Principal’s Report

Class Carer survey

The community committee is reviewing the Class Carer role and program in the school and is very interested in receiving your thoughts, ideas and suggestions. We have put together a brief survey that we are inviting all parents to complete.

This is only the second year of the Class Carer program, we are still learning about and considering how to improve it for next year. We value your input and ask that you take time to complete the survey by following this link: https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/2LPWZM8

A Fair To Remember

Please stay tuned to the planning and organisation for our Fair for 2014. There is still a long way to go but given that it is in term one 2014, the committee are gearing up for regular communications and some exciting planning for the event. If you have any queries, interest and ideas, please contact the office, the Class Carer or familiar parents in the school who can direct you to Ruth, Leisa, Marion, Ali or Sonya. Both Michele and Emily are teacher representatives on the committee and you can contact them as well.

As the end of the year draws closer at an ‘alarming’ rate, we are meeting new preps through our transition program, practise for the Junior School Concert, preparing our grade 6 students for graduation to secondary school and planning exciting teaching and learning programs for 2014. A busy time, but one that should bring the feeling of great satisfaction and a sense of achievement to our community.
School President’s Report

Hi everyone.

Like the rest of you I’m wondering if we’re going to have a summer this year! But I remain optimistic on that and all other fronts.

I just wanted to cover off a couple of things this newsletter.

There are some great social opportunities coming up that I hope you can make it to. Most exciting for me is the school “talent” night on 23 November. This fun_raiser will give us a chance to give the new school PA a work out and to unwind after another big year at the school! No expectations of fame or glory but I will be putting my best E chord forward and performing a few tunes with Rick Swaney and Doug Galbraith on the night as “Men Without Principal”!

Other events I hope to see you at are: the Farmers’ Market this Saturday (16/11); the Makers Market on 29 November; and the end of year school picnic on 6 December. All of these events help celebrate and reinforce the amazing sense of community that our school is blessed with.

I’m really pleased to be able to advise that there will be a number of projects happening over the next few months, to ensure we have the learning spaces we need in 2014 to accommodate increased student numbers, and to create the environment in the school that the school masterplan provides direction on.

We will be doing works to improve learning spaces around the old hall and adjoining classrooms, and in the prep learning areas. We are aiming to improve the external environment: around the Langridge St entrance and the (fantastic) fig tree; the senior playground; the Wingrove St entrance; and the Wingrove St/Fairfield Rd corner. Creating the right learning spaces is something we’ll make happen no matter what! And fingers crossed we’ll get the other things done over the break, and if not, in early 2014. I encourage anyone who wants to assist with project planning or management to contact me.

Sincere thanks to all of you for choosing to be part of the Fairfield Primary School community and for creating such a positive model for our kids.

Cheers

Geoff Reany
School Council President

Area Transition Program – Looking towards a new class in 2014!

Each year our school conducts an ‘Area Transition’ program. The purpose of this program is to help prepare our students for movement into a new class for the coming year.

During this program students visit classrooms and teachers in the areas they will be moving into next year. Grade Prep students visit the 1/2 classrooms, meeting the teachers and the current Grade 1 students. Grade 2 students visit the 3/4 classes with the current Grade 3 students. Students in Grade 4 visit the Grade 5 classes and our Grade 5 students get their first taste of being our future school leaders, spending time in the Grade 6 classrooms.

We believe that this is a positive program, helping to make students feel more confident about moving to a new grade. It also allows teachers to observe different groupings of students as decisions are made about next years’ classes.

This year, the program will run over four weeks, with students visiting a different class and teacher each week. The first session of the program will be held on Thursday 14 November. The next three sessions will be held on Thursday 21st November, and the 5th and 12th December.

If you have any questions about this program, feel free to contact me or speak to your child’s classroom teacher.

Thanks,
Margot Sheridan
On Monday 11th of November our school commenced using a new software program called COMPASS. The use of COMPASS will change the way in which the school records student attendance. Attendance rolls are marked in the grade by the teacher each morning and again after lunch.

We remind students and parents of attendance procedures to follow:

Students arriving late to school are required to report to the office with their parent/guardian. Their arrival will be recorded by office staff directly into the roll via computer. Parents are no longer required to complete and sign a form as they have done in the past.

Students who are departing school before the end of the school day must be accompanied by a parent/guardian who has reported their departure from the school grounds and given a reason for doing so at the office. This information is a requirement of DEECD attendance reporting.

To report your child as absent we ask that you phone the school and leave a message on our answering machine absence line or send an email to fairfield.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au informing us of your child's name, grade and reason for absence.

If your child will be away for more than one day, e.g. a week’s family holiday please report this to the school office. The office staff will inform your child's teacher and mark their absence appropriately on the attendance roll.

