

Principal's Report

Well it has arrived!

It was with much delight that we all witnessed the landing of our new classrooms on Thursday. The children were totally focused on the crane's every move, the sweeping across and placing of the building components, and ability of the onsite worker's to manipulate rooms with simple manoeuvring. We are very grateful to Andrew Vance, father of Mae 12B, who was able to organise the use of a drone to film the complete process. The classes are viewing this and forming all sorts of hypotheses about how the 'simple machines' of pulleys and levers work at this scale. It has been a wonderful learning opportunity for all.

We are also pleased that we are on track for the commissioning of the rooms to be finalised for the beginning of Term Two.

Thank you to all parents for the feedback on the recent SMS contact system that we executed this week. The DE&T has recently implemented an Emergency SMS system in light of the earlier threats being made to some Victorian schools. We activated this week as a courtesy when there was a local house fire and it caused a traffic disruption around the school during pick up time.

The DE&T system varied in the success of contacting families and the DE&T is aware of this and acting to rectify the problem as a matter of urgency. We have since been advised that this is a common problem across schools. Once we are satisfied that the problems are rectified, we will notify families of a test run at a future.

It didn't rain at the Welcome Picnic. It was a great evening and pleasing to see new families and returning families all enjoying the opportunity to relax and catch up.

As you are all aware, we are gearing up to a tremendous Fair and this weekend is the final push to get everything ready. Many parents and staff have been actively working behind the scenes and we are aiming for another amazing event.

This week's Parent Teacher Interviews form an important part of the school's assessment and reporting program. The school received lots of positive feedback from parents about the great start to the year that their children have had.

Data analysis is also an important part of teachers' work. Regular meetings enable staff to analyse various forms of qualitative and quantitative data, and identify the next stage of learning for the students when planning learning programs. As part of this assessment process, teachers give regular feedback to students and provide them with challenging goals. This feedback supports our students to develop independence as learners and directs their learning.

School Council Nominations

I would like to congratulate and welcome the following parents to the new School Council for 2016:

- Alister Bayston – father of Josie 3/4C and Gabe 5C
- Doug Galbraith – father of Hannah 3/4E
- Jodie Palmer – Mother of Bentley 1/2G and Annabelle 3/4C

I would also like to draw your attention to the call out for further Parent nominations for the remaining position.

Finally, I wish all the Foundation to Grade 2 parents a most enjoyable evening this evening. Once again, it is the efforts of our parents who have got behind this event and we are appreciative of Julie Calvert and Helen Dellidis for organising the soiree. There is much to look forward to and much to enjoy in being part of the Fairfield Community.

Allana Bryant
Principal



School Council

Fair Raffle Tickets Return Reminder

We've had a fantastic response to our raffle and have already used all the spare raffle ticket books we had on hand. If you are not going to be able to sell the raffle tickets that were sent home last week please return them to the School office as soon as possible. We have some children (and their families) that are very eager to sell more tickets, and we'd also like to sell tickets on the day.

Please also return completed raffle books and funds to the school office.

Many thanks,

Fair Committee



School Council Nominations

We are pleased to advise that the following parents have nominated for the Parent Positions for the 2016 - 2017 School Council. As we have less nominations than vacant positions we did not require an election and all those nominees will begin the new term as Parent School Council Representatives.

We welcome the following parents to School Council for 2016/2017:

- **Alister Bayston – father of Josie 3/4C and Gabe 5C**
- **Doug Galbraith – father of Hannah 3/4E**
- **Jodie Palmer – Mother of Bentley 1/2G and Annabelle 3/4C**

There is one remaining Parent Position to be filled. In accordance with Department guidelines, we invite further nominations for that full term Parent Position. If there is more than one nomination then the appointment will be determined by ballot.

Nomination forms are available at the school office. You may request an electronic copy.

Nominations will close on Tuesday 1st March at 4.00pm.

The timeline is as follows:

Friday 26 February 2016	Call for nominations
Tuesday 1 March 2016	Nominations close 4pm
Tuesday 8 March 2016	Ballot papers distributed (if required)
Tuesday 15 March 2016	Close of Ballot
Thursday 17th March 2015	Declaration of poll

Two casual vacancies have also arisen through the resignation and ineligibility (respectively) of current councillors and we will shortly invite parents to nominate for those positions which are for 1 year, the remainder of the original term.

