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). Last week I outlined briefly what we do, as a school, to be proactive with Student Well-Being. This week I will explain our Restorative Practices approach to problems and issues between children.

The Traditional Approach to School Discipline:
The traditional approach to school discipline asks three questions in response to wrongdoing:
- What happened?
- Who's to blame?
- What do they deserve?

This traditional approach, borrowed largely from the criminal justice system, leaves those who have been most affected by the wrongful behaviour without a voice, and without their needs being addressed as part of the ‘solution.’ It also doesn't effectively challenge the wrongdoer to be accountable to those he has harmed.

The Restorative Approach to School Discipline:
The Restorative approach, on the other hand, starts from a different set of questions:
- What happened?
- Who's been harmed?
- What needs to happen to repair some of that harm?

In this approach to dealing with wrongdoing, then, the focus is on the
harm that has been done and the obligation this brings on the part of those responsible to 'right the wrong' as much as possible. It's an approach that seeks to develop in the wrongdoer an understanding of the breadth and depth of the harm their behaviour has caused to others so that they can best try to make amends to those most affected. In this way, it's an educative approach.

It also ensures that those who have been most affected by the wrongdoing have the opportunity to be involved in working out what has to happen in order to move forward. Put simply, **Restorative Practices (RP) is a way of viewing relationship-building and behaviour management in schools that works to strengthen community among students and between students, teachers and parents, through educative processes.**

In the RP philosophy, conflict or wrongdoing is seen as causing harm to people and relationships, and there is an obligation first to repair this harm in order for the people involved to move forward. It is a way of educating students towards self-regulated right behaviour that is respectful of all concerned. In particular, it puts the onus back on the wrongdoer to be truly accountable for their behaviour and to repair any harm caused to others.

Something that our insurance companies have known for decades is that the brain is not fully developed until our mid-twenties. This period of 'brain construction' or 'work in progress' means that very complex changes take place in the frontal lobes only during adolescence. Responsible for many functions such as:

- The ability to read emotions
- The ability to make sound judgments
- Goal and priority setting
- Planning and organization of multiple tasks
- Impulse inhibition
- Emotional control
- Self-control.

The restorative process becomes an experience in empathy, thus re-processing the mind which is wired to connect with others. It provides us with some strategies to help us deal with these under-developed functions of the adolescent brain. We still need to consider however, that working restoratively, is not just about another behaviour management tool, but a fundamental shift in thinking about behaviour generally and that is about dealing with the impact of our behaviour on others, and valuing relationships within that environment.

Next week we'll look at the specific issue of bullying.

**NSW University Mathematics Competition**

More great results for Ferny Creek PS. Congratulations to all participants. We have been awarded 1 Certificate of Distinction, 5 Credit certificates, 1 Merit and 3 for Participation.

**Habitat award!**

For the third year in a row Ferny Creek Primary School has won the Habitat Award from Yarra Ranges Council. In the past two years we
School Crossing:
  Diane Garsed

Uniform Shop:
  Tuesday 8:50 - 9:30am
  Lease Robinson

Library:
  Beth Byrne

Buildings & Grounds:
  Michael Paterson
  mpaterson@probuild.com.au

School Banking:
  Tuesday
  Lease Robinson

Costume Hire:
  Sarah Jennings

OSHCare 4 KIDS
  Head Office: 9758 6744
  P.O. Box 7082
  Upper Ferntree Gully
  Vic 3156
  Email: admin@oshcare4kids.com.au
  Website: www.oshcare4kids.com.au

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS
  Deadline by Wednesday 1pm
  Email:
  ferry.creek.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au

If you would like to receive the Newsletter every week via email then
GO TO THE WEBSITE TO SUBSCRIBE TO ONLINE NEWSLETTER

won for the Best Habitat Census and the Best Habitat Plan. We have two wonderful picture posters celebrating these on display in our foyer. This year it has been announced that our school has won the Best Action Award for 2015. Lots of people and teams at Ferny Creek contribute to the work this has entailed but the key person I want to embarrass thank is Deb Andrich. Her work with our Enviro Knights and all things environment at Ferny Creek has been outstanding. Thanks Deb. We will announce a time when we are presented with our trophy and poster as soon as we know.

2016 Grade Placement Requests
Teachers have now begun discussions regarding the placement of students for 2016. 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. Some families are not aware of the complicated process class selection entails. School Council has a policy that clearly outlines the school’s processes in developing our class lists each year. Please take time to read the key elements I am reprinting below.

Rationale:
A clearly defined process for the placement of children will lead to classes that are socially, emotionally and academically balanced.

