

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,

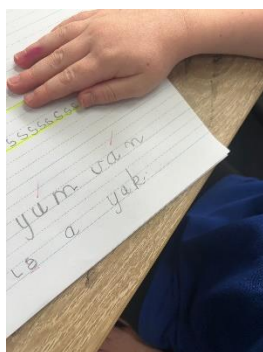
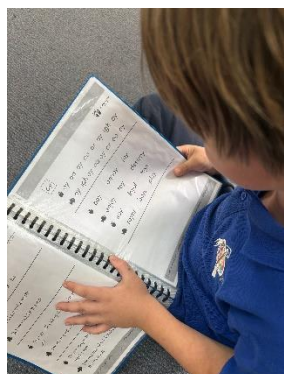
NATIONAL SIMULTANEOUS STORYTIME

This week, our students joined schools across Australia in celebrating **National Simultaneous Storytime** by reading *The Truck Cat* by Deborah

Frenkel and Danny Snell. At exactly 12:00pm last Wednesday, classrooms across the country paused to share in this story together, celebrating the joy of books and the power of storytelling. Events like these highlight the importance of building a strong reading culture in schools and homes.

At Forrest Primary School, we also place a strong focus on the **explicit teaching of phonics**

in the early years. Research shows that systematic, structured phonics instruction is one of the most effective ways to support students to become fluent, confident readers. Understanding the relationship between letters and sounds lays the foundation for successful reading and writing.



STUDENT-FREE DAY – FRIDAY 6TH JUNE

A reminder that **Friday 6th June** will be a **student-free day**. Staff will be using the day for assessment and reporting in preparation for mid-year reports. Thank you for your understanding and support.

MATHS REPORTING CHANGES

From this semester, all Victorian government schools will begin using the updated **Victorian Curriculum – Mathematics Version 2.0** for reporting student progress. As part of this change, families will notice a shift away from separate strand-based scores. Instead, students will receive an

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

MAY

27 Art (MACC Visit)

JUNE

2 School Nurse Visit
3 Library (MARC Visit)
5 COPACC Excursion – P-2
6 Student Free Day
7 Forrest School Fete
9 Public Holiday – Student Free
10 Art (MACC Visit)
11 School & EYC Photos
17 School Council@3.45pm
17 Library (MARC Visit)
24 Art (MACC Visit)
30 Student Led Conferences 3.30-4.30pm

JULY

1 Library (MARC Visit)
2 Student Led Conferences 3.30-4.30pm
4 End of Term 2- 2.30pm finish
Students of the Week



overall teacher judgement
for Mathematics.

This approach reflects current research on effective assessment and aims to provide a clearer picture of each child's learning progress. We will share more information with families in the coming weeks to explain what this looks like in reports and how you can support your child's learning at home.

Warm regards,

Megan Murfitt



Upcoming Birthday
Greetings for:

Banjo, Archie W &
Tina



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 and Freya



STUDENT OF THE WEEK & PRINCIPALS AWARD

Jack Harrington for taking his home reading seriously. You always surprise me with your fluency and accuracy. Keep up the good work!

Abi for her positive attitude in all areas of her learning. Abi approaches challenges with great enthusiasm because she knows they help her to grow. Well done Abi, you're a star!

Dori Bartlett for being a fantastic role model during Forrest Fridays! You have shown a lot of respect, kindness and maturity during our sessions - well done!

Jem - for showing kindness towards others by sharing, helping and being a good friend. Thank you for being a great member of our school Jem.

Jem for being a kind and calm presence in the classroom and for always setting yourself up for success.

Oliver Birch for his amazing persistence and wonderful improvement in writing. Keep up the great work, Oliver—you're doing fantastic!

Aurora Bradshaw for showing amazing persistence and kindness to our injured chicken who is staying in the EYC. Your care and dedication has made a big difference to her recovery - thank you!

