



## Welcome to the 2017 School Year

### Principal's Report

Welcome back! It was wonderful to see all of the students, hear their stories and sense their pleasure in starting the school year. I hope all families have had an enjoyable time over the holiday break.

The staff have worked hard to prepare the learning spaces for an immediate start. Our cleaners, Chris and Tony have done a wonderful job in ensuring that the school is sparkling. Also, I would like to thank Doug Galbraith, parent of Hannah, for sweating it out for two days, spreading softfall around the playground to ensure that the children have a safe playground to start the year. Added to this, Martin and Di Caves have maintained our garden ensuring that Kaan's Winya has blossomed over the summer. Thank you to all who have kept an eye on the school and supported us in providing the best we can for our children.

We have all experienced a range of emotions in relation to the Bourke Street tragedy and I would like to pay respect to all members of the community who have been affected. I think it impacts on all of us and it is a reminder of how important peace and wellbeing is. You may have already worked through this situation with your family but I am providing a link to some [useful guidelines](#) to assist parents and teachers to help young people through such devastating situations.

In light of this and as mandated by the Department of Education, child safety has become heightened in all schools and it is now an enforced expectation that all visitors and volunteers comply with certain requirements.

#### Parent Volunteers

Last year, School Council approved an updated [Volunteer Policy](#). The aim of this policy is to provide a safe environment for students, staff and volunteers. We currently encourage parents who are volunteering in the school to provide a [Working With Children's Check](#). **From Semester Two onward, parents will be required to provide a Working With Children's Check to be able to volunteer in the school.** This enables us to comply with the mandated Child Safe Standards.

All visitors and volunteers will be required to sign in when onsite. This has always been in place and we will be expecting all parents to support this more formally. If you intend to go into the classroom once the school day has started, you will be required to sign in at the school office and obtain an identification lanyard. This pertains to parents sitting in a community circle, helping with reading, and visiting teachers.

#### A new process

This year, we are implementing a new process that should make the sign in/out procedure efficient and easy to use by trialling an iPad visitor login application. As this is a significant change in our process, we thank you in advance for your support and welcome any feedback that you may have as you use the system.

#### What is required?

Any person who plans to help out in the classroom or undertake any activity within the school during school hours is required to sign in and out.

- Sign in on the "Visitors" iPad, located at the school office.
- Take a "Visitor" lanyard— which must be worn at all times whilst in the school.
- At the conclusion of your visit, please return your lanyard and sign out on the "Visitors" iPad.

### Who does this apply to?

- Classroom helpers/volunteers (reading, exploration, guest speaker...)
- Volunteering to help with an incursion
- Working on the school grounds in support of an event (Mother's Day stall, Art4All set up, Fair set up, Father's Day breakfast...)

You are not required to sign in/out if you are attending an assembly, dropping off a school lunch, watching sports day events, etc.

### 2017 Staffing

Our two Assistant Principals, Paul Wallace and Katrina Lamers, will be taking responsibility for different sections of the school. Katrina will be managing the Foundation – Year 2 section and Paul will be managing the Years 3 – 6 section of the school. If you have any queries please refer them to either Katrina or Paul.

We would also like to welcome and introduce the following new staff to the school for 2017.



**Nanaki Bhatti**

Year 1/2



**Jayde Brownhill**

Year 4



**Monique Crow**

Year 4



**Jenny Guilford**

Year 5



**Rosie Wositzky-Jones**

Performing Arts



**Sarah Burns**

Business  
Manager

Returning from leave is **Brendan Nick**; we are excited to have Brendan join our Year Three teaching team.

**Elly Kalenjuk** has returned from her 2016 international exchange to Canada and will be working as a Foundation teacher.

Click here to see our full [list of teachers and staff](#).

## Medical Alerts

We would like to remind all parents that current copies of Anaphylaxis Action plans and Asthma Care plans are to be signed by a medical practitioner and left at the office with the correct medication (including EpiPens). Any other medications are to be left at the school office with a completed 'Medication Authority Form' which can also be collected from the school office.

