

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 2

We've had a really positive start to Term 2, with students returning refreshed and ready for another busy term of learning.

Over the school holidays, we were excited to see a couple of new additions to our school grounds come to life. Our **brand new Gaga Pit**, built using funds raised from our Colour Run, has already been a huge hit with students. It's fantastic to see it being so well used. Thank you again to our families for your support of this fundraiser.

We also had a **new long jump pit** installed, which is doubling as a sandpit space. This will support our PE program as well as provide another great area for play and creativity.



A BIG THANK YOU

On Friday, we enjoyed a wonderful performance, *Mission to the Moon*, through Regional Arts Victoria. It was an engaging and entertaining experience for all of our students.

This opportunity came about thanks to the efforts of Gillian Brew, who worked hard to raise the funds to make this happen. We would like to extend a huge thank you to Gillian for her time and commitment. Opportunities like this make a real difference for our students.

It was also lovely to welcome our partner school, Deans Marsh Primary School, who joined us for the performance and stayed for lunch and a play.

LOOKING AHEAD

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

APRIL

28th Polwarth Cross Country 3-6
29th Art (MACC)

MAY

6th Library (MARC)
12th Farm my School Excursion P-6
13th School Photos
13th Art (MACC)
19th School Council 3.45pm
20th Library (MARC)
27th Art (MACC)

JUNE

3rd Library (MARC)
3-6 Sovereign Hill Camp 3-6
8th Kings Birthday Public Holiday
9th Curriculum Day -Student Free
10th Art (MACC)
10th GPAC Excursion – P-2
15th School Nurse Visit - Preps
16th School Council 3.45pm
17th Library (MARC)
24th Art (MACC)
26th Last Day of Term–2.30pm finish



There is plenty to look forward to this term. In a couple of weeks, we will be heading off to **Farm My School** and we also have several excursions and camps coming up.

Please keep an eye on Compass and the newsletter for key dates and information. If you're unsure about anything happening this term, feel free to contact the office.

Warm regards,

Megan Murfitt

SCHOOLS PRIVACY COLLECTION NOTICE

The Department of Education (the department) values your privacy and is committed to protecting the personal and health information that schools collect.

All school staff must comply with Victorian privacy law and the [Schools' privacy policy](#). This notice explains how the department, including Victorian government schools (schools), handles personal and health information. On occasion, specific consent will be sought for the collection and use of information, for example, for a student to receive a health service. Our schools are also required by legislation, such as the Education and Training Reform Act 2006, to collect some of this information.

Throughout this notice, 'staff' includes principals, teachers, student support service officers,

youth workers, social workers, nurses and any other allied health practitioners, and all other employees, contractors, volunteers and service providers of the school and the department.

On enrolment, and during the ordinary course of a student's attendance at a school, schools will collect information about students and their families for the following purposes:

- educating students
- supporting students' social and emotional wellbeing, and health
- fulfilling legal obligations, including duty of care, anti-discrimination law and occupational health and safety law
- communicating and engaging with parents
- student administration
- school management
- supporting policy in relation to student education and wellbeing.

If this information is not collected, schools may be unable to provide optimal education or support to students or fulfil legal obligations.

For example, our schools rely on parents to provide **health information** about any medical condition or disability that their child has, medication their child may take while at school, any known allergies and contact details of their child's doctor. If parents do not provide all relevant health

information, this may put their child's health at risk.

Our schools also require current, relevant information about all **parents and carers** so that schools can take account of safety concerns that affect their children. Parents should provide schools with copies of all current parenting plans and court orders about or that affect their children and provide updated copies when they change.

When parents enrol their child in primary school, they will be asked to provide personal and health information in several ways, including via the Enrolment Form, the [School Entrance Health Questionnaire](#) (SEHQ) and in some cases, the [Early Childhood Intervention Service](#) (ECIS).

The **Enrolment form** is used to collect information that is essential for the purposes listed above, and requests information such as:

- **Emergency contacts** – Individuals parents nominate for a school to contact during an emergency. Parents should ensure that their nominated emergency contact agrees to their contact details being provided to the school and that they understand their details may be disclosed by the department if lawful, e.g. in the case of emergency



communications relating to bush fires or floods.

- **Student background information** – Information about country of birth, Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin, language spoken at home and parent occupation. This information enables the department to allocate appropriate resources to schools. The department also uses this information to plan for future educational needs in Victoria and shares some information with the Commonwealth government to monitor, plan and allocate resources.
- **Immunisation status** – This assists schools to manage health risks and legal obligations. The department may also provide this information to the Department of Health and Department of Families, Fairness and Housing to assess immunisation rates in Victoria, but not in a way which identifies students.
- **Visa status** – This is required to process a student's enrolment.

All schools may use departmental systems and online tools such as apps and other software to effectively collect and manage information about students and families for the purposes listed above.