SENIOR ROOM NEWS

WRITING: TEXT BASED UNIT

Students have continued working on our text-based unit, *The Thing About Oliver*. We read together as a class and now hold reading groups twice a week. In these groups, students take turns reading and support each other when needed. Together, we set group expectations—such as taking turns, helping kindly, not interrupting, and demonstrating our school values. After reading, students discuss and respond to comprehension questions, which includes looking for evidence within the text. This encourages a deeper understanding of the material and helps to build their collaboration skills. These sessions have strengthened both reading confidence and group work skills. We have also had some incredibly insightful and purposeful discussions around autism and neurodivergence as this is a main theme in the text. Students have shown a high level of maturity, respect and kindness during these discussions and it is great to see. Well done Seniors!



NUMERACY

We have been working through our numeracy assessments for semester 1 reporting and students have shown a lot of persistence and confidence. We will now continue our unit on multiplication, which is tailored to suit each students

individual points of need. Some areas being explored are fluency in times tables, arrays, multiplication and division links, BODMAS, and worded problems.

FORREST FRIDAYS

A huge thank you to Freya and Dan for coming to speak to the middles and seniors about nesting boxes. Freya and Dan spoke about the different types of animals we may see around our school and how to determine the best trees and areas for nesting boxes. We are so excited to gather materials and create some new cosy homes for our animal friends. Thank you, Dan and Freya!



MIDDLE ROOM NEWS

Almost half way through this Term! It's flying by.. It's been awesome to see the Middle Kids growth in different learning areas, as well as their capacity to challenge themselves. So far, we have been practicing our recount writing in response to different moments in life as well as in response to texts where students get to use their imagination to come up with their own narratives of a recount. We just completed one in

response to the picture book Gary – A story about a pigeon who can't fly. The students had to plan an adventurous day in the life of Gary and write it as a recount. Some students decided to plan and write about a day where Gary went to a concert, to see the Titanic shipwreck, to visit the pandas in China as well as trips to the footy and the zoo!

In Math, students have been building on their multiplication fluency with their 2 and 3 times tables. We have also explored different multiplication strategies to help us solve

multiplication number problems. We have enjoyed practicing our fluency with whole class games and detective problem solving!

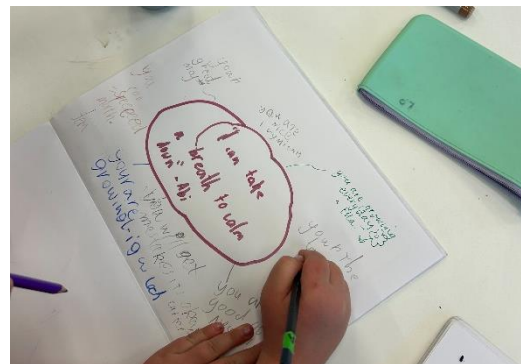
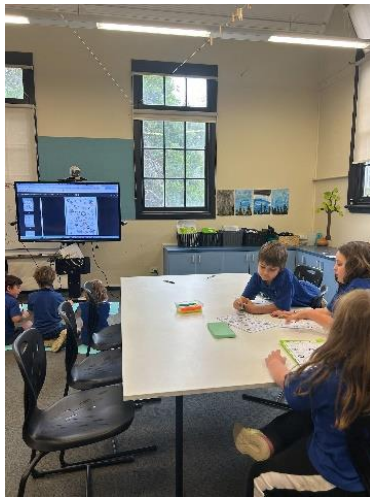
A focus for the Middle kids this week has been on the choice of our words! We have been exploring

affirmations as a tool to help us navigate with a more positive outlook in and outside of the classroom. The students have worked together as a class to create a Middle Room Affirmation Deck. We have also built on this



by giving everyone in the classroom an affirmation themselves. It's been warming to see the kids build on their understanding on affirmations and the value they have on bringing kindness and belief in themselves and others!

Ella 😊

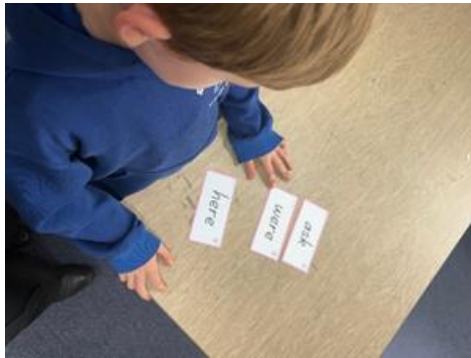


JUNIOR ROOM NEWS

NATIONAL SIMULTANEOUS STORYTIME

Last week, we took part in the National Simultaneous Storytime, a wonderful nationwide initiative that brings children together to share a story at the same time. The chosen book this year was *The Truck Cat*, a beautifully written and illustrated story that opened up conversations around cats and humans, immigration, identity, and finding a home after loss.

