swimming program, Annual House Sports and Interschool Athletics Carnivals, Jumping Sports, inter-school sporting competition in terms 2, 3 and 4, and Hooptime basketball.

**Camps**
Children from grades 3-4 and 5-6 participate in a camping program each year. In 2013 our Camping Program includes camps to Portsea for Years 3 and 4 and to Swan Hill for our Year 5 and 6 students. In 2012 students attended Log Cabin Ranch in Monbulk (Years 3 and 4) and Forest Lodge Farm in Gippsland (Years 5 and 6).

**Social Service**
Social Service efforts are led by our Social Service student leaders and are integrated within the curriculum, and environmental education. Fund raising is structured to allow the students and community the opportunity to offer assistance across a number of levels. At the local school level we support State Schools Relief, Daffodil day, Autism and Epilepsy Weeks, at the state level the Royal Children’s and at the national and international level we support a young boy from Africa through the World Vision Program.
TERM DATES 2014

Term 1:  Tuesday 28th January to Friday 4th April  
( Teachers only - Students commence Thursday 30/1/14)  
Term 2:  Tuesday 22nd April to Friday 27th June  
Term 3:  Monday 14th July to Friday 19th September  
Term 4:  Monday 6th October to Friday 19th December  

Students in Prep attend school for the first time on Wednesday 5th or Thursday 6th of February. During Term 1 Prep students will not be required on a Wednesday. Your child will be invited, on one of these days, to come to school for testing and special group work.

Fun Sports Days  
Students learning by using iPads  
Walk to School Days
SCHOOL INFORMATION

SCHOOL HOURS
Recess Times:  School commences 8.50 am (Classes begin 9.00am sharp)
Morning recess 11.00 - 11.30am
Lunch recess 1.00 pm - 2.00pm
School dismisses 3.30pm

We suggest that students develop a habit of eating two “mini-lunches” - one at the morning recess and the second at the lunch recess. Lunch is eaten in the classroom between 1.00 and 1.10 pm.

EDUCATION FUNDING LEVELS
The Government has made available some funding for the purchase of educational materials to be used during the year. Unfortunately, this is not sufficient to allow us to provide the resources needed for a first class educational program. The School Council therefore sets a levy each year to cover these costs.

Parents of Preps are requested to supply the following articles:
1. 1 smock, long sleeved with elastic cuffs for Art activities
2. 1 cloth bag (approx 400mm x 300mm) for library books.
3. 1 pair of spare briefs/underpants in plastic bag (named) for younger children
4. Sneakers for Phys Ed.
5. A box of tissues.
6. 1 Pair of slippers for indoor wear.

Your child may misplace clothing and footwear. Please make sure that your child’s belongings are ALL NAMED CLEARLY. This will be more clearly explained during the transition session in term 4 of 2011.

MONEY AT SCHOOL
All money brought to school should be in school payment envelopes and should be handed in to the class teacher. In the case of school excursions, the excursion permission notice should accompany the payment envelope.

CURRICULUM / REPORTING DAYS
Two days are set aside as pupil free days at the beginning of next year. This time is used for in-service education for teachers and for curriculum development to take place. Children do not attend school on these days. There are also two other days set aside at the school’s discretion for staff curriculum development.

Annual Billy Cart Derby
Annual House Sports Day
EARLY DISMISSAL
If an occasion arises when you want to take your child early rather than at the normal time, it is required that you inform the classroom teacher, and complete the sign-out book at the office.

If a person other than a parent is calling for the child, the school MUST be notified in writing or by telephone well BEFORE that person comes for the child.

LATE ARRIVAL
Children arriving at school after the 9.00am morning bell has sounded are required to report to the office before entering class. Student will not be permitted into class unless they have collected a late pass from the office. This allows us to keep track of our students at all times.

SUPERVISION OF CHILDREN
Please be aware that staff cannot take responsibility for children in the playground prior to 8.45 am and after 3.45 pm. We recommend that Prep children are accompanied to and from school by a responsible adult. A Before and After School Care Program is available if required.

HOME LEARNING
The main aim of doing work at home should be to extend an interest in some special area, or to establish study habits for future expectation at secondary level. It will only be in Grades 5 and 6 that emphasis is placed on the establishment of study habits, and in all other grades, any work done at home should be enjoyable and not seen as a chore, and should be principally self-motivating. Our Home Learning policy is available and will be included on our school website.

