

## Principal's Report

Welcome Back!

### Welcome Katrina

In our last Bulletin we welcomed all new staff. We apologise for leaving out Katrina Lamers who has also joined us this year. Katrina is teaching in Grade 1 /2 and is also the Maths Leading Teacher in the school.



### Vale

It is with sadness that I am advising our community of the loss of a very valued staff member who passed away in January 2016. Ann Stafford – Miss Ann to the children, had been involved with the school over the last five years in a professional coaching and consultancy role. Ann introduced the whole school Reading Strategy approach that we have embedded. She was much respected and admired by staff and students in the school. We have been saddened by this sudden loss and our thoughts and support have been with her family, in particular her niece Ursula, our wonderful music and French teacher.



### Settling In

It seems much longer than only the second full week back into the term and as I visit the classrooms, I have seen very settled and cooperative learning taking place.

In a snapshot, the Foundation children are really getting to know each other and to learn about the school. They are exploring, drawing and developing their language knowledge in many ways. Their days are very active and they have now met their Buddy. The Buddies are our Grade 5 students this year and they are taking on their responsibility in a very mature way. We have invited our Grade 5 children to be buddies this year as they will be provided with the opportunity to have a two year Buddy relationship with the younger children. Our Grade 6 students were buddies last year and they will have the opportunity to continue that relationship with their buddies who are now in Grade 1.

Our Grade 1/2 students have been exploring 'much ado about Alice'. One of our themes for the year is 'Curiosity'. As part of our professional learning, staff are developing capacity to teach to and promote curiosity, knowing that it is one of the key dispositions of successful learners. The Grade 1/2 teachers are exploring the concept with the children through the reading of Alice In Wonderland. Some of the children's insights into 'Who is Alice' have engendered deep levels of conversation within the groups.

In Grades 3/4 the classes have commenced a unit of study on mapping and measurement. The students have been using traditional compasses to grasp the basic concepts of direction.

The Grade 5 students are relishing the post camp experience, where they adventured into activities that many of them had never experienced before. The school camp experience is very different from other types of learning in that it provides an opportunity for the children to experience a level of independence, work in a broader cooperative way with others in a range of authentic tasks, and to experience a different environment. They had to take on responsibilities that had a direct impact on themselves and others. Overall, the feedback from the students was that it was a success all round.

Our Grade 6 students have commenced their inquiry into Democracy and Australia's involvement in the World Wars. There are three Grade 6 classes and three teachers.

## Principal's Report Cont.

They are very small classes which is unusual for any school to facilitate at this level. We have commenced the year with the three classes working across the two rooms in the traditional Grade 6 area. This is partly because of our temporary strain on classrooms and partly planned for. At the beginning of the year, the teachers like to establish a common understanding and experience for all of the Grade 6 students. It is usual that all classes work together on some shared learning and establish collaborative understanding of being a Grade 6 student. We hope that even though the students belong to different classes, they get to know each other well and feel comfortable working with other teachers throughout the year. This is part of our transition experience in preparing students for secondary school.

We have an unusual situation at the beginning of this year because of the building program in place. Because the school is presently undergoing the procurement of four new classrooms, we have had to deploy some of the Junior classes across other rooms in the school. One of these is the third Grade 6 room. This will be made available in term two. Hence, the Grade 6 students have had to be accommodated temporarily in the two rooms rather than across the three.

### Professional Learning

Fairfield Primary is one of 60 schools taking part in 'Powerful Learning'; a school improvement initiative which centres on curiosity and engagement. This is a research based school improvement program that expands students' ability to use curiosity as a doorway to powerful learning. This work is based on ten Theories of Action, which when consistently applied, will enhance students' achievement, and broaden their skills and confidence. Staff are currently in the process of planning Theories of Action into their programs to ensure that our students are engaged and curious learners.

We will keep parents informed of the school's involvement in this project via the newsletter.

### Foundation Information Evening

On Thursday evening, Foundation and Specialist teachers provided an information session to parents about the experiences that their children will encounter during their first year at Fairfield. This session gave an insight into the learning opportunities that are provided at Foundation, and how this fits into the student-centred philosophy. Parents learned about lessons that have taken place and their impact on student learning. The school acknowledges all staff who contributed to this successful event.

I look forward to welcoming you all in person at our Welcome Picnic next Friday 19 February.

*Allana Bryant*  
**Principal**

### Reminder—Early Dismissal Grades 1-6 Tuesday 23 February 1:00pm

Please be reminded that students in Grades 1-6 will be dismissed at the earlier time of 1:00pm on Tuesday 23 February to accommodate the Grades 1-6 Parent Teacher Interviews.

