

FERNY CREEK PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



“Together we make a Difference!”

DATES TO REMEMBER

Term 1

- 13th February** – School Picnic
17th February
– Parent Information Night 3-6
18th February
– Parent Information Night F-2
25th February – Parent Teacher
Conferences
27th February – Billy Cart Derby
9th March – Labour Day Holiday
10th–13th March – Grade 5/6 Camp
16th–18th March – Grade 3/4 Camp
20th March – School Photos
27th March – Last Day Term 1
2.30pm finish

PRINCIPAL'S BLOG

Dear parents and Friends,

Welcome to all our new Foundation Students. This week has seen both groups at school together and learning their routine in class time and building their relationships with their buddies and each other. **Welcome our new families to the school.** We hope you come to love our community as much as we do! New families joining us this year are the Adeson, Allsop, Challinor, Cumberford, Dennis, Hawking, Heron, Hughson, Kelly, Kennedy, Maxwell, Moore, Musk, Oakley, Prisco-Bowles, Roney Shorland, Hooper, and the Skarbek families.

Picnic

We are holding our first whole school picnic tomorrow. This idea came up at the end of last year when we were planning our A Valued Start program. We feel it is a great way to celebrate our first two weeks and the conclusion of our Valued Start program.

The day will (approximately) be;

- | | |
|---------|--|
| 9.30 am | Walk to Ferny Creek Reserve |
| 10am | Free play |
| 10.30am | Play lunch together as a whole school |
| 11am | Year 6 students lead their house in a fun games session |
| 11.45am | Whole School activity on oval |
| 12pm | Lunch together as a whole school |
| 1.00pm | Walk back to school (Foundation students picked up from Reserve) |
| 1.30pm | Arrive back at school |

Parents are very welcome to join us for the day!

Agreed Practices – the big changes!

Each year staff spend a lot of time developing agreed practices for the year. These range from student well-being to curriculum management. I will publish the key practices in upcoming newsletters but some key new practices are:

1. A **new daily timetable** will be adopted to assist with better delivery of our curriculum and to make the break times more manageable. There will be two staff on duty throughout both 40-minute student breaks and

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Email:
fernycreekps@edumail.vic.gov.au

Banking Details

Account: Ferny Creek Primary School
Bank: CBA
BSB: 063 414
Acc Number: 10022451

Office Hours

Monday - Friday
8.30am - 4pm

Principal:

Matthew Coyle
coyle.matthew.j@edumail.vic.gov.au

Business Manager:

Jill Heathcote
fernycreekps@edumail.vic.gov.au

School Council President:

Kate Whyman
whyman.kate.k@edumail.vic.gov.au

Promotion & PR:

Jenny Haley
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Education, Policy & Planning:

Matthew Coyle
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PRINCIPAL'S BLOG CONTINUED.....

one before and after school. New times are:

8.50-9.00:	Settle in
9.00-9.50:	Session 1
9.50-10.40:	Session 2
10.40-11.20:	Break 1
11.20-12.10:	Session 3
12.10-1.00:	Session 4
1.00-1.10:	Lunch eating
1.10-1.50:	Break 2
1.50-2.40:	Session 5
2.40-3.30:	Session 6

2. Each class to send a **fortnightly bulletin** home.
3. Each day, except Friday, will begin with **circle time**.
4. All students will have access to fresh fruit or vegetables as desired in the morning teaching block. All students will have, at all times, access to, and be encouraged to use, water.
5. **No teacher will sit at his or her table during any class time.** Teachers must be with the students – if not with a focus group, they will be working with the students in the students' work area.
6. When a **student is away for the second consecutive day** the class teacher will phone home.
7. **Veggie garden, henhouse, frog bog and whole school gardens** will be a focus for Years F-4.

School Council Election

Nominations are open from next Monday for the 2015 School Council. There are **four parent and one staff vacancies** for this next two year period. Parents whose two year period is up may of course be nominated again. There is an information notice posted in the office foyer. Please ask Jill for the forms you need if you wish to nominate a person or nominate yourself. There will also be nominations called for one Department position on School Council.

Monday 16 th Feb	Call for nominations – Please see the office for a nomination form.
Monday 23 th Feb	Close of nominations.
Wednesday 25 th Feb	Candidates posted outside office.
Monday 2 nd March	Ballot Papers available if an election is necessary.
Monday 9 th March	Close of Ballot.
Tuesday 10 th March	Declaration of poll.
Tuesday 24 th March	First new Council meeting.

