

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,

SOVEREIGN HILL CAMP

A reminder to families that our Years 3–6 students will be heading off to Sovereign Hill Camp next Wednesday. Students will need to arrive at school by 8:00am for a prompt departure. We know the students are very excited for what promises to be a fantastic camp experience filled with learning, fun and new memories. Thank you to staff and families for all the preparation that has gone into getting students ready for camp.

LANDCARE VISIT

Last Friday, we were very fortunate to welcome Landcare to Forrest Primary School and Early Years Centre for a



gardening session. We would particularly like to thank Freya for organising the day and supporting our students throughout the activities. Together, students and volunteers planted a beautiful new garden bed outside the student toilets and also gave both the chicken coop and school garden a much-needed tidy-up. These opportunities help students develop a sense of pride and ownership in their environment and strengthen our connection with the wider community.

FRIDAY TRIBES

Our Friday Tribes sessions have been an enjoyable experience for students this term. It has been fantastic to see students working across age groups and engaging in a variety of hands-on activities. So far, students have participated in craft,

May 25, 2026 Edition 7

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

MAY

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



Student of the Week

STEM and gardening activities, and we are all looking forward to adding some cooking sessions into the mix in the coming weeks. These sessions provide wonderful opportunities for creativity, teamwork and building connections across the school.



the school. Whether in the classroom, out in the garden or preparing for camp, students have been showing our school values of Respect, Kindness, Teamwork and Persistence each day.

As always, thank you to our families and community for your ongoing support.

Kind regards,
Megan Murfitt

STUDENT OF THE WEEK & PRINCIPAL AWARD

Principal Award – Leah & Archie D

Senior Room – Stella & River

Junior Room – Finley & the Whole Class!



AROUND THE SCHOOL

It has been wonderful to see students continuing to work together so positively across

COMMUNITY GARDEN UPDATE

I am thrilled to have started in the new Community Garden Worker role, and to be working across the Neighbourhood House and the school. We kicked things off with an inspirational visit to Farm My School in Colac where we all learnt lots about soil, worms and compost and enjoyed some time in the garden weeding and enjoying freshly picked carrots and tomatoes. We were gifted a worm tower which we have installed in the school garden.



We are off to a great start in the school garden with a fresh, open area to work in. Watch this space for

new raised beds and some new in ground beds to add to the growing capacity coming soon. The chickens are ready to be welcomed back to their refreshed home which is looking clean and cosy.

The students have been helping in the garden and have started the planting from seed with our first broad beans and sugar snap peas going in, alongside seedlings and flowers seedlings grown by the junior room. We will plant weekly and watch growth from seed, to seedlings, mature plants and then to harvest and cooking. We will also plant our first garlic crop this week – a



longer term growth cycle to watch and wait!

We are also preparing seeds (pumpkin and sunflower) to sell at the Fete and students are decorating seed packets and preparing them for sale.

Most recently we have cleaned out the summer crops and mulched and weeded, ready for new planting.

We have also refreshed a small garden space near the playground with the help of the Gerangamete Forrest Landcare Group and are looking forward to watching this grow.

Please come in and look at the refreshed garden space next time you are at school. We are



always looking for donations of:

- ✚ Seedling trays or punnets (please save these if you buy plants, we can always use them)
- ✚ Newspapers (for compost)
- ✚ Bricks or pavers
- ✚ Stakes
- ✚ Compost bins

If you have any of these items hanging around unused, we will gladly use them.

If you would like to be involved in gardening or cooking activities, please let us know – the more help the better for these activities.

Regular activities run on Fridays, but we

can always use help so let us know what suits you.



SENIOR ROOM NEWS

SOVEREIGN HILL CAMP

There is a growing excitement in the Senior Room with our upcoming camp at Sovereign Hill next week. The students have enjoyed getting ready for Costume school, thinking about their characters and what they might wear. Please do take the time to go through the costume list checklist with your child and help them pack accordingly. Any questions, please contact myself or Megan.

