DATES TO REMEMBER

Term 1

27th March  – Last Day Term 1
2.30pm Finish

Term 2

13th April  – Term 2 Commences
16th April  – House Sports
21st April  – Anzac Ceremony
30th April  – Athletics at Knox

“Together we make a Difference!”

PRINCIPAL’S BLOG

Dear Parents and Friends,

Note for Diaries
Our first pupil free day this year will be Monday May 25th. Please take note of this date.

School Council Request
At this week’s School Council it was decided to hold a forum in the near future about communication at Ferny Creek PS. We are inviting anyone who would like to attend such a meeting to let Jill know at the office by Monday 20th April, so a time can be made to suit everybody. This proactive strategy stems from our new Strategic Plan’s Key Improvement Strategy to develop Student Well-Being by ‘building strategies to strengthen positive relationships and communication to enhance both home/school partnerships.’

Buildings and Grounds Volunteers
Thank you to parents who have already volunteered to assist us in maintaining and managing our school grounds.

- Sweeping stones back onto gravel path leading to Junior School – Tamara Logan
- Sweeping entrance to Out of School Hours entrance – Georgia Cowling
- Sweep or blow leaf litter from pathways in our 5/6 area (east side of main building) – Nerrilee Elder
- Blow the leaves and debris from the staff carpark – Danielle Hansom
- Whipper snip rear of the schools front fence including around trees, front playground, cricket net and basketball court – Neil Jacobson
- Whipper snip rear of parent car park – Simon Hawkins
- Whipper snip front of school – Meg Arms
**PRINCIPAL’S BLOG CONTINUED...**

- Rake out safe fall from under playground equipment (front playground) – *Lease Robinson*
- Whipper snip area between netball court and grass slope – *Shauna McGlinchey*
- Blow leaf litter off the bottom basketball court – *Gill Wilson*
- Whipper snip inside and outside basketball court fences – *Lachlan Woden*
- Weed staff car park garden – *Angela Quill*
- Clean out our 5 stormwater pits – *Pete Luckock*

Thank you also to a couple of the volunteers for volunteering to do extra bits and pieces as they arise – much appreciated by us all.

We still have a few tasks we would like volunteers for. See below.

**Weekly**

- Sweeping the leaves away from the entrance to the main school toilet block
- Sweeping or blowing sand off paths around sandpit

**Monthly**

- Trim encroaching branches/bush from footpaths
- Whipper snip rear playground, veggie patch perimeter, chook yard and yard behind veggie patch, front of art room
- Rake out safe fall from under playground equipment (rear playground)

**Termly**

- Weed around Art Room (weed kill is acceptable)

**Twice Yearly**

- Clear gutters around BER/Junior School (must be two people)
- Clear gutters around Music centre (must be two people)

Can you please let the office know if you can volunteer for any of the above? Thank you.

**Easter Raffle and Parade Day**

Only one more sleep to go before our grand Easter Bonnet Parade. Are those hats ready! Please also remember that our Easter Raffle will be drawn tomorrow as well.

**School Council AGM**

Congratulations to Kate Whyman and Adam Buckingham as our 2015 School Council President and Vice President and to Tracey McGregor as Treasurer. Adam Crotty is Minute Secretary and Adam Crotty and Jenny Haley are 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. Committees Coordinators this year are;

**Finance:** Tracey McGregor, Matthew Coyle
**Education, Policy and Planning:** Matthew Coyle
**Building and Grounds:** TBA
**Promotions and PR:** Jenny Haley
The new 2015 School Council members are Matthew Coyle (Executive Officer), Kate Whyman, Liam Smith, Kate Nadji, Vanessa Roberts, Tracey McGregor, Bek Cranmnr and Matthew Whitaker as our Parent Reps, and Adam Crotty, Doug McKay and Anna Moulday and Jenny Haley as our DET Reps.

