DATES TO REMEMBER

Term 1

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

“Together we make a Difference!”

PRINCIPAL’S BLOG

Dear Parents and Friends,

First Annual School Picnic
As you all know, last Friday was our first Annual School Picnic Day at Ferny Creek Reserve. What a day! It was a wonderful sight walking about 250 people from our school to the reserve. It was amazing to hear the amount of talking and interacting between the students and the adults with them. 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. We then all got into a whole school circle created a Mexican Wave and then sang an inclusion song made up by Melody to the tune of the Chicken Dance! There is no doubt this was the first of many annual school picnics.

Billy Cart Derby
As mentioned last week our Billy Cart Derby is on again for 2015 on February 27th. Michael Paterson is teed up to organise 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 have the drinks ready and already have the Liquor licence. I now need some volunteers to ’take over’. We have a team of people who have volunteered to help on the night! Please volunteer some of your time to help us. We need a couple of parents to manage the Registration and Permission forms. I need some more 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 36th 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.

Parent to Teacher meetings
You should have received information about 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. The information notice sent home yesterday is to be completed by all families. It is useful for us even if you still need to meet the teachers but may be used if you feel there is no need for a face to face exchange with your child’s teacher. We are holding these meetings 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. It is also a good opportunity for some of you to meet your teacher if you couldn’t attend our Information evening. Our new Foundations do not need to attend this session as you have already given our teachers detailed feedback.

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 our first seven days we spent time learning, talking and playing about:

- Our school values of respect, inclusion and pride,
- Our focus particularly on our new value of INCLUSION
- 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 new 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](http://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.

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

**Allen Kropp**

As most of you know, we have an exchange teacher with us from Canada this year. Allen is teaching Year 5 and 6 and is settling in to our ‘strange’ ways quickly. We still do have fun trying some Aussie slang but he’s almost on top of that now. Allen is living here in Brian Graham’s home for the 12 months and has three school age children and his wife, Kym. We thought it might be a good idea, if, as a community, we can offer the Kropps some local Victorian trips. I know many of us have holiday houses, caravans based in country or seaside towns, and other contacts with similar. Can we consider offering these to the Kropps to experience our wonderful country on their weekends, etc. Please contact Jill or Allen directly if you can help in any way.

**School Photos**

School photos are scheduled for Friday 20th March. To look our best and show respect and pride in our school, all students must wear their full school uniform for school photos.

**Have a wonderful week,**

Matthew.
Come and see all our Foundation students get their first ‘Star of the Week’ certificates, for making a great start to school, at assembly on Friday.

**Will L:** For settling in well to grade one and completing tasks with great focus. Well done Will, the stage is set for a great year ahead.

**Alex T:** for a fantastic start to the school year. You have settled in well, working well and always contributing to the 1/2K team. Awesome effort Alex!  
**Alexis R:** For always showing kindness and respect towards others. Also for always doing your best and being a valued member of the 1/2K team. You are awesome!

**Lily-Rose H:** For her outstanding attitude towards doing her very best in her work and approaching tasks with a happy and friendly smile. Well done, Lily!  
**Sam G:** For always working efficiently to get his work done in time, helping out the grade ones when they need help and demonstrating pride in his fantastic mathletics results. Great work, Sam!

**Aurora E:** For settling in quickly and managing to be included comfortably into Grade ¾ after her overseas holiday.  
**Kaitlyn P:** For being considerate towards someone and finding solutions to help them feel included.

**Lily S:** For her great attitude towards her learning and displaying fantastic enthusiasm with her reading.  
**Mera P:** For being an excellent computer room monitor. Taking her responsibilities very seriously.

**Bronya R:** For the wonderful effort you put into all areas of your schooling. It is great to see the high level of pride you take in all that you do!!  
**Caitlyn M:** For your positive attitude towards your learning and the wonderful way in which you have started Grade Four. Keep up the great work Caitlyn!!

**Mason K:** For showing good leadership skills at last weeks’ all – school picnic.  
**Dan M:** For showing good leadership skills at last week’s all - school picnic

**Gidi T:** For choosing to walk all the way to school then back to Ferny Creek Reserve again to spend time with his buddy. Well done Gidi.  
**Alex BB:** For the hugely positive attitude he has started the school year with. Well done BB!!
NEW STRING TEACHER AT FERNY CREEK PRIMARY SCHOOL.
DISCOUNTED INTRODUCTORY SPECIAL!