NUMERACY

The students should be very proud of themselves as we have just completed a unit of work on fractions. There has been a lot of growth in students' understanding about fractions, equivalent fractions, numerators, denominators, mixed numbers and improper fractions for the older students. I highly encourage all students to keep practising their times tables and quick number facts at home as they

are so important in other maths concepts. This week we are moving into addition and subtraction, as well as multiplication and division for some groups.

LITERACY

We are all loving our text-based unit on Storm Boy. Last week we got stuck into some of the wonderful vocabulary and practised sentence expansion

and writing summary sentences. The book Storm Boy explores the themes and topics of the Ngarrindjeri

Peoples, pelicans, wetlands, environmental sustainability, wildlife protection, connection to place, friendship, loss, grief and love. We have been having some excellent discussions, and it is a book that we are relating to. In addition, we watched The Platypus Guardian, a

documentary based around raising awareness of platypuses in Hobart and we are planning our own mini documentary with an environmental focus.

SPECIAL MENTIONS

Thanks to Liza for running some movement games for the Senior Room!!!

*Well done to Aurora for joining the 90 second club!!! Completing a set list of times tables in 90 seconds!!!! She has been working on this for a while- great persistence

Aurora!!!

Have a fabulous week,

Kaz Standish and Ella Bradbury



JUNIOR ROOM NEWS



In the Junior Room, learners have been developing their literacy skills through a sequence of learning inspired by the text *Little People, Big Dreams: David Attenborough*.

Our learning begins with **word-based skills**, where learners explore and discuss new vocabulary. Building vocabulary helps children strengthen their understanding, communication, reading comprehension, and ability to express their ideas with confidence.



We then move into **sentence-based skills**. Our younger learners focused on recognising that sentences are made up of words separated by spaces, begin with a capital letter, and end with a full stop. More experienced learners extended their writing by creating complex sentences using connectives such as *but*, *so*, and *because*.



At the end of the week, learners applied these skills to create a short biography about someone they know. I am incredibly proud of the way the Juniors engage in their learning, challenge themselves, and celebrate their growth each day.

Building on what we know.

Please be prepared for your learner to come home and ask you questions to discover more about you as they continue their understanding of what a biography consists of.



Autumn days and muddy days. We are so blessed with all that Mother Nature provides us with at Forrest. A fantastic bush kinder morning was spent with our families and an impromptu opportunity for messy play in the mud pit. So much joy!

EARLY YEARS CENTRE NEWS

The children have been exploring many concepts that encourage growth in fine motor, gross motor, mathematical and scientific concepts, literacy and imagination. From shapes to songs and books, natural environment, bees, water sustainability and key word sign the children have been extremely busy.

Last week we invited all parent to participate in our wonderful Forrest Kids Go Bush Program so that they can gain an understanding of the importance of natural play in the environment and what all children can do without added provocations.

Di is absent on Wed 17th June for continued Professional Development. Freya Bennett will be the kinder teacher on the 28th along with Vicki for support.

Vicki will be absent both Thurs 4th and Fri 5th June for Professional Development. The service will be CLOSED on Wed 10th June for a staff planning day.

We will be supporting Annika in her final placement on her journey to obtain her Bachelor of Early Childhood Education starting the 26th of May until the end of term. If you have any questions, please feel free to ask either Annika or Di.

Please remember that Bush kinder on Fridays can get very cold, wet and muddy especially coming in to winter. **Each child will need to bring a change of clothes, a raincoat 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.

WELLBEING NEWS

WELLBEING FOCUS: POWER OF OUR WORDS!

This last fortnight we have been exploring the power of words and how our actions and communication can impact others. Together, students discussed how even small comments or choices can either lift someone up or make them feel hurt or excluded.

We had a lovely session with the Juniors and Seniors together, where students had the opportunity to give and receive kind compliments. It was wonderful to hear so many thoughtful and heartfelt comments being shared, and to see firsthand how the power of kind words can brighten someone's day and make others feel

valued and included.