INTERVIEWS AND REPORTS
You will receive 2 written progress reports— one in June and again in December. Formal parent/teacher contact is also arranged during the year. These interviews give you a chance to discuss your child's progress with the class teacher. However, if any particular problem arises and you wish to discuss this with your child’s teacher or the Principal, you are welcome to do so at any time. It would be appreciated if you would first ring the school office to make an appointment in order to avoid unnecessary interruptions to class.

TRANSFERS
Should you require a transfer to another school, please give advance notice where possible. Requests should be made in writing or by a personal call at the office.

COMMUNITY USE OF SCHOOL FACILITIES
Our extensive grounds and playgrounds are available for use by the community outside school hours. The Multi Purpose Room may be hired for meetings and for public functions. Families are encouraged to use our grounds and outdoor facilities after school, in holiday time and weekends. All we ask is that you take your litter with you.

CLASS PHOTOGRAPHS
Class photographs are taken each year. Pupils have a grade and an individual photograph taken. Family group photographs may be taken upon request. Pupils receive a print to take home on the condition that parents have prepaid the photographer. There is no obligation to purchase.
LUNCH
Lunch is eaten in the classroom under the supervision of the teacher. Please try to anticipate your child’s needs. Lunch orders are available on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. A lunch order list will be included in an early newsletter and is also available from the school office and website.

NAMING OF ARTICLES
As parents will realise, children, especially in lower grades, often lose their belongings. Please ensure that all items of clothing are named. Initials on labels tend to fade and eventually wear off, so please check them occasionally.

WET DAYS AND SLIPPERS
On wet or muddy days, the children MUST take their shoes off while inside. We strongly encourage that each child in the school has a pair of slippers for use inside the buildings. Naming of these items with an indelible pen also helps avoid confusion when many children have similar pairs of shoes or slippers.

We really do appreciate your cooperation in this area.

LOST PROPERTY
Lost property is sent to the office area. If not claimed, it is donated to State Schools Relief, a non profit charity who looks after state school children in need. Please remember: it is your responsibility to name your child’s articles of clothing. ALL ARTICLES NAMED = NO LOST PROPERTY.

JEWELLERY AND VALUABLES
Children are not to bring jewellery and other valuable items to school. Besides the health and safety issues involved, the school cannot take responsibility for the loss of or damage to such items. Children are permitted to wear watches, but they are the child’s own responsibility.
UNIFORM
The wearing of school uniform is compulsory. Many parents find that dressing their children in the suggested garments from our Uniform Shop is both practical and economical. All uniform garments can be purchased from our uniform shop. Please ask our office for details. Our uniform consists mainly of;

- Red polo shirt with school emblem on the front;
- Red polar fleece jacket with school emblem;
- Black polar fleece vest with school emblem;
- Red and Black winter dress (detachable pinafore)
- Black track pants or cargo pants;
- Black shorts or black basketball shorts;
- Red broad brimmed sun hat or a red ‘bucket’ hat; (compulsory Term 1 & 4)
- Black beanies;
- Black school bags;
- Weather proof parker.

In summer, many of the girls wear red and white checked school dresses and some second-hand items of uniform are available for sale. Thongs or open toed sandals are not permitted at school for safety reasons. All children are required to have a smock/old shirt for art lessons.

In Terms 1 and 4 all children wishing to play in non-shaded areas must be wearing a suitable school hat. A uniform price list will accompany a newsletter or is available from the office and also the website.

BOOK CLUB
The school acts as an agent for Scholastic Book Club which offers paperback books at reasonable rates. Catalogues are distributed approximately every six weeks, with a return date advertised in the newsletter. Selections if desired should be returned to the class teacher. Books are sent home 2 - 3 weeks later with the pupils. There is no obligation to buy. Our school benefits financially from each book sold to our community.

ACCIDENTS AT SCHOOL
In the case of accidents or sudden illness the following procedures are used:

Serious Cases
A teacher will give help and remain with student until appropriate assistance arrives. The Principal or Assistant Principal is notified and the parents are immediately telephoned if possible. If the school is unable to contact any parent or guardian listed on the emergency card, medical treatment deemed necessary will be undertaken. All of the medical costs will be the responsibility of the parents. Details of these cases are reported to the Department.

