

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,

RECONCILIATION WEEK AND CELEBRATING STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

From **May 27 to June 3**, we

celebrated **National Reconciliation Week**—a time to reflect on our shared histories and to strengthen respectful relationships between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and non-Indigenous Australians. At Forrest Primary School and Early Years Centre, we are proud to participate in this important national event. Students took part in activities designed to promote understanding, cultural awareness and connection.



Our school values of **Respect, Persistence, Teamwork, and Kindness** underpin everything we do, and Reconciliation Week is a meaningful opportunity to reflect on how

these values guide us in building an inclusive and caring community.

INTERSCHOOL SPORTS SUCCESS

Congratulations to **Layla, Tina, and Stella**, who competed in **interschool netball** and were part of the winning team for their division! We're also proud of **Lucas**, who represented our school in

interschool football, demonstrating great teamwork and sportsmanship. It's always fantastic to see our students thriving and having fun in these opportunities.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

JUNE

- 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
- 21 First Day of Term 3



Students enjoying our new outdoor tables!

Upcoming Birthday
Greetings for: Sunny J



SWPBS Matrix - Forrest PS and EYC |

	TOILETS	OUTSIDE	INSIDE
RESPECT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We flush the toilet We turn the taps off 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We care for equipment We care for our grounds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We listen when others speak We look after our school and the equipment We walk inside
KINDNESS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We give others privacy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We include others We speak kindly to each other 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We speak kindly to each other and use manners We share and take turns
PERSISTENCE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We always "flush, wash and dry". We ask a staff member for help if needed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We can have a go <i>at new things</i> We can ask a teacher for help 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We do our best We can ask a teacher for help
TEAMWORK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We all keep the toilets clean for others 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We pack up equipment we use We follow the rules of the games we play 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We help others to succeed We allow others to learn

SCHOOL-WIDE POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR SUPPORT (SWPBS)

We've recently updated our **SWPBS Matrix**, which outlines our shared behaviour expectations across the school. These updates better reflect the way our students show **respect, persistence, teamwork and kindness** in different settings. Families are welcome to view the updated matrix and provide feedback—please feel free to contact the office or speak with a staff member if you'd like to learn more.

Warm Regards,

Megan Murfitt

WELLBEING NEWS

Susan McLean is Australia's foremost expert in cyber safety and was a member of Victoria Police for 27 years. Widely known as the 'cyber cop' she was the first Victoria Police Officer appointed to a position involving cyber safety and young people. In 2003 she was the Victoria Police Region Four Youth Officer of the Year. She has also been awarded The National Medal and the Victoria Police Service Medal and 2nd Clasp, and the National Police Medal. Susan McLean established Cyber Safety Solutions in March 2007 and this has grown to be the most highly respected and in-demand cyber safety consultancy in Australia.

Here are some tips for Parents, Teachers and Carers from Susan's website

<https://www.cybersafetysolutions.com.au>

- The use of computers, laptops or any internet enabled devices (iPad, phone, iPod, Xbox) SHOULD be in a common area of the house NOT IN THE BEDROOM! Parental monitoring is vital – walk past and see what your child is doing, who they are talking to and what sites they are on....be aware if their mood changes. This is NOT invading their privacy at all...it is parenting in the digital space.*
- Advise your student/child to immediately exit any site that makes them feel*



uncomfortable or worried.
Have a family internet contract and set house rules about what information your child can put onto websites or share with others.

- Be aware the majority of children **WILL NOT** tell a parent/teacher if bullied or harassed online for fear that they will lose internet access!! Make sure that your children understand that they will not get in trouble if they tell you about a problem.
- Children Under 13 **ARE NOT ALLOWED** on Facebook, Instagram, Kik, SnapChat, iTunes and many more. Don't support your child to break the rules & they won't be the only one without these accounts. Learn to say **NO!** Social Networking Profiles such as MySpace **SHOULD BE SET TO PRIVATE**. Use all the security settings available to make the site as safe as possible. Friends on MSN contacts and social networking sites should be people that your child knows in real life. This is one way to reduce possible risks. Anyone can be anyone online. Learn the lingo so that you can decipher some of the content if required. Advise parents to do the same. Teach children that information on the internet is not always reliable.
- Very close supervision for young

children is recommended.
There should be a limit to the email correspondence/msn to be a list of friends and family that has been approved. Whatever your children use, you must use as well. Set up accounts on the same sites to ensure that they are suitable and the interactions appropriate. Engage with them online. This also allows you to know how these applications work.

- If your child is playing online games it is **YOUR** responsibility to make sure that **YOU** know how to play the game too in case of problems. Play online games together.
- Do not let young children 'google' aimlessly with no supervision. Children need to be taught about search engines and how they work. The internet and the various applications are a lot of fun and a wonderful tool...maximize the benefits and surf safely together!
- Please note that this list is by no means exhaustive and that there is no guarantee that adherence to these tips will provide 100% protection or safety for those using the various applications of the internet.