Parent to Teacher Conference and Year Level Information Evenings

A very important school activity in February is for us to communicate very clearly the expectations and goals of each grade in the school. To do this we will be having **Information Evening meetings on Tuesday 17th February** (after the conclusion of our A Valued Start Program) for Years 3 to Year 6 and on **Wednesday 18th February** for Years F and 2. This session will outline all the requirements, expectations and needs for that particular year level. **Sessions begin at 7.00pm.** They will run for approximately one hour each.

We are also holding our very important **Parent to Teacher Meetings.** There is great value in receiving feedback and having parent to teacher information exchange sessions as the more information we gather about your children at the start of the year the quicker we can cater for their individual needs. We are holding this on **Wednesday 25th February. This is attended only if you feel you need to talk to your child's teacher about any issues that will, or may impact on their learning this year.** Our new Foundation students do not need to attend this session as you have already given our teachers detailed feedback.

School Crossing:

Diane Garsed

Uniform Shop:

Tuesday 8:50 - 9:30am

Lease Robinson

Library:

Beth Byrne

Buildings & Grounds:

Michael Paterson

mpaterson@probuild.com.au

School Banking:

Tuesday

Lease Robinson

Costume Hire:

Karlene Banfield

0409 764 369

OSHCare 4 KIDS

Head Office: 9758 6744

P.O. Box 7082

Upper Ferntree Gully

Vic 3156

Email: admin@oshcare4kids.com.au

Website: www.oshcare4kids.com.au

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

Deadline by Wednesday 3pm

Email -

ferny.creek.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au

*If you would like to receive the
Newsletter every week via email then*

*GO TO THE WEBSITE TO
SUBSCRIBE TO ONLINE
NEWSLETTER*

A list of times for each class will be available to at the Information Evenings and then in our school foyer. Please try to fill in a time **if you need to meet** with your child's teacher.

Bushfire Awareness

A reminder to all that the School will be open on Total Fire Ban days but it is ultimately the parent's decision whether you send your child to school on these days. **Code Red days:** As our school has been identified as being at high fire risk and on the Department's [Bushfire At-Risk Register](#) we will close on days determined **Code Red** by the Emergency Management Commissioner. Where possible, four to seven days notice of a planned closure will be provided; parents and carers should, however, expect that in some instances fewer than 4 days notice may be provided. Once a Code Red day has been determined by the Emergency Management Commissioner this decision will not change – regardless of any changes in the weather forecast. This will help limit confusion and help our families plan for how their children to be cared for when we are closed. When we are closed due to a Code Red day determination, no staff will remain on site and all out-of-school care programs (including vacation, before and after school programs) will not operate.

Some Safety and Traffic Issues. Let's get it right for 2015

Car Park:

If you are parking across the road in our car park you are reminded to **reverse into your car spot**. This way, you are parking without the children out of school and only moving forward when you have picked up your children. Also, a reminder not to park on the roadway anywhere near the crossing. Please be aware there is also new road signage in this area. Diane and people using the crossing need clear vision both ways.

Playing in the Carpark

Students are **not allowed to play in the carpark before or after school**. Tell your child(ren) to wait inside the school fence until they are picked up.

Walking Through Staff Car Park:

No children or families should walk through the staff car park. Cars are coming and going all day and the risk to save a few seconds is just not worth it.

40 kph Speed Limit:

A reminder that we have a **40kph speed limit** out the front of the school **24 hours a day**. As we are encouraging use of our school grounds and facilities during out of school hours we can have children and families crossing the road at any time.

Billy Cart Derby

The Billy Cart Derby has been pencilled in for **Friday 27th February**. Please keep this date free in your diaries.

Hats Reminder

As Ferny Creek is a SunSmart school, **all students are required to wear a Ferny Creek hat** every recess and lunchtime during Term 1. Hats can be purchased at the Uniform Shop or fill in an order form our office.

Polo shirts have arrived in the uniform shop.

Visitor Badges

A reminder to check in at the office when you arrive to help in classes or the playground. It is imperative that we know who is in the school at all times.

There will not be an assembly tomorrow, 13th February, due to our whole school picnic at Ferny Creek Reserve.

Again, thank you for a great start to the school year. It has been wonderful to visit grades and wander around and chat to both children and parents. **We look forward to a wonderful and enriching year of learning and teaching** as well as a sense of enjoyment in being part of Ferny Creek Primary School.

*Have a wonderful week,
Matthew*

Specialist Classes News

Performing Arts News

Choir will commence next week for Grade 2-6 students. Any students who are interested in joining choir are welcome to attend a 3 week trial before making the decision to commit to choir for the year. Choir will take place every Tuesday morning from 10.30 – 11am meaning that choir students will need to give up half of their morning play. We have many wonderful performances in store so I encourage any singers to come along and give it a go.