Kaan's Winya

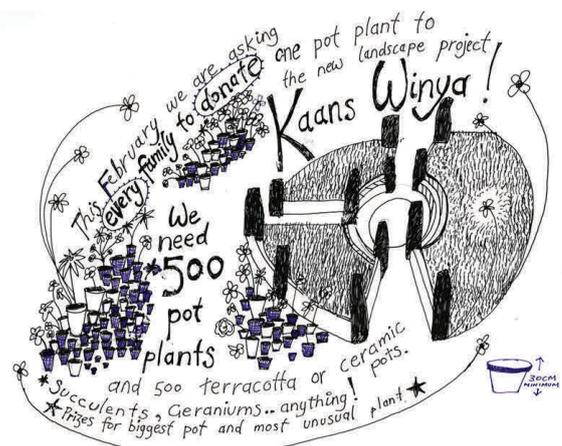
This February we are asking every family to donate one pot plant to the new landscape project.

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 Winya development.



Specialist Focus

Sports Report

Only five weeks into the year and we have already had the District Swimming Carnival. The Grade 5 students have begun their alternative sports program with Tae Kwondo and Interschool sports for our grade 6 students is underway.

The District Swimming Carnival took place on Tuesday in 30 degree heat. A beautiful day for the children to have a chance to swim and cool down. Sadly, students did not take the opportunity to maximise their time in the pool by swimming slowly. Everyone decided to swim as fast as they could, which resulted in many students placing first or second and qualifying for the Division Carnival. This will be held on Tuesday 1 March at Northcote Aquatic Centre. Well done, to all those who competed on Tuesday. It was a great day and good luck to those who are swimming next week at the Division.



Finally, thank you to all the families who have expressed interest in the swimming program. We now have received an overwhelming number of expressions of interest. This is a reminder to any Prep – 2 parents who would like their child to attend our Learn to Swim program in Term 3, please express interest via Compass before the end of term. At the beginning of Term 2, all families who have expressed interest will be given an opportunity to enrol. Parents who do not express an interest before the end of this term may miss out on a chance to enrol their children.



Physical Education

Hello all and welcome back for 2016.

The year is off to a running start and children are keen to be active with a number of requests already for the beep test, as well as carnival dates.

The beginning of the year is a great time for the senior school students to revisit and refine their fundamental motor skills. Students are targeting particular skills to help improve game play.



The junior school students are focussing on moving around safely and moving their bodies in different ways. We have explored and created imaginative movements as well as moving like different animals while playing tigggy games.

To all those senior school students who are excited about the carnival, don't despair! Term 2 will see the return of cross country and athletics so plenty of run.

Geoff McShane



Area Spotlight - 3/4 Area

We take this opportunity to introduce and welcome the new 3/4 team:

Faye Soderstrom (Area Leader), Con Karmis, Mun Wei Wong, Atty Heale, Elise Dowell and Brendan Nick. We also welcome new students: Brooklyn Ridley (3/4CD), Rayia Barrington (3/4E) and Asher Veale (3/4E).

We are off to a good start! Our rooms were renovated during the holidays and the students have returned to new carpets and a totally different look in the 3/4CD classroom. Come in and take a look!

Some exciting events coming up for this semester:

- Excursion to Melbourne City – river cruise and Chinese Museum – on March 18 2016 – to complement our History unit
- Grade 4 camp at Mt Evelyn Recreation Camp – April 26/27 – to complement our unit on Aboriginal Australia

Further details will follow via Compass in the coming weeks.

And now some words for the students:

'I love Grade 3/4 because we study fun things and do lots of writing and Maths. We do lots and lots of Maths which is so much fun!' - **Amelie R**

'I like school because I get to learn new things and meet new people.' - **Daniel H**

'I like to be in Grade 4 because they challenge me much more.' - **Xander R**



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!



Healthy School Lunchbox Ideas

Looking for inspiration on what to put in children's school lunchboxes? Try these resources:

For a healthy school lunchbox, pick and mix, something from each group 1 - 6!

Download and print your free copy of the [Pick & Mix 1-6 poster](#) from the Victorian Government's Healthy Eating Advisory Service. It contains delicious and practical healthy lunchbox ideas based on the five food groups. Keep it on your fridge and use as an easy 'go to guide' to help you pack healthy school lunchboxes.



[A Healthy Start to School: A guide for parents of prep children in 2016](#) is a 32-page PDF with information for parents. This includes a section on healthy eating (p3) and the Pick and Mix 1-6 poster. Available via Better Health Channel

Videos: [How to pack a healthy school Lunch box at home](#)

Video Two
[Lunch boxes - healthy shopping ideas](#)

3 minute video with DHHS' Veronica Graham providing shopping tips for a healthy lunchbox.



