Dear Ferny Creek families,

Grade Structure 2016
We are operating nine classes in 2016 – 2 x F, 2 x 1/2, 2 x 3/4, 4/5 and 2 x 5/6. This model is very similar to this year except we have two Foundation classes instead of a Foundation/1. As our teachers have spent much Professional Learning time dedicated to teaching to a differentiated model, composites, always a part of Ferny Creek, are now catered for even more comprehensively than in the past.

Differentiation, in its simplest form, means that we teach to the students' abilities, in all grades, in all groupings of students. The skill of a teacher is to create teaching that allows the students to develop at their own level, across all curriculum areas. Groups must be fluid and flexible. For example, you are no longer just stuck in the middle maths group – you may be in the top group in Number and Algebra but the middle in Shape and Space and the lower in Measurement (and this might change for term 2, or the next unit of work). It is the teachers' expertise to be constantly ensuring we teach this way. Differentiated teaching allows for students to be taught at the level they are at. Whether your child is in a 1/2, or a 4/5, he/she will cover the same curriculum at the level they are at that moment in time.

Student Well-Being at Ferny Creek
Last week I wrote about the strategies our staff endeavour to use when conflict arises at Ferny Creek PS. I also outlined the IMPORTANT role of a bystander. This week a little bit about the specifics of bullying.

Bullying remains an issue in our society, either as a perpetrator, victim, or both. And many of those who are not directly involved witness others being bullied. No child is ever immune—kids of every race, gender, grade and socio-economic sector are impacted. But it doesn’t have to be this way. As parents we have the power to help reduce bullying. This week I have 5 strategies for us to use:
1. **Help our school address bullying effectively.** Whether your children have been bullied or not, you should know what their school is doing to address bullying. Research shows that "zero-tolerance" policies aren't effective. What works better are ongoing educational programs that help create a healthy social climate in the school. This means teaching kids at every grade level how to be inclusive leaders and how to be empathic towards others and teaching victims effective resistance techniques. Our Restorative Practices Program, our mantra, our values of Respect, Inclusion and Pride, and our A Valued Start are all directed towards this end.

2. **Establish household rules about bullying.** Your children need to hear from you explicitly that it's not normal, OK, or tolerable for them to bully, to be bullied, or to stand by and just watch other kids be bullied. Make sure they know that if they are bullied physically, verbally, or socially (at school, by a sibling in your neighbourhood, or online) it's safe and important for them to tell you about it—and that you will help. They also need to know just what bullying is (many children do not know that they are bullying others), and that such behaviour is harmful to others and not acceptable. You can help your children find positive ways to exert their personal power, status, and leadership at school. Work with your child to develop a kindness plan for school.

3. **Teach your child how to be a good witness or positive bystander.** Research shows that kids who witness bullying feel powerless and seldom intervene. However, kids who take action can have a powerful and positive effect on the situation. Although it's never a child's responsibility to put him or herself in danger, kids can often effectively diffuse a bullying situation by yelling "Stop! You're bullying" or "Hey, that's not cool." Kids can also help each other by providing support to the victim, not giving extra attention to the bully, and/or reporting what they witnessed to an adult.

4. **Teach your child about cyber bullying.** Children often do not realize what cyber bullying is. Cyber bullying includes sending mean, rude, vulgar, or threatening messages or images; posting sensitive, private information about another person; pretending to be someone else in order to make that person look bad; and intentionally excluding someone from an online group. These acts are as harmful as physical violence and must not be tolerated. We know from research that the more time a teen spends online, the more likely they are to be cyber bullied—so limit online time. There's a simple litmus test you can teach your children about online posting: if you wouldn't say it to someone's face or you would not feel comfortable having your parents see it — don't post it (or take it down now).

5. **Spread the word that bullying should not be a normal part of childhood.** Some adults hesitate to act when they observe or hear about bullying because they think of bullying as a typical phase of childhood that must be endured or that it can help children "toughen up." It is important for all adults to understand that bullying does not have to be a normal part of childhood. All forms of bullying are harmful to the perpetrator, the victim, and to witnesses and the effects last well into adulthood (and can include depression, anxiety, substance abuse, family violence and criminal behaviour). Efforts to effectively address bullying require the collaboration of school, home, and community.
Final Working Bee
Saturday 28th November has been set aside for our final big working bee. We want our grounds to be sparkling for the Christmas Concert on the 10th December! Please come along and give some of your time to our school. Saturday afternoon 1pm – 4pm, 28th November. Please see notice attached to this newsletter.