Minor Cases
When a student becomes mildly unwell or suffers a minor accident, appropriate first aid is given and the child is placed in the sick bay (situated near the general office), which contains a bed, hot and cold water and a first aid kit. The parent is then notified and if it is considered necessary, the parent may be requested to take the child home. Accidents are recorded in the school's accident register. All incidents involving head injury will be immediately conveyed to parent or guardian.

Toilet Accidents:
Wet pants are quite easily changed. However, if your child soils him/herself at school we will try to contact you at home so that you can bring clean clothing to school and clean your youngster. We have found that this is much less embarrassing for the child. Naturally, if you are not available we will ensure that your child is discreetly cleaned and changed.

Tabloid Sports Days  Buddies Program
MEDICATION AT SCHOOL
Prescribed medicines will be administered to children by staff members if appropriate details are supplied. However, teachers do this as a service and cannot be held responsible.

To assist teachers, parents should supply such medicine or tablets in a container which gives the name of the child, the dose and the time the tablet is to be given. The name of the tablets should be clearly marked on the container, particularly when the tablets are kept at the school. No medications should be left with children. Medications for allergies, e.g. bee stings, etc. may be stored in the sick bay cupboard. Medication that could be required at any time (e.g. asthma pumps) will be kept in the classrooms. A reminder call to the office when the dose is due will ensure that busy teachers do not overlook giving children their medication when required.

EMERGENCY CONTACTS
• Parents are asked to notify the school immediately if they change their place of work, phone number, or friend who would act on their behalf in an emergency.
• It is essential that we are able to contact parents promptly if an emergency occurs

HEALTH
Regular attendance helps - good school work, good social adjustment and development of dependability. Your child's schooling is MOST important and unnecessary absenteeism can retard his/her progress.

However, home is the best place for a sick child. It is unfair to other children and teachers to send a child who is obviously ill to school. We do our best to look after children who are unwell, but our facilities are limited. It is inadvisable to send back to school a child who is still recovering from an illness.

PLEASE let the school know if your child is - asthmatic, diabetic, epileptic, allergic to drugs or stings.

Head lice
Head lice have become prevalent in recent years and are no respecters of persons.
PLEASE CHECK YOUR CHILD'S HAIR REGULARLY. If you discover an infestation, let us know.

FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES
In some cases there is money available to assist families whose children would obviously benefit from taking part in camping or excursions but are unable to do so for financial reasons. Should you come into this category, do not hesitate to contact the Principal to discuss the matter.

PARENTS' CLUB
The Ferny Creek Primary School Parents' Club meets monthly and all parents are most welcome. The education of our children is a shared process between the school, the parents and the community.

The trend in education today is for greater community involvement and resourcing, and the Parents' Club offers one avenue for involvement by providing a way for parents to work together to ensure our children have the best learning environment possible.

The Parents' Club's responsibilities include providing advice to School Council on issues of concern to parents, acting as a forum for parents to meet and socialise with each other and with staff, and assisting with all aspects of School Council.

The school is deeply indebted to the Parents' Club and we urge the greatest possible support for both the club and its activities. A list of office-bearers for both School Council and the Parents' Club is available at the school.

MAINTENANCE OF BUILDINGS AND PLAYGROUND
Working bees are arranged from time to time by the School Council with the objective of maintaining and improving our grounds and buildings. Without parent support at these, the school would quickly become uninviting and our pride in our school would suffer. Our Buildings and Grounds Committee will schedule regular activities and special projects, so please be ready to nominate your attendance for these.
NEWSLETTER
We actively encourage, where possible, for families to receive their newsletter electronically each Thursday or access it through our website. The newsletter is the official journal of the school and, as such, contains items of interest and importance from the grades, specialist teachers, parents and the community. By reading your weekly newsletter, you will be kept informed of the many activities and developments in the school as they happen.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLAN
Since our school is situated in a fire prone area, all parents need to be familiar with procedure in the event of an external fire threat. The school will be closed on Extreme Fire Danger days.

Emergency procedures for Total Fire Ban days:
• On days of Total Fire Ban, please phone the school if your child is absent. We need to account for the whereabouts of all children.
• Parents are asked to ensure that home/emergency telephone numbers are kept current.
• On declared Total Fire Ban days please ensure that you inform the office if you remove your child from school between 9 am and 3.30 pm. Similarly, please let the office know if you return your child to school on the same day.
• Teachers will mark duplicate rolls on days of total fire bans.
• In the event of an outbreak of fire in the local area, please do not come to school or ring unnecessarily. The telephone line needs to be available for the use of emergency services.
• Emergency services personnel have advised us that the safest place in the event of a bushfire would be inside the Fire Refuge. Please do not come to school to remove your child in such a situation. Children will be safer here than on smoky, traffic-congested roads.

