PRINCIPAL’S BLOG

Matthew
Matthew is away for this week due to medical reasons. We wish him a speedy recovery and look forward to him being back on board as soon as possible.

I have taken on the role of Principal until Matthew’s return. This role certainly makes you aware of the multi-tasking that Matthew has to take on. It gives you a heightened awareness of the wonderful job Matthew does at Ferny Creek. Remember 'Together we make a Difference'.

Habitat Award!
Ferny Creek has won the award for best HabitAt Action for our frog bog wetlands out of all the schools that submitted a plan in our shire. This is on top of winning the Best Environment Audit in 2013 and the Best HabitAt Plan in 2014. The fact that we have won the three awards possible to win, three years in a row, is testament to the remarkable effort from our dedicated group of teachers, parents and students who have worked so hard in this endeavour.

We want to extend a special thank you to Deb Andrich and Cath Connell for their on-going commitment to our environmental program and being the driving force behind our Habitat awards.

The award will be presented at assembly on Friday by Cr Noel Cliff.

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.

School procedures for the bushfire season
Fire danger ratings and warnings are used in Victoria to provide clear direction on the safest options for preserving life.
Schools and children’s services listed on the DET Bushfire At-Risk Register (BARR) will be closed when a Code Red fire danger rating day is determined in their Bureau of Meteorology district.

Our school has been identified as being one of those at high bushfire risk and is listed on the BARR.

Where possible, we will provide parents with up to four days notice of a potential Code Red day closure by letter, TiqBiz, Website and Email. A Code Red day will be determined by the Emergency Management Commissioner no later than 1.00 pm the day before the potential closure. Once we are advised of the confirmation of the Code Red day we will provide you with advice before the end of the school day.

Once confirmed, the decision to close will not change, regardless of improvements in the weather forecast. This is to avoid confusion and help your family plan alternative care arrangements for your child. It is also important to note that:

- No staff will be on site on days where the school is closed due to a forecast Code Red day.
- Out-of-school-hours care will also be cancelled on these days.
- School camps will be cancelled if a Code Red fire danger rating day is determined for the Bureau of Meteorology district in which the camp is located.

On these Code Red days families are encouraged to enact their Bushfire Survival Plan – on such days children should never be left at home or in the care of older children.

For those of us living in a bushfire prone area, the CFA advise that when Code Red days are forecast, the safest option is to leave the night before or early on the morning of the Code Red day.

What can parents do?

- Make sure your family’s bushfire survival plan is up-to-date and includes alternative care arrangements in the event that our school is closed.
- Ensure we have your current contact details, including your mobile phone numbers. Keep in touch with us by reading our newsletters, by checking, TiqBiz, our website and by talking to your child’s teacher or any other member of the teaching staff about our emergency management plan.
- Most importantly at this time of year, if you’re planning a holiday or short stay in the bush or in a coastal area, you should check warnings in advance of travel and remain vigilant during your stay.
- If your child is old enough, talk to them about bushfires and your family’s bushfire survival plan.

For up-to-date information on this year’s fire season, visit the CFA website at www.cfa.vic.gov.au or call the 24-hour Victorian Bushfires Information Line on 1800 240 667.
2016 Planning
The school structure for 2016 has been finalized. Staff will now be working on class structures and student combinations for 2016.

Grade structure and staffed programs can be confirmed and is:
2 x Foundation
2 x Year 1/2
2 x Year 3/4
1 Year 4/5
2 x Year 5/6
Music
Art
PE
Japanese
Kitchen Garden
Reading Improvement Program
Quicksmart Maths
Hilton Hen House

I can also confirm that we have appointed Samantha Gray to our staff for 2016. Samantha fills the vacancy left by Jenny’s decision to take next year off. Kristy Holmes and Coby Beatson have had their tenure renewed and I can also announce that Heather Pickett will be retiring at the beginning of next year. Heather has been a wonderful stalwart of Ferny Creek and has been a rock to so many students.

Katy Reid is also not returning next year and we will fill this vacancy in the near future. Please note that the new staff will not be necessarily be placed in the grades of the exiting teachers. For those who have a connection to our 2016 Foundation grades you will be aware that we have Rhian and Kristy in this area for 2016. We have also advertised for a teacher who specializes in the early years and has broad experience in this area, to complete the Foundation team.

The Final Countdown!
- **27**th November, Friday: Habitat Award Presentation, special guest at assembly Cr Noel Cliff
- **28**th November, Saturday, final 2015 Working Bee, 1-4pm
- **30**th November, Monday: F – 2 Swimming begins
- **7**th December, Monday: School Council TBC
- **7**th December, Monday: Quicksmart Celebration
- **8**th December, Tuesday: Reading Improvement Celebration
- **9**th December, Wednesday: Grade 3/4 Picnic to Ferny Creek Reserve
- **10**th December, Thursday: Christmas Concert
- **11**th December, Friday: F-2 Swimming last day
- **14**th December, Monday: Year 5 and 6 excursion, all day
- **15**th December, Tuesday: Year 6 Graduation, 6pm onwards
- **16**th December, Wednesday: Parent Helpers Thank You Morning Tea, 10.40am
- **17**th December, Thursday: last day for students, 1.30pm dismissal
- **18**th December, Friday: Pupil Free Day,
- **25**th December: Thursday: Happy Christmas!!!

Have a great week everyone,
Cheryl
“STARS OF THE WEEK”

**Foundation R**

Joni W: For a fantastic written reflection of your Foundation year. Thank you for sharing it at Information Night.

Jack G: For a fantastic written reflection of your Foundation year. Thank you for sharing it at Information Night.

