Dear Parents and Friends,

Reminder: Dad’s Day and Pie and Footy Day tomorrow!

PUPIL FREE DAY
Thank you from all staff for allowing our Pupil Free Day on Tuesday. What a day! The two key sessions we focused on the morning were:

1. **Our new Student Well-Being package.** This will allow all staff to track our students’ behaviours, both positive and negative. Schools often find it very difficult to truly track a student’s wellbeing (some people know, others don’t) and this often means making compromises through a lack of information. All staff, from the Office, teacher aides to specialists and classroom teachers can quickly record what is happening that has been positive or negative in their areas of the school day. We can ask for follow up, set up awards or consequences and locate easily troublesome spots in the playground and develop a holistic picture of our students under our care.

2. **Dyslexia.** Dyslexia is a difficult beast to deal with as there is no formal assistance or expertise provided to schools. Jodie Benedick took all staff through a very thorough and enlightening session on how dyslexia affects the student, the families and their school life. Dyslexia Association Australia’s website will be of interest to any of you who think your child may have dyslexia.

After lunch we spent our time looking at two more areas that are very important in our school:

1. **Science:** From term 1 next year all classes at Ferny Creek will have a minimum of one session of Science each week. Teachers spent this time looking closely at our new program and compiling a list of resources that will be needed to develop our program into a great one, not just a good one.
2. **Our Teacher Peer to Peer program**: Many may not realise but our teachers at Ferny Creek take part in a peer observation and feedback session at least twice a term. This entails a teacher observing another teacher and noting the strengths and challenges he or she observes. These two teachers then sit down together within 24 hours and debrief. We have spent a lot of time ensuring these sessions are not ‘toucy feely’ sessions where we don’t challenge each other. Feedback always consists of the successes we observe and the posing of ‘difficult’ questions where the observee’s teaching is challenged in some way. For the first half of this year we looked closely at how we used explicit questioning in our classrooms. After Tuesday’s session we are moving into the area of engagement in the ‘working’ part of a Literacy or Numeracy session. This is explained in number iii) below.

Our **INSTRUCTIONAL MODEL** contains mini sessions which are broken up into four parts:

i. **The Warm up**: This block starts with the whole class working together. This is a warming up or tuning in experience where students work together on a strategy or skill that may be developed further in the whole class activity or through group work.

ii. **Whole Class Teaching**: The whole class focus builds a community of learners focused on a common aspect. This may be a modelled approach where the teacher introduces or revisits a new concept. It could also be a shared approach where the teacher and students jointly work through the process. When using a shared approach the teacher prompts students, questioning and supporting them as they reinforce, modify and extend their skills and understandings.

iii. **This is the biggy!!** This part of a lesson can go for 25 -35 minutes and involves modelling, guiding and setting students to work independently. This is the area we are focusing on in our observations over the remainder of this term and through term 4.

- **Modelled**: This approach is brief and dynamic. The teacher introduces the learning experience, demonstrates effective strategies and makes explicit what the focus is in the session. The teacher ‘thinks aloud’. The students observe, ask questions and, directed by the teacher, model the strategies for themselves, explaining their workings.
- **Guided**: This involves the teacher guiding a small group of students with like needs as they think, talk and work their way through an experience.
- **Independent**: This follows directly after a guided Maths session, where students work individually with the teacher prompting and helping at each student’s point of need. Students engage in independent activities directly related to their work they were doing in their small teaching group.

iv. **Reflection or share time** can be done in many ways. It may be recording the strategies they used, articulating to the group techniques they used in the session, or the teacher might record the key concepts in a class big book. Teachers might also use a cooperative learning tool or structure to allow students to reflect on their understandings. It is a vital time to include, either during or at the conclusion of each session.
2017 FOUNDATION ENROLMENTS
It is now early September and we are getting extremely busy with enrolments for 2017. Our Transition Program is going really well. We have had three fantastic sessions where our future Foundies have spent time in the classroom, their library and in PE, Music and Art. It’s going to be a great year. Please, could current parents who have siblings attending our school next year, enrol soon, so we can begin some real planning for our 2017 year?

PARENT TEACHER STUDENT INTERVIEWS
Parent Teacher Student Interviews are to be held next week. They will begin on Tuesday 6th September. The specific times are as follows:

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<th>Foundation R</th>
<th>Tuesday 6th September</th>
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<td>Wednesday 7th September</td>
<td>3.45-6.00pm</td>
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<td>Foundation KJ</td>
<td>Tuesday 6th September</td>
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<td>Thursday 8th September</td>
<td>3.45-6.00pm</td>
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<td>Grade 1/2</td>
<td>Tuesday 6th September</td>
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<td>Wednesday 7th September</td>
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<td>Grade 3/4</td>
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<td>Wednesday 7th September</td>
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<td>Grade 4/5 S</td>
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<td>Grade 5/6 A (L)</td>
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<td>Grade 5/6 CK</td>
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<td>Thursday 8th September</td>
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You can make bookings by visiting our foyer and signing up or by calling the school on 9755 1522.

UNSW SPELLING RESULTS
Congratulations to all students who participated in the Spelling Competition. We have received 5 Credit, 1 Merit and 7 Participation Certificates. Well done again to all students.

Have a great week,
Matthew

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS
Deadline by Wednesday 1pm
Email - fernt.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

Father's Day and FCPS Pie & Footy day
Friday 2nd September, 8.50am onwards
Kids invite Dad, Grandpa or a special friend to join you for a fabulous and fun day of footy.
Come dressed in your team’s colours.