When schools use these online tools, they take steps to ensure that student information is secure. If parents or carers have any concerns about the use of these online tools, please contact the school.

School staff will only share student and family information with other school staff who need to know to enable them to educate or support the student as described above. Information will only be shared outside the school (and outside the department) as required or authorised by law, including where sharing is required to meet duty of care, anti-discrimination, occupational health and safety, and child wellbeing and safety obligations. The information collected will not be disclosed beyond the school and department without parent consent unless such disclosure is lawful.

When a student transfers to another school (including Catholic, independent and interstate), personal and/or health information about that student may be transferred to the next school. Transferring this information is in the best interests of the student and assists the next school to provide the best possible education and support to the student. For further detail about how and what level of information is provided to the next school, refer to

the: [Enrolment: Student transfers between schools](#).

Schools only provide school reports and ordinary school communications to students, parents, carers or others who have a legal right to that information. Requests for access to other student information or by others must be made by lodging a [Freedom of Information](#) (FOI) application.

To update student or family information, parents should contact their school.

For more information about how schools and the department collect and manage personal and health information, or how to access personal and health information held by a school about you or your child, refer to the [Schools' privacy policy](#).

Belated Birthdays

Loch



WEEK 7 & 8 TERM 1 & PRINCIPAL AWARD

Principal Award – Jem

Senior Room – Dori

Junior Room – Ned



SENIOR ROOM NEWS

Welcome back to Term 2 in the senior room. It has been so joyful to reconnect with the students and hear about their holidays and time spent at home or out and about. We are so very lucky to live in a region that it feels like a holiday just by staying home!

This term we are continuing to build upon our morphology work, learning about prefixes, suffixes and base words and

how they can help our spelling.

This term our Text based unit is Storm Boy by Colin Thiele. We are all looking forward to reading and sharing this Australian classic.

Well done to all the senior room students for all making



progress in Rocket Maths! This is an activity where the students progress through levels practicing addition operations. The students are enjoying seeing their progress through practice!

Finally, thanks to Indigo and Liza for supporting our students and going the extra mile to make the senior room so supportive.

Thanks Kaz and Ella

EARLY YEARS CENTRE NEWS

Welcome back to term 2. We hope that all of our families had a lovely break and enjoyed at least one or two Easter Eggs!

This term we are continuing to focus on fine motor skills which are important as they underpin many of the everyday tasks' children need to participate confidently in learning and daily life. Activities such as playdough and clay (strengthens hand muscles), threading and beading (coordination), drawing, painting, and mark-making (control and creativity) and using tongs, tweezers, or pegs (grip strength).

Outside the children have explored the new Gaga pit have taken advantage of the beautiful weather to play with water and sand which helps to extend their mathematical,

science and gross motor skills

Di is absent on Wednesday 6th May for continued Professional development. Annika Toussaint will be the kinder teacher for the day along with Vicki for support.

This term sees the beginning of our Bush Kinder Program on Fridays, 9am - 11am. Natural environments encourage children to climb, balance, run, and explore uneven terrain. These experiences build both gross and fine motor skills, as well as strength, coordination, and risk assessment. Each Friday there will be a set of Wet Weather overalls for each child in the foyer, if you can please dress your child before the start of session it will enable the children to have as much time outdoors as possible. **Each child will**

need to bring a change of clothes, a raincoat (closer to winter) and a pair of gumboots with them every Friday.



Please remember to put lots of changes of clothes in your child's bag just in case.

If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to speak to Di or Vicki or you can contact us on the service mobile – 0419 357 886

Cheers Di & Vicki.



JUNIOR ROOM NEWS

Term 2 Let the learning begin!

It has been wonderful to welcome the Junior Room learners back and see them reconnect with one another after the break. The beginning of a new term is always a special time with an anticipation of what we will learn. While we certainly do lots of learning from books, some of the most important learning happens through the relationships we build with each other. As we return, learners naturally spend time finding their place again within the group - reconnecting with friends, working out how they fit within the class dynamic, and settling back into our shared routines. This takes a little time, but it is an important part of creating a classroom where everyone feels safe, valued and ready to learn.

This week we have started a **Rice Experiment** to help us think about kindness and the power of our words. We prepared jars of rice and will speak to them in different ways - some with kind and encouraging words, some with unkind words. The experiment also introduces simple ideas about sound and vibration. When we speak, our voices create vibrations that travel through the air, and we naturally respond to the energy and tone of the environments we are in.

While this does not suggest that words directly change the rice, it provides a meaningful way to think about how the tone of our words and actions contribute to the kind of environment we create together, with a focus on building a classroom that feels respectful, kind and in harmony for everyone.

Setting up for success.

We use clear and consistent routines in the classroom because they help learners feel safe, settled, and ready to learn. When the Juniors know what to expect and what comes next, they don't need to spend their thinking energy working that out. This reduces cognitive load', their brains are freer to focus on learning, problem-solving, and trying new things. This means they have more attention and thinking space available for building new skills with confidence.