STUDENT OF THE WEEK & PRINCIPALS AWARD

Albie - working hard on his letters, writing and knowing some words can be read forwards and backwards.

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

Carter for taking a calm and positive approach to his learning and setting himself up for success, especially when he challenges himself. Well done Carter, you're a star!

Jasmine Crabbe, for always being kind and respectful to others. You are such a positive role model to everyone and always try your best in all areas. I have loved seeing your confidence grow this year - keep it up!

Louis - for helping clean up and put away resources without being asked.

This award goes to Archie Doull for showing amazing persistence in your writing! You've been working so hard, and it's really paying off. Your phonics skills are getting stronger every day, and you're now writing sentences much faster. I'm so proud of how far you've come—keep up the fantastic effort and great attitude!

Sunny John - for trying his best at school this week. You have shown persistence even when things are hard. Well done Sunny!



SENIOR ROOM NEWS

WRITING: TEXT BASED UNIT

We have continued our text-based unit, and it's been fantastic to see how invested the students are in our class text. Their discussions, predictions, and thoughtful responses show a growing confidence and love for literature. Alongside this, we're continuing to build our writing skills with a strong focus on phonics and morphology. We've also been exploring word types—such as verbs, nouns, and adjectives—and learning how some words can change depending on how they're used in a sentence. This deeper understanding is helping students make more creative and purposeful word choices in their writing.

NUMERACY

In Numeracy, we have moved into our division unit. To start, we have been revisiting the

short division process and making connections between division and multiplication. Students are beginning to see how these operations work together, which is strengthening their overall number sense and problem-solving strategies.

WELLBEING

A big focus during our wellbeing time has been on building teamwork skills. Through reading groups, collaborative activities such as building with magnetic blocks, and various group games, students have been practicing how to work respectfully and supportively with others. It's been wonderful to see them encourage one another, share responsibilities, and show kindness throughout their interactions. These moments really highlight the strong sense of community we have built together.

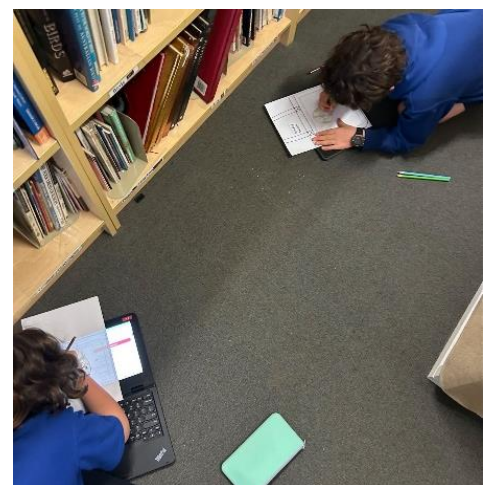


MIDDLE ROOM NEWS

WEEKS 6 & 7 IN THE MIDDLE ROOM

The past two weeks have been full of learning and creativity in the Middle Room. In Writing, students continued developing their recount skills by expanding sentences and practicing correct punctuation. Reconciliation Week was a highlight, where we

explored *'The Rainbow Serpent'* through engaging response activities. Students also enjoyed free writing sessions, sparking their creativity and self-expression. To build on our understanding of 'Reconciliation' – the middles and I came up with a definition. They wrote it out on scrap paper, ripped it up and



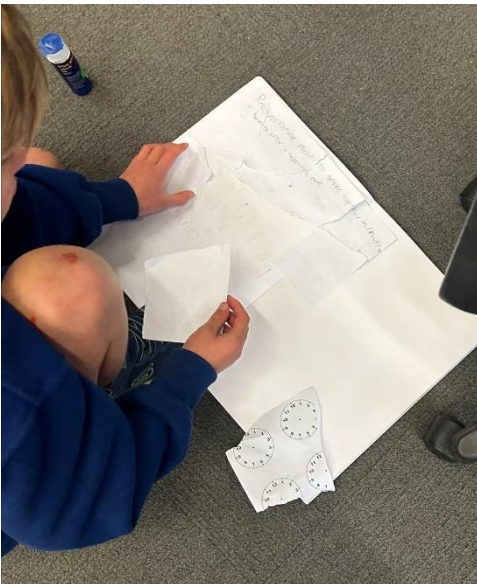
put it back together again. This was a fun way for students to deepen their understanding of the meaning – things that seem broken, can be fixed!

MATHS

In Maths, we've focused on building fluency in times tables through fun, game-based activities. Students are becoming more confident, with many now able to recall multiplication facts instantly, rather than relying on arrays or grouping strategies.

