

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,

Welcome back to Term 4! As the weather warms up, a friendly reminder that hats are compulsory for all students during outdoor play and activities this term. Please ensure your child has a named broad-brimmed hat at school each day to support our SunSmart policy.

This term also includes important transition activities for our Year 6 and Kindergarten students. Our Year 6 students will be participating in a range of transition sessions to help them prepare for secondary school, while our Kinder children will begin joining Foundation classes and school activities to support a smooth and confident start to school in 2026. These experiences are an exciting milestone and help build strong connections between our Early Years and Primary programs.

We're also looking forward to several exciting community events this term. Our Pet Parade will take place next Friday, and we can't wait to see the creativity and care our students show in presenting their pets (real or toy!).

On October 20th at 9:00am, we will welcome a Nurse from Great Ocean Road Health who will run a session with students around "What Healthy Is" and also deliver a parent session in the hall. All families are warmly invited to attend — it's a great opportunity to learn

more about promoting healthy habits for children and families.

Last week we were fortunate to have Peter Day visit to restore our much-loved platypus sculpture and



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

OCTOBER

- 13 Swimming 11 – 2pm
- 14 Swimming 11 – 2pm
- 14 Art (MACC Visit)
- 15 Swimming 11 – 2pm
- 16 Swimming 11 – 2pm
- 17 Swimming 11 – 2pm
- 20 GORH Nurse Visit @ 9am
- 20 Colac Basketball (Grade 6)
- 21 Library (MARC Visit)
- 21 Grade 6 Transition Day @ Birregurra
- 22 Life Ed Van Visit (Grade 5/6)
- 22 Landcare Excursion
- 22 CFA Fire Planning Workshop 3.30pm
- 24 Pet Parade @ 9am
- 27 Whole School Incursion – Places & Faces Performance
- 28 Art (MACC Visit)

NOVEMBER

- 3 Student Free Day
- 4 Melb Cup Public Holiday
- 7 Colour Fun Run @ 2.30pm
- 11 School Council @ 3.45pm
- 21 Forrest Formula 1 Day @ 10am

DECEMBER

- 9 School Council @ 3.45pm

Students of the Week



work with students on creating a beautiful new weaving installation in the front garden. The students thoroughly enjoyed the experience, and the refreshed artwork adds a wonderful touch to our school grounds — thank you, Peter, for sharing your time and expertise with us.

Finally, our Formula 1 Day will be held on Friday November 21st. We would love some parent volunteers to help with activities and support the smooth running of the day. If you're able to assist, please let us know at the office.

Thank you for your continued support — we're looking forward to a wonderful final term full of learning, connection and community spirit.

Warm regards,
Megan Murfitt
Principal

WELLBEING NEWS

Respectful Relationships

Our Wellbeing focus for term 4 will be The Respectful Relationships initiative. This is a whole-school approach that supports schools to model and promote respect, positive attitudes and behaviours. It teaches children and young people to build healthy relationships and their self-confidence. Respectful Relationships embeds a culture of respect and gender equality across the entire school community.

The intended outcome is to 'create a culture of respect and gender equality across the entire school community'. The Respectful Relationships program supports schools and early childhood settings to promote and model respect, positive attitudes and behaviours. It teaches our children how to build healthy relationships, resilience and confidence.

Everyone involved in our school community deserves to be respected, valued and treated equally. We know that changes in attitudes and behaviours can be achieved when positive attitudes, behaviours and equality are lived across the school community, and when classroom learning is reinforced by what is modelled in our school community.

A whole-school approach encourages schools to review their existing procedures and culture to ensure that they model respectful relationships and gender equality practices across the entire school community.

More information can be found at

<https://www.schools.vic.gov.au/respectful-relationships>

STUDENT OF THE WEEK 8 TERM 3 & WEEK 1 TERM 4 & PRINCIPAL AWARD

Elka for always being such a wonderful role model for your peers, always for always being so happy and helpful to everyone.

This award goes to Audrey, for sharing so well and waiting for you turn. In circle time, you are calm and sweet, your thoughtful words are such a treat. A friend to all, so brave and true, we are really proud of you!

Maya for her persistence and enthusiasm with the play

Aurora for being a helpful member of the school community. We appreciate your efforts - keep up the great work!

Alex for demonstrating all our school values out at bush kinder today! You kindly shared some flowers, respected the environment, persisted to climb the tunnel and were a great team member. Way to go Alex!

Oliver - Thank you for always being ready to learn, listening well and always trying your best. What a superstar!

Alexander for demonstrating focus and effort with his schoolwork. I have enjoyed teaching you Alexander - Keep up the good work!

Archer for his wonderful bookwork and focus on tasks in the classroom. Your progress is noted!



SENIOR ROOM NEWS

WELCOME BACK!

A big welcome back to all of our senior students and families! We have a very busy and fun term planned with lots of celebrations along the way, students and I are looking forward to a fabulous term 4 to end the year.

LITERACY

This term, we've begun exploring our new class novel, *His Name Was Walter* by Emily Rodda. This unit places a strong emphasis on building students' skills in text response, vocabulary, author techniques, and comprehension to support their understanding of what they read.