Our students thoroughly enjoyed the story and connected with its heartfelt



message. We used *The Truck Cat* as an opportunity for learning about prepositional phrases and developing extended sentences by answering the question “Where?” For example, students described where the cat slept, where the truck travelled, and where the characters found comfort and belonging.

It’s been fantastic to see their vocabulary and sentence structure grow through meaningful and engaging literature.

This week is Reconciliation Week, and we’ve turned our attention to the important themes of truth, respect, and unity. The children are learning about what reconciliation means and why it is significant—especially in understanding and valuing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures. Through stories and discussions, we are exploring the idea of coming together to build respectful relationships.

To celebrate and reflect, we are creating a collaborative artwork that will express our students’ ideas about connection, culture, and community. We can’t wait to see their creative ideas come to life and to share the finished piece with you all!

RECONCILIATION WEEK

WELLBEING NEWS

Australian parenting website ‘Raising Children’ has some great information about raising children of all ages. The following is some information with tips and strategies for ‘Talking about school’.

KEY POINTS

- Talking about school with children and teenagers shows you’re interested in their lives and learning.
- It’s best to start conversations about school

when the moment seems right and your child seems ready to talk.

- Get younger children talking by asking simple and positive questions about school.
- As children move into the senior years, you could try talking about the links between study and post-school plans.

Simple, positive and specific questions about parts of the day can get your child talking.

It’s good to use questions that invite more than a ‘yes’, ‘no’ or ‘OK’ response. For example:

- What’s the news from school today?
- What was fun?
- What did you like best at school today?
- What does your classroom look like at the moment?



- What did you do in class after recess?
 - Who did you hang out with today?
 - What subjects did you do today?
 - What topics are you working on in science at the moment?
- TIPS FOR TALKING ABOUT SCHOOL WITH PRIMARY SCHOOL CHILDREN**
- These tips can help you [communicate well with your child](#):
- Make time to talk. This can often be when you're doing something with your child. For example, your child might like to talk when you're walking the dog or preparing dinner together.
 - Give your child your full attention if they want to talk with you about their day.
 - Take seriously whatever your child tells you. For example, you can say things like, 'That's interesting. Then what happened?' or 'And how do you feel about that?'
 - Use respectful language when you talk about the school and teachers with or in front of your child. For example, 'I can see that's frustrating, but Ms Adams is your teacher and you need to speak respectfully to her', or 'Yes, that seems unfair, but perhaps you don't know the whole story'.
 - Use [active listening techniques](#). These can help you pick up on your child's feelings and work out whether they want to talk.

EARLY YEARS CENTRE NEWS

These last couple of weeks have seen the children explore some very important topics, Road Safety, Germs and Bees.

During Road Safety week the children discussed the dangers that can appear near a road, the importance of walking close to fence lines and how to be aware of driveways before creating their own towns and recognizing dangers in everyday life.

The children all read books and watched a short video on

the spread of germs, how fast and easy they can spread, how to cough into our elbow and blow our noses with the added importance of washing our hands.

World Bee Day was this week, and the children talked about how Bees are important, how they ensure survival of all species, how they collect pollen and the fact that they have 2 stomachs!

The cold weather has definitely hit us with a bang so I remind all parents to please

keep your children home if they are unwell with coughs and colds. Coughing and runny noses, especially green, are both signs of infection and are a sign that your child should remain at home and rest until the infection passes. These things spread quickly among young children and we strive to keep everyone as healthy as possible so we appreciate your help on this matter.

Cheers Di, Vicki, Indi & Britt.



