



## Principal's Report

### Puppetry & Poems

Last week I was fortunate to be part of the audience for the Year 3/4 production of *'Puppetry and Poems'* at Xavier College. The concert truly was something to celebrate. It was a collaborative masterpiece – the students applied their skills and understandings from their work with our Artist-in-Residence Tim Denton to create and perform with the puppets with such finesse. The puppetry, combined with the reading of the poems and the wonderful singing, made the night a resounding success.

To see our students enjoying these nights and learning so much in the process is what we continually aspire to achieve. Thank you to all staff for their support of the event, in particular to Rosie Wositzky-Jones for her commitment, imagination and passion. An acknowledgement to Tim Denton for adding his expertise to this whole experience.



## Trivia Night

Three days after our students had the opportunity to shine at the school concert, it was the parents' turn at our Music Trivia Night. The Old Hall was packed with a range of spooky characters as the parents transformed themselves for this Halloween themed event. The live music was a hit with a host of outstanding acts, many of whom are parents at the school.

A number of parent volunteers who gave up their time to make the necessary arrangements made this event possible. I thank all of the parents who supported this event, including those who attended the next day to help clear up. A special mention to the coordinators Doug Galbraith and Daniel Emeny for their tireless work throughout.



## 2019 Class Planning

Later this term, staff will begin to draft class lists for 2019. As part of this process, students will be asked to write down the names of five peers that they work well with. We aim to accommodate at least one of these requests. Staff will use their knowledge of individual students to help create class lists, ensuring a balance of abilities, gender, friendship groups and room for social expansion.

Whilst recognising that staff are generally best placed to make decisions about their students' future placements, we are receptive to parent input about positive peer combinations for their child/ren – please email your request to [Paul Wallace](#) no later than **Monday 12 November**.

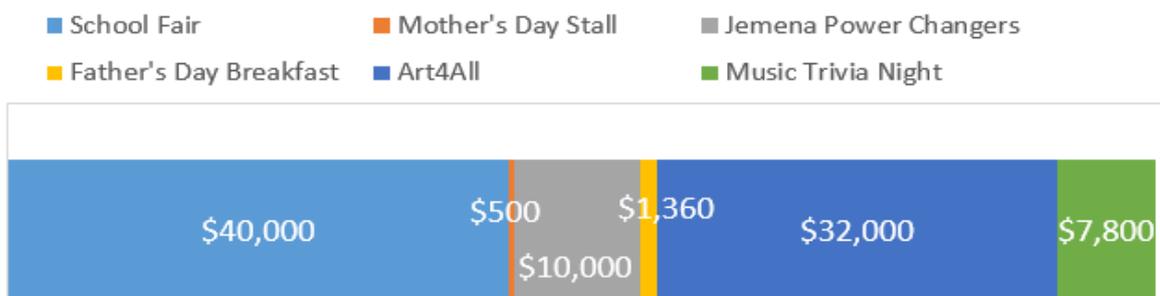
Any families who are planning to leave the school this year are required to inform the school office as soon as possible as this may affect our class structures for 2019.

## Fundraising

The recent Trivia Night was a great example of an event that brings the community together whilst also raising some funds for the school. The graphic below demonstrates the funds raised this year. It is also great to celebrate the experts-in-residence programs, which are funded by School Council, and will next year include a Scientist-in-Residence – a great use of fundraising.

At last week's Building & Grounds sub-committee meeting, we went for a walk around the school grounds, identifying areas for improvement. School Council will endeavour to make best use of the funds that the community has raised to support ongoing school improvement.

### 2018 FUNDRAISING



Respect • Creativity • Excellence • Community • Since 1885

## Yard Duty Supervision

Parents are reminded that students can be on the playground from 8:45am in the morning as this is when teachers are on duty. Students who arrive before this time are required to attend OSHClub.

## Building Update

Below is an update on what has happened over the past fortnight regarding the new building, which is being constructed in Newcastle.

- External cladding install commenced.
- External eave sheets install commenced.
- External eaves painting has commenced.
- All external windows now installed.
- All external ground floor decking completed, first floor decking has commenced.



[Click here to see all current construction images.](#)

~ Paul Wallace, Principal

## Assistant Principal's Report

### Victorian Premiers' Reading Challenge

This week we received completion certificates for the students who took part in the *Premiers' Reading Challenge*. This challenge encourages engagement with current literature and supports students to value literacy. This year we had 50 students successfully complete the challenge—over 2000 books were read across the challenge period. Congratulations to all of those students who participated!

### Assessment in Mathematics

Last week Cathy and I attended a professional learning session that demonstrated the application of two Department of Education and Training assessment tools:

- Mathematics Online Interview
- English Online Interview

During the session, we were able to share our current assessment practices with other schools and were provided with 'best practice' examples from the department. It was extremely pleasing to see that Fairfield Primary School's current practice aligns with Department recommendations and that we are well in advance in our assessment practices.

Teachers use assessments in several ways, one purpose of assessment is to diagnose student learning difficulties, one is to inform future teaching and one is to summarise learning to allow teachers to assign progression points for reporting. These assessments are scheduled throughout the year to ensure teachers are constantly able to refer back to the assessment to inform teaching and planning, as well as to make summative judgements on a consistent basis.

Looking closely at our Mathematics assessment, the school currently uses the *Mathematics Online Interview* as well as many other formal and informal assessments. The *Mathematics Online Interview* is a one-to-one interview between a teacher and a student; it allows teachers to interact with students to understand their

thinking as they solve problems. This provides teachers with an insight into the strategies a student is able to use and allows teachers to diagnose any difficulties a student may have. This information feeds directly into teacher planning.