We require parental consent for any children expected to walk home alone this early dismissal. To provide this consent please complete the Compass Insight Cycle above entitled 'Consent to Walk Home Alone on Tuesday 23 February'.

**Please note:** Unless this Compass Insight Cycle is completed children will not be allowed to leave the school grounds without a parent or guardian.

To accommodate the early dismissal OSHClub will be commencing at 1.00pm on Tuesday 23 February. Please make arrangements with OSHClub directly if you would like your child to attend the program.

Please call 0432 680 504 or book online [www.oshclub.com.au](http://www.oshclub.com.au).

# School Council

## President's Report

Dear School Community,

Welcome back to all the families and a special welcome to new families that have joined our wonderful school community in 2016.

Well, Term One is coming at us at speed, with the Grade 5 camp in the first full week of school and the annual fair only a few weeks away. A Fair to Remember is one of our two annual cornerstone fundraising events and this year is themed "A Day On The Fairfield Green". It's shaping up to be a terrific evolution of a great event. Make sure you check the calendar on Compass frequently to keep up with the Welcome Picnic, the Farmers Market dates, the next Working Bee and all the other community activities. You each contribute to the success of all of these events.

I especially wanted to highlight the opening of nominations for Fairfield Primary School Council. We have 6 parent-member vacancies going into this calendar year, most of which arise through the ordinary rotation of councilors. The Principal addressed this in her welcome newsletter last Friday (still available on Compass) but I want to take this opportunity to encourage you to consider nominating or whether you might encourage someone else who you think would make a valuable contribution.

School Councilors, both parent and teacher members, have a very important role in the proper governance of the school. The Council's work includes:

- Establishing the broad direction of the school
- Fundraising and use of those funds
- Developing and updating policies
- Entering into contracts
- Maintaining the school's grounds and facilities
- Reporting to the school community

The Council's work is supported through school committees over which the Council has oversight: Community, Finance, Policy and Buildings & Grounds. Each Councilor sits on, or convenes, one of those committees. Those committees report to Council and it is Council that holds the decision-making authority.

Unlike a corporate board, the Council does not have authority over all operational matters. There are areas that fall within the responsibility of the Executive Officer (the Principal) or the Department. There is a great wealth of information on the Education Department's website and a very helpful introductory presentation [here](#) which better allocates responsibilities.

Unlike a government council, School Councilors are not party aligned and do not come to the role with agendas. Each Councilor's role is to advocate and govern in the interests of the whole school community.

The work is important and rewarding. Please do consider nominating for Council. Alternatively, if your interests are more specific, I encourage you to join one of the committees.

Nomination forms are available from the office and must be returned by 17 February 2016. If there are more than 6 nominations then there will be a ballot taken finalise the appointments.

I'd be delighted to speak with any nominees. Alternatively you could speak with any current or past councilors, identifiable on the school website. You can reach me at [bayston.alister.a@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:bayston.alister.a@edumail.vic.gov.au) or on 0411239560.



**Alister Bayston**  
**School Council**  
**President**

## Working Bee—Sunday 28 February

Our first Working Bee will take place on **Sunday 28 February** between 9:30am and 12:00pm.

This will be a working and sorting bee to prepare for the Fair which will take place the following weekend. If you are able to spare some time on this day, please come along and help out.

We need all hands on deck to get the school looking wonderful and ensure we are all set for our Fair!



# Specialist Reports

## Performing Arts

This is another exciting and action-packed year for Performing Arts at Fairfield Primary School. Ursula and I thought we would start the year by giving an overview of some of the exciting events happening in the Performing Arts department in 2016. As the year progresses, more information will be available for each event, via compass and the school website.

### Choir/Orchestra:

Both the choir and the orchestra had a wonderful first year in 2015, performing at a range of different events and locations. They experienced the joys of learning music as a group and developing listening and performance skills.

We are so excited to be continuing these two projects in 2016. We are looking at ways to extend and enrich these programs, by creating new partnerships within the community. The choir and the orchestra will continue their partnership with Thornbury High School and will be going on walking visits to local kindergartens to share their love of making music.

### Brass

Our Brass program with Thornbury High School is continuing this year. We currently have 10 students in Grades 5 and 6 learning trumpet and trombone. The instruments and tuition are provided by Thornbury High School and the lessons take place at Fairfield Primary School. Our students have had the opportunity to learn a range of songs and perform as a group and with Thornbury High School's concert band.

