



Message from Allana Bryant

To the staff and community of Fairfield Primary School,



I wanted to thank you all for the lovely send off on the last day of the term. I drove away feeling quite emotional, thinking about how profound Fairfield has been in my life over the last several years.

It has been a privilege to be part of the Fairfield community and it will always be quite special. I can reflect on the amazing growth and change over the course of time and I can now delight in recalling the many significant moments that have led to the school being where it is today. It does require the *'village to raise the child'*. It has been the collective work of everyone, which has enabled many successes and continued to meet the challenges of the dynamic community.

I would particularly would like to thank Paul and Katrina for leading the school over the last year. It is a relentlessly high stakes endeavour and they have *'done you proud'*. I wish everyone all the best and I am sure to keep in touch.

Kind regards,
Allana

Principal's Report

Lots to Share

Two weeks is a long time in the life of a school.

During the past fortnight, there have been a number of exciting and engaging opportunities for our students.

Our Year 1/2 students attended **Collingwood Children's Farm** as part of their Inquiry unit last week.

I enjoyed listening to the children talk about their enjoyment of the day, particularly having the opportunity to feed and pet the animals.



Yesterday, 26 students were involved in the **District Basketball Competition** at Coburg Basketball Stadium. This is always an enjoyable day for the students and they had great success on the court. Thank you to Mel Brown, a parent at the school, for the coordination of this event.



The Year 6 **Family Life** sessions have commenced. These sessions are delivered by *Family Life Victoria* and form an important part of our curriculum. The focus of these sessions has been 'Moving Through The Teen Years'.

I have visited the Visual Arts and Performing Arts spaces to experience the **Artist in Residence** programs.

There has been lots of laughter as the students have learnt about puppetry performance with our resident Tim Denton.

When I walk through the Art Room I am struck by how focused the students are with their work; they appear to have made an instant connection to this textile work which is led by our resident Nikki Fletcher.



There is more than a hint of green around the school, with students proudly wearing their new **Art4All** t-shirts. It only four weeks until the big event. Keep an eye out in your Compass news feed for details.

Other events to be aware of are **Book Week** (including Book Day) and **Nude Food Day**. Details of both of these events are available in this newsletter.

Next week the school is acknowledging **Science Week**, which is Australia's annual celebration of science and technology. This year the theme is 'Gamechangers and Changemakers'. During this week, teachers will plan learning experiences to publicise, provoke, stimulate, support and inspire their students.

Staffing Update

Next Tuesday Keri Spence will begin her family leave. We wish Keri (and Geoff of course) all the very best as they look forward to the arrival of their second child.

Building Update

Last week I hosted a parent forum to update families on the building upgrades. It was great to hear such positive feedback with parents expressing their delight when viewing the plans.

The first stage of the works will commence in the next fortnight. On Friday 17 August, the staff room will be relocated to the BER foyer where it will remain for the rest of the year. This will have no impact on the running of the OSHClub program. On Monday 20 August, refurbishment works to convert the staff room into the Art Studio – as it will be known – will commence. The new art studio will be ready for the start of term three. Please refer to the [Building Update](#) for other timeline dates.

Sports Court

Our new sports court is a hit during school with multiple ball games played across the space during recess and lunch.

It is also proving to be a much appreciated community space.

The Parkside Netball team have commenced using the court for training, and at this time of year, the lights have become a highly regarded asset.

~ Paul Wallace, Acting Principal



Assistant Principal's Report

Student Voice, Agency and Leadership

A large priority for Victorian schools is to promote empowerment of students through voice, agency and leadership. The Department of Education recognises that by empowering students to become partners in school decision making, we recognise and acknowledge that they are experts in their own lives who can contribute to the improvement of their school and community.

- **Student Voice** is defined as *students having the power to influence change*. Students are being provided with opportunities to collaborate and make decisions with adults.
- **Student Agency**, gives *students the power to direct and take responsibility for their learning, creating independent and self-regulating learners*.
- **Student Leadership** is not confined to a small group of individuals, as *leadership potential is inherent within all learners*. Student Leadership includes *listening to and being able to clarify student issues as well as representing and advocating on behalf of other students*. Student leaders have an increased sense of responsibility to help others and to model leadership principles and values.

Voice and Leadership in Action

It was pleasing to see an opportunity for voice and leadership in action at our school recently. It began when a small group of girls playing on the old netball court approached me before school. They asked why the rings on the new sports court were both set to basketball. They requested one ring be turned so they could use it for netball during lunch and recess. I suggested the girls write a persuasive text as to why the school should change the setting of the court. Seeing an opportunity to express their voice, some of the students wrote a persuasive letter, others wrote a petition and searched for signatures of support from their peers.