COMMUNITY NEWS

2nd Colac Cub Scouts proudly present

FREAK NIGHT

FRIDAY 13th June

**Kids Spooky Fancy Dress
Disco & Games Night**

Log Cabin Scout Hall
(down the hill behind the Police Station)

PRIZES: Best Spooky Costume, Dancing Competitions, Games, Group Dances, Spot Prizes and more!

TIME GUIDELINES

6 - 9 year olds 6:30 - 7:30pm.
10 - 14 year olds 7:30 - 9:00pm.

\$5 entry per child

CHIPS AND LOLLIES FOR SALE
Cordial and water provided Free

NO PASSOUTS

Parents must come into hall to pick up their child

FULL ADULT SUPERVISION PROVIDED
but parents are most welcome to stay

For more information please
phone Jonathan on 0439 329 713

Find us on **facebook**

2nd Colac Sea Scouts

FORREST
PRIMARY SCHOOL &
EARLY YEARS CENTRE
Learning
for Life

Roll up for our annual King's Birthday

SCHOOL FETE

Fun & GAMES

Saturday 7 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

Community Firewood Collection Cemetery Road, Yaeger

May 2025

Forest Fire Management Victoria will be conducting a community firewood collection trial in the Yaeger Forest Block, Otway Forest Park. This work builds on operations conducted through April 2024.

Domestic firewood collection in the Otway Forest Park has previously required off-road access by vehicles and trailers. This has caused high levels of disturbance to soils and understorey vegetation.

From late May, a community firewood trial will be conducted at Cemetery and Centre roads (see map overleaf).

The trial aims to support forest health by reducing disturbance to the forest, while making firewood more accessible to the community.

A collection point will be established where firewood will be available during the collection period. We will let the community know when it opens.

Ongoing monitoring will evaluate forest health.

What's planned:

- The planned trial site is in a small area of foothill forest. Works will begin in late May 2025 (weather permitting).
- Access will be restricted, with road and trail closures in place for public safety.
- Machines will be in the area thinning forests and moving firewood to the collection point.
- Healthy trees, hollow bearing habitat trees and some logs and large branches (coarse woody debris) will be retained across the thinned area to enhance habitat.
- A new firewood collection area will open nearby for the community following these operations.

Future actions:

- FFMVIC crews will continue to manually remove some of the regrowth (coppice) from areas of previously treated forest.
- Mosaic (small patch) burning is planned to follow these works. This will include opportunities for planned burns with Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation.
- Forest health monitoring and evaluation has been conducted at this site, and will be ongoing. This information will help inform forest management decisions.

If you have any questions, please email ForestPlanningBSW@delwp.vic.gov.au

ALSO SHOWING ... an exhibition of artworks by Studio Forrest as featured in the 2025 Lorne Sculpture Biennale

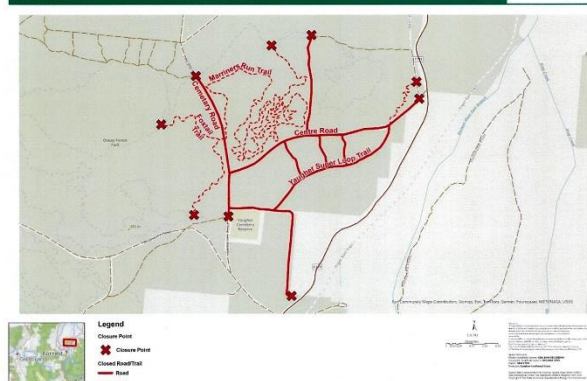
EARTH MOTHER

STUDIO FORREST

EXHIBITION: 7, 8 & 9 June at the Forrest Hall - 10am to 4pm

Road and Trail Closure Map

Forest - Centre Road



Traffic Management:

Centre Road and Cemetery Road will be **CLOSED** during operations. Some heavy vehicle traffic will utilise the Yaeger road network supporting management activities.

Mountain bike trails will be closed adjacent to the works zone for public safety. Rolling closures will affect Mannings Run, Foxtail, and Yaeger Super Loop.

Operations will be complete within five working days. All closed roads and trails will be opened as soon as operations have concluded.

The autumn domestic firewood collection season is underway - to find the latest information on where you can collect, visit <https://www.ffm.vic.gov.au/firewood/>

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