Please contact the office if you have any questions about student attendance. Ph 9489 2966

Preps go to CERES - Mum’s eye view

I attended the prep excursion to CERES yesterday. It was great day for the kids, with lots of hands on activities. The children made paper from recycled paper, hunted for mini beasts and had rubbish sorting relay races. A highlight was an educational nature walk along Merri Creek, where the children discussed and imagined how different things were for the first Australians living around CERES. They learnt some words and phrases, as spoken by the Wurundjeri People and heard how the sacred kingfisher bird has recently returned to Merri Creek. Thanks to the prep team for organising this great experience for our children.

Our thanks to Sophie Tayton for assisting the teachers by going on the excursion with the Preps and for her contribution to our newsletter with her review and photos.
Merry Berry Christmas
Appeal 2013

Help bring the spirit of Christmas to over 2,000 children and young people through our Berry Merry Christmas Gift Appeal!

Every year, Berry Street aims to bring the spirit of Christmas to the lives of the children and young people in our care. This can only be done through the generosity of individuals, groups, clubs and businesses coming together to purchase gifts and make financial donations towards our Christmas Gift Appeal.

This year Fairfield Primary is helping Berry Street give children in their care a very Merry Christmas by donating gifts to their Appeal.

Our Christmas tree will be in the Foyer decorated with gift tags. Select one and buy a gift that would suit the age group and gender printed on it.

Place the present with the tag under the tree, unwrapped.

Your generosity will make a child very happy!

Berry Street is a not-for-profit, non-government and non-church based organisation that has been supporting Victorian children and families since 1877.

They work with children, young people and families with the most challenging and complex needs. These children and young people have often suffered great distress and significant harm growing up in families where violence, neglect, abuse, trauma and poverty have prevented them from having a good childhood. Their greatest challenges today are: to help children and young people recover from the devastating impact of family violence, abuse and neglect to help women keep themselves and their children safe from family violence to help struggling mothers and fathers to be the parents they want to be, to contribute to, and advocate for, a fairer and more inclusive community, to provide foster care and kinship care when children can't live safely at home - See more at: www.berrystreet.org.au
Junior School Concert

STOP THE PRESS!!!!!!!!!

THAT’S the ONE WE WANT!

( A play by Rali Sharpe)

F.P.S. JUNIOR SCHOOL CONCERT
28TH NOV. 2013

YES FOLK!..... It’s time to get your DANCING GEAR out ready for the JUNIOR SCHOOL CONCERT.

This year's junior concert is all about the students from Prep, One and Two trying to find the BEST SONG for the Fairfield Community to sing AND dance to.

WELL!... can we tell you.....they have worked so hard to do this and they think they've got it.

Let our students from the Junior School entertain you on Nov. 28th at 6:00p.m, with a concert called ‘THAT’S the ONE WE WANT!’

( A play written by Rali Sharpe)

DETAILS:
Here at school on the 28th of Nov. From 6:00 - 7:00 p.m and a Junior School Picnic is to follow from 7:00 to 8:00 pm
(BYO Everything—Food, drinks, rugs, beach chairs or larger folding chairs.

All we ask is that you come along, get into the spirit of things.

THERE’S EVEN A LITERARY COMPETITION on the night where you and your family try to name the books mentioned throughout the concert.

If your entry is drawn as first prize you'll be able to buy fantastic books at the Fairfield Bookstore. Second and third prize winners will be able to also!

There will be a matinee performance at 11:30 –12:30 for the senior school and any parents unable to make it to the evening performance.

N.B The Concert will be held first and THEN we'll enjoy the food and drinks part of the night all together. You and your family will need to be ready to join in with the concert at some stage so eating and drinking during the concert will be discouraged. We'll all party afterwards.......how does that sound?

Come one!..... Come all!..... but most of all please come along!

F.P.S Concert Committee
Makers Market

Come and support our 1st Makers Market
Friday 29th November 2013 5 to 8pm
New Gym Building, Fairfield Primary School

A lovely selection of handmade art and craft for sale including jewellery, handmade quilts, screen printed teatowels and pillowcases, cushions, cards, kids table and much more...

If you are interested in having a table contact Kayti on 04202 43 782/murphysinfinland@gmail.com
Book Your Tickets to 'Fairfield's Got Talent Now!'

Be part of 'Fairfield's Got Talent'.

Get together with your friends and class parents and buy a ticket or book a table - enjoy the talents in our school community and help vote for a winner in our inaugural talent quest!!!

