Dear parents and Friends,

Amazing Online Survey launched last Week
More responses needed

As mentioned last week, we are very interested to find out your thoughts on these changes and how to further improve school communication to meet your needs. Thus the launch of our very own anonymous (if you want) survey.

Thank you to those who have already spent the 10 minutes maximum to complete on line. Don’t forget hard copies are available from the office if you wish.

Responses from both parents/carers (where there are two) would also be welcomed. To complete the survey click on the following link if you are reading this online or copy the link into the web address bar on your computer or other device.

www.fernycreekps.vic.edu.au/school-survey

What will happen next? We can;

- Make any immediate changes to practice or programs that are in obvious need of some modification.
- Develop further our programs that you feel are our strengths and revisit areas you perceive we can build further on.
- Use the data to plan for 2017 in such areas as Transition, extra curricula programs, etc.
- Develop information packages that outline clearly our schools procedures and practices in areas the survey informs us you would like to know more about, e.g. the Performing Arts Program, the Veggie Garden Program.
We would like to close off the survey on Friday 14th October (end of week 2 in term 4) so we have enough time to collate the information and provide feedback to our community.

Bullying/Restorative Practices
As you already know our school follows the Restorative Practices program. Not only does this programme give us skills and strategies to be proactive but also what to do when ‘damage’ has been done. Staff are taught to intervene in a number of ways, they are taught to choose the most suitable intervention for the incident and the person/people involved. When dealing with a person who has been harassed or suffered from bullying we choose to do the following:

- **Find a quiet place** where we won’t be interrupted to speak to the pupil
- **Tell the pupil** that I am worried about them.
- **Ask them to tell me about the bullying** that they are experiencing.
- Tell them that many people are bullied, **but that no one should have to experience** that sort of behaviour.
- Let them know that if they are experiencing bullying **it is their right to get help to stop it**, and our school’s duty to provide that help.
- Be prepared to listen in a non-judgemental way. Rushing in, though well intentioned, can be frightening and off putting.
- Whilst we must acknowledge the victimisation of the child or young person, it is unhelpful in terms of encouraging their self-esteem to label them ‘a victim’.
- Encourage them to **record and report any incident of bullying** that they experience. This will help them feel less isolated and more in control.
- Remember to **report the bullying to the classroom teacher and/or Principal**.
- Tell them never to endanger themselves by standing up to bullies in a situation where they maybe outnumbered for example. Reacting to bullying by fighting back is almost always an instinctive response, an emotional response. Bullies generally tend to pick on and abuse another on their terms, behind closed doors and out of sight of a member of staff or a supervising adult.

For our students: **Your role as a bystander**
Most playground incidents occur with bystanders at or near the place of conflict. If you are one of these, how can you help? What should you do if your friend has a problem or is in trouble? Suppose your friend doesn’t want to talk about it? Or maybe they’ve confided in you but sworn you to secrecy? These situations are not easy. Sometimes just being there and listening is enough but sometimes they might need more help than you can give them. Don't ignore the incidents. You can help. Don’t let the students who are not doing the right thing get away with thinking that no-one will do anything. Here are a few things you can do .. and a couple that you can’t:

- **Don’t rush over and take them on** - it might not be safe and you don’t want other people to think you are a bully
- **Let a teacher** or other adult know what’s happening
- **Try to be a friend** to the person being harassed
- Refuse to join in
- **Try to be friendly to the bully**, but even if you can’t be friends, being kind can sometimes help the bully stop bullying
- Sometimes you can’t sort it out yourself. **Ask an adult for help**.

Term 4
These last two weeks teachers have been hard at work planning for
If you are having a 'clear out' over the school holidays, please save any toys, bric a brac, pre-loved books for us... ANYTHING (not clothes) that you think might sell at our Jumble Sale. Items can be dropped off to the school foyer anytime from now... Thank you!

Matthew
The WOW award stands for "The Writer Of the Week."

It is awarded to an author at our school who the teachers believe have written a quality piece of writing. The teachers select pieces of work from their class and then together decide which piece is the WOW award for that week.

It could be from any grade from Foundation to Grade 6.

It needs to be a piece of writing where the audience would go WOW!

Congratulations to

Sebastian Coutts
from Foundation R

This is his wonderful piece of writing:
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Congratulations to

Amelie Smith from Grade 3/4L

This is her wonderful piece of writing:

Swimming for Australia

I love flying. You know the aeroplanes that have those TV’s and stuff? Yeah, I know awesome right? Anyway, the plane is taking me to Rio. Why? Because I got represented in the Australian Swimming team! Seriously! I learnt how to swim when I was four so I’m really good. My ears hurt as the plane starts to land. Rio, her I come!

I’m standing nervously on the board where you’re supposed to jump off. I hear the beeping sound to jump. I do. I land in the freezing cold water head first. I start to wriggle as I break through the water, gasping for air. I start to do freestyle quickly, leading in first place. “Amelie Smith leading, but wait, closing in behind, Susuki Takahashi, champion of Japan,” cried the commentator loudly. I swim a little faster. “Amelie pulls away from Susuki quickly, nearing the edge of the pool,” yells the commentator. I turn around and push against the wall. I’m confident I’m far away from that Japanese person. I see the wall. I kick extra hard and I touch the wall with my fingernails. I made it. It’s all over. And I’m first! I climb out of the pool and receive my gold medal with a lot of congratulations. I live swimming and I hope I can do it again soon. GO AUSTRALIA!!