Next term, we are hoping to extend this program and introduce some more children in Grades 4 and 5 to the wonderful world of brass! More information on this will be available towards the end of this term.

### Concerts

#### Senior School Concert

Our year of concerts will be starting with our 5/6 students presenting *Peter Pan* at the Darebin Arts Centre on 28 April. All students from Foundation-4 will be bused to the centre to watch the matinee performance.

Rehearsals for children with speaking roles have already begun and our musical ensemble items will begin rehearsing in the coming weeks. Each class is working on their class item and we are beginning to devise costumes and sets.

As the term continues, more information will be sent home regarding costumes, ticketing, DVD purchases and a running order for the matinee and evening performances.

work with classes and teachers to devise choreography and learn the music for this spectacular performance.

#### 3/4 Collaboration Concert

This is an exciting new venture for our Grade 3/4 students, who will form the chorus for Thornbury High School's performance of *The Wizard of Oz*. This event will also be performed at the Darebin Arts Centre in Term 3.

Thornbury High School staff will be coming to Fairfield Primary in Term 2, to work with classes and teachers to devise choreography and learn the music for this spectacular performance.

#### Foundation-2 Concert

Our Junior school will share their performances at the end of Term 3. This year our concert will be based on *Alice in Wonderland*.

These concerts are a great way to share the enormous amount of talent at Fairfield Primary School.

Fair

At this years 'A Fair to Remember', every student will have an opportunity to share their talents as we will be running our Buskers Area in the amphitheatre.

Students can sign up for a 2-5 minute performance (from 3:00pm-4:30pm). There will be a microphone, speakers, a keyboard and a music stand available for students to use. Once students have selected a time that suits them and their family, they can write it down on the Buskers sign-up sheet, that will be posted in the gym foyer.

Thank you for supporting our talented students at Fairfield.

**Keri Spence**





## Area Spotlight - Foundation Area

On a sunny February morning, Fairfield Primary School were delighted to welcome the newest members of its community through the gates - the Foundation students! Shiny shoes, bright smiles and a few teary-eyed parents filled the Foundation learning spaces; the long awaited first day of school was finally here, the adventure was about to begin. As photos were taken and last hugs and kisses were given out, curious hands and minds began to explore their new environment, alongside new friends.

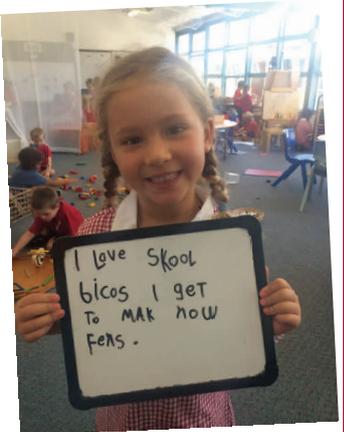


Day two began bright and early in many households, with tales of some particularly eager young Foundation students, fully dressed in their uniforms and waiting by the door several hours before school was to begin! As the prep team, we couldn't hope for a better 'first day review' than stories such as this.

For our youngest learners, the focus for week one, and indeed term one, is very much centred on simply being at school. There is much to get used to, for students and families alike; hats and snacks to pack, what to eat and when, names to remember, a giant playground to navigate and a seemingly endless sea of new faces, all with the same clothes on! No wonder they're tired by the end of the day! Rest assured, each child is given the support, time and space they each need to learn all of this (and more!) You will be amazed how quickly they adjust to day to day life at Fairfield.



We have been thrilled to welcome many new families to Fairfield, and look forward to supporting them. They too are beginning the life of a 'school parent', a journey all of its own! Of course, we are also delighted to see many familiar faces back in the Foundation area, as younger siblings begin their journey at Fairfield. In an effort to assist new friendships and connections to be made amongst students and families, you will find a 'family contact list' for each grade on the Foundation noticeboard,



which will be collected and distributed in coming weeks. If you wish to be included on this list, please jot your details down in the coming week.

Finally, congratulations again to all of our Foundation families on the vitally important role you have played in preparing your children for their transition to school. We look forward to sharing the wonder, joy and excitement of this special year with you and your child.

## Grade 5 Camp Gallery



## Community News

### Foundation– Grade 2 Parents Social Evening

All Foundation (Prep) and Grade 1/2 are invited to attend our first social evening for 2016 on Friday 26 February.

Foundation parents are invited to gather in the Gym Foyer from 7pm onwards and Grade 1/2 parents are invited to gather in the Music Room (currently Jourdan's Classroom) from 7:30pm onwards.