Hosted by Tony Moclar with the help of Parental As Anything (Ash, Ruth, Rick, Andrew, Cameron and Bill) and featuring The Long Weekend (Jackie and Andrew), Bin Night Romeos (Craig, Bil, Peter and Ian), Rali Sharpe .... and more!!!!

SATURDAY 23RD NOVEMBER
7.30PM TO 11.30PM IN THE GYM

TABLES OF 10 COST $100, INDIVIDUAL TICKETS COST $11
DRINKS AT BAR PRICES BYO NIBBLES

BOOK HERE

If you are a performer talk to Ruth about contributing - musicians, singers, comedians, poets, dancers (we'll take anyone who's game!). And if you need some backup music, Parental As Anything (our parent band) may be able to help you out .... take the plunge and contact Ruth, ruth.kat@optusnet.com.au or catch her in the school grounds!

We hope to see you at (or in) our final parent event for the year!
The Community Committee

Health News

This term our First Aid staff have dealt with children who have had a range of medical issues: Headlice, Slapped Cheek, Chicken Pox, Upset tummies, Headaches and more.

We endeavour to make sick children as comfortable as possible during these times. School staff are not permitted to administer medications without permission when a child is unwell. Our policy is to contact parents and request that they come to collect their child so that they determine the treatment that is necessary for their child.

When need be, we send home information and advice about communicable disease so that parents / carers are aware when more infectious illness has affected students in the school.

We ask that if your child is unwell before school that arrangements are made to keep them at home. Sending a sick child to school hoping that they may feel better later in the day is very unwise and impacts on other students and staff by spreading illness.

We thank you for your cooperation in this matter and for helping us to lower the rate of illness in our school.

Next
Farmers’ Market
Saturday 16 November
8am - 1pm
**Grade 5 Sport Report**

This year instead of inter school sport, the grade five classes have had people come in and do extra sports. So far we have had Tae Kwondo, Zumba, Yoga and Meditation. This term we are doing fencing.

On the first of November we had our first fencing session and both of the grade five classes were really excited. After a brief history of fencing and the types of foils we would be using we were told by our instructor to stand on the white line. We were taught to do the *en guard* stance and how to move back and forwards properly. We played some quick games involving reflexes.

Finally, we got to put on the fencing gear (a mesh helmet and jacket) and were handed the foil (a type of fencing sword). We were taught how to parry and lunge. We started off clumsy, but gradually got better. We were all tired after, but it was great. At the end we fenced each other again and learnt another cool move.

So far fencing has been great and we can't wait to do it again next Friday!!!

By Nic Rodda and Noah O'Sullivan 5B
On Friday 25th of October grade fives experienced a drama workshop on Australia’s history. We were split up into groups to act out and recreate important parts of Australian history. Our group did Burke and Wills.

We had the following characters: Burke, Wills, Gray, King and two camels. We had to act out the journey of the famous adventurers. We had to act out their preparation of their journey, when travelling and their death but King survived.

In the end Burke, Gray and Wills died. King got rescued by aboriginals. We learnt a lot from this activity and enjoyed it very much.

By Siena, Katelyn, Sam
Saturday 21 March 2014, 2pm to 7pm

All proceeds from the day go to Fairfield Primary School to help purchase educational resources for our children.

It’s on again!!! Only 131 sleeps to go!!!

No, it’s okay, we are not going to start counting down days just yet, however, it WILL come around quickly. Thank you to everyone who came along to our first Fair meeting last night. It was great to see so many people eager to make this fair another success!

Notice/Ideas Board

Next week you will see our Fair notice board go up in the undercover area. We will be regularly updating information regarding the Fair such as; how you can help, what donations are needed, which stalls require a coordinator, and so on. There will also be an area for your thoughts and ideas. So please keep checking the board for information.

WANTED: Co-ordinators

Silent Auction

Last year the Silent Auction raised $6,888.00 which was an amazing result! We are looking for a team of parents who are happy to organise it for next year (Fair Day 22 March 2014). The good news is a lot of the hard work is done as we have a list of all businesses who contributed last year and copies of standard letters sent out. The process is in place - we just need some enthusiastic volunteers to get the ball rolling!!

Publicity/Communications

This is a call out for any parents with a background or interest in Publicity/Communications to help coordinate the internal and external publicity and communications for A Fair to Remember 2014. A lot of the work is already done, we can use last year’s images and artwork and we have copies of newsletters, posters and press releases that worked so well last year. Please let us know if you can help.

Donations

Although it’s a little early to start sending in donations, we thought you could start collecting:

- jars for preserves (no bigger than 400mls please)
- vinegar (all types except brown)
- sugar (brown or white)

Please drop these at my office opposite school reception

Ali Sutton 0433 649 132 or call the school office