I also outlined my reflections on the 2014. Some of these were:

- Our Valued Start program focusing on our values and mantra
- Held another terrific school fun festival
- Billy Cart Derby and Christmas Concert
- Positive displays around school demonstrating our students’ exemplary work
- The continued development of our own Kitchen Garden Project
- Our ninth Citizen of the year award and another Star of the Year
- Our Camps program, as well as many incursions and excursions
- The continued development of our Art and Music areas
- The expansion of Japanese into Years 3 and 4
- Our Senior School rock band and swing band
- Our School Choir
- New staff members in Adam, Coby and Kristy
- Special curriculum events, i.e., Literacy and Numeracy Week, Multicultural Week, Science Fair, Premiers Reading Challenge
- Affirmation and continued development of our Restorative Practices
- Our first Japanese exchange trip
- New reporting to parents program/schedule
- Released our Leading Teacher for one day a week to focus on student engagement and learning
- Developed our curriculum in line with the new AusVELS
- Built up eLearning through the school with the introduction of a vigorous new eLearning program
- Used our new 60 iPads wisely and with student learning improvement always in mind
- Maintained our focus on literacy and numeracy
- The development of differentiated curriculum across all areas of the school

Have a wonderful holiday everyone!

Matthew

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**Head Lice**

We have had several reported cases of head lice in last few weeks so we would appreciate your help in checking your child for any signs of head lice and carrying out the appropriate treatment if required. Please ensure that you check your child’s scalp carefully and treat any infestation thoroughly, including removal of all eggs so that we can prevent a further outbreak. Consultation with a pharmacist may be useful in determining which treatments are the most effective.
### Foundation R
- **Luca I:** For staying very focused on his set tasks and trying very hard.
- **Lachlan J:** For staying very focused on his set tasks and trying very hard.

### Foundation/1 JN
- **Isadora F:** For making great attempts to answer quite difficult Maths questions. Well done Isadora.
- **Charlotte A:** For staying focused on tasks and trying her best with all her work. Well done Charlotte!

### 1/2 Katy/Kelly
- **Oliver P:** For his amazingly fast paper aeroplane. Settling in well to grade 2 and for great listening!
- **Will T:** For fantastic reading, improved focus and concentration. A great effort, keep it up! You’re a super star!

### 1/2 Anna
- **Liam J:** For consistently working hard on Mathletics and achieving a certificate every week! Congratulations on earning your gold certificate!
- **Melanie W:** For demonstrating a positive and determined attitude towards all of her work. You always try your best; well done!

### 3/4 Cheryl
- **Ashley J:** For his amazing skills as a fisherman at camp.
- **Beren C:** For his amazing skills as a fisherman at camp.

### 3/4 Heather
- **Oliver W:** For great listening, thoughtful answers and enthusiastic participation in Life Ed “B Cyberwise”.
- **Finn H:** For his excellent listening and very enthusiastic participation in Life Ed “B Cyberwise”.

### 4/5 Adam
- **Tilly H:** For the wonderful Keynote presentation you created on your ancestors’ migration from Scotland and Ireland. Well done!!
- **Vanessa B:** Four your great project on your Ancestry! The pride and effort you put into your project was wonderful, as was your family tree. Well done!!

### 5/6 Allen
- **Archie P:** For going outside your comfort zone at camp by getting in the water and trying new things.
- **Marie S:** For taking the time to patiently and clearly explain how to do something in maths to another student. Well done!

### 5/6 Coby/Kristy
- **Keeva M-H:** For taking it upon herself to find relevant information on being a proactive member of society. Very inspirational stuff!
- **Imogen P:** For the determination she showed when surfing. That ‘never give up’ attitude made her look like a pro surfer!!

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**Quote of the Week**

*You can’t rely on luck but you can rely on skill*

*Alex BB*
We’re pleased to inform you that we have just launched a school app.

The school will be using the app to send out the school newsletter, general updates, reminders, events and much, much more!

The app is called tiqbiz and is available on iPhone, iPad, iPod, Android Phone, Android Tablet and Windows phone devices.

If you don’t have a mobile device, there is also an app available for computer, both Mac and PC. We kindly ask that you download tiqbiz to one of these devices, register a free account then find and tick the school.

When you are ticking the school boxes, please make sure you tick on “Whole School” and the specific grades/years that apply to your family.

You’ll receive all the information with a push notification – much like a text message directly to your device. Any last minute changes or reminders, we’ll be able to can reach you to keep you completely informed and up-to-date.

