PRINCIPAL’S BLOG

School Council 2016
Ferny Creek Primary held the School Council AGM on Tuesday. Congratulations to Liam Smith and Tracey McGregor as our 2016 School Council President and Vice President, and to Tracey McGregor as Treasurer. Adam Crotty is Minute Secretary and Adam Crotty and Cheryl Martin remain the Council’s cheque signatories. School Council is made up of a number of committees. These committees are managed by School Council members but are open to membership from anyone in our school community. For example our Buildings and Grounds team includes at least 3 people not on School Council. School Council Committee members this year are:

- **Finance**: Tracey McGregor, Matthew Coyle, Michelle Spencer, Cheryl Martin
- **Education, Policy and Planning**: Matthew Coyle, Cheryl Martin, Vanessa Roberts, Adam Crotty
- **Building and Grounds**: Tracey McGregor, Matthew Coyle, Jenny Royle
- **Promotions and PR**: Cheryl Martin, Jenny Royle
- **Fundraising**: Liam Smith, Bek Cranmer, Lynda Russell

A couple of our new members will nominate a committee at our April meeting.

I would like to also say, on behalf of myself and our School Council of the past few years, a huge thank you to Kate Whyman. Kate has decided to step down this year and retire from School Council. Kate’s support and drive for school improvement has been pivotal over the last few years. During her time as President she has seen a whole school self-assessment and review, our new 2015-2018 Strategic Plan, the rekindling and reshaping of a number of committees within School Council – especially the Finance and Fundraising committees, the BER Fire Refuge, and much more. Kate’s dedication to our school has been magnificent. I have also very much appreciated Kate’s personal support to me on the odd occasion when I was unwell. Thank you so much Kate for your contribution to our school.
The new 2016 School Council is made up Matthew Coyle (Executive Officer), Liam Smith, Vanessa Roberts, Tracey McGregor, Bek Cranmer, Jenny Royle, Michelle Spencer and Will McGoldrick as our Parent Reps, and Adam Crotty, Cheryl Martin, Brian Graham and Lynda Russell as our DET Reps. We still have 2 one year vacancies for parent reps.

I also outlined my reflections on 2015, it was a very successful year at Ferny Creek. Some highlights were:

- A terrific Valued Start program focusing on our values and mantra
- Produced and performed another brilliant production, Pirates of the Curry Bean
- Billy Cart derby and Christmas Concert, two fun movie nights, a brilliant Trivia Night
- The continued development of our own Kitchen Garden Project into Years 3 and 4
- Jim’s Visits to our senior children and our tenth Citizen of the Year award and another two Stars of the Year
- The further development of our school leaders program with the introduction of our Junior School Council
- The expansion of Japanese from F-6
- Special curriculum events, i.e. Literacy and Numeracy Week, Multicultural Week, Science Fair, Premiers Reading Challenge, NSW University Competitions
- The introduction of our Wise Ones Gifted and Talented Program
- New reporting to parents program
- The introduction and refining of Three Way parent, teacher, student talks
- Introducing a whole new school day timetable. Six 50 minute sessions and two 40 minute breaks. Hugely successful.
- Welcoming Allen to our school to teach our Grade 5/6 class as Brian exchanged schools with him in Canada.
- Built up eLearning through the school with the introduction of a vigorous new eLearning program, combined with our new Wi-Fi lab of 30 notebooks

Parent Contributions
As you all are aware, our Requisites and Levies help us present the programs at Ferny Creek that we would struggle with, without your generosity. Your contributions provide resources for our English, Mathematics, Technology, Science, Health and Physical Education, Performing Arts, Visual Arts, Sunshine Online Reading Program, Spellodrome, Mathletics, our new reporting and student management program (Sentral), Reading Improvement Program, Reading Enrichment Program and our Kitchen Garden Projects.

At this point in time we have not received as much as we anticipated from looking at past years, which means that there may well be an impact on some of the above-mentioned programs. I certainly understand that we have had two school camps this term and that this may have impacted on some families’ abilities to contribute. If you have not yet contributed could you please consider doing so as soon as possible? Of course, parents who may have difficulty with payment are invited to see Jill to organise a payment plan. For those who are unsure of what to pay, or need a reminder, Jill will send these out to you in week 1 next term.

Have a wonderful Easter break and school term break everyone. Remember to stay safe!

Matthew
Mountain Bush Dance was a huge success, co-organised between Ferny Creek and Mt Dandenong Primary Schools. An estimated 230 adults & children attended so the playground was heaving and the dance floor was teeming! The school expects to have raised over $1,500 from the evening which will be put towards our fundraising wish list. A very HUGE thank you to all the families that helped set up, during the night, and the Edge, Royal, Kelly and Wooden families for the pack up the next day. And of course to everyone that came along to enjoy the night - our Japanese billets had a ball! It is highly likely that we will do it all again next year - thanks from the fund-raising team.
Last year, we ran a very successful clothing recycling drive. Through this drive, you are invited to bring in any unwanted clothes, shoes, handbags, linen or soft toys. These are reused/donated to developing countries. As an additional incentive, our school earns 25 cents for every kilo collected. It also gives you the opportunity to actually have a ‘clean out’!

We will be running this drive twice this year (bag coming home with your child today) and another early Term 4. Each child will be given a bag to bring home but we also accept additional bag-loads using just ordinary bin bags (if you wanted to start collecting now.)

**Bags will be collected at the school on Friday April 22nd at 9am. We advise that all bags are returned on the Thursday to avoid disappointment.**

**What can go into the bags:**
- Clothes
- Bedding/blankets
- Shoes
- Bags
- Soft toys
- Pillows & cushions
School Crossing Supervisor of the year

To acknowledge the contribution and spirit of the work undertaken by school crossing supervisors throughout Victoria an award will be given to a selected school crossing supervisor for their commitment and dedication to the supervision of school crossings.

The recipient of the award should model enthusiasm and successful outcomes.

This award is open to all school crossing supervisors employed in this role stationed at a permanent crossing or a relief school crossing supervisor.

Nominations for the award must be employed as a school crossing supervisor at any Victorian Council who should demonstrate –

- Professional demeanour and presentation (uniform and equipment)
- Working knowledge of road rules relating to school crossings
- Welcoming, caring, supportive and encouraging to all users of the school crossing
- Helpful – Informative and clear on correct use of the crossing
- Involvement in the school community
- Attendance – no time off (other than illness)
- Punctuality

Municipalities and members of the community will be invited to forward nominations for the award. Nominations will close on Friday 6th May 2016.

Nomination Form

Name of Nominated person ..........................................................

Municipality they are employed by.............................................

School .................................................................

Person/Organisation nominating.............................................

Contact email.......................................................................

Contact phone number........................................................

Contact address....................................................................

The following template must be used for nominations.

In 25 words or more please tell us:

Why you believe the nominated person should be awarded the School Crossings Victoria “School Crossing Supervisor of the Year” award.

Send completed forms via mail or email: schoolcrossingsvictoria@gmail.com
School Crossings Victoria INC PO BOX 3032 Mornington 3931
For more information visit www.schoolcrossingsvictoria.com.au