Bendigo Banking School Banking Program

Representatives of the Bendigo Bank School Banking Program will visit the school next week. These representatives will be available on Thursday 3 March from 9:00am to 10:00am in the covered area for any parents who wish to enquire further or set up a school banking account for their child/ren.

Many families at Fairfield Primary School use this program and we encourage interested families to come along and find out more.



Community News

Grade 6 Student Reflections - Shrine of Remembrance

Red; red. The room was filled with the colour red. All you can hear is the excited voices of Kids about to watch a film. The room goes dark and it begins. "Lest we forget" and it ends. The lights go back on, and as you look around, you can see the faces of sorrow and sadness.

Starla

In the highest room there was a plaque in the centre with the words 'Greater love hath no man.' We were told to stand around it, everyone shuffles into position, you can hear the sound of shoes shuffling and people whispering. Our tour guide told us that on the 11th day and the 11th month at 11:00am, a natural light comes down and shines on the plaque. A whisper of astonishment went across the room. Silence breaks out as soft music of trumpets play slowly. Then, as if it were magic, a ray of sunlight shines down on the plaque just like the tour guide said. It was beautiful, simply beautiful. A shiver of sadness runs down my back as I think of the people who were brave enough to go to war. The music stops, I look up and realise how lucky I am.

Georgia A

My favourite bit was when we walked into the visitor centre. We walked in and there were poppies everywhere, I was speechless. It was so amazing. I looked up and saw a giant poppy. It was beautiful. was glad I went.

Asher

We surround the Gallipoli boat, one of the last left in the world. Light shines on the water and the soldiers jump in; those who can't swim drown. Others are shot on the beach. Lest we forget.

Alice

At the Shrine we saw how many people enlisted in the army. I was scared to think that the youngest person who enlisted was 14 years old. That is only 3 years older than me. When the army returned it was sad to think that 1 in 5 people did not return.

Daniel C.

The short movie started it showed the harsh conditions, horrible weather. The boats moved slowly towards shore, quite a lot of soldiers drowned even before they saw land. The ones that made it had a hard time of it; they had barely any food and water. For some it was life changing. For me it would be impossible to survive and I can't image how I would be after.

Matilda

The grade 6s visited the Shrine of Remembrance. During our visit we saw one of the two only know Gallipoli boats. My feelings during that exhibition surprised me. I felt growing anxiety grip me. I felt I was there, with the soldiers, heading for Gallipoli. I felt the coldness grip me as I tumbled into the water. The gunshots split through the air. I saw men drop like flies. All in my mind. I felt all this just looking at a short film with a voiceover that came from the soldiers' diaries. These soldiers stood up for our country and are the reason others stand at all. Lest we forget.

Tess

We walk in and I am feeling completely normal. Talking with my friends, about to laugh, happy. I look at the plaque, interested, and as I read I start to see how amazing this place is. I am told it is called the Crypt and a bit about the flags but I am not really listening. I'm looking at how beautiful the room is. This is the turning point for me, the point when I realise how special, how sacred the Shrine of Remembrance really is.

India M



Fairfield Primary School

Important Dates - Term 1 2016

Friday 26 February	Foundation (prep) Parents' Night—Gym Foyer 7:00pm Grade 1/2 ' Night—Music Room (Jourdan's classroom) 7:30pm
Sunday 28 February	Working Bee 10:00am - 1:00pm
Tuesday 1 March	Darebin Division Swimming Carnival Deadline for School Council Nominations Fair Meeting 7:30pm - 8:30pm
Thursday 3 March	Bendigo School Banking Representatives Visit— Undercover Area 9:00am - 10:00am
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
Monday 7 March	Grade 6 Canberra Tour Departs
Wednesday 9 March	Northern Region Swimming Carnival
Thursday 10 March	Community Committee Meeting 6.30pm - 8.30pm
Friday 11 March	Grade 6 Canberra Tour Returns
Monday 14 March	Labour Day Public Holiday - No School
Friday 18 March	Grade 3/4 Chinese Museum Excursion
Saturday 19 March	Fairfield Farmers Market
Monday 21 March	School Council Meeting—Staff Room 7:30pm
Tuesday 22 March	Whole School Photography
Thursday 24 March	Term 1 Ends