The letters and petition were presented to our Community Leaders – a group of Year 6 students elected to represent students in decision-making and lead community initiatives across the school. The Community

Leaders formulated a plan, they proposed one ring be set to netball for a trial period of three weeks. The Community Leaders will monitor the use of the court and will provide feedback after the trial period.

This is an example of both student voice and leadership, with the students recognising a need, having the power to influence change and decision-making and advocating on behalf of the students they represent. I am extremely excited to see how the trial goes and what feedback is provided at the end of the trial period.

Moving Rooms

As many of you are aware, we will move some classes to accommodate the installation of our new building.

French, 5B, 5C and Art will be moving soon. All of the teachers of these areas will require boxes to help them with the move. If you have spare boxes at home could you please donate boxes directly to French, 5B or 5C. These donations will be of great assistance as we prepare for the move.

~ Katrina Lamers, Assistant Principal

Community News—Upcoming Events

Celebrating Literacy!

Scholastic Book Fair: 15 – 17 August

Each year, as part of our Book Week celebrations, we have a Book Fair in the Old Hall at Fairfield Primary School. Scholastic Books provide a range of books and stationery for children to browse and purchase. The school receives a proportion of all sales, and we use this money to supplement our library collection.

- **Wednesday 15 August:** 3:30 – 4pm
- **Thursday 16 August:** 8:30 - 8:50am; 3:30 – 4:00pm
- **Friday 17 August:** 8:30 - 8:50am; 3:30 – 4:00pm

Book Parade and Activity Day: Tuesday 28 August

To celebrate the best of literature and the announcement of Australia *Book of the Year* winners, we will be holding our annual character parade at **9:15am on Tuesday 28 August**. Students are welcome to come to school dressed as their favourite book character and bring along their favourite book. Students will also participate in mixed year level literacy activities to explore a shortlisted book.



Father's Day / Special Person's Breakfast at FPS

We invite all Dads and Special People to FPS on **Friday 31 August** to share breakfast before school. Come along, from **8am onward**, and enjoy a meal with your children.

What's for breakfast?

We are offering two breakfast options. Items cost \$6 each.

- Egg and bacon roll
- Vegetarian quiche

Place your order

We request that Dads and children purchase their breakfast items by **9pm, Wednesday 29 August**. This ensures that we have sufficient food for our hungry hordes! [Click here to purchase your breakfast.](#)

At the Breakfast

On the day of the breakfast, have your ticket handy (paper or on your phone) so that we can serve you quickly. This way, you will have more time to spend together before school/work. There will also be a coffee cart onsite to provide the perfect accompaniment to breakfast, bring some cash if you wish to make a purchase!

Volunteers needed!

We need a couple of volunteers to assist on the day. If you are available from 7:30 – 9:30am, (and have a [Working With Children Check](#)) we would love to have your help. [Please sign up here.](#)

~ The Community Committee



Sustainability Events at FPS

Nude Food Day!

Next week we are having **Nude Food Day** on **Thursday 16 August**.

To help mark the occasion, we have some exciting activities happening during the week.

On **Monday 13 August**, a group of Year 4 students will conduct a **waste audit** on the Year 4 classroom bins with the help of Andrew Vance (father of Mae and Flynn). Not unlike what you may have seen on *The War on Waste*, the audit will give us some baseline data on what we are throwing away and provide us with some inspiration for what to focus on next.

On **Thursday 16 August**, we ask that every child packs a waste free—or Nude Food—lunch. The Year 4 students who organised this event are keen to see how much we can reduce our food waste, and also our food-related waste. See your Compass news feed for details on the benefits of a Nude Food lunch!



'A Plastic Ocean'

On the evening of **Thursday 16 August**, the whole Fairfield Community are invited to a screening of **A Plastic Ocean**. The event starts at 5pm with a raffle, information stalls and popcorn, of course! The film screening will commence at 5:45pm with a panel discussion to follow. If you plan on attending, [please RSVP](#).

CERES Incursions

Across the next two weeks, each class will attend a CERES incursion focusing on empowering the students in our school and raising awareness of the waste we produce.

- **Year 5 & 6 students** will participate in the 'Consumer Detectives' program, where they will be investigating the differences between durable and disposable packaging, and conducting 'food mile audits'.
- **Foundation - Year 4 students** will be learning about composting, worms and how our food waste can be useful to us.

FPS has purchased new compost bins with the money raised by our Jemena efforts in term one, so the students will also learn about what does and does not go into those bins during these incursions. See your Compass news feed for the incursion timetable.