A key focus throughout this book is inferring, or "reading between the lines" — a skill that helps students think deeply and make connections beyond the surface of the text. The class has already made a fantastic start in developing this ability.

At the moment, we are reading the novel together as a whole class. Soon, we'll be introducing reading groups twice a week, just as we did with *The Thing About Oliver* in Term 2. These small group sessions give students the opportunity to build confidence, share and refine their ideas with peers, and engage in meaningful discussions about the story.



during these activities, and it has been excellent to see their confidence grow. We will be moving on to likelihood and chance in the coming weeks.

PLAY REHEARSAL

We had our first play rehearsal last week and by all accounts it went very well! The seniors are very dedicated to their parts, and

I look forward to continuing rehearsals and song practices throughout the term!

HOMEWORK REMINDER

This year, senior students have an ongoing homework expectation of completing three nights of home reading per week. Students should record their reading

sessions in their logbooks, which will help track progress and encourage consistent reading habits. It has been noted that a fair amount of Senior

Please support your child in building this important routine!

NUMERACY

This term started by continuing our work on fractions, working on adding, subtracting, dividing and multiplying fractions with different denominators. Students have shown lots of persistence

persistence, and pride as they prepared to present at our expo. They did a fantastic job-sharing information reports and inquiry stories with family and friends.

One of my favourite moments this term was when the 2/3s visited the EYC and Kinder students and practiced reading



MIDDLE ROOM NEWS

MIDDLE ROOM UPDATES!

Wow - Term 3 absolutely flew by! The final weeks were a highlight: the 2/3s truly stepped into their learning and poured lots of effort into their end-of-term projects. It was such a joy to see them take ownership of their learning. There was lots of problem-solving,





aloud. It was lovely to see them navigate with such kindness, modelling great leadership skills. And to top it off, in our last week, the kinder students surprised us with delicious cupcakes as a thank-you gesture! We all felt very appreciated, and I'm excited to continue these visits this term.

As we step into the final term of 2025, I can't wait to see where this next learning journey takes us. Here's a peek at what's ahead:

LITERACY & INQUIRY (EXPLORING CREATIVITY)

We'll deepen our work in narrative writing. After seeing how enthusiastic the 2/3s became about creative writing Fridays in Term 3 we're going to dive deeper in narrative writing. I'm especially excited to see the stories they'll craft — with stronger narrative structures, richer details, and greater confidence in their voice.

This ties into our Inquiry unit for the semester, "*Frame by Frame*." We'll be unleashing our creativity as we plan and produce stop-motion stories. We've already studied examples of how stop-motion is made over recent terms, so I'm sure that the students will feel primed and eager for this challenge!

MATHEMATICS & SPATIAL SENSE

We'll continue building fluency in the four operations (addition, subtraction, multiplication, division), focusing on solving word problems and thinking flexibly about strategy.

We'll also turn our attention to **Space** — developing spatial language, navigating with directional vocabulary, and investigating key landmarks. We might have to dust off our orienteering skills again, building on the fun we had during last term's orienteering day.

WELLBEING:

We had an engaging incursion with the **Life Ed van** toward the end of Term 3, focusing on *Friends & Feelings*. The Middles and Grade 4s did an excellent job investigating how to be kind friends and how to identify and manage a variety of big emotions with honesty and care. We explored how to shift negative narratives into more positive ones, and reframed mistakes as opportunities for growth. I'm excited to continue building on these ideas this term! - Ella 😊



JUNIOR ROOM NEWS

WELCOME TO TERM 4!

What a fabulous beginning to the new term. The Juniors were challenged with lots of change, but took it all in their stride. What superstars!

I look forward to learning alongside them all in the coming weeks.

The term so far...

LITERACY

This term, I am looking forward to sharing some of my favourite texts with the Juniors this term. We began by working through understanding the vocabulary in Rosie's Walk and also retelling the events of the story through illustrations. Working at word level the Juniors will consolidate the mastery of letter formation, sizing and spacing of letters and revisiting the understanding of open and closed syllables to establish spelling of some basic words.



SHAPE AND NUMBER VALUE KNOWLEDGE

We've been learning to describe shapes using words like straight lines, curved lines, corners, and sides. We've used rulers to draw straight lines, painted rectangles with sponges, and created colourful art inspired by Kandinsky's concentric circles! Subitising is a key maths strategy. We've practised subitising by looking at groups of shapes or objects and using and explaining strategies to work out how many there are.

INQUIRY

What does it mean to be creative? That was our starting point! Thinking of new and original ways to do things, we began our 'Not a Box' exploration by using our imaginations to turn ordinary boxes into something completely new!

Things to look forward to..



Not forgetting we have a whole week of swimming this week.

Please send your learner in with their swim wear and towel as well as a bag for wet things. Also, school dresses are much easier than leggings to navigate after a swim. A few extra snacks may be needed to fuel those busy bodies this week too!

IMPORTANT DATES

Swimming all week: October 13-17

- 'What does Healthy mean?' program: October 20
- Pet Parade: October 24
- Places & Faces performance: October 27

HOW CAN YOU HELP?...

