

FORREST PRIMARY SCHOOL AND EARLY YEARS CENTRE NEWSLETTER



LEARNING FOR LIFE

FORREST PRIMARY SCHOOL AND EARLY YEARS CENTRE IS A CHILD SAFE ENVIRONMENT AND HAS A ZERO TOLERANCE OF BULLYING.

PRINCIPAL'S NEWS



Dear Forrest Families,

BOOK WEEK

Last Friday, our students delighted us all with their creativity and enthusiasm at the annual Book Week Parade. The runway inside was buzzing with colour and character as students proudly shared their favourite stories through costume. Book Week is always a wonderful reminder of the joy of reading and the power of stories to inspire imagination and connection. It was wonderful to see so many families join us for the occasion – thank you for your support. A special thanks to Emily for supplying a delicious cake,



which was very much appreciated.

MEN'S SHED

Students also enjoyed the sunshine while painting the wooden cars generously made for us by the Men's Shed. It was lovely to see the outdoor furniture, purchased through recent fundraising efforts, being well used during this activity.

SCHOOL REVIEW

We are now partway through our school review process. This has been an important opportunity



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

AUGUST

26 Library (MARC Visit)

SEPTEMBER

2 Art (MACC Visit)

2 School Council @ 3.45pm

3 Grade 4-6 Excursion

9 Library (MARC Visit)

10 Life Ed Van Visit

16 Art (MACC Visit)

18 Junior Room Sleepover

18 Student Expo 3-4pm

19 End of Term 3 2.30pm finish

OCTOBER

6 First Day Term 4

Students of the Week



to reflect on our progress and identify next steps for improvement. Thank you to the parents who attended the Parent Forum last week and contributed valuable insights. Your perspective is an important part of shaping our future directions. Families are also encouraged to complete the Parent Opinion Survey – your feedback helps us continue to grow and improve as a school.

CONGRATULATIONS CARTER

Congratulations to Carter, who recently represented Forrest Primary School at the interschool skiing championships. Out of 151 competitors, Carter achieved an outstanding result, placing 21st. What a fantastic effort – well done, Carter!

Kind regards,
Megan Murfitt

WELLBEING NEWS

Eight Benefits of Reading for Children

This week we have celebrated Book Week and our students have continued to enjoy the richness and magic of reading books. Learning Links provides vital early education, literacy and numeracy, communication and psychology programs and is a great resource.

It is undeniable that there are many benefits of reading for a child's development. It builds so

many skills – helping children learn, develop a relationship with the world, understand feelings and emotions and explore narratives and history.

[Helping your child to read](#), and getting involved with their reading, is one of the most rewarding things a parent can do.

1. Builds concentration

Focusing on a story, characters and plot is good practice for a child and an interactive way to develop focus. Skills like concentration and focus are very important for school aged children who spend many hours a day listening and interacting with peers and teachers at school.

2. Improves memory

To follow a story you need to be able to remember it. Reading an extended story over a number of nights you'll build on your child's memory skills. You could go one further and ask for a recap or a 'previously on...' before or after a reading session.

3. Teaches about the world

Reading, even more than film and tv, is a window to other worlds and times. This is because a child creates the world they're reading about in their head as they read. Instead of simply telling a child 'what is what', a story book invites

the child to construct a universe in their own mind.

4. Develops empathy

The more we know about our emotions and feeling, the better we can empathise with others and relate to their point of view. Reading stories can showcase those emotions and helps us pinpoint different feelings in ourselves and those around us. We learn about empathy, one of the most important social skills.

5. Expands vocabulary

Just 20 minutes of reading time a day will expose your child to more than 1.8 million words a year. That means an [expanded vocabulary](#) for your child and more ways for them to express themselves.

6. Boosts critical thinking

[Comprehension skills](#) and analytical thinking are built when we read more. Practice makes perfect, so get your child reading more and their skills in analytical thinking and comprehension can increase. Also, we are taught to not believe everything we read and the only way to better understand this is to read a variety of things!



7. Helps build positive self-image

Reading reveals different people of different shapes, sizes and colours and this too is important for children. Sometimes we don't always see relatable images in mass media, reading is a place where we see that there are different types of people in the world, ones that we can relate to.

8. Better performance in school

STUDENT OF THE WEEK 5 & PRINCIPAL AWARD

This award goes to Isaac Zackary Quack, For keeping our gear all tidy and back! From pencils to paint, he's on the attack—A classroom hero, never off track!