A Spotlight on Year 1/2

It has been a busy start to term three for Years 1 & 2. Everyone had many stories to share about their holiday break returned to school ready to learn and face new, challenging learning experiences.

Mathematics, Reading & Writing

We are reviewing our knowledge of place value in maths. A conceptual understanding of place value provides the foundation for regrouping, multi-digit multiplication, our decimal system and more. Understanding place value allows students to recognise the difference between the \$5 note they received for their birthday and the \$50 watch they are saving for!

We are continuing to strengthen our decoding and comprehension strategies in reading. In writing, we have been exploring the structure of procedural texts and experimenting with writing our own.

Swimming

Students are feeling motivated after their first swimming sessions and look forward to strengthening their skills and confidence in the water over the coming weeks.

Inquiry

Paddock to Plate is our new inquiry focus and students were immersed in a hands-on experience of farm life during our excursion to Collingwood Children's Farm. Students sampled interesting produce from the orchard garden. The lemonade lemons were a hit while the sour sorrel that looked like garden weeds was less popular.

The farm's goats, sheep, free-range chickens and HUGE pigs got quite the feed over the two days as each group of students got the opportunity to feed, pat and brush the animals.

The farmer guides explained what materials and products the animals provide for us and how these things end up on our plates, on our bodies as clothes, and around us in our everyday experiences.

We then spent the afternoon exploring the adventure playground at Hays Paddock.

The teachers and students of Year 1/2 send a big thanks to all of our helpers on the day we greatly appreciate your time! Here are some photos of the day!

~ Year 1/2 Teachers



A Focus on Performing Arts

In the Performing Arts Room

Foundation students

Foundation students have enthusiastically begun using our collection of rhythm instruments. They have been experimenting with making different sounds (loud/soft/fast/slow) and copying rhythms using the listening game 'Don't clap this one back'. Ask your foundation student to show the move a conductor uses to stop a whole orchestra playing at exactly the same time. You may like to use this move at home!

Year 1/2 students

Our 1/2 students are getting closer to their production of 'Peter and the Wolf', perfecting their dances, learning their lines and singing the finale song. Please see your Compass News Feed for full details regarding costumes and ticketing and if you are yet to do so, please provide consent for your child to attend the matinee performance.

Year 3/4 Artist in Residence – Tim Denton of AboutFace Productions

Tim, our puppeteer artist has arrived and swept the students up into the imaginative world of puppet making. Each class is developing puppets to perform a poem, which will be showcased in our 3/4 concert in term four.

Our Year 3 students will be creating Japanese bunraku style puppets using recycled materials. They can be seen here creating and "practice models" to establish the mechanics of a moving body, and explore performance elements such as *breath*, *focus* and *weight*. Tim also shared some of his beautiful puppets with us.



"Why do we do puppetry?" was a leading question for both years. After viewing Tim's puppets, such as a shark eating a person's head, a kiwi laying an egg and a floating robed character, the students surmised that we can use puppets to perform things that *we cannot do*.

The **Year 4 students** were introduced to a number of different light sources such as screens, handheld lights and overhead projectors.

Tim demonstrated how shadows can be manipulated to do amazing movements, using simple cardboard puppets.

The students designed their own shadow puppets, such as the school of fish created by 4A.



Year 5 Students

Students have begun work on their long-term album project. For the rest of the term, students will be building their group performance skills, starting as a whole class, then moving into small groups. Using a variety of instruments, students will select songs to perform as a group. We are deepening our understanding of chords, melody and rhythm and focussing on playing in time as a group. At the end of the term, we will record these songs and the recordings will be available to take home.



Year 6 Students

In Year 6, we have started looking at the theory of song writing. Over the rest of the term, we will be using instruments and technology to write simple pop songs. These songs will be workshopped, rehearsed, performed and recorded.

Choir and Orchestra

Choir performance in *Seussical* with Thornbury High School

Our choir made us immensely proud during our big week of rehearsals and performances of *Seussical* with Thornbury High School and Pender's Grove Primary. All students were highly committed, responsible and independent participants during the project. Their acting during the songs and dances was highly animated and it is clear that the project has boosted their skills. We would like to extend our thanks to Emma and the team at Thornbury, as well as our Fairfield support team to allow this project to happen.

- "Performing in *Seussical* made me feel proud, curious and want to do it again and again." ~ Amelia S, 4A

Art4All Performance

Our orchestra continues to work on pieces in preparation for Art4All.

We are also going to be working in collaboration with Thornbury High School, with the intention of a combined performance later in the year.

~ Rosie Wositzky-Jones & Keri Spence, Performing Arts Teachers