In the event of evacuation buses will be provided for transfer to a major evacuation centre. Children will be fully catered for with meals and bedding for a period of up to 24 hours. Children will only be discharged into the care of parents or guardians.
A special telephone number will be broadcast on radio and television for enquiries regarding evacuees. If in doubt, ring the Yarra Ranges Council on 9212 8222.
General discharge and return by bus will be ordered when the officer-in-charge declares the area safe.

BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL CARE PROGRAM
We offer a Before and After School Care Program in Rooms 6 and 7, for all students who require care at school from 7am and up until 6.30 pm each school day. Your child needs to be registered, and you need to confirm with the Coordinator in advance which days in each week you will require care to be provided. You can contact the school before 3.15 pm on 9755 1522, or directly with the Coordinator or Assistant on 9755 2102 after 3.15 pm. We also have a Thursday morning playgroup from 9am to 11am. This gives families, new and old, a chance to get to know each other. Our Before and After School Care Coordinator manages this and we allow time for Mum’s to spend a little time in their child’s classroom while the littlies are well looked after in the program.

The traditional Tissues and Champagne on our first new Prep Day!  Visit from the CFA  Buildings and Grounds – it’s a family affair!
A positive school culture ensures that students feel valued and cared for, have meaningful opportunities to contribute to the school and can effectively engage with their learning. Ferny Creek Primary School aims to be an effective school, engaging and inclusive, recognising and responding to the diverse needs of our students and their different learning profiles.

Ferny Creek Primary School is a school whose children, parents and teachers are treated with respect and dignity, a school where everyone is welcome and accepted as they are, a school where staff, parents and School Council are responsive to the needs of students, a school which reflects the character, nature and values of its community.

Ferny Creek Primary School promotes integrity, lifelong learning and the attainment of excellence. Our core purpose is to provide the Ferny Creek Community with a comprehensive primary education for all students that will empower them, to reach their full academic, social and physical potential, thus providing them with the necessary skills for Life Long Learning.

Ferny Creek Primary School endeavours to create an environment in which every child feels happy, safe and important.

In order that children develop a sense of responsibility for their actions and an awareness of the need to care for and value the rights of others, class and school, positive behaviour actions are developed. These are supported by a set of consequences. The positive behaviour actions are developed at the beginning of each year and are displayed in each classroom.

By increasing each child’s self esteem and reinforcing desirable behaviour, the need to implement strategies to modify inappropriate behaviour is reduced.

Student welfare at Ferny Creek Primary School aims to provide and nurture student development academically, socially, emotionally and physically. Ferny Creek Primary School does not tolerate bullying of any kind. We actively foster the existence of a ‘NO PUT DOWN ZONE’ in all areas of the school. We support the ideals of the Restorative Practices Program.
This program builds emotional resilience by developing student’s confidence and persistence and supports the development of getting along and organisational skills.

Our goals towards encouraging engagement and well being are:
- Encourage students to be responsible for the outcome of their own actions and to accept the consequences of their behaviour.
- Promote respect, caring and positive relationships between all individuals and groups within the school community.
- Build a sense of belonging that promotes well being and an awareness of a student's rights and responsibilities.
- Provide an environment to strengthen each student's ability to cope, build resilience and reduce risk.
- Provide support services and programs for students at risk, where necessary.

Shared Expectations
The Ferny Creek Student Engagement Statement encourages students to be responsible for the outcome of their own actions and to accept the consequences of their own behaviour.

The following behaviours will not be tolerated: fighting, verbal abuse, answering back, disruptive behaviour and bullying of any type: verbal, physical, indirect or cyber.

The Charter of Human rights and responsibilities Act (2006) outlines a vision of human rights for all Victorians. The Charter affirms that all people are born free and equal in dignity and rights. While the charter demands equality for all, it also emphasises the value of difference. The charter requires public authorities, including government schools and their employees to act compatibly with human rights and to consider them when making decisions and delivering services.

The four basic Principles are Freedom, Respect, Equality and Dignity.

With rights come responsibilities. As such, all members of the school community including the School Council, Principal, Teachers, Students, Parents, Education Support Staff and Community Members have a responsibility to acknowledge the rights of others and to behave in such a way as to protect and respect those rights for other people.