## 2017 School Council Nominations

An election is to be conducted for the members of the school council of Fairfield Primary School. Nomination forms may be obtained from the school office and must be lodged by 4pm on Friday 17 February 2017.

Following the closing of nominations a list of the nominations received will be posted at the school. The terms of office, membership categories and number of positions in each membership category open for the election are as follows:

Membership Category	Term of office	Number of positions
Parent member	From the day after the date of the declaration of the poll in 2017 to and inclusive of the date of the declaration of the poll in 2019	4
DET employee member	From the day after the date of the declaration of the poll in 2017 to and inclusive of the date of the declaration of the poll in 2019	1

If the number of nominations is less than the number of vacancies, a notice to that effect and calling for further nominations will be advised.

## Projects

This year we have a number of projects that we will be working on to improve the facilities and resources for our students. I will keep you up to date when specific information is available. To share with you, we can look forward to the following developments:

- **Netball Court**

The netball court project remains in the preliminary stages of planning. Once the surveys and testing is complete we will be advised as to the timeline for construction. This will cause a disruption to the south playground for a short while, however, the result will be that we have not just a netball court but a multipurpose court with lights, which will serve our school community and support the local netball clubs.

- **Playground Development**

The second stage of the playground, extending from Kaan's Winya to the north, is being fine-tuned by the Buildings and Grounds Committee, but we hope to proceed with its construction before the winter months.

- **Wingrove Street Development Update**

As you may be aware, the removal of the Grange Road crossing will be commencing this year. As a result, the Wingrove Street site will be occupied by the LCRA (Level Crossing Removal Authority) for the period of construction.

The short term and direct effect on us will be at a community level with limited access at times to Wingrove Street and the disruption to rail services along the Fairfield – Alphington corridor. Information will be made available at a future time.

- **Heating and Cooling**

Over the holidays we completed the installation of air conditioning across the classrooms. This was the completion of the **heating and cooling plan** that was first developed in 2011. We are pleased to have achieved this. The plan was inclusive of our solar panels, blinds and air-conditioning.

## Assistant Principals' Report

### Staff Professional Learning

Teachers began the year with two days of professional learning with a focus on Powerful Learning and Wellbeing. We began by reviewing work that was undertaken last year, examining research based learning initiatives outlined in the Curiosity and Powerful Learning Project. This project aims to support teachers to explicitly and consistently incorporate changes in their practices to enhance student curiosity and enrich student learning skills and their spirit of inquiry.

Staff learnt about the structure and content of the new Victorian Curriculum, building an understanding around how this will impact the content of our teaching program.

The professional learning also focused on wellbeing. Danielle Koning, the SAFEMinds Regional Coordinator worked with staff to build our knowledge around emotional wellbeing and development, and outlined some useful approaches to teaching students problem solving skills to assist with their social development at school. This will help form the basis of developing consistent wellbeing and curriculum approaches throughout the school, using a shared language and understanding around mental health.

### Student Leadership 2017

Last year our Year 5 students explored Leadership and the impact that good leadership has. As part of this work, students were given the opportunity to be considered as a Student Leader for 2017. The student leadership roles were reviewed and updated; the school now has six Community Student Leaders and four Specialist Captains.

The role of the School Community Leaders is to work alongside different groups within the school. This may involve the Principal team, teachers, School Council and parents, identifying where there are opportunities for the school to make improvements for the betterment of the community.

The role of the Specialist Captains is to work alongside the coordinators of PE, Performing Arts, Visual Arts and French to provide support and enrich these programs.