Learning about self is an ongoing process that continues into adulthood. In the Junior room, we build the foundations for this by developing key "soft skills" such as **curiosity, communication, collaboration, and confidence** to explore and ask questions. When our learners feel secure in who they are and how they engage with others, they are more willing to take risks and persist with learning.

As we step into this term, our focus will be on belonging, strengths, and communication. Children will take part in activities that help them feel connected to the classroom community, recognise their own strengths and those of others, and build the skills to express themselves clearly and respectfully.



WELLBEING NEWS

WELLBEING CORNER - WELCOME TO TERM 2

As we return to school, Term 2 is a wonderful opportunity to reset, reconnect, and ease back into routines. After holidays, it's completely normal for children to need time to readjust; emotionally, socially, and physically.

At school, we'll be focusing on building calm, connection, and positive habits. You can support this at home in simple, meaningful ways:

- **Create predictable routines:** Consistent routines help children feel prepared and reduce anxiety, aiding their readiness to learn at school.
- **Prioritise sleep:** Sleep is essential for learning, mood, and behaviour. Primary-aged children typically need around 9–11 hours each night
- **Make time for connection:** A few minutes of undivided attention each day can have a big impact. Try asking:
“What went well today?” or
“Who did you help today?”
- **Get outside and slow down:** Nature, fresh air, and unstructured play help children

regulate their emotions and recharge after busy school days.

- **Keep it simple:** Small, consistent habits are more powerful than big changes. Even one positive routine can make a difference

At school, we'll continue encouraging gratitude, empathy, and mindfulness through daily conversations and everyday moments.

You may even like to have a family reflection each week. i.e. *What is one small routine we can build this week to support our wellbeing?*

As always, feel free to share any updates in your child's school diary or contact the school teachers!

Our expectation this week is **Teamwork – We allow others to learn.**

In the classroom, we will be having conversations about what this looks like in action. This might include: Listening when others are speaking; Giving others time and space to think; Working cooperatively and respectfully in groups; Being mindful that our actions can support or interrupt someone else's learning.

By building these habits, we are not only supporting learning, but also strengthening empathy, respect, and a sense of community within our classroom.

You might like to reinforce this at home by asking:

🗨️ “How did you help someone learn today?”

🗨️ “What does good teamwork look like to you?”



COMMUNITY NEWS



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COLAC
BASKETBALL
ASSOCIATION INC.

WINTER HOOPS

2026 WINTER DOMESTIC COMPETITION
COMMENCES 20TH MAY 2026

FOR PLAYERS BORN 2018 OR EARLIER
\$125 PER PLAYER - 10 ROUNDS + GRAND FINAL

SIGN UP TO PLAY NOW OPEN. CLOSES 5PM, 2ND MAY 2025
FOR ALL ENQUIRIES
Email domestic@colacbasketball.com.au or find Colac Basketball at playhq.com



FORREST
PRIMARY SCHOOL &
EARLY YEARS CENTRE
Learning
for Life

Roll up for our annual King's Birthday

SCHOOL FETE

Fun & GAMES

Saturday 6 June - 12 to 4pm

at the Forrest Primary School & Hall precinct, Grant St Forrest

Stalls & Sausage Sizzle

Call Nicky on 0422 371 040 for stall and more information or email forrest.fete3236@gmail.com

ALSO SHOWING IN THE HALL ...an exhibition of local artworks by Studio Forrest celebrating a year of work on the theme WATER

WATER

OPENING NIGHT - Friday 5 June 6pm - drinks & nibbles
EXHIBITION: 6-9 June at the Forrest Hall - 10am to 4pm



nab AFL Auskick
4-7 YEAR OLDS
Your introduction into Australian football centred around game based activities kids love.

AFL Superkick
7-12 YEAR OLDS
Designed for any child to give it a go, with a focus on skill development and learning how to play the game.

COLAC CENTRAL RESERVE

WEDNESDAY ALL GIRLS, 4-5PM, STARTS 22 APRIL
SUNDAY MIXED, 9-10AM, STARTS 26 APRIL

AUSKICK
ALL GIRLS GROUPS AVAILABLE
AGES 4-7

SUPERKICK
AGES 7-12

*Kids can join NAB AFL Auskick if they are turning 5 in the calendar year (before 31 December)



COLAC VOLUNTEER EXPO
'community in action'

Your Community Needs You

Volunteer Expo

TUESDAY MAY 19TH

COPACC
95-97 GELLIBRAND ST,
COLAC

11AM - 6PM

JOIN US
free event

Meet local groups
Discover opportunities
Get involved

Colac Otway SHIRE

SCAN TO LEARN MORE

For more information please phone Liz on 5231 2822. Event proudly brought to you by Colac Otway Volunteer Leaders Network