By Amelie
Twilight Fun Festival 2016 - We need YOU

Our festival preparations really kick off early term 4... but without support, we can’t move ahead. It would be a great shame for the Fun Festival not to happen, or to happen with minimum input from our families, which could mean a scaled-down version of our previous twilight festival. Our previous one was a great success and a FUN event so let’s work together and make it even better this year!!

How can you help?

- Donate to your grade (or other grade’s) hamper (colours listed below)
- Donate to your grade’s stall if applicable or another grade’s - stall themes listed below
- Let your class teacher or Rhian or Jill/Dana know that you would like to be given ‘tasks’ to do to help (there are lots of behind-the-scenes roles/jobs)
- Sign up to organise/run/support our popular Jumble Sale
- Sign up to purchase/organise/run/support one of our food stalls
- Sign up to organise/run the Beer tent
- Sign up to organise/run the Bake Sale
- Ask family and friends if they would like to donate items or run their own stall at the Festival (many people visit the community stalls looking for Christmas gifts) - community stalls are $30 each plus donation towards our raffles (chocolate, wine or an item from their stall.)

- Lolly stall/yellow hamper (F-KJ)
- Pocket Money stall/yellow hamper (F-R)
- Wine Bags/red hamper (1/2A)
- ‘Handmade in the Hills’ stall/green hamper (1/2B)
- Chocolate Toss/purple hamper (3/4C)
- Lucky Boxes/pink hamper (3/4L)
- Plants/blue hamper (4/5S)
- 5/6 A - black & white hamper
- 5/6CK - gold & silver/grey hamper

Together, let’s make this a GREAT 2016 Twilight Fun Festival!

The 2016 Festival Committee

Yes! Count me in!! 😊

I am interested in helping with:

BBQ ☐       Café ☐       Beer tent ☐
Bake Sale ☐       Jumble Sale ☐       Anything! ☐

Name: ___________________   Contact Number: ___________________

Oldest child & grade: ____________________________________________
Yesterday the talented choir members hit the road in our first ever F.C.P.S tour. We travelled to Sassafras kindergarten after play where we were greeted by many friendly faces. We sang a range of songs and included a few kid’s songs and dances so that the kinder students could be involved.

We then went down the mountain and had lunch in a park before heading to DutchCare nursing home in Kilsyth. We had a chat with the elders before performing five songs to them. Hound Dog and Smile were a big hit with a few of the elders even singing along.

This was a wonderful experience for the choir. I am so proud of their excellent behaviour and positive attitude throughout the day. Thank you to the choir for being fabulous, to Lynda and Katrina for accompanying us on the tour, and to Shelley and Jill for helping to organise it. I look forward to taking the choir on the road again next year.

Melody
PE Newsletter

Hello Parents,

What a busy term in PE. Nearly all grades have been to Hoop Time and the upper grades have competed in Interschool Sports, AFL 9s and Rugby.

I really enjoy our PE classes and most students seem to enjoy our sessions also. Sessions are often very active and loud where we try to fit in as much as we can. It is heartening to observe the massive growth that students make over the course of the year.

Note:

Please make sure you are appropriately dressed for PE. That means clothes that allow full body movement and lightweight flexible shoes ie runners, trainers etc.

However, a PE session is short and full on. Please make sure your child can put their own shoes on because it takes me far too long to do up lots of laces at the end of each session.

PS. We are missing a Hoop Time basketball top, probably from last year. It looks like the one in the picture but with the number 5 on it.

They are quite expensive and the missing one makes the team set less usable. If you have it kicking around at home but not sure where it came from, we would dearly love it back.

Thank you,
Doug
“STARS OF THE WEEK”

Foundation
Jodie/Kristy

Ella P: For her fantastic “writing seeds” writing using “Describing Word Des”! Well done Ella
Aina G P: For fantastic work on skip counting. Well done Aina!

Foundation
Rhian

Eliza S: For being a Mathletics super star! It’s so good seeing you so passionate about improving your maths skills at home. Well done Eliza!
Leo M: For doing such a great job on our ‘teen numbers’ activity this week… and for packing it all up for me without being asked. Fantastic job, Leo!

1/2 Anna

Will C: For using Powerpoint for his project and demonstrating some excellent ICT skills. Well done!
Jack G: For being a super helper in the classroom and displaying great respect during our project presentations.

1/2 Brian

Finlay A: For making great progress with his reading and handwriting. Well done!!
Chloe K: For doing a great job with her Australian Animals project- well done!

3/4 Cheryl

Lachlan B: For using his initiative and his own time to clean up the room in order to help the grade out. You are very kind and thoughtful Lachlan.
Sam G: For working enthusiastically and producing a very creative and well presented brochure about toucans.

3/4 Lynda

Will T: For his excellent oral comprehension skills of very challenging texts.
Ryder E: For his improvement in his working habits and producing an excellent BOOK REVIEW BOX. Well done Ryder.

4/5 Samantha

Beren C: For doing a great job representing our school on the first Ferny Creek Choir Roadtrip.
Nick W: For working hard to complete both your iMaths investigation and your Book Clubs project. Well done!

5/6 Lisa

Bridget H: For her thorough and detailed information text about the Witchetty Grub!
Hayden A: For his informative speech, The Desert Snail, and his explanation of its ‘sleeping powers’ as an adaptation to the desert environment.

5/6 Coby/Kelly

Chloe R: For the awesome way you went about the sports day on Tuesday. As always you were completely into it and had fun. Great work Chloe!
Adam C: For the extra effort you are putting into getting your work finished both here at school and at home. Well done Adam!