All Year 5 students were given the opportunity to present a speech to Year 4 and 5 students, explaining the leadership qualities that they would bring to this position. Congratulations to the many students who presented excellent speeches. The following students were voted for by their peers to undertake these positions:

- **School Community Leaders:** Kon Kogios, Esther MacIsaac, Mia Ison, Rose Beattie, Redmond Maher, Krishan Gurdon
- **PE Captain:** Kalam Ross
- **Visual Arts Captain:** Collette Mullen
- **Performing Arts Captain:** Sepanta Mozaffia
- **French Captain:** Vanika Nature

## Specialist Timetable

Specialist programs will commence next week. Please click here to view the [Term One timetable](#).

## Our Teaching and Break Times

- **8:45 – 9:00am:** School gates are unlocked and the playground is supervised. Students are not to be on school grounds prior to 8:45am without parent supervision.
- **9:00am – 10:40am:** Class time
- **10:40am – 11:10am:** Recess
- **11:10am – 12:50pm:** Class time
- **12:50pm – 1:00pm:** Lunch break starts – children eat
- **1:00pm – 1:50pm:** Outside playtime
- **1:50pm – 3:30pm:** Class time
- **3:30pm – 3:45pm:** Playground is supervised until 3:45pm, when the gates are locked. Students are no longer to be on the school grounds beyond this time.

## Upcoming Events

Term one is particularly busy for our community as we like to offer different opportunities to engage with other parents, understand how learning takes place for the children and to have an overview of the school in general. The following events are listed on the Compass Calendar and the [Important Dates](#) page of our website. As a reminder, we draw your attention to the following:

### School Assembly

- **Monday 6 February at 9am** on the basketball court near the Staff Room

### Join us: Fair Committee Meeting—This Monday!

- This coming **Monday 6<sup>th</sup> February, at 7:30pm**, we will be hosting our first Fair Planning Meeting of the year in the school staff room. All parents are welcome and encouraged to attend. Looking forward to seeing you there!

### Foundation Social Evening

- **Friday 10 February, from 7 – 10pm**
- Join us for a social evening at FPS to meet other Foundation families, share stories and get to know each other. The event will be held on the school grounds and is a child-free occasion. Foundation families, please look for a separate Compass communication for complete details.

### Foundation Parent Information Evening

- **Thursday 16 February, from 6 – 7pm**
- We are thrilled at the way our new Foundation students have settled so quickly into their classes and started their learning journey at FPS. We are hosting an information evening which is an opportunity to discover more about our program and ask questions. Starting school is an exciting journey for Foundation children and we hope that parents can join in as much as possible, both with their child's learning and with the school community in general.

### School Welcome Picnic

- **Friday 24 February, from 6 – 8pm**
- Join us for the School Welcome Picnic! This is an opportunity for our school community to come together, share a meal, meet new members of our school community and catch up with friends. The picnic will be held on the school oval. It is a BYO event (food, drinks, picnic blanket, etc.) commencing at 6pm and concluding at 8pm.

### Years 1-6 Parent Teacher Interviews

- **Tuesday 28 February, from 1:30 – 7pm.** More Information to follow.

### School Fair: A Fair to Remember

- **Saturday 25 March, from 2 – 7pm**
- **SAVE THE DATE!** This year, we will be hosting our 6th "A Day on the Fairfield Green" school fair. Our fair is a special event that combines a mini music festival on our oval as well as the traditional rides, art, baked treats, food stalls, wine raffle, silent auction, raffle, etc. See you there—it's a great day out and a highly regarding event in our community.
- Over the next few weeks, we will provide further information about our fair and how our parent community can get involved, prior to and on the day of the fair.

## General News

### Welcoming Baby Lola to our Community

We are thrilled to announce the safe arrival of our newest community member, baby Lola Joan Alice Carr. Lola was born on 8 January to Atty and Ben—Atty being one of our grade3/4 teachers last year. We wish them lots of love and luck as they get to know each other!

### Tennis Lessons at FPS

Interested in learning to play tennis? Complete the [tennis enrolment form](#) and return it to the school office by Thursday 16 February.