DATES TO REMEMBER

Term 1

13th February – School Picnic
17th February – Parent Information Night 3-6
18th February – Parent Information Night F-2
25th February – Parent Teacher Conferences
27th February – Billy Cart Derby
9th March – Labour Day Holiday
10th – 13th March – Grade 5/6 Camp
16th – 18th March – Grade 3/4 Camp
27th March – Last Day Term 1
2.30pm finish

PRINCIPAL’S BLOG

Dear Parents and Friends,

A special welcome is extended to all our new families attending Ferny Creek for the first time.

A special welcome to our newest staff member, Allen Kropp. Allen is our new Grade 5/6 teacher. Allen and his family have moved into Brian Graham’s house as part of a yearlong teacher exchange. We wish Allen the very best for year at Ferny Creek.

This year will be a terrific year at Ferny Creek. This year is the first year of our new 4 year strategic cycle. I will be keeping the community informed as this is finalised over term 1. Congratulations to staff and parents for the part they have played to ensure such a smooth start to the year. The work many staff and parents did for the school over the holidays has been amazing.

The children have settled happily into their new classes and will be enjoying and benefitting from our ‘A Valued Start’ over the next week or so. A very special welcome to our new Foundation students who are starting their school life this year. Staff are looking forward to a very exciting year of teaching and learning with all your children. We will focusing on creating rigour and routines that will hold us in good stead for the remainder of the year. A reminder too that we will be spending time over these days focusing on our mantra, ‘Together We make a Difference’ and our new school values of respect, inclusion and pride.

As a feature of this unit of work we have decided to hold a whole school picnic on Friday 13th February (next week). More information will be sent home soon but this will be a wonderful way to get the school ‘together’ so soon in the school year.

The Year Ahead

As mentioned above. We are into Year 1 of our new Strategic Plan. We are developing concise and specific goals, strategies and targets for our first year. Our four key goals from which we develop our annual strategies are;
To maximise the learning growth of every student in all learning domains with a strong F-6 focus on literacy, particularly writing and spelling and all strands of mathematics.

2. To build a rich, relevant, challenging and stimulating learning environment that promotes consistently high levels of student engagement.

3. To enhance student wellbeing and resilience in a supportive learning community that fosters the school's values and which promotes and nurtures the social, emotional and physical development of all students.

4. To optimise the allocation of resources (human, financial, time, space and materials) to maximise the learning outcomes for all students.

Our steps to achieve this are clear and are on display on the noticeboard outside the Uniform Shop.

We are also proud that we are able to maintain our Quicksmart Maths program in the Senior School, our Reading Improvement Program in Level 2 and our Reading Enrichment program in level 3. These are formal programs that enrich what teachers already do in the classroom with our lower and upper achieving students.

We are also introducing a new program for our gifted and talented students, WiseOnes, and will be presented weekly within the school by Sandy Robertson.

Bushfire Awareness

Please be assured that the school is ready for whatever this term throws at us as far as fire risk is concerned. As was the case last year, the school will receive 4 days warning of possible closure. The final decision will be early on the fourth day and will allow us to contact all in the community and confirm that the school is closed (or not). I will also be running emergency drills in the first two weeks to ensure all staff and students understand their roles in the case of an emergency.

Parent to Teacher Conference and Grade Level Information Evenings

A very important school activity in February is for us to communicate very clearly the expectations and goals of each grade in the school. To do this we will be having Information Evening meetings on Tuesday 17th February for our Years 3 to 6 and Wednesday 18th February for Years F to 2. We have staggered these into two times so that you have a chance that your family can be catered for. These sessions will outline all the requirements, expectations and needs for that particular year level.

You will receive, in the near future, information about our very important Parent Teacher Conference. We are holding this on Wednesday 25th February. There is great value in having parent to teacher information exchange sessions as the more information we gather about your children at the start of the year the quicker we can cater for their individual needs. This is attended only if you feel you need to talk to your child’s teacher about any issues that will, or may impact on their learning this year. Our new Foundation students do not need to attend this session as you have already given our teachers detailed feedback.

Student Surveys

In March and November each year all students are surveyed on their school life. This is a key strategy that assists us in continually monitoring well-
being, safety, and connectedness issues in our school. The November survey is used to inform us on the year past and what students are happy and concerned with about the next year. Our November survey was extremely positive. Of the five key measurement areas our collated results showed that:

- 98% of students had a strong sense of well-being and have high morale
- 97% of students believe their teachers have empathy towards them, i.e. they listen, they really want to help the students learn and they try really hard to make classwork interesting
- 98.5% of students find school enjoyable
- 95% of students feel a strong connectedness to their school, and
- 97% of students have a strong connectedness to their peers.