We are committed to the following strategies:
- positive reinforcement of good patterns of behaviour
- building self esteem
- encouraging friendship and a sense of belonging
- encouraging tolerance, compassion, respect, understanding of differences
- developing pride in the school
- developing a sense of responsibility appropriate to the age and maturity of the child
- taking an active interest in our children and making a special effort to observe and assist those with problems
- providing adequate playground supervision, including adherence to a playground behaviour management plan
- encouraging awareness and understanding of the school rules.

Playground Code of Conduct
The following playground code of conduct has been developed:

We play in a friendly way, free of threat, aggression or abuse.
We keep our hands, feet and objects to ourself.
We play games which do not require the use of sticks, stones or other dangerous objects.
We play within boundaries and use playground equipment with care.
Be on time to class by leaving the playground immediately the music has commenced over the public address system.

This is further developed into simple clear playground rules for all students;
1. Balls are the only things to be thrown.
2. No play that might hurt or injure others.
3. No litter
4. Play away from the toilets.
5. Leave sticks and stones alone.
Excursions and Camps

School excursions provide a very effective means of motivating children to participate in and gain real benefit from a variety of learning experiences.

Teachers plan suitable excursions to fit in with the school's educational program. Parents are advised of all planned excursions well in advance and no child is permitted to participate without parent consent. Serious consideration is given to cost factors. Generally speaking, one excursion per term will be undertaken by each class. No child will be permitted to attend an excursion without written permission from parent or guardian, with authority to take emergency action in case of illness or accident. School uniform is required for excursions.

Often teachers organising the excursion will request volunteers from the parents to help in the supervision of groups during outings. This is usually arranged through personal contact.

School camps for students in upper grades are seen as a valuable aspect of a fully rounded program of development for children. Aims in conducting a camp are:

- To provide opportunities for healthy social contact outside the regular school environment for the children and their teachers.
- To develop a sense of independence amongst the children, i.e. in dressing, eating, and personal hygiene.
- To provide opportunities for physical development, i.e. hiking, general fitness, outdoor activities.
- To help instil an appreciation of the natural environment of the area being visited.
- To provide educational experiences unable to be catered for at school, eg visits to local industries, places of historical interest, etc.

Teachers in grades 3 to 6 are encouraged to provide opportunities for children in their grades to attend appropriate camps. Every effort is made to keep costs down while providing safe, interesting and suitable camping opportunities. Camps will alternate between city, country and the seaside. They will be held early in the year wherever possible. Details of camps are provided well in advance so that they can be budgeted for over a period of time. As the camps themselves become more restricted because of increases in accountability, e.g. as far as numbers go, we must strictly adhere to the payment dates as outlined in the lead up to a camp. Unfortunately if payment is not received by the due date, and there are no extenuating circumstances, the student will be excluded from the camp.

Grade 3/4 Camp to Log Cabin Ranch

Grade 5 and 6 Camp to Forest Lodge Farm
At Ferny Creek we are concerned for the welfare of all children at school.

It is our aim to involve teachers and parents in a cooperative program so that the individual needs of each child will be met. Our special assistance program provides extra instruction for children who may be experiencing short or longer term learning difficulties, and parent volunteers provide additional help, with the permission of relevant children's parents.

Assistance is provided, when it is deemed necessary, in the academic areas such as Mathematics and Literacy, and in the welfare areas where social, emotional or medical problems have been identified. Help is also available through the Department. Educational psychologists, social workers, speech therapists and consultant teachers provide specialised services on a single referral basis. These referrals may be arranged through the school.

Ferny Creek has a policy on the integration of children with impairments and disabilities, into our school. Queries regarding the integration of such children should be directed through the principal in plenty of time to allow for an application for integration support to take place. Ideally this contact should be made early in the year prior to the child commencing school. A precise set of the Department guidelines must be followed when integrating children and these may be obtained from the school. If you have any queries regarding assistance, please contact the office. The principal will contact you to arrange an interview if necessary.

As well, the principal and class teachers welcome contact with parents and the community for interviews about children's progress or less formal discussions about school activities and programs. Please contact the office on (9755 1522) to arrange a mutually convenient time for a meeting.

We believe that parent and community participation will benefit the children of Ferny Creek, so do not hesitate to contact us whenever you feel it is necessary.