PRINCIPAL’S BLOG

Dear Parents and Friends,

Bully Cart Derby
As mentioned last week our *Billy Cart Derby* is on February 26th. Michael Paterson is organising our hay bales. I have spoken to Doug McKay about setting up the track. We will need a couple of Dads to help with this on the day! Please contact Jill or Doug directly if you can give us a few hours during Friday. BBQ is being organised. We already have the drinks and the Liquor licence. I now need some volunteers to ‘take over’. **We need a team of people to volunteer to help on the night! The food and drinks rosters will be at the office. Please volunteer some of your time to help us. We need a couple of parents to manage the selling of the rides. I need some Mums and Dads to be marshals (see below).** Please, please let Jill know if you can assist in these areas. It is a fun night, a traditional night, and it would be a shame not to hold our 37th Annual Billy Cart Derby.

Track Marshals
As usual for every Billy Cart Derby we need **Dads and Mums to volunteer as track marshals.** There can be no racing if we do not have the full complement of marshals on the track. Last year’s event was very successful as we had a full board of volunteers. I am again asking all families to consider, for the safety of the event, to take a half hour stint as a marshal. Your role is to either start the billy carts off or gather them at the bottom and keep the program flowing smoothly. Again please see Jill at the office or return the form that went home last week.

Somers and GRIP Leaders
Good luck to two of our senior groups this week. We had 14 students from grades 5 and 6 heading off on Tuesday for a ten day District Education Camp at Somers. This happens every second year and students are chosen by ballot. The kids have the most amazing experiences and meet lots of other students from local schools. Our other hugely important event is that our Student School and House Captains attended the annual GRIP Student Leadership Conference in

"Together we make a Difference!"
the city on Wednesday. The day is packed full of guest speakers, student activities and talk time. Good luck to all students.

Our Valued Start Programme
Our Valued Start program has again been very successful. The school is operating in a calm, controlled manner where expectations and successes are shared by us all. Over these first 2 weeks we have spent time learning, talking and playing about:

- Our school values of respect, inclusion and pride,
- Our mantra ‘Together we make a difference’
- Focused on Numeracy and Literacy rigour and routine,
- Movement between classes and rooms,
- Best manners,
- Working in groups expectations
- Book work expectations
- Setting personal goals for each student
- Classroom agreed practices
- Class contracts
- Daily Literacy and Numeracy sessions
- Our student pledge
- Our playground expectations
- Circle Time and Restorative Practices
- Distributed a class level newsletter
- Displayed lots of photos depicting what we expect our school to be like.
- And much, much more!

Bully Stoppers
We know that students achieve their best at school in safe and supportive environments, where they are free from bullying and disruptive behaviour. At our school we put a big emphasis on making sure we provide a great environment for our students, including one that is free from bullying. Bullying is a serious issue for all of us. We know that it can happen anywhere, anytime, and can have devastating consequences. We also know that with the rise of social media, cyberbullying is an increasingly important issue. Where bullying was once confined to the playground, it can now occur online at any time of the day or night. Cyberbullying is just as harmful as face-to-face bullying, and online actions can have real life consequences. The best way to tackle bullying and cyberbullying is for schools, students and parents to work together.

Our school is supporting the Victorian Government’s Bully Stoppers campaign – which has just launched a new series of tools and resources for parents and students, to support students in preventing cyberbullying and how to practice Netiquette. Available already, students in years 3 – 12 are encouraged to participate in an online quiz hosted on the Bully Stoppers website, where they will learn more about how to be good net citizens and go into the draw to win an iPad as well as other prizes for our school. These resources, called Bully Stoppers: Being Cool Online, are available on the Bully Stoppers website, at www.education.vic.gov.au/bullystoppers. I encourage you to learn more by visiting the website and sharing the commitment to stop bullying and cyberbullying in our school and local community.