School Grounds
Thanks to our hardworking parents for mowing the grounds last week and to our working bee attendees last Saturday for getting the grounds up to scratch for the first day back. They look fantastic.

Hats Reminder
As Ferny Creek is a SunSmart school, all students are required to wear a Ferny Creek hat every recess and lunchtime during Term 1. Hats can be purchased at the Uniform Shop or fill in an order form our office.

Visitor Badges
A reminder to check in at the office when you arrive to help in classes or the playground. It is imperative that we know who is in the school at all times.

Again, thank you for a great start to the school year. It has been wonderful to visit grades and wander around and chat to both children and parents. I look forward to a wonderful and enriching year of learning and teaching as well as a sense of enjoyment in being part of Ferny Creek Primary School.

Have a wonderful week,
Matthew

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Uniform Shop

Term 1 - Students are required to wear hats in Terms 1 and 4.

Uniform Shop is open on Tuesday mornings from 8.45 till 9.30am. Jill at the Office is happy to assist you with uniform enquiries/orders outside of these times.

We are experiencing low supplies of polo shirts and hats (M and L sizes) and apologise if your required size is currently unavailable. We anticipate that we will have some more available late next week - stay tuned!

Lease Robinson
## STARS OF THE WEEK

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Foundation R</th>
<th>No stars as the children only started this week.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Foundation/1 JN</td>
<td><strong>Casper G</strong>: For making a great start to the year with very focused learning. Well done Casper, you should be proud of yourself!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/2 Katy/Kelly</td>
<td><strong>Bailey L</strong>: For a fantastic start to 2015, being a great helper, friend and an Inclusive classmate. <strong>Wren G</strong>: For a fantastic start to 2015. For showing kindness towards others and being an Inclusive and positive class member.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/2 Anna</td>
<td><strong>Indi B</strong>: For taking pride in her work and settling in beautifully into grade 2. Well done, Indi! <strong>Finn O</strong>: For demonstrating respect towards his classmates and teachers and trying his very best. Great work, Finn!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/4 Cheryl</td>
<td><strong>Tallulah H</strong>: For her great start at Ferny Creek where she has fitted in so well to our class and has made new friends. Welcome! <strong>Martha B</strong>: For playing with someone she didn’t know and helping them feel comfortable and included.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/4 Heather</td>
<td><strong>Josh H</strong>: For a great start to the year, showing enthusiasm and motivation with all his work. <strong>Maebh M</strong>: For taking on the very responsible role within the classroom helping out the younger children.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/5 Adam</td>
<td><strong>Jenna C</strong>: For your imaginative creative writing piece on why you are not a boring person. The expression and intonation you used when you read it to the class was FANTASTIC!! <strong>Viveca K</strong>: For the wonderful effort you have put into every task we have undertaken. The pride you show in your work is outstanding. Well done and keep up the good work!!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/6 Allen</td>
<td><strong>Charlie M</strong>: For consistently giving thoughtful and insightful responses during class discussions. <strong>Mitch McG</strong>: For doing a “blow me away” job on his first writing assignment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/6 Coby</td>
<td><strong>Ryan J</strong>: For the level of RESPECT he shows at all times. A great role model. Well done Ryan. <strong>Charlotte M</strong>: For the fantastic way you have just joined us here at Ferny Creek – it’s like you have been here for years!!</td>
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**Congratulations Stars**
Welcome to the School Banking year! School Banking is on TUESDAYS!

The 2015 rewards have an Outer Space theme and are on display in the uniform shop. Your child may choose a reward after making 10 deposits.

This year there is the chance to win a trip to Disneyland. Simply make 25 deposits through the School Banking Program before 18th December to be automatically entered into the draw.

If you already have a bank book: 1. Fill in the deposit slip. 2. Bring it to your classroom by 9am Tuesdays.

If you don’t have an account, you may open an account at a Commonwealth Bank branch, or come to our Account Opening Day on Friday 27th February. PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE OF DATE - IT IS NOW 27th FEBRUARY.

See you on Tuesdays!
Lease Robinson
(School Banking Coordinator)
Best wishes for 2015 to all parents and students, hope you all had a great Christmas break and are ready for the upcoming school year.