Loch, for setting himself up for success in learning and challenging himself to continue to grow. Well done Loch, you are awesome!

Layla Wood, your continued effort to show all our school values and be a great role model and leader in our school. Keep up the amazing effort Layla - well done!.

Oliver - for showing great teamwork during a class game on the playground today.

Reading can improve a child's results and performance at school. There is plenty of [evidence that](#)

[shows](#) children read to more frequently tend to achieve higher scores in tests.

SENIOR ROOM NEWS

LITERACY

Our senior students have been strengthening their literacy skills in many ways. Some are learning about morphology and terms like affixes and morphemes, while others are focusing on alternate spellings such as the "long e." Fluency reading has been a key focus, with practice through spelling tests, crosswords, literacy games, and comprehension tasks. In writing, students have begun researching for their information reports, learning how to organise ideas with paragraphs and subheadings. Grade 5–6 students are also building research skills by creating reference lists.

NUMERACY

We have recently

wrapped up our unit on location, and students did a fantastic job! It was wonderful to see them challenge themselves with more advanced concepts such as grid coordinates and Cartesian planes using positive and negative numbers. In Week 6, we will be moving into our new unit on fractions and decimals. This unit may continue until the end of the term, depending on student progress and needs.

ORIENTEERING

Last week, the seniors enjoyed a hands-on orienteering session with our instructor, Mitch. Our school had been professionally mapped for the activity, and students learned how to read and use the map's features to locate

flags. They showed persistence, teamwork, and respect throughout the day, finishing by supporting our younger students to have a go. It was wonderful to see leadership and encouragement in action!





FORREST FRIDAYS

Our Forest Fridays projects continue to be a highlight. Students have been working hard on their wooden cars—painting them and creating flags to match. We are all looking forward to racing them later this year with Noor and the Men's Shed. Excitement is building, and the students can't wait to see their creations in action!



This year, senior students are expected to complete three nights of home reading each week and record it in their reading logs. Unfortunately, many students have not been completing their homework or are regularly forgetting or losing their reading bags/logs. Building independence and responsibility is a strong focus in the senior room, and developing a consistent reading routine supports this.

Please support your child in maintaining and building this important habit.

HOMEWORK REMINDER

MIDDLE ROOM NEWS

Half-way through this term! It is flying by. We have been busy in the middle room and really enjoying the warmer weather that's started to come in. Allowing us to do learning, reading and journalling outside!



the last 2 weeks – where the students were able to research and share information on a planet and ocean animal of

choice. They have begun to write more information on related subheadings and are starting to understand the different ways of structuring information

reports. It has been awesome



to see them get curious and excited by researching and sharing new information.

ENGLISH

The students have been building on their understanding of information reports. We have had some more documentary viewing on the solar system and the ocean over



MATH

We have continued on with measurement. The Middle Room have been busy building on their understandings of formal and informal measurements. A key highlight was measuring the heights of

everyone in the middle room, ordering from shortest to tallest and putting it on display. We also blended

some math with science during science week too as we went on a

discovery hunt for hidden patterns in nature. A lot of our pattern findings were symmetry and spirals. We had



a reflective chat about this – wondering why there are many of the same patterns and what it symbolises. It's been

great to get into chats with the middles as we are able to share curiosities and offer different perspectives.

ORIENTEERING

We had the opportunity to learn and engage in orienteering (an outdoor navigation sport). This was awesome – another

shoutout to the kids for their teamwork. The kids worked really well exploring their new orienteering skills. They were challenged to use a map to find checkpoints around the school and did a great job at it.

A huge shoutout goes to Carter and Alexander for their fantastic achievements in their skiing and bike races outside of school. The middle room is very proud of you both 😊

JUNIOR ROOM NEWS

What a fantastic week we've had in the classroom! The students have been buzzing with excitement as we've explored new topics and taken part in a variety of hands-on learning experiences.

ORIENTEERING ADVENTURE

Students had an absolute blast learning about orienteering and how to use a compass! We practised reading maps and headed outside to follow clues and stamp our cards. It was a wonderful day filled with teamwork, exploration, and plenty of smiles.

INQUIRY – JOURNEY TO INDIA

In our Inquiry unit,

we stamped our "passports" and travelled to India! We located India on the map, learned about its flag, explored some popular foods, and even practiced saying "hello" in Hindi ("Namaste!"). It's been a colourful and exciting cultural experience.