The app has some great features that will allow us to get information through easily and quickly, you’ll be reminded about important calendar dates 24 hours before, and everything we post can be translated into one of 81 languages!

You will also be able to submit student absence via the app now, authorised by your signature, electronically signed straight onto the screen with your finger!

We hope you will enjoy using this great communication tool.
AROUND THE WORLD

Cultural Diversity Week held in March is ‘celebrating our diverse communities and the benefits that multiculturalism brings to our State.’

The ‘Valued Start Program 2015’ at Ferny Creek focuses on respect, inclusion and pride. Students throughout the year grow to understand and consider their role as classroom, local and global citizens. Celebrating diversity, multiculturalism and making connections between school and home we invited Grade 3, 4, 5 & 6 students with assistance from their families to share their unique stories.

The “Around the World” Project had students investigating their own family and cultural background. Students with their families might have explored beyond their Australian background by going back several generations, to find out where their family origins came from, leading to their migration to Australia.

Exploring their background and origins, students could share information about language, music, traditions, sports, recipes, foods, events or stories of migration. Each of these stories were shared with the class and the locations have been marked on a large scale global map in the atrium.

We would like to thank students and families for contributing to this celebration of cultural diversity at Ferny Creek.

From Georgia and Kristy, Coby, Allen, Adam, Cheryl, Heather.
Attention Grade 5/6 parents and children.

Mitchell McGregor has lost his hat (pictured below) on the last day of Lorne Camp and was wondering if anyone has seen it or found it in their luggage?

It's a dark brown leather hat (brand Barmah) and folds up quite small. It did have his name written somewhere but this may be difficult to spot on such a dark hat.

If you have it, could you please hand it in at the office.

The Dandenong Ranges RSL invites you to join our annual Anzac Day March and Service on 25th April 2014 between 10.30am and 11.30am.

The march will start at Wallaby Ave and proceed along Mt Dandenong Tourist Rd then turn left onto Mountain Hwy and finish by entering the Sassafras Village Green for the service. Everyone is most welcome to join us for refreshments in our club rooms at 1773 Mountain Hwy after the service.

Our RSL Club is also conducting a Dawn Service at the “ANZAC Avenue of Honour” Memorial at the corner of Sherbrooke and Mt Dandenong Tourist Roads, Ferny Creek. This service will commence at 6.30am.

We look forward to seeing you there.
The Week That Was............

Last week we celebrated ‘Cultural Diversity Week’ by travelling to a new country everyday (you should see our frequent flyer points)! Each day we got to try some traditional food, play a traditional game, and do a craft that related to the country! It was a very busy week! We visited Kenya to make Maasai necklaces and try Kachumbari salad, we travelled to Ireland to celebrate St Patrick’s day, and then we journeyed to Mexico to make some brightly coloured sombreros! We even found all of our destinations on the world map! We had a fantastic week!

This Week’s Program.............

This week’s theme is ‘Farm Yard Friends’! We’ve been making fluffy sheep, spotted cows, and feathery chickens! We have been enjoying some yummy hot cross buns to start our mornings! We couldn’t forget the farmyard bunny and what better bunny to talk about than the Easter Bunny! Tomorrow (Friday) we will be having an Easter Egg hunt! Make sure you bring your best hunting shoes! See you there!

Joke of the Week....

This week’s joke comes from Summer in F/1

What did the banana say when it was sick? I’m not peeling very well!

Kids Corner....

GOOD NEWS!

We as a program have decided to continue our Soccer World Cup in term 2! There will be a prize for the term 1 winner but the scores will continue through. Don’t worry if you missed out this time, next term the competition will be on and everyone will be bringing their best game face!

The Fun We Had....

Just a reminder that we are now taking online bookings for our fun and exciting Holiday Program at Emerald PS and Mater Christi in Belgrave. A few of the themed days include; Extreme Fun Adventure, Wacky Science, My Kitchen Rules and there will even be an excursion happening to ‘Clip n Climb’.

OSHCare 4 KIDS Head Office: 9758 6744
www.oshcare4kids.com.au

If we don’t see you on the school holidays we hope you enjoy your break and have a great Easter! We can’t wait to see you again in term 2! Come prepared for more fun and more activities!

Happy Easter, from Karli & the OSHCare 4 KIDS Team 👍