Keryn has many year’s experience teaching beginners through to advanced students. She teaches 'cello at a couple of schools and has taught violin, viola, 'cello & 'bass to Degree students at Box Hill TAFE. She performs on 'cello with the Melbourne Opera Orchestra, the Nicholas Chamber Orchestra and other groups, small classical ensembles and as a session musician.

She enjoys teaching and easily builds up a positive rapport with students, encouraging them to discover the joys that playing a musical instrument can bring, and for each student to develop their natural ability the best they can.

Keryn can help students prepare for AMEB (Australian Music Examinations Board) exams, with past students having gone on to complete VCE 'cello and further study at university.

She has a Diploma of Arts in Music (Victorian College of the Arts), an Associate Diploma of Music (AMEB), a Graduate Diploma of Education (Secondary: Monash) and has completed the Kodaly Primary Teacher Training course Level 1.

She is a member of the Victorian Music Teachers' Association, the Victorian Institute of Teaching and the Australian String Teachers' Association.

Keryn can assist with purchasing/hiring instruments.
For further information please email: dandenong.ranges.strings@gmail.com

Are you a budding netballer?

Places are still available with Sassafras Ferny Creek Netball Club for the Winter 2015 season.

Come play with a team that supports development, teamwork and love of sport.

Games are held Saturday morning at the Knox Regional Netball Centre and training is in Olinda.
If you are between 8 and turning 11 we would love to see you in Under 11s or if you are between 13 and turning 15 then there are places in the U15s.

Please give Ann-Maree Baker a call on 0418 395 070
After The Bell with OSHCare 4 KIDS

The Week That Was:

Last week (week 3) was themed ‘Our Green Foot Prints’ and was all about the environment and how we can help to look after it. We made some fantastic creations out of recycled materials, we went on a nature walk and collected items such as dry leaves to use in our artworks, we got to paint some friendly pet rocks, and we even made some fuzzy grass heads! Everyone had a lot of fun being green!

This Week’s Program:

This week (week 4) is our ‘Masquerade Ball’ week! We love making all sorts of masks and that is exactly what we have planned to do ALL week! We will be making some furry and feathery animal masks, some super duper Superhero masks and even making a mask using our hand prints! Outside we will enjoy a variety of different games that will have you entertained for hours including the hilarious Chicken Egg Drop! This week we will also be celebrating Chinese New Year and creating some bright Chinese Dragon masks and playing some traditional Chinese games! Book in now to join us for some marvellously masked fun!

The Upcoming Week:

Week 5 is ‘Roll up! Roll up! The Circus is in town!’ We are very excited to bring out our inner circus performers! There will be heaps of craft activities on offer this week including excellent elephants with surprise trunks, crazy clowns, and terrific trapeze artists! Test your own skills as you balance along our tiny tight rope and have a go at juggling! Come and join us for a fun-filled week of clowning around!

Cooking Club:

Cooking club will begin next week on Friday! We can’t wait to make some yummy creations and first up on the menu are delicious pancakes! A range of toppings will be available to make your cooking creation extra tasty! Don’t miss out; book in now to join us for cooking club fun!

Reminders:

The sun is shining! Don’t forget to bring your hat to before and after school care!

Please drop in to meet the new members of the program, our grass heads! They aren’t very grassy at the moment but we are very excited to watch them grow. They were very easy to make and a lot of fun! All they need is some water, some sunlight, and a whole lot of love.

Kids Corner

Our favourite joke for the week comes from Jenna Campbell in 4/5A.

Q: What do you get when you mix butter with flies?

A: Butterflies

Karl and the OSHCare 4 KIDS Team at Ferny Creek
Upwey High School Festival Day 2015

The Upwey High School Festival will take place on Saturday 14 March. The day begins with a free Volleyball Coaching Clinic for all Primary school students from 11am to Midday in the Upwey High School Stadium. Featuring elite level coaches, this clinic caters for all levels of participants, from those new to the sport or just trying it out, all the way to regular players. There will also be exhibition games with local high schools, a sausage sizzle and refreshments available.

Following the Volleyball, a Market featuring local traders with products from new and second hand clothes to art and crafts will be held at the school. A range of food vendors and coffee will also be available for visitors. At the same time the Streeton Art Show and a Music concert will be held at the school. The music concert will feature a number of bands from Upwey High School, Dandenong Ranges’ ‘New Horizons Band’, bands and groups from local primary schools as well as bands from the local community. It is also not too late to be a performer at the concert, so if interested, check out the website at www.upweyartsfestival.com.