Reminder: Our final Pupil Free Day Term 4 is on Friday 18th December.

The Final Countdown!
- 24th November, Tuesday: School Council, 7.30pm
- 28th November, Saturday, final 2015 Working Bee, 1-4pm
- 30th November, Monday: F – 2 Swimming begins
- 7th December, Monday: School Council TBC
- 10th December, Thursday: Christmas Concert
- 11th December, Friday: F-2 Swimming last day
- 14th December, Monday: Year 5 and 6 excursion, all day
- 15th December, Tuesday: Year 6 Graduation, 6pm onwards
- 16th December, Wednesday: Parent Helpers Thank You Morning Tea, 10.40am
- 17th December, Thursday: last day for students, 1.30pm dismissal
- 18th December, Friday: Pupil Free Day,
- 25th December: Thursday: Happy Christmas!!!
“STARS OF THE WEEK”

Foundation R

Mabel G: For always listening and contributing to our class and group discussions in a calm, mature manner.
Poppy K: For trying hard with her writing and being so enthusiastic about everything we do!

Foundation/1 JN

Eliza B: For being so attentive in the classroom. Well done!
Shelby P: For trying her best while answering questions from classmates when she bought in her pet. Great job!

1/2 Kelly/Alison

Tom F: For the hard work and effort you put into your writing this week. Keep it up!
Oliver P: For your hard work and concentration during maths. You have made big improvements, keep it up!

1/2 Anna

Nicky B: For his creative writing ideas during exciting writing and working efficiently through the writing process. Well done!
Ash T: For her outstanding work with her timetable of a school day. You correctly identified various times on analogue and digital clocks. Great work Ash!

3/4 Cheryl

Ally J: For working enthusiastically on Mathletics and always completing set tasks.
Xavier M: For making more of an effort with his work and showing improvement, especially in his maths and Mathletics.

3/4 Heather

Finn H: For working so hard with all his spelling and showing a fantastic improvement.
Lucy N: For her wonderful effort in our Exciting Writing this week.

4/5 Adam

Maudie P: For her wonderful work on the Quiksmart program!! Your improvement in both the time and accuracy with which you can automatically answer equations using the four operations is amazing.
Ottavia F: For her wonderful home learning tasks and consistent high level of effort she puts into them. Keep up the great work Ottavia!!

5/6 Allen

Jessie T: For putting in an extraordinary amount of effort into your renewable energy project. Well done!
Bridget H: For doing heaps of research on renewable energy and putting together a very informative project.

5/6 Coby/Kristy

Jeremy K: For the above and beyond effort you put into your sustainability project. Well done Jez, great presentation.
Keeva M: For the insightful thoughts and opinions you add to our morning chats. Thanks Keeva.

Please return all donations for the Walkathon to the office by Monday. Thank you.
**MONBULK FUN RUN 2015**

Run to the G’
4km and 8km Run / Walk

**DATE:**
Sunday 29th November 2015

**PLACE:**
Start / Finish – ‘MCG’ - Monbulk Cricket Ground

**TIME:**
8.00 – 8.30 registration for a 9.00am start (sharp)

**ENTRY FEE**

- $25 Adults
- $10 Secondary Students
- $40 Family
- Primary Kids Free

**Show cars $15 (inc. Passengers)**

Adults just $5.00

Children FREE!

Breakfast and Awards Presentation followed by Monbulk Cricket Club 20/20 match after Fun Run

All money raised to go towards a new community pavilion at the Monbulk Recreation Reserve

Event proudly sponsored by Monbulk & District Community Bank Branch Bendigo Bank

For more info on the event or to volunteer your time please contact Steve or Kelly Utting

sitting.steven@gmail.com / kellyembellish@hotmail.com

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**CAMP FOR BUILDING SELF ESTEEM & CONFIDENCE FOR KIDS!**

Open to Primary kids Grades 4-6 in 2015
(9 year olds in Grade 3).

All activities are fun activities, from low ropes, initiative activities, wall climbing, games, drama and challenging interactive sessions.