Hopefully Santa brought you some garden tools and paint brushes that can be put to good use on future working bees!!!!

We held our first working bee last Saturday afternoon which was a general spruce up of the grounds in preparation for the return to school, many thanks to the following families for coming along and assisting – Andrews, Barlow, Box, Brown, Connell, Gilliots, Jones, Paterson, Payne, Piening, Smith, Sykes, Wolstencroft.

Also a special mention to Ian Sykes who did a clean-up of the grounds over the break, and Andrew Wolstencroft for the repair works to the retaining wall that was damaged during a recent water leak.

With so many kids activities at weekends we know it is hard for parents to commit to the full 4 hour working bee, but even if you could spare a couple of hours it is amazing how much can be achieved in that short time.

Other ways you can contribute is to volunteer for the mowing crew –led by Marc Barlow, or volunteer to carry out regular maintenance tasks around the grounds such as brush cutting, weeding and also some internal jobs that fall out with the role of the school cleaners -many of these small jobs can be done in an hour or so, at a time to suit your (or should I say your child's!!) busy schedule.

We are always looking for new members to our building and grounds committee –we meet once a month usually on the evening of the second Tuesday of the month.

Please contact myself or Matthew for further details or leave your details with Jill in the school office.

Yours

Michael Paterson

0418 306 273

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**LUNCH ORDERS 2015**

Lunch Orders for 2015 will now be available every day of the week commencing on Monday 9th February.

The menu and prices will remain the same as for 2014 and copies of the menu are available at the office.
Player Registration for 2015

Sassafras Ferny Creek Netball Club is open for registration for our Winter Competition 2015 and welcomes any new players.

You don’t need to have any experience, just the will to join in and become part of a team!

Registration: 7th February 2015, 10am – 12pm, Olinda Netball Court
Age: 8 years old to open.
Training: Teams train at the netball court in Olinda
Matches: All matches are on Saturdays at Mountain District Netball Complex, Ferny Creek Gully for all matches.

ARE YOU INTERESTED?
Give us a call and we will get you started!

Questions? Contact Ann-Maree Baker on 0418 395 070

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Olinda Ferny Creek Junior Football Club Inc
2015 SEASON LAUNCH

New jumpers and New Clubrooms

We welcome all players (existing & new) to attend our registration day (includes Auskick)

EFTPOS available for all purchases (apparel, membership)

Fun activities for the whole family with BBQ and coffee machine also operating.

Catch up with coaches & team-mates.

DATE: Sunday 15th February
TIME: 10am – 12.30pm
PLACE: Olinda Clubrooms

Come along; we look forward to seeing you all there.

TEAMS WILL BE ENTERED IN U10’s, U11’s, U12’s, U14’s & U16’s

Olinda Ferny Creek Junior Football Club Inc
PO Box 95
Olinda VIC 3978
E-mail: OlindaJFC1@gmail.com
W: www.olindafc.football.vic.au

Interested in playing netball?

MONBULK NETBALL CLUB
Registration & 1st Training Day - Stage1 Selection
WHEN: Saturday 21st February 2015.
WHERE: Monbulk Netball Club, Moores Rd, Monbulk
STAGE 1 GRADING COMMENCEMENT TIMES:
(please arrive 20 mins prior to your scheduled section time to submit payment and registration form)

- NetSetGO!: 9.30 am - 10.15am: (a fun, skills and modified game program for boys and girls, 5 - 11 yrs, run on Saturdays at KRNC) *no grading required. Ball & fitness games supervised on Rego day.
- 11/U: 9 am - 10 am (ages 8 - 11, girls & boys, no finals competition)
- 13/U: 10.15 am - 11.15am
- 15/U: 11.30 am - 12.30 pm
- 17/U & 23/U: 12.45 pm - 1.30pm

For further information or to request a registration form, please contact Dianne Northby: monbulknetballclub@gmail.com

Please note: Payment must be paid in full on Registration Day to guarantee your child’s position in a team.

Please contact Debbie Truscott if payment plan is required prior to registration day: d.truscott@casey.vic.gov.au

Bring a water bottle and wear club uniform (netball attire) and correct footwear.

Grading for each age group will continue the following Wednesday and Thursday.

MNC play in the Mountain Districts Netball Association competition.
Games are played on Saturdays from mid March at
Knox Regional Netball Centre, 8 Dempster Street, Ferny Creek.
Training is held at Monbulk Netball Club.