ENGLISH – EXPLORING AUSTRALIAN LITERATURE

In English, we've been enjoying the story Magic Possum, a beautiful Australian

book. This has led us to explore the different Australian states and their capital cities. We've also been learning

about proper nouns and when to use capital letters—important skills for all young writers!

BOOK WEEK FUN

We celebrated Book Week with enthusiasm! The costume parade was a highlight—our junior students looked absolutely amazing. A big well done to everyone who participated!



SPECIAL VISIT FROM THE ROTARY CLUB

We were also lucky to have a special visit from Maurie from the Rotary Club. Each year, Maurie comes to read to our new Foundation students, and at the end of the visit, every child gets to choose a book to take home. It's always a memorable and heartwarming experience for our young readers!



LOOKING AHEAD TO NEXT WEEK:

Science Week Celebrations!

Next week, we're diving into the wonderful world of science! Students can look forward to exciting experiments and fun activities as we celebrate Science Week together.

EARLY YEARS CENTRE NEWS



What a great Book Week parade we had on Friday with all the wonderful little pirates! All of the children staff looked amazing in their costumes and lots of fun was had.

This week we focused on p & t with the Jocelyn Seamer program. The children have been

very engaged in this program and we look forward to seeing the results.

The childcare team are exploring sensory play making oobleck then slime using the same ingredients demonstrating to the children how such items can change from solid to liquid depending on what and how much you add.

Forrest Kids Go Bush will be back from next week so please make sure you put in gumboots for your child to wear.

Hats are now expected to be worn with the UV reaching above 3 so please make sure that all children have a hat in their bags.

Please remember to send your child with many changes of clothes, a jacket for outdoor play and if your child appears to be unwell, please keep them home to stop any spreading of illness throughout the service.

Cheers Di, Vicki, Indi & Britt.



COMMUNITY NEWS

Reminder to participate in the 2025 Parent / Caregiver / Guardian Opinion Survey

Our school is conducting the annual Parent / Caregiver / Guardian Opinion Survey and is seeking your feedback. The survey, offered by the Department of Education, is designed to assist schools in gaining an understanding of families' perceptions of school climate, student behavior, and student engagement.

We sent you an invitation to complete the survey. If you cannot find the invite, please reach out and we can resend this invitation to you.

The Parent / Caregiver / Guardian Opinion Survey will remain open online until **Friday 5 September 2025**.

Your opinions are important to us and will contribute to identifying areas for improvement and professional development needs in the school, to target school planning and improvement strategies. The department will use the results from the survey for research purposes and to improve outcomes for students.

The survey is being conducted **online** and only takes **20 minutes** to complete.

Comedy for a Cause
Featuring comedians from
Sydney & Melbourne International Comedy Festivals

WAYNE DEAKIN
"Had the crowd in the palm of his hand."
- Herald Sun

FIRDI BILLIMORIA
"One of Melbourne's most exciting and dynamic comedians."

NICK QUON
"Hilarious and the laughs rolled in!"
- Weekend Notes

SATURDAY 6 SEPTEMBER
Venue: Forrest Rec Reserve
Doors: 6:30pm / Show: 7:00pm / 16+ / TICKETS: \$25

BOOK NOW at:
comedyforacause.net/event/FDNH25

All of the proceeds from this event will go to Forrest & District Neighbourhood House.

DIGITAL DANGERZONES

WHAT EVERY PARENT MUST KNOW BEFORE THEIR CHILD GOES ONLINE.

Is your child:

- starting high school?
- already using devices, social media or gaming?

Then this **free session (18+!)** is a must!

Register here

- knowledgeable guest speakers
- step by step setup for parental controls
- where to turn to for help & support

WEDNESDAY | 3 SEPTEMBER | 6PM
AT COPACC | 95-97 GELLIBRAND STREET COLAC

proudly funded by Colac Otway Shire Council in partnership with VicHealth

\$25- 6 week ALL GIRLS PROGRAM
JOIN WITH FRIENDS PLAY TOGETHER

CRICKET VICTORIA - ALL GIRLS CRICKET BLAST
VENUE: COLAC SECONDARY COLLEGE OVAL
DATES: MONDAY 25TH AUG, 1ST, 8TH, 15TH SEPT & 5TH, 12TH OCT
TIME: 4.00PM-5.00PM
SCAN THE QR CODE TO REGISTER!

OFFICIAL KIDS PROGRAM

Play Cricket