PRINCIPAL’S BLOG

Dear Parents and Friends,

Launch of new Student Well Being Package at FCPS

In the next few weeks I will be outlining student management practices at Ferny Creek in the lead up to the launch of a new Whole School Student Well-Being Management package from Sentral (Sentral packages we have already implemented are Attendance and Reporting to Parents). This week I will outline briefly what we do, as a school, to be proactive with Student Well-Being.

Student Well-Being is extremely important to all of us at Ferny Creek. All schools have issues, and indeed, when I do tours with prospective parents I tell them to ‘run away’ from a school that says they have no issues. Just think about Ferny Creek. About 150 families – all different, diverse and unalike (and alike) in so many ways. We have families with a Mum and Dad, families with a Mum or a Dad, families where the kids live with grandparents, foster families, families with one, two, three or four children, families with step sisters and step brothers, families with pets, with no pets, wealthy families and families living just above the bread line, families with different beliefs, or abilities, in parenting, etc., etc.

From these families comes the wonderful range of students we have here at our school. This is what makes teaching so exciting to me – watching these children grow into positive citizens, developing resilience (the ability to cope and thrive in the face of negative events challenges or adversity), building their social competence, developing a sense of responsibility, an optimism for the future, an attachment to family, to school and to learning, problem-solving skills, effective coping style, pro-social values, a sense of self-efficacy, and positive self-regard, and on I can go!!!

Many of our strategies to develop and guide children in these areas is unseen for much of the time because it’s all proactive and doesn’t impact us negatively when all is going well with our children. The key whole school Strategies we employ at our school are:

- **Our A Valued Start Program** – (now adopted by a number of schools in the Eastern Region) deals with our school values, our...
mantra and our rigour and routine, it covers the first two weeks of the year and again at the start of terms 2, 3 and 4.

- **Our Non Negotiables** – a list of non-negotiable behaviours/strategies adhered to by all school staff. For example, all grades spend the last 10 minutes at the end of each day on reflection, and, each day, except Friday, will begin with circle time, or equivalent.

- **Regular professional development** – for example, part of our recent pupil free day was spent on the topic of childhood trauma and the impacts trauma has on student learning. Every Tuesday morning, our staff briefing begins with a well-being check, where any issues involving anything to do with our students’ well-being are discussed.

- **Our Senior Student leadership Program** – If our senior students have pride in their school and see school as a positive experience then a positive school climate will automatically pervade the entire school population – staff included. The wonderful Student Opinion Survey results indicated that our senior students are indeed, engaged in student life at FCPS.

- **Strong support by School Council** with the regular review of the key policies such as Duty of Care, Student Engagement and Well Being, Bullying and Harassment, Attendance and Managing Grief policies.

Next week I will write about our strategies we employ when things go awry with our students.

### 2016 Grade Placement Requests

Teachers have now begun discussions regarding the placement of students for 2016. This is a complex task as there are many factors to consider in arranging the best mix of students in each class. Teachers consider factors such as individual needs, gender balance, academic abilities, friendship groups and students who work well and/or do not work well together. This process takes many hours of planning with the purpose being to maximise student learning. If you have any educational or social matters you would like to be considered when classes are being prepared **please ensure you address these with your child’s current teacher over the next few weeks**. Of course it may not be possible to grant every request. Alternatively you can talk to the unit coordinators, F-2 Rhian, 3-6 Cheryl.

**Our aim is to inform children of their class placement and teacher prior to the end of the school year.** In some circumstances this can change over the long break due to student movement (a couple of children in or out can drastically impact on our structure) and in this event every effort would be made by me to notify parents concerned of the change.

### Fundraising Successes in 2015

As I mentioned last week, two of our big 2015 purchases were due to a wonderful year’s fundraising by all in our community. The following is a list of equipment, materials, school improvements that has ONLY occurred due to our fundraising efforts;

- The new stage 2 of the lower playground
- The new front playground shade sail
- New cricket pitch
- Over $3000 worth of book purchases
- 75 new chairs for the MP room
- 8 new trestle tables
- A new school BBQ
- Renewal of our solar panels
- Headphones for Lab and classrooms from F-4
- A new Chair stacker, ordered
- 10 new fold up tables, ordered
- Giant Chess set, ordered
Fundraising/fun events still to come are our Walkathon on the 19th November and our Christmas Concert on 10th December.

**New Student Leadership program for 2016**

I have been in discussions with a number of local Principals about a combined Student Leadership program for 2016. This would empower our senior students to become visible school leaders and guide younger students on many student issues through the school. Here is a simple run-down summary of the program we are envisaging:

Selected senior students attend a two-day program at an outside venue. A sister Secondary School’s Year 10 high school students are mentors – enough for one boy and one girl for each group of our students.