Goals:
- To provide each child with the opportunity to be part of a class that will allow them the best opportunity to learn.
- To form well balanced classes that take into account the social, emotional, academic and physical characteristics of each child.
- To ensure the process remains equitable and fair to all staff.
- To ensure that the teachers’ prior knowledge of the child is taken into account with all class placements.

Implementation:
- Class structures and class compositions are the responsibility of the Principal. A collaborative process with the school community, where appropriate, will be employed.
- The process of forming classes will commence in November for the following year.
- The Principal, in consultation with staff and after considering student numbers, will determine the number of classes for the following year, class sizes and the year levels of each class.
- Expressions of interest will be sought from staff members as to their desire to teach each class or area. Once decided, staff members will be required to work collaboratively to create draft classes.
- Consideration will be given by the teachers to student individual needs, gender, the previous class, each child’s ability, behaviour and friendship groups.
- In Line with DET policy, the focus on small Foundation – Year 2 classes will be given priority.
- Once draft classes are completed, the Principal will make any necessary final alterations.
Under exceptional circumstances the Principal may reorganise classes throughout the year.

Staff members will not disclose the composition of proposed classes prior to formal announcements.

Children who enrol at the school during the year will be temporarily allocated to classes, with the possible need to alter the placement once further information regarding the child is known.

Ongoing communication with current class teachers is important to address issues that may affect the student’s future placements. These should be communicated to class teachers by early term 4.

Details relating to the school organisation, classes of children, and the roles of teachers will be released to parents on the final day of term 4.

**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.

- 10th November, Tuesday: **Footsteps Dancing Incursion**
- 13th November, Friday, **Years 3 - 6 swimming last day**
- 16th November, Monday: **Foundation 2016 Transition, 9.15am (Buddies!**
- 16th November, Monday: **Whole School Transition Session**
- 18th November, Wednesday: **Grade 6 Graduation Photos**
- 19th November, Thursday: **School Walkathon**
- 19th November, Thursday: **2016 Foundation Information Night**
- 24th November, Tuesday: **School Council**
- **28th November, Saturday: WORKING BEE**
- 30th November, Monday: **F – 2 Swimming begins**
- 7th December, Monday: **School Council, TBC**
- 9th December, Wednesday: **eLearning Committee Meeting, 6.30pm**
- **10th December, Thursday: Christmas Concert**
- 11th December, Friday: **F-2 Swimming last day**
- 14th December, Monday: **Year 5 and 6 excursion, all day**
- 15th December, Tuesday: **Year 6 Graduation, 6pm onwards**
- 16th December, Wednesday: **Parent Helpers Thank You Morning Tea, 10.40am**
- 17th December, Thursday: **last day for students, 1.30pm dismissal**
- 18th December, Friday: **Pupil Free Day, TBC**
- 25th December: Thursday: **Happy Christmas!!!**

Have a great weekend everybody!

Matthew

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**Head Lice**

There have been several cases of head lice reported in the junior school. Please check your child’s hair for any sign of lice or eggs and treat accordingly (refer to your local chemist for their recommendation). Please ensure your child’s long hair is tied back or plaited whilst attending school.

Thank you.
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 pavillion at the Monbulk Recreation Reserve

For more info on the event or to volunteer your time please contact Steve or Kelly Utting
utting.steven.c@gmail.com / kellyembellish@hotmail.com

KALLISTA PRIMARY SCHOOL PRESENTS

‘First swim of summer
The Olinda Pool
Free entry
Saturday 5 December
Opening ceremony 2.00 pm
Swim ’til 8.00

Featuring
Dave Graney and the Mistley
Akroryd Smart (Triple J unearthed)
Djirri Djirri Dancers
Craig Smith (Jazz)
Milkudit family band
Connor McClelland (DJ)

Bands, Competitions, DJ, Displays, Food

Email: sales@olindapool.com.au
Facebook: Olinda Community Pool

GRASSROOTS GIRLS FOOTY AT UPWEY TECOMA JFC

GIRLS AGED 8–14
REGISTER YOUR INTEREST NOW
FOR THE 2016 SEASON

FOR MORE INFO EMAIL GIRLSFOOTY@UTJFC.COM
OR CONTACT DEON 0408 700 424

Kallista on the Green
LIVE MUSIC
food & drinks
STALLS
WORKSHOPS
FAMILY ACTIVITIES
Celebrate Community
SUNDAY 22nd NOV 2015
2 till 6

MADcow Community Bank® Branch
Event proudly sponsored by Monbulk & District Bendigo Bank & MADcow

Bendigo Bank

Victoria
Yarra Ranges Council

belgravia ccurre