**Foundation/1 JN**

Jonah K: For settling quickly at his table so he can get his work done. Fantastic effort!

Angus P: For trying his best to always make positive choices. Well done – keep it up!

**1/2 Kelly/Alison**

Emma P: For a really good week in the classroom. Your efforts are making a big difference.

Allie S: For your hard work and effort in reading. You have reached 200 nights of reading this year. Excellent work!

**1/2 Anna**

Jordan M-G: For his persistence with improving his reading and making many more positive choices to work at his very best. Keep it up, Jordan!

Finn O: For his creative ideas and working diligently with his passion project about money. Well done, Finn!

**3/4 Cheryl**

Jordan R: For asking lots of excellent questions as well as providing well considered and thoughtful answers.

**3/4 Heather**

Beren C: For setting the standard with his expertly designed and built Egg Drop parachute.

**4/5 Adam**

Patrick G: For your wonderful speech on Lego. Your speech was engaging, you used your voice well and you made positive eye contact with your audience. Well Done!!

Oliver W: For your great work on your science project on the planet Venus. You provided a variety of information and interesting facts in your Keynote presentation.

**5/6 Allen**

Heath K: For consistently producing quality homework assignments. They are interesting to see every week.

**5/6 Coby/Kristy**

Ava M: For doing an amazing job on your “Day in the Life” video project. Really excellent work!

**Riding to School Bus Guide**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Leave Sassy Village Green</td>
<td>8.00am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hilton Road</td>
<td>8.15am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Horse Paddock</td>
<td>8.25am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laubes Lane</td>
<td>8.35am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Top of School Road</td>
<td>8.40am</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Please note that times are approximate and may vary considerably.

Adam and Doug
Allen is heading back to Canada at the end of the school year so he needs to sell their family vehicle. Here are some details:

2005 Ford Territory TX, Rear wheel drive, white exterior, grey cloth interior, 7-seater, 6 cylinders, 4.0 Litre, automatic, 12.2 L/100km, 194 000kms

One careful owner prior to us buying it this year, regularly serviced, a couple thousand dollars’ worth of maintenance done prior to us buying it (the usual things that need replacing on a 10-year-old vehicle like seals, brakes, etc) so you shouldn't have to do any work on it, new tyres, clean inside and out, a few minor nicks from regular wear and tear. Registration paid until March.

Please keep in mind that it isn't available until the last week of school. $8000. All serious offers considered.

Contact Allen at 0476 169 342 for more pictures or any questions.

Victorian Premiers’ Reading Challenge

In April this year until September, the Premiere’s Reading Challenge was run. Student’s had the choice of participating or not. Many children started, and some completed the challenge. The children who completed the challenge will receive certificates. These certificates will be presented to the following students tomorrow at assembly:


Congratulations to all of these students.
Farm Foodstore Food Hub Summer Siesta

The Farm Foodstore Food Hub pilot at Ferny Creek PS is winding up for a Summer Siesta.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support throughout the year. It’s been fantastic to see so many families support the hub, and our farmers, to gain access to fresh, healthy and locally grown produce.

With your valued support, we have ensured a percentage of funds raised through each and every food hub order have been reinvested back into the school’s kitchen/garden program.

During the summer holidays we will be working with our friends at the South East Food Hub to discuss food hub opportunities in 2016.

This pilot project has been in partnership with Ferny Creek PS, the South East Food Hub and Open Food Network.

School Banking News

3 more banking weeks to go!!!

The last Banking Day will be Tuesday 15th December.

The last day to order rewards and receive them this year is Tuesday 1st December. You may order rewards after this, but you will receive them next year.

Tokens are carried over to next year, so you can use them to get a head start for next year’s exciting new rewards. Details on the theme for 2016 will be released soon.

I would like to thank all students and parents who have supported the School Banking Program this year. You are helping your child to build great savings habits for his/her future. The commission that the school has earned through the School Banking Program in the last 12 months was $910.

Hint: to maximise your child’s savings, make at least one deposit throughout January to ensure that your child receives the bonus interest. Remember to check your child’s bank statement to ensure all deposits have been credited.

I look forward to facilitating the School Banking Program at Ferny Creek next year.

Lease Robinson
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday 30th</th>
<th>Tuesday 1st</th>
<th>Wednesday 2nd</th>
<th>Thursday 3rd</th>
<th>Friday 4th</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Come indoors this afternoon and lets create our very own octopus to take home... What?</td>
<td>This afternoon we are going to be making pin animals (to wear in before and after school care sometimes!) using lots of colours and making our favourite animals.</td>
<td>Dice animals! This afternoon we are going to be making dice animals. Basically every animal will equal to an amount of steps to take in board games.</td>
<td>Simple fruit friends! Let's get creative and make fruit people this afternoon using fresh served fruit following by eating them</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**Kids Corner**

![Exploring at Ferny Creek OSHC](image)

Our Junior Leaders were: Summer B., Ashley J., Nic B. and Adam C.

**Joke of the Week**

Q: Why did the clown go to the doctor?
A: Because he was feeling a bit funny

**After The Bell News**

January Vacation Care 4/1/16 – 27/1/16 (at Emerald Region) and Pre-Christmas Vacation Care (at Mater Christi) bookings 21/12/15 – 24/12/15 are now available online at [www.afterthebell.com.au](http://www.afterthebell.com.au)

And don't forget to Re-enrol for 2016!

**Cooking Club**

On Wednesday we're making Fruit Smoothies!

**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 we will be happy to help you out with the process.

**Contacts**

Booking/Cancelation: enrolment@oshcare4kids.com.au

OSHC: 0428 258 940

Ashlee – Program Leader