*The two days would look something like this:*

Two student days, one in March and one in May.

These days cover personal and interpersonal learning, and aim to build confidence, self-esteem and knowledge and skills in leadership. For example, what makes a leader? What are leader behaviours like? Why be a leader? What does a leadership team look like and do? Things covered through learning activities and games over the day are resilience, conflict resolution, inclusion and tolerance, teamwork, problem solving, setting an example, compromise, problem solving and assertive communication leadership as service, respect and responsibility and actions of a leader, and how do you work as a student leader in our school.

- **Day 1** in March covers learning activities on the above in mixed school groups with secondary school mentors. Students then, in their own school team, make their Leadership Action Plans for their own school. The Year 10 students are assigned to each group to assist as mentors in the process of developing a plan. **Students return to school to implement the plan.**
- **Day 2** in May once again mixes the students up and they do a variety of learning activities for an hour or so to regroup. They play games to get to know the students from other schools. School Leadership Teams then present their Leadership Action Plans to the group. Across the day groups reflect on what they’ve learned as leaders, and how it is going for them, as a leadership team. It is about reflecting on the learning, building confidence and self-esteem, developing social and emotional intelligence and going back to school with increased capacity to be effective school leaders.

Towards the end of May/June we hold a Parent Expo. This is about giving each school time to celebrate their action project. They set up a display, photos, iPad videos, etc. They report on outcomes, and generally show-off their successful leadership!

Our program Leader then speaks about parenting adolescents, the move to secondary school, setting boundaries, positive/assertive parenting, and cyber-safety and social media.

**Important Dates:**

**Please note the change of Christmas Concert date.** This is due to a clash with the Year 7 Parent Student Information Night at our local High School

- 3rd November, Tuesday: Melbourne Cup Day
- 4th November, Wednesday: Year 3 – 6 swimming begins
- 10th November, Tuesday: Footsteps Dancing Incursion
- 13th November, Friday: Years 3 – 6 swimming last day
- 16th November, Monday: Foundation 2016 Transition, 9.15am (Buddies!)
- 17th November, Tuesday: School Council
- 18th November, Wednesday: Grade 6 Graduation Photos
- 19th November, Thursday: School Walkathon
Sassafras Pre-school is currently accepting enrolments for both its 3yo and 4yo programs in 2016.

Please contact the enrolments officer, Fleur Green on 0409 512 872 for more information.

Science Experiments/Demonstrations

Hey kids: get your science stuff happening.

Bring your experiment to school and show your grade...

... then all the experiments will go on display in the Multi-Purpose Room ...

... then this Friday all the grades will take turns to look at them and you can demonstrate your experiment to a bigger audience!

Be bold, be brave and give it a go because ... Science is FUN!
**“STARS OF THE WEEK”**

**Foundation R**
- **Will C:** For Reading and Spelling 100 MIOOW Words! Excellent spelling, Will.
- **Jack G:** For Reading and Spelling 200 MIOOW words. Well done Jack! Super Speller!

**Foundation/1 JN**
- **Lily-Marie M:** For being a supportive and caring friend to others while they are going through tough times.
- **Eliza B:** For trying her best in all learning activities. Keep it up!

**1/2 Kelly/Alison**
- **Olivia J:** For your continued hard work and improvement in all areas.
- **Wren G:** For your enthusiasm during literacy and hard work in all subjects.

**1/2 Anna**
- **Melanie W:** For her improved participation in class discussions and demonstrating a respectful attitude to school, her classmates and teachers.
- **Mitchell H:** For his enthusiastic approach to learning during reading and math sessions. Great work, Mitch!

**3/4 Cheryl**
- **Giselle M:** For her interesting experiment about the Mobius strip and presenting it clearly to the grade.
- **Ellie R:** For presenting her experiment about milk and food dye and being able to explain why it happened.

**3/4 Heather**
- **Josh H:** For displaying maturity in assisting younger class members and thinking ahead.
- **Layla G:** For working so well with all her spelling and reading.

**4/5 Adam**
- **Maudie P:** For your wonderful ‘Sculpt This’ creation. The cow you produced was beautifully constructed and I really liked the mechanism you created to ring the bell and produce the farting sound effect. Well Done!!
- **Kaitlin J:** For your focused efforts on your Renewable Energy project. It is great to see you working independently and taking pride in the work you are producing. Keep up the good work!!!

**5/6 Allen**
- **Ashton B:** For writing instructions on how to play soccer in the mud on a rainy day. You actually made it sound fun!
- **Elska S:** For writing several thoughtful and entertaining tips on how to show confidence. Really well done!