With the sun promising to shine for us in Term 4, I would like to work with the Juniors to decorate our outside space with colour and smells to fulfil our senses. I am looking for donations of pots, seeds, seedlings, seedling trays and cuttings of blooms, succulents and herbs that you think would thrive under the love and nurturing of our Junior team.



EARLY YEARS CENTRE NEWS

Welcome back to Term 4! We hope you all had a wonderful break, despite the weather.

Term 4 is all about preparing children for the transition to school and along with Jo we are beginning the planning of days and times that transition will occur so keep your eyes out for more information on this in the coming weeks.

Navneet has settled in well and has built some lovely friendships with the children so far. In week 2 of this term, she will be taking full responsibility for the kinder children to extend her learning

in becoming an ECT which includes all planning and activity ideas. We look forward to seeing what she brings for the children to learn.

Please remember that no mobile phones are allowed to enter the room in accordance with the new Child Safe review code. If parents do need to enter the room, can you please place your phones on the white shelf at the front door upon entering.

Just a small reminder that this service will be Closed on Melbourne Cup day, while this doesn't affect the children

directly it does mean all staff will be non-contactable.

Term 4 means hats are now expected to be worn 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

SCHOOL FUNRUN.

SIGN UP HERE! SCAN OR VISIT FUNRUN.COM.AU

EASY FUNDRAISING!

RAISE FUNDS FOR YOUR SCHOOL WHILE YOU SLEEP! YEP, IT'S THAT EASY!

- 1** Head online to **FUNRUN.COM.AU**
- 2** Click on the Student **SIGN UP** button to create your fundraising page.
- 3** Share your unique link to friends and family via social media, text and email.

On average, each student gets four donations.

let's go!

SCHOOL FUNRUN

I'M A STUDENT / PARENT **I'M A COORDINATOR**

SIGN UP **SIGN UP**

FREE HEALTH ADVICE AVAILABLE

**HAVE A HEALTHCARE QUESTION ?
COME AND SPEAK WITH OUR
REGISTERED NURSE & DIABETES EDUCATOR**

- ✓ HEART HEALTH
- ✓ DIABETES
- ✓ WEIGHTLOSS
- ✓ HEALTH CARE PLANS

We are excited to reach out to our wider community to help them live the healthiest & happiest life possible

WHEN?
20th October 9am
Forrest Community Hall



GREAT OCEAN ROAD HEALTH

Sensory quiet time

at Bluewater Leisure Centre

Sensory quiet time aims to improve accessibility by creating a low-stimulating environment with changes based on community feedback.

 **Time:** Every Saturday 1pm – 3pm

-  Reduced music and PA announcements
-  Reduced lighting
-  Hand dryers turned off
-  Water features turned off
-  Phones turned down



Polwarth & District Tennis Association

POLWARTH TENNIS SEASON DATES.

**NEW PLAYERS + TEAMS
WELCOME IN ALL PENNANTS.**

**Saturday Junior + Senior Pennant
STARTS 11/10/25**

**Wednesday Social 4s
Senior + Div 1 pennant 29/10/25**

**Friday Junior Aggregate
Singles + Doubles @ Elliminyt T.C. 31/10/25
12-15 y.o 4pm | 15-18 y.o 5pm**

**Free Coaching Clinic for beginners
Grades P-6 @ Elliminyt T.C
September 10th, 17th, 24th **5-5:45PM**
Hosted by Polwarth A Grade tennis players**

**TENNIS OPEN DAY
ALL WELCOME**
@ Elliminyt T.C – 10am - 2pm **5/10/25**

- Free tennis clinics
- Stalls
- Australian Open Trophy

CONTACT US
Facebook: Polwarth & District Tennis Association
Instagram: Polwarth_tennis
Email: polwarthtennisinfo@gmail.com



FIRE SAFETY PLANNING WORKSHOP

CFA is offering a **FREE** Fire Planning Workshop for the community of Forrest

When: Wednesday 22nd October 2025
Time: 3:30pm - 5:30pm
Where: Forrest Primary School
10 Grant Street, Forrest

The session will include information on:

-  Preparation
-  Fire Behaviour
-  Personal Safety

For further information please call CFA on 5551 1515 or via email swrcommsafety@cfa.vic.gov.au



FORMULA ONE DAY

F1 race day with the speediest cars ever, in a little town called Forrest, that has a great street called Blundy Street!!!!!!

FRIDAY 21ST of November

The funniest day ever and everyone is invited.

You should come.






FORREST PRIMARY SCHOOL KEY DATES TERM 4 2025

13 th October - 17 th October	<u>Swimming Week</u>
20th October	"What does healthy mean" Program
24th October	PET PARADE - 9:00am
27th October	Incursion - Places and Faces Performance
3rd November	Student Free Day
4th November	Melbourne Cup Public Holiday
7th November	Color Fun Run - 2:30pm
21st November	Forrest Formula 1 Race Day - 10:00am
9th December	Statewide Transition Day
11th December	11:30 Year 6 and 4 Year Old Kinder Graudtion 1:30 Peter Pan Play

Last Day of Term 4 - 19th of December- 1:30pm Finish

Please remember to read Compass and the newsletter to ensure you are receiving up to date information.