Visit www.kidsofgold.org.au to see who we are, what we do, and to download a form for the Feb 16th camp.

**For New Campers**

Fri 12th - Sun. 14th Feb 2016
$65 Full Fee* (Subsidised by sponsors such as Bendigo Bank, Bunnings and Yarra Ranges Council.

Held at: Lyrebird Park Beenak Rd, Yellingbo

Contact Kids of Gold

0418 170 027 (Jenny) or 9737 9475 or 0415 427 396 (Gary) to hold a place and/or find out more.

**KIDS OF GOLD, 323 MONBULK RD SILVAN**

VIC 3795 - ABN 57 327 231 83
Dear Parents of ALL FERNY CREEK students,

Our Special Christmas Concert Working Bee

Is scheduled for

Next Saturday, 28th November
12-4pm

We would like to encourage families to participate, and for it to be an enjoyable family event. So please bring all the kids, bikes and other toys along so they can have fun too.

Jobs that **must** be done

- General gardening
- Pruning along pathways and front fence
- Car Park tidy up
- Whipper Snipping
- Tidy up Veggie garden and Hen House

Bring along your wheelbarrows, garden tools, work gloves, kids and their toys.

**Drinks supplied!**

**Thank you very much.**
Matthew and Michael and the Buildings and Grounds Committee

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Massive Christmas Working Bee
Saturday 28th November

I **can** / **cannot** attend the working bee on Saturday 28th November 12pm - 4pm

Family name: ______________

Child's Name(s): _______________________________________________________

Child's grade: _______
Join this famous Mathematician and Artist in his creation of Impossible Art. Have a go at Divergent Thinking and reproduce it as a picture. Have a lot of fun finding your own special way of looking at life with others who have the same sense of humour and learning the skills involved.

Enroll here:

Name: ___________________________ Class: _____   Date of Birth      /    /

My child needs a free try out.       Yes / No

My child is already qualified.       Yes / No

I wish my child to enter the program if qualified to do so.     Yes / No

The fee for this special curriculum unit is $ 238 payable to the school the first week of term to secure your place. There is no government funding for these fast learners. Due to the Government increase of teachers’ wages, please note the new cost of the program.

Parent name: ___________________________ Phone:_________________

Email: ____________________________________________

I agree that my contact details be released to WiseOnes for necessary communication purposes.

Signature: ___________________________ Date:       /      /

WiseOnes is a program for fast learners from Grades 1-6. It operates during school hours, in small groups. It provides students with an opportunity to mix with other creative thinkers, be challenged and have fun.

Sandy Robertson 0432 326 070   sandyrobertson777@gmail.com
### What’s On Next Week?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday 23rd</th>
<th>Tuesday 24th</th>
<th>Wednesday 25th</th>
<th>Thursday 26th</th>
<th>Friday 27th</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Come indoors this afternoon to create your own telephone to take home using string and paper cups.</td>
<td>We are going to be pirates this afternoon and hunt around the back playground to see what treasure we may come across.</td>
<td><strong>Cooking Club</strong>&lt;br&gt;We’ll be making pancakes on Wednesday.</td>
<td>Dining etiquette! Let’s learn the correct way of placing our cutlery on the table while enjoying a bowl of pasta!</td>
<td>Role playing this afternoon. Today we are going to role play an emergency. Let’s see how we do!</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Kids Corner

**Exploring and Fun and Games … at After The Bell Ferny Creek!**

Our Junior Leaders were: Lachlan J., Emma P., Meg K-S., Samantha W. and Chloe R.

### OSHCare4KIDS News

**IMPORTANT:** Re-enrolment for 2016 without a Late Fee ends this Friday, 27/11/15. Forms are available from the Program, or via email enrolment@oshcare4kids.com.au or call 0397586744.

**Pre-Christmas Vacation Care**<br>(at Mater Christi) bookings 21/12/15 – 24/12/15 are now available online at www.oshcare4kids.com.au

We are also excited to announce a name change, due to other providers having similar names in the marketplace; and since our **Star Quality service** is different, we want to make sure and our name is different too! So from now on:

### 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! 2015 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@oshcare4kids.com.au
OSHCare: 0428 258 940
Ashlee – Program Leader

### Joke of the Week

What do you get when you put millipede and pig together? Bacon and scramble legs (by Summer and Xavier)