We introduced and explored the **T.H.I.N.K. acronym** as a simple tool to help guide and sustain thoughtful and respectful communication:

- **T** – Is it **True**?
- **H** – Is it **Helpful**?
- **I** – Is it **Inspiring**?
- **N** – Is it **Necessary**?
- **K** – Is it **Kind**?

Learning to communicate with kindness and empathy helps children build stronger friendships, solve problems respectfully, and create a safe and supportive classroom environment. The 'THINK' approach is commonly used to encourage mindful

communication and kindness in schools and wellbeing programs. We will continue to build on this acronym across the whole school. Our classrooms have the following poster displayed. If you would like this resource printed for your home, feel free to ask Ella!

Affirmations to support this mindset:

"My words are powerful, and I choose kindness."

"Kind words from me can change someone's day."

"I use my voice to spread kindness and respect."

Before you speak:



T.H.I.N.K.

- T.** = Is it True?
- H.** = Is it Helpful?
- I.** = Is it Inspiring?
- N.** = Is it Necessary?
- K.** = Is it Kind?



COMMUNITY NEWS

School fete callout

We will be selling mystery jars at the fete to fundraise for the school and EYC.

We are asking every family to please fill 5 jam jars (more if you can!).

Please fill the Jars with a variety of Items:



- **New/Pre-loved Toys:** Consider small toys, Lego, marbles, matchbox cars, Shopkins, etc.
- **Chocs/lollies and Snacks:** Wrapped lollies, chocolates, or even a small snack pack can be a great addition.
- **DIY Kits:** Ingredients for slime, playdough, cookies, or other craft items can be a fun surprise.
- **Small Pamper Kits:** Include bath bombs, nail polish, emery boards, or face masks.
- **Emergency or First Aid Kits:** Mini torch, bandaids, safety pins, etc.
- **Gardening or Sewing Kits:** Seed packets, gardening gloves, threads, needles, etc.

We also need donations to last year's most popular game - the 'choc toss'!

Family sized bars of chocolate of any flavour welcome.

If you want a stall to sell your own goods, or know someone who does, please get in touch.

THANK YOU SO MUCH!! Nicky, Freya, Emily, Claire, Olivia and Mollie



COLAC WASTED TALENT SHOW

LIVE AT THE COLAC RSL
FRIDAY 19TH OF JUNE
FROM 7:30PM

ENTRY OPEN TO ALL AGES AND ABILITIES!

SHARE YOUR HIDDEN TALENT!

SINGING DANCING IMPERSONATION COMEDY MAGIC BIRD CALLS

WHATEVER YOU'RE REALLY GOOD AT BUT NO ONE ELSE REALLY KNOWS!

AUDIENCE TICKETS \$20 AT THE DOOR \$15 PREBOOKED

PARTICIPANT ENTRY \$5 PER PERSON

PRIZES - UP FOR GRABS!

PROCEEDS SUPPORT OCR FM COMMUNITY RADIO STATION

FREE for Colac Otway Shire Youth aged 12-25

FREE YOUTH IMPROV WORKSHOP with OCR FM

Monday 6 July
10:00am - 12:00pm
Colac Central Reserve Pavilion
32-40 Gravesend Street, Colac

Love acting? This workshop is for you!
Learn the tips and tricks of improvisation.

Register Now

ColacOtwayYouthImprovWorkshop.
eventbrite.com.au

Colac Otway Shire ENGAGE! VICTORIA State Government





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

Piano Lessons

David Stewart
Piano Teacher



Grad dip Mus

- ◆ Deans Marsh PS
- ◆ Private Lessons
- ◆ Beginners through Advanced
- ◆ Performance Opportunities
- ◆ 30 Years of Teaching Experience

0402474925
dcsmusic@me.com



The Billy Tea Bush Band

FORREST BUSH DANCE

Friday 19th June @ the hall - doors open at 6.45pm, dancing starts at 7.

The Billy Tea Bush Band will lead the fun, tickets are only \$10pp or \$20 per family, cash at the door or online <https://events.humanitix.com/forrest-bush-dance>

Please bring a plate to share for supper at the end.
For all ages and abilities, please come along!

Forrest & District Neighbourhood House