The Streeton Art Show
Thanks to the wonderful sponsorship of the Yarra Ranges Council, the Upwey Arts Festival Art show returns for 2015. This year’s Art show has been renamed the Streeton Art Show and prize money has increased. Again this year there is no set theme or medium for the entries. The categories and prizes are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Main Prize</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lower Primary (Prep- Yr. 3)</td>
<td>$100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Upper Primary (Yr. 4-6)</td>
<td>$100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary (Yr. 7-12)</td>
<td>$200</td>
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<tr>
<td>Open Category (all ages)</td>
<td>$600</td>
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For more information, or to make an individual entry, check out www.upweyartsfestival.com

Entries into the art show can be made by individual students of the school, or a bulk entry from the school will be taken.

Upwey High Festival Day Market Stalls
If you are interested in running a market stall on Saturday 14 March at Upwey High School, please contact Andrew McNeil at mcn@upweyhs.vic.edu.au

School Crossing News

Hello, for those families new to the school, my name is Diane Garsed and I am the School Crossing Supervisor. The term start around the crossing and parking has begun smoothly. Rules were listed in the Principals Blog last week and I am asking all drivers to be mindful of these rules.

Please allow plenty of time to arrive and park correctly before letting children out of the car. There is no drop off zone. By following the rules we can all make our crossing incident free. Over the coming weeks I will be instructing our new Foundation students how to correctly use the crossing and again, thank you for your courtesy and patience.
### Billy Cart Derby Beer Tent Rosta

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Beer Tent</td>
<td>Georgia Cowling</td>
<td>Renata Weinzettel</td>
<td>Karlee Code</td>
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<tr>
<td>5:00 – 6:00</td>
<td></td>
<td>Amanda Bende</td>
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<tr>
<td>Beer Tent</td>
<td>Casey or Deon Eruvelil</td>
<td>Helen Ainsworth</td>
<td>Anna Gulliver</td>
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<tr>
<td>6:00 – 7:00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Beer Tent</td>
<td>Penny Duke</td>
<td>Lyndy Jewell</td>
<td>Martine Gilliot</td>
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<td>7:00 – 8:00</td>
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### Billy Cart Derby BBQ Rosta:

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<th>Time</th>
<th>Name &amp; Contact number</th>
<th>Name &amp; Contact number</th>
<th>Name &amp; Contact number</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BBQ Set-Up</td>
<td>Bek Cranmer</td>
<td>FCPS STAFF</td>
<td>?</td>
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<tr>
<td>(4pm start)</td>
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<tr>
<td>BBQ 4:30-5:30</td>
<td>Vicki Presti</td>
<td>James Rose</td>
<td>Christen Anderson</td>
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<tr>
<td>BBQ 5:30 – 6:30</td>
<td>Nick Bradford</td>
<td>Katie Chandler</td>
<td>Lisa Alsop</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Steve Hermans</td>
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<tr>
<td>BBQ 6:30 – 7:30</td>
<td>Tracey McGregor</td>
<td>Veronica Baker</td>
<td>Jason Dennis</td>
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<tr>
<td>BBQ 7:30 – 8:30</td>
<td>Nick Bradford</td>
<td>Jess Campbell</td>
<td>Rachael Vautier</td>
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**2015 Billy Cart Derby Marshal Timetable**

**Friday 27th February**

Are these times ok? Let the office know asap if NOT!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5:30-6:00</td>
<td>Billy Cart Safety Checks</td>
<td>Gareth McGregor</td>
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<tr>
<td>6:00-6:30</td>
<td>Track Safety</td>
<td>Lease Robinson</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Peter Rechner</td>
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<td>Robert Presti</td>
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<td>Darren Gulliver</td>
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<tr>
<td>6:30-7:00</td>
<td>Track Safety</td>
<td>Katerina Volny</td>
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<td>Renata Weinzettl</td>
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<td>Sarah Murphy</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Simon Hawkins</td>
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<tr>
<td>7:00-7:30</td>
<td>Track Safety</td>
<td>Brent Chandler</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Jane Marsden</td>
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<td>Helen Ainsworth</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Dionni Ring</td>
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<tr>
<td>7:30-8:00</td>
<td>Track Safety</td>
<td>Deon Eruvelil</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Martine Gilliot</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Anna Gulliver</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Graham Laurence</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:00-8:30</td>
<td>Track Removal</td>
<td>Anybody who can help!</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As you can see from the rosters we are still in need of a couple of families who can help out on the night.

We also need a couple of volunteers who can take the registration and permission forms and money on the night of the Derby from 5pm till 6pm. Please see Jill at the office if you can spare the time.