**5/6 Coby/Kristy**
- **Gidi T:** For his great presentation to the class about a pink fluffy unicorn! You kept us entertained!
- **Nick B:** For the gorgeous sense of humour you have! It's something that comes naturally to you. It’s fun and respectful.

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**Riding to School Bus Guide**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Destination</th>
<th>Time</th>
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</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>
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<tr>
<td>Top of School Road</td>
<td>8.40am</td>
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</tbody>
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*Please note that times are approximate and may vary considerably.*

Adam and Doug
**TERM 4**

**“GET INTO TENNIS”**

**JUNIOR COACHING SUMMER SPECIAL OFFER**

You may be aware that your child has been participating in a free 3-week coaching program at the FCPS. We have provided them with a sample of what to expect during normal term lessons. As a follow up to this, we are offering two special deals/options that may be of interest to you & your child which are valid for the remaining lessons in Term 4.

**OPTION A:**
Receive a FREE junior racquet upon enrolment for remaining Term 4 coaching – 6 lessons (RRP $30.00)

**OPTION B:**
Receive the remaining 6 lessons – a reduced price of $60.00 (Normally $78.00)

The first 10 customers to register will be eligible to receive BOTH of the deals above.

NB: Offers are only valid for NEW customers not currently enrolled in lessons at an EXTREME TENNIS venue.

**COACHING VENUES & DAYS:**

FERNY CREEK TENNIS CLUB – MONDAYS, THURSDAYS & FRIDAYS
SEELBY TENNIS CLUB – TUESDAYS
UPWEY SOUTH TENNIS CLUB – WEDNESDAYS

For further enquiries or enrolments, please phone

Stuart & Diana Sutterby @ extreme tennis
0759 6475 / 0412 106 416 / 0403 525 111
contactus@extremetennis.com.au
www.extremetennis.com.au
Tennis Australia Club Professional, T.C.A. Reg. Advanced Coach,
A.L.T.C.A. Reg. Level 2 & Bachelor of Teaching

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**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

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**

For more info on the event or to volunteer your time please contact Steve or Kelly Utting
utting.steven@edumail.vic.gov.au / kellyembellish@hotmail.com
What’s On Next Week?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday 2\textsuperscript{nd}</th>
<th>Tuesday 3\textsuperscript{rd}</th>
<th>Wednesday 4\textsuperscript{th}</th>
<th>Thursday 5\textsuperscript{th}</th>
<th>Friday 6\textsuperscript{th}</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Come inside for an exciting game of musical chairs this afternoon!</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Let’s see how tall you all are! Time to make a wall chart to see how much we may grow over the summer break.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Kids Corner**

Our Junior Leaders were: Emma P., Oliver K., Megan K. and Lincon S. Great job guys!

**Our Favourite Recipe**

**JELLY SLICE**

250g plain sweet biscuits; 175g butter, melted; Pinch of ground cinnamon; 395g can sweetened condensed milk; 1/2 cup (125ml) strained lemon juice; 3/4 cup (180ml) boiling water; 2 teaspoons gelatine powder; 85g red jelly crystals.

Grease and line the base and sides of a large slice pan. Process biscuits in a food processor to fine crumbs. Add butter and cinnamon and process again. Press biscuit mixture into the base of prepared pan. Chill for 30 minutes or until firm. Combine condensed milk with lemon juice in medium bowl. Combine boiling water and gelatine in a small jug. Stir until completely dissolved, then stir into condensed milk mixture. Pour over biscuit base and return to the refrigerator for 1 hour or until set. Meanwhile, prepare jelly according to packet instructions, using 100ml less cold water than directed. Allow to come to room temperature. Pour jelly mixture over set milk filling. Chill for an hour or until jelly is set. Carefully remove slice from pan, then slice to serve.

**Cooking Club**

Warm healthy blue berry muffins!

**Joke of the Week**

Q: Why was 9 scared of the 7?
A: Because 7 8 9

**OSHCare4KIDS News**

Re-enrolment for 2016 is now available. Emails went out to all enrolled parents with an attached Quick 2-Page Form, so save time and avoid a Late Re-Enrolment Fee by getting in before 27/11/15! If you didn’t get one, email enrolment@oshcare4kids.com.au or call 0397586744 (and we might need to check we’ve got your current email attached to your account…)

**How Cheap Is OSHC?**

Did you know that if you enrol your child into Before and After School Care…

…it can cost you as low as $6.27 per session per child with Government Rebate eligibility!

**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
OSHC: 0428 258 940
Ashlee – Program Leader