Drinks will be available for purchase by donation and we ask attendees to bring a plate of food to share. We anticipate this will be a fun and relaxed evening where parents can mingle and get to know other parents in their child's class and year level.

We hope to see you there!



### Camps, Sports & Excursion Fund (CSEF) 2016

The Camps, Sports & Excursion Fund [CSEF] is once again running in 2016 to assist low income families with the costs of school trips, camps and sporting activities for their child/ren. This system has replaced the Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) which has been offered in previous years.

If you hold a valid means-tested concession card or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible for CSEF. The allowance will be paid to the school during Term 1 or Term 2 for later applications] to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions, or sporting activities for the benefit of your child/ren.

The annual CSEF amount per student will be:  
\$125 for primary school students  
\$225 for secondary school students.

CSEF eligibility will be subject to two criteria:

- That the parent/legal guardian's concession card being validated by Centrelink is current on the first day of either Term 1 [27 January] or Term 2 [11 April].
- That the student attends a Victorian Registered Primary or Secondary school.

Parents who receive a Carer Allowance on behalf of a child, or any other benefit or allowance not income tested by Centrelink, are not eligible for the CSEF unless they also comply with one of (a) or (b) above.

To download a form now please [click here](#), otherwise please collect a form from the school office.

Closing Date: CSEF application forms should be lodged at the school office by 29 February so that the funds will be available for use during Term 1. Applications can still be lodged in Term 2 but funds will not be available for use until received by the school later that term or in Term 3.

Please contact the School Office if you have any queries regarding CSEF eligibility and payments. For further information visit: [www.education.vic.gov.au/csef](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/csef)

**A copy of the healthcare card is required on submission.**



**FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE  
INFORMATION FOR PARENTS**

### Kann's Wingu

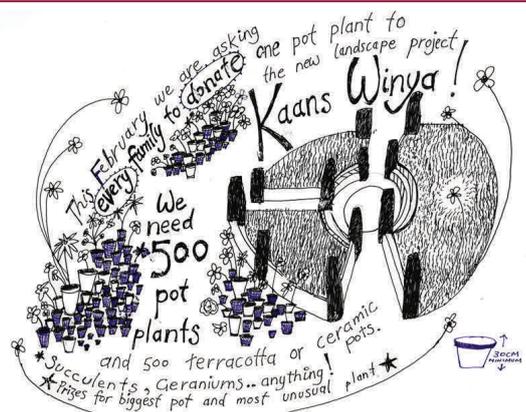
This February we are asking every family to donate one pot plant to the new landscape project.

We need 500 pot plants and 500 ceramic or terracotta pots.

We would love succulents, geraniums... ANYTHING!

There are even prizes for the biggest and most unusual plant!

Please drop your donations along the fence line on the asphalt closest to the Kaan's Wingu development.



# Fairfield Primary School

## Important Dates - Term 1 2016

Monday 15 February	Whole School Assembly 9:00 am School Council Meeting 6:30 pm in the Staff Room
Tuesday 16 February	Science Works Excursion—Alice in Wonderland Grades 1/2A, F, G Fair Meeting 7:30pm in the Staff Room
Wednesday 17 February	Science Works Excursion—Alice in Wonderland Grades 1/2B,C,D,E
Friday 19 February	Interschool Sport - FPS vs Northcote PS Bat Tennis and Rounders FPS Cricket and Softball at Pitcher Park <b>Welcome Picnic 5:30pm—8:00pm</b>
Saturday 20 February	Fairfield Farmers Market 8:00am—1:00pm
Monday 22 February	Fair Meeting 7:30 pm—8:30pm
Tuesday 23 February	Northcote District Swimming Carnival 9:30pm—1:00pm <b>Early Student Dismissal 1:00pm</b> <b>Grades 1-6 Parent Teacher Interviews</b>
Friday 26 February	Foundation (prep) Parents Night 7:00pm in the gym Foyer Grade 1/2 Parent's Night 7:30pm in the Music Room (Jourdan's classroom)
Sunday 28 February	Working Bee 10:00am - 1:00pm
Tuesday 1 March	Darebin Division Swimming Carnival Fair Meeting 7:30pm - 8:30pm
Friday 4 March	Interschool Sport - FPS vs Thornbury PS Softball, Bat Tennis and Rounders at Thornbury PS Cricket at Oulton Reserve
Saturday 5 March	A Fair To Remember 2.00pm - 7.00pm
Wednesday 9 March	Northern Region Swimming Carnival
Thursday 10 March	Community Committee Meeting 6.30pm - 8.30pm
Monday 14 March	Labour Day Public Holiday - No School