Dance Club will also commence next week on Wednesday lunchtimes in the Performing Arts room. This is a group run by senior students for Gr 1/2 students and is a lot of fun.

Recorder Group will also start up next week on Tuesday lunchtimes. Any Gr 3-6 students who are interested in learning recorder can meet me in my classroom next Tuesday so that I can gauge levels of interest.

Health and Physical Education News

Please look at the attached timetable to see when your child's class has Physical Education. Students will be required to wear appropriate clothing for P.E classes. As students often take shoes on and off for P.E and Performing Arts please only send them in footwear that they can put on and off themselves. We are finding a lot of students are coming to school with shoelaces yet are unable to tie. We are looking forward to a fun and productive term of P.E!

Art Studio News

Welcome back to Ferny Creek Primary School's Visual Arts for 2015. There are just a couple of housekeeping items. All students are required to have a clearly named art smock to be worn when working with messy materials. There are no spares in the art room. Children must also wear shoes or hard soled slippers for safety reasons, please no socks only.

Melody Petersen, Doug McKay and Helen Ainsworth

Specialist Timetable Term 1 2015

	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI
FR	-	Music PE	Art Japanese	Garden	-
F/1 J-N	-	Music PE	Art Japanese	Garden	-
1/2 A	Garden	-	Music PE Japanese	Art	-
1/2 K	Garden	-	Music PE Japanese	Art	-
3/4 C	-	Art Music	PE Japanese	-	Environmental Practices
3/4 H	-	Art PE	Music Japanese	-	Environmental Practices
4/5 A	-	Music Japanese	Art PE	-	Environmental Practices (4's)
5/6 A	-	Art Japanese	Music PE	-	-
5/6 C-K	-	Japanese	Music Art	PE	-



Become an EnviroKnight!

Are you interested in finding out more about the environment and helping out with fun projects around our school? If so, The Ferny Creek Primary EnviroKnights are recruiting!

We have a big year planned with:

- tree-planting and weeding around Ferny Creek and the frog bog,
- making possum nesting boxes,
- looking after our new chooks when they arrive, and
- educating students, parents and staff about Nude Food Day and our recycling programs.

If you are interested in becoming an EnviroKnight in 2015, please fill in your name on the whiteboard in the foyer. Our first meeting will be held in the next week or two. Your involvement will be around 1 lunchtime a month.

We are also looking for additional parent volunteers to help plan and run the various sustainability programs that are running around the school. If you are interested, please leave your contact details with Jill and we will be in touch shortly.

Cath, Deb and Miranda (Senior EnviroKnights)



After The Bell At OSHCare 4 KIDS- Ferny Creek

Hello Everyone ☺

Welcome back! We hope you have all had a fantastic start to the year and are as excited about term 1 as we are! Over the past 2 weeks it has been great to see some friendly faces back at our program and we have been thrilled to welcome some new faces as well. We have planned an exciting range of weekly themes for this term with plenty of fun games, art, craft and activities for you to enjoy.

How did we begin the year?

We had a great time getting to know each other in week 1! We played lots of group games together and made some fantastic foam creations. Before we knew it, Week 1 was over and Week 2 had begun. The theme was 'Summertime Fun!' We made beautiful sun catchers that glisten in the sun light and we even went paint fishing! Outside we got to play cricket and recycled bottle bowling! We sure had some fun in the sun that week!



What are we doing this week?



The theme for this week (week 3) is 'Our Green Foot Prints'. This week has been all about the environment and how we can work towards being sustainable. We started the week by collecting dry leaves and twigs from outside and making beautiful artworks. We also made some fuzzy grass heads that we are excited to watch grow and some friendly pet rocks! Unlike Kermit the Frog, we have found it very easy to be green this week!



What is planned for next week?

Next week (week 4) is 'Masquerade Ball' theme. We will be making all different kinds of masks from animals to superheroes. We will also celebrate Chinese New Year by making some bright and colourful Chinese Dragon Masks. With some fun outdoor activities in store as well, it is sure to be a magnificently masked



week! Book in now to join the fun!

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Head Office has updated the Policy Manual as well as the Parent/Guardian Handbook. Please feel free to come and have a look at the changes as the Manuals are available for viewing in the OSHC room. Feel free to email admin@oshcare4kids.com.au with any feedback on the new policies.

We would like to welcome any parents who are considering using our program either permanently or casually to pop in between 3pm and 6pm for a chat and a tour! We are more than happy to answer any questions you have, tell you about the program and show you around! I look forward to meeting you all soon!

Karli and the OSHCare 4 KIDS Team at Ferny Creek Primary School