Second Annual School Picnic
As you all know, last Friday was our second (now a tradition) Annual school Picnic Day at Ferny Creek Reserve. What a day! It was a wonderful sight walking with about 250 people from our school to the reserve. It was amazing to hear the amount of talking and interacting between the students, and between the students and the
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:
  Sarah Jennings

OSHCare 4 KIDS
  Head Office: 9758 6744
  Upper Ferntree Gully
  Vic 3156
  Email: admin@oshcare4kids.com.au
  Website: www.oshcare4kids.com.au

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS
  Deadline by Wednesday 1pm
  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

The ‘fun’ part of the day was brilliant. The whole student body had fun – the aim of the day! The students had lots of free time and then some games, in houses, organised by the Year 6 students.

School Council Election

Nominations are open from next Monday for the 2016 School Council. There are four parent and three 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 15th Feb  Call for nominations
  – Please see the office for a nomination form.

Monday 22nd Feb  Close of nominations.

Wednesday 24th Feb  Candidates posted outside office.

Monday 29th Feb  Ballot Papers available if an election is necessary.

Monday 7th March  Close of Ballot.

Tuesday 8th March  Declaration of Ballot.

Tuesday 22nd March  First new Council meeting.

Meet the Parents

A reminder that we are holding our very important Meet the Parents sessions next week. There is great value in receiving feedback and having teachers meet their student’s parents and learn a little bit more about them. We are holding this on Tuesday 23rd and Wednesday 24th 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.

A list of times for each class was available at the Information Evenings and can now be accessed in our school foyer. You can also ring the school or email the school to arrange a time. Please try to fill in a time if you need to meet with your child’s teacher.

Have a wonderful week,
Matthew

Uniforms

If you wish to purchase a black raincoat, black polar fleece vest, red polar fleece jacket, cargo pants or pinafore dress, could you please place your order by the end of next week (if you haven’t done so already). This will ensure that we have the stock that you want ready by the end of Term 1. Yellow order forms are available at the office.

Lease Robinson

School Banking

Thank you to all the parents and children who save regularly through the School Banking Program. School Banking has grown so much that I need the assistance of a reliable parent to help with the processing of the bank books on Tuesday mornings. It would require 1 hour of your time from 9am, and training will be provided. If you are interested, please see Jill at the Office.

Lease Robinson
To all our fantastic Foundation students and their amazing start to their school journey. You are all STARS!

**Bonnie S:** For her enthusiastic approach towards her learning. Keep up the great attitude!

**Will L:** For keeping up with his reading and challenging himself with more difficult books.

**Mabel G:** For being a friendly and helpful member of the class – keep it up Mabel!

**Eliza B:** For managing her time well to complete her work – excellent start to the year.

**Marley K:** For a very focussed and hardworking start to the year and being a great role model.

**Jordy S:** For being a very considerate person and a very good friend by making people feel included in class and in P.E.

**Todd P:** For making a positive transition to Grade 3 and trying his very best.

**Nieve P:** For demonstrating a positive start to Grade 4 and being a helpful and responsible student.

**Carlisle J:** For doing a fantastic job in his Writers Notebook! Well done on unpacking your school picnic seed.

**Aria B:** For sharing ideas and answering questions during reading discussion. You have made a fantastic start to reading this year!

**Patrick G:** For your focused efforts in class and the wonderful level of pride you take when completing set tasks. Well Done!!

**Bronya R:** For the wonderful way you represented both yourself and Ferny Creek Primary School at the GRIP Student Leadership Conference. Well Done!!

There are no stars of the week for 5/6CK.

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**Riding to School Bus Guide**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Leave Sassy Village Green</th>
<th>Hilton Road</th>
<th>Horse Paddock</th>
<th>Laubes Lane</th>
<th>Top of School Road</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8.00am</td>
<td>8.15am</td>
<td>8.25am</td>
<td>8.35am</td>
<td>8.40am</td>
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*Please note that times are approximate and may vary considerably.