A quick overview of the day’s activities:
- Footy parade at assembly
- Followed (by popular demand it’s back for the 2nd year running!) The teachers & parents V Grade 6 football match (both Mums and Dads are invited to take the field)
- After recess the kids will be involved in a fun AFL skills clinic run by our Grade 6s
- Parents, friends, siblings are invited to stay for lunch and have a pie.
- Please ensure your pie/sausage roll orders are into the office by Thursday.
It’s such a fun day, hope you can make it!
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

Meg Groeneveld from Grade 5/6L

This is her wonderful piece of writing:

She Changed My Life

“What will she look like?” I wondered as I lay in bed, my eyes getting heavy. I fall into a hole of darkness, sleep is upon me. I wake in the excitement my heart pounding in my chest, Wren also wakes in joy. Today was the day we were to meet the little person who has joined our lives, it was a day off school but Wren and I still got in our school clothes (in case). We grabbed some snacks for ourselves and mum before heading out the door to drive away.

We approach the tall hospital building, this was a moment I will never forget. Dad carried the baby’s capsule as Wren and I carried the food, my steps feel heavy my life was about to change forever, was this a good or bad thing? The electric doors slide open my heart is racing, they say the number to the room and the floor we walk one by one up the stairs.

My foot touches the floor first, Wren and I look closely at the numbers on each door, Dad knowing which way to go, we finally approach the door, Dad painfully pushes the door open, this was the moment where my life would change forever.

We walk into the room, and there in the little box, lay my sister, my brand new sister, everything from now on will be with her, it will never ever be the same. This was one of the biggest moments in my life. I stare down at her closed eyes, I had totally forgotten to ask what her name was, Mum spoke tiredly, “Rose, her name is Rose.” “Rose”, I say, I look down at her and rub her cheek, she looked so fragile like a soft sweet smelling flower, Rose made me feel like I was home by the fire.

From then on, family was my first priority, family is your home, your heart and soul, I would never change a thing about them. I love you Mum, Dad, Wren and … Rose.

“And I will never stop loving.”

The end

By Meg Groeneveld
Reading Morning

To celebrate National Literacy and Numeracy week, we are inviting all parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles and special friends to bring a book or two to school, to read to a small group of children in your child's classroom on Thursday 8th September 9-9.30am.

We’d love to see as many people as we can!
Thanks for your continued support.

Whole School Family Homework!

Hi everyone,

To celebrate National Literacy and Numeracy week, students will receive special family homework!

When you have completed the tasks, cut them up and put them in the literacy or numeracy boxes in the office to go in the draw to receive a prize at assembly on Friday 9th September. Have fun and good luck.

1 entry per family please.

OLINDA CRICKET CLUB

Junior Registration Opens
Friday 9 September
5.30-7.00pm
Olinda Rec Resv.

Boys/Girls Ages 8 to 16yrs
OCC Apparel For Sale
EFTPOS Available

Enquires: Karim Langer
klanger01@bigpond.com

Living with bushfire
COMMUNITY CONFERENCE 2016

Friday 7 October – Saturday 8 October 2016
Box Hill Institute, Lilydale Lakeside Campus
Tickets only $20 per day (plus booking fee)

Join the conversation on Twitter at #2016LWB
facebook.com/bushfireconference
boxhill.edu.au/bushfireconference2016

CPA VICTORIA MFB Melbourne Water Box Hill Institute Parks Victoria VicRoads

Yarra River Council

Zoonichia Wildlife Centre

Victoria Police

Benalla Town Council
“STARS OF THE WEEK”

Foundation
Jodie/Kristy

Lydia O: For her fantastic listening when sitting with all of the foundation students. Great job Lydia!
Spencer J: For always presenting interesting items and information during show and tell. Well done Spencer!

Foundation
Rhian

Caine TM: For working hard to learn your M100W words and starting to use them in your own writing. Keep it up, Caine - you’re doing well.
Asher McG: For all the helpful things you do around the classroom like brush up messes without being asked to do so, and for always being so well organised. Thank you, Asher, you’re a star!

1/2 Anna

Mataya P: For her kind and well-mannered attitude towards her classmates. Great attributes, Mataya!
Archie K: For settling quickly into our classroom routines and always organising himself efficiently. Keep it up!

1/2 Brian

Louis H: For being enthusiastic and excited about our study on Australian animals.
Lachlan R: For making a great start back at Ferny Creek, after his time overseas in Germany. Welcome back Lachlan!

3/4 Cheryl

Jordy S: For thinking ahead and showing more independence.
Giselle R: For learning her times tables and applying them expertly to her maths.

3/4 Lynda

Olivia J: For always showing respect to others through her manners and patience.
Luca S: For his excellent presentation skills and always taking pride in his work. Excellent role model in this area.

4/5 Samantha

Carlisle J: For working hard on improving his spelling and reading. Well done on moving up to the next level!
Lara C: For working hard on improving her spelling this year and moving up to the next SWIST level.

5/6 Lisa

Bronya R: For managing her class time effectively and working efficiently to complete all set tasks a week early. Have a great trip!
Polly P: For her great attitude and perseverance in imaths and for her well deserved success in Quick-smart!

5/6 Coby/Kelly

Taylor K: For the independent way she goes about her work and gets the job done and then goes above and beyond. Awesome stuff Taylor!
Jida S: For all the extra work he is putting in at home and the extra effort he is putting in to stay on task at school. Great work!