INQUIRY

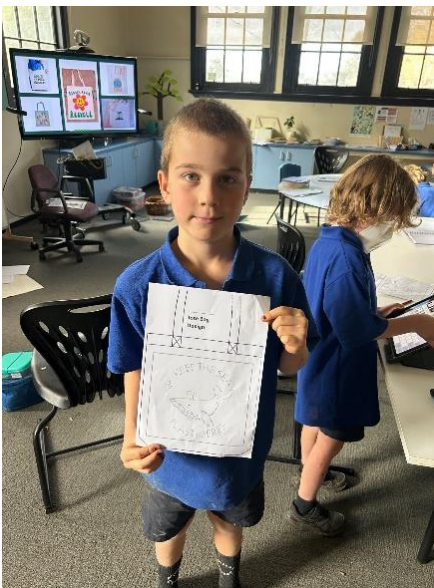
Our Inquiry unit on sustainability has deepened, with students exploring the 3Rs—Reduce, Reuse, Recycle. They practiced research skills on their devices to create infographics and took a closer



look at reducing plastic waste. Inspired by this, the class brainstormed and designed their own sustainability-themed tote bags, highlighting the power of student voice in creating change. I look forward to seeing how they turn out!

WELLBEING

In Wellbeing, we continued learning about the power of positive language. We read *'The Dot'* and discussed which explored messages of believing in ourselves, especially when trying something new. Students then created their own "dot" art pieces by making a mark and allowing their creativity to guide them—producing truly unique and thoughtful work. We have also built on the power of positive language



and creativity in Forrest Fridays, where students designed and painted on a rock – they were encouraged to think about kind messages they wanted to share to the Forrest Primary Community. Another beautiful reflection of the student's uniqueness and positive messaging! We will put them out in the front garden of the school soon 😊



JUNIOR ROOM NEWS

We've had a vibrant and meaningful week in the Junior Room, filled with creativity, connection, and inspiration!

As part of our learning for National Sorry Day and Reconciliation Week, the students worked together to create a beautiful and colourful lorikeet mural. This collaborative art piece wasn't just about colour—it was a reflection of the students' understanding and empathy. Each feather on the lorikeet holds a word chosen by the children that represents what reconciliation means to them—words like respect, healing, kindness, and hope. The finished artwork is not only beautiful but also a thoughtful tribute to the journey of reconciliation in Australia.

We also had a very special excursion this week to COPACC, where we saw a live stage performance of the much-loved book *Imagine* by Alison Lester. The show, *IMAGINE LIVE*, produced by Jolyon James and NCM,



brought the book to life in a magical and engaging way. The performance took us on a journey through imagination—diving under the sea, flying through space, and walking with dinosaurs!

The students were captivated by the blend of live action, storytelling, and visual art. It reminded us that creativity and imagination are powerful tools—they help us dream, adapt, understand others, and find joy in everyday life. These are essential skills in our ever-changing world, and this performance sparked some wonderful discussions back in the classroom.

It was the perfect way to finish this fortnight, as we head into a super extra long weekend! We hope everyone has a wonderful break, and we look forward to seeing everyone back on Tuesday, after the King's Birthday holiday.



EARLY YEARS CENTRE NEWS



This week we had Ha from Melbourne University visit us as a continuation of the Edge study that we participated in during 2023 & 2024. This involved Ha recording the children and staff going about their usual business throughout the day to observe the interactions between children and their peers and children and staff. I always say that children come through for you every single time and this was no different, the children were friendly, and extremely well-behaved, and I was so very proud of all of them. Ha has nothing but glowing praise for

the children and staff here at Forrest and I am so honoured to be a part of the Forrest family.



The children have been working on a couple of projects over the last couple of weeks, exploring Reconciliation week and what the theme "Bridging Now to Next" means to each of them before moving on to World Environment Day where we discussed the importance of recycling and rubbish responsibilities.

With the cold weather coming we ask that jackets be



provided just in case the weather is wet or especially





cold so that the children can still get outside and can we please also make sure that there are plenty of changes of clothes in their bags. Thanks.

Please be mindful that there are various colds and illnesses going on within the community and how important it is to keep children home if they are unwell to prevent the spread to everyone.



Best of luck to the Fundraising committee this weekend, despite the weather forecast I do hope it is a successful weekend indeed.

Cheers Di,
Vicki, Indi &
Britt.



COMMUNITY NEWS

Ready to try something new?

Join Scouts

For more information contact 2nd Colac Sea Scout Group on Facebook or email gl.2ndcolac@scoutsvictoria.com.au



come find your awesome

FORREST AUSKICK CENTRE

Forrest Recreational Reserve
Fridays 4.30-5.30pm

nab AFL Auskick play.afl/auskick