Adam and Doug
MOUNTAIN BUSH DANCE

INDOORS @ FERNY CREEK REC RESERVE

SATURDAY

19th MARCH

6PM TILL 10PM

DINNER & DRINKS FOR SALE • NO BYO

LIVE BAND 'EAT YA GREENS' WITH CALLER

FUNDRAISER FAMILY FUN RAFFLES PRIZES GAMES

TICKETS ONLINE $5 KIDS • $15 ADULT • $40 FAMILY 2 ADULTS + 4 KIDS

www.mountainbushdance.com.au

PROCEEDS TO MT DANDENONG & FERNY CREEK PRIMARY SCHOOLS
Fun, fun, fun and FUNDRAISING at Ferny Creek PS in 2016.
A sneak peak and what’s to come and the grades that are helping to organise. Each year level has been allocated an event to help coordinate.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Grade(s)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Billy Cart Derby (26th Feb)</td>
<td>G6 &amp; G1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bush dance (Sat 19th March)</td>
<td>Parents &amp; friends</td>
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<tr>
<td>Easter parade &amp; raffle Thurs 24th March</td>
<td>Foundation</td>
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<td>Movie night 1 (May)</td>
<td>G4</td>
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<td>Disco (June)</td>
<td>G5</td>
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<td>Movie night 2 (Aug)</td>
<td>G2</td>
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<td>Fathers’ Day Pie &amp; Footy Day (2nd Sept)</td>
<td>G3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Movie night 2 (August)</td>
<td>G2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Halloween Disco (Oct)</td>
<td>G6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Twilight Festival (Nov)</td>
<td>Parents &amp; Friends</td>
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<tr>
<td>Walkathon (Dec)</td>
<td>Parents and friends</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christmas Concert (Dec)</td>
<td>Parents &amp; friends</td>
</tr>
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Rising Stars
Dance Company

Everyone deserves their chance to be a star!

At Rising Stars Dance Company we provide a fun, friendly and nurturing environment for your child to explore and learn through dance.

Please feel free to check out our website or contact us for more information.

Tori Julian
0448759093
victoriajulian.rsd@gmail.com
RisingStarsDanceCompany.com.au

AFL YARRA RANGES
BELGRAVE JFC
UNDER 10 and 12 and GIRLS ONLY U/12

NEW GIRLS ONLY competition
(must be aged 9 by 1/1/2016)
For more information call:
Maxine Armstrong
0417 391 283
or belgravejfc@yahoo.com.au

Join us at Girl Guides

Experience Fun, Friendship, Adventure and Leadership with our Non - Formal Educational Method
for girls 6-15yrs
Come along to try Upwey Guides.
We offer 3 free visits to check us out.

Interested? Contact us:
Margaret 0407 042 748
mbrooks@guidesvic.org.au
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday 22\textsuperscript{nd}</th>
<th>Tuesday 23\textsuperscript{rd}</th>
<th>Wednesday 24\textsuperscript{th}</th>
<th>Thursday 25\textsuperscript{th}</th>
<th>Friday 26\textsuperscript{th}</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Flowers, leaves and trees! Today we will be creating our own garden … INSIDE</td>
<td>Join us today and play an entertaining game of Nature Scramble, a surprise twist on the always fun Fruit Salad.</td>
<td>Explore the world of insects as we learn about, and create our own, creepy crawlies to add to our garden! How fun!</td>
<td>From skyscrapers to robots. Put your builder’s hat on today as we construct things out of recycled boxes! What will you make?</td>
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**Kids Corner**

- **Lachlan, Ryder and Finley** having a great time in the cubby house they built!
- **Oliver** worked really hard to create this beautiful mermaid! Wow!
- **Maya, Finley, Charlotte, Lily and Summer** all piled up at the bottom of the slide!

- **Feedback**
  - We welcome any feedback or suggestion of things that your children are interested in so that we can develop the program to meet the needs of you and your children.

- **Enrolment and Bookings**
  - We always welcome new faces to Before and After Care! 2016 Enrolments can be completed online or by downloading a paper version, or you can pick one up at the OSHCare room. Should you need any assistance with the online process, feel free to come and see us and will be happy to help you out with the process.

- **Contacts**
  - Booking/Cancelation: enrolment@afterthebell.com.au
  - OSHC: 0428 258 940
  - Karli – Program Leader

**Joke of the Week**

This week’s joke comes from another SURPRISE person, Miss K. Can you guess who?

**Q:** Why did the girl smear peanut butter on the road?

**A:** To go with the traffic jam…

**Cooking Club**

Join us on Wednesday to make delicious green cookies! Don't worry, they won't be made of leaves.

**Reminder**

Don't forget to bring your hat to after school care during term one!