Understanding strategies is extremely important as students develop numeracy skills, with an increasing focus on being able to solve the same problem in five different ways, rather than solve five different problems in the same way. The interview is also linked directly to *Victorian Curriculum Standards* and provides a developmental continuum for numeracy skills in; counting, place value, addition and subtraction, multiplication and division and time.

Across the year teachers also use On Demand testing and PAT mathematics assessments. Both of these assessment tools are online multiple-choice assessments. The results from these assessments allow teachers to identify student strengths and weaknesses. They are conducted at regular intervals over the year so that teachers and students can track growth in understanding. On Demand tests are also linked directly to the *Victorian Curriculum Standards* and are another tool provided by The Department of Education and Training.

Teachers also assess students on a day-to-day basis using informal measures including; open-ended tasks, class discussions, small focused teacher groups and individual conferences. At Fairfield, teacher year level teams evaluate all this data to work together to plan 'point of need' teaching in numeracy each week. During our upcoming curriculum day, teachers will bring together all of their data, examine it and begin to assign progression points for student achievement. Through discussing evidence and challenging and supporting each other, teachers will hone their consistent interpretation of assessment data and the *Victorian Curriculum Standards*.

~ Katrina Lamers, Assistant Principal

## School Council Update

### Library

School Council discussed the FPS library and possible short-term improvements so that students have a more comprehensive book selection and enhanced space. We decided a dedicated brainstorming session with interested parents and staff was the best and most logical next step. Look out for a communication about this meeting if you are interested in participating. In the long-term, the development of the Wingrove St campus would enable us to provide a high quality and spacious library on the current site.

### Time for Eating Lunch

Council also discussed the time allotted for students to eat, and how to best ensure all children are able to eat their lunch (or most of it anyway!) in the time given. The school recognises the importance of students eating their food and will emphasise good eating habits with students to reduce the number of students not eating their lunches.

### Year 6 Canberra Camp

School Council approved the 2019 Year 6 Canberra Camp, which is great experience for all Year 6 students at the beginning of their final year of primary school.

The reviewed Camp Policy was approved with an update regarding refunds. In the event that a student is not able to attend camp after payment, the school will request a refund on the family's behalf, but cannot guarantee it, as in line with Department of Education advice.

## A Fair to Remember

The Community Committee reported on the healthy responses to the [FPS Events Survey](#) that went out to families last week. We also discussed the approaching Fair and the hope that the first organisation meeting, scheduled for **Tuesday 4 December** from **6:30 – 7:30pm**, will be well attended. Our aim is to commence Fair planning before the school year ends.

As always, minutes for School Council [meetings minutes](#) are available on the FPS website, once approved.

~ Quimby Mills, FPS School Council Representative

## Community News

### FPS Events Survey: Adults and Children—Give us Your Feedback!

As communicated last week via Compass—we want your input!

The Community Committee is conducting a short survey to gather information about FPS events and what parents, students and staff value. We host many special community events and want feedback from parents AND students alike.

- Take the survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FPS-Events-Survey>
  - Click this link to access the survey for each respondent.
- Please submit your responses by **Monday 12 November**.
- Survey takes 10 minutes for the adult version; 5 minutes for student version.



~ FPS Community Committee

### Compass Announcement for iPhone Users

Going forward, all updates to the Compass App will no longer support iOS versions below iOS 9. This means that any device running iOS 8 or below will no longer be supported.

If your iPhone allows updates beyond iOS 8, please ensure it is updated so that you receive the latest enhancements to the Compass App.

### Mango Fundraiser – Extra Trays for Sale

Great news – we have three extra mango trays for sale!

If you missed placing an order, please [contact the office to reserve a tray](#).

The cost is \$27/tray – or \$13.50 if you want to split with someone. In your email, let us know if you want a full or half tray. First in, first served.



## Donation Needed for First Aid Room

Do you have a spare single-bed doona cover and/or sheet set? Want to give it a new home? The first aid room needs another set or two of sheets and doona covers. If you have items you wish to donate, please drop them off at the school office.

## Eat Up: Jelly Bean Jar Count!

In two weeks there will be a fundraiser running from 13 – 16 November. There will be a Jelly Bean Count, which is a game where you have to try and guess how many jelly beans are in the jar. To enter, it is a gold coin donation and from there you guess a number. The winner will take home the jelly beans!



The money we raise will go towards a charity called **Eat Up**. [Eat Up](#) is a charity that supplies over 100 schools in Australia with lunches for students who are not able to bring in their own food. Here are the fundraiser details:

- Dates: 13 – 16 November
- Times to make a guess: Before and after school: 8:40 – 9am and 3:30 – 3:45pm
- Where: In the shelter shed
- Bring: Gold coin donation

This is an optional activity, and we would like as many people as possible to participate so that we can raise a lot of money for a good cause.

~ Marcus W, Josh W & Walter T, FPS Student Community Leaders

## Save the Date—Working Bee

Join us for the final Working Bee of the year on **Sunday 18 November**, from **10am - 2pm**.

Tasks include:

- Garden mulching, weeding, feeding and pruning.
- Kaan's Winya maintenance.
- Wooden table and bench staining.



All parents and children are welcome to attend. We will have a lunchtime sausage sizzle for our volunteers.

~ FPS Buildings & Grounds Committee

## Sustainability News

### Walk to School Celebration

On Wednesday the 24 October, we celebrated *Walk to School Day!*

From 8:45am we took part in a walking club. We played some music and students and teachers walked laps around the oval. Everyone was wearing green and was really enjoying it. We all had big smiles walking with our friends and families.

Darebin Council donated a fresh piece of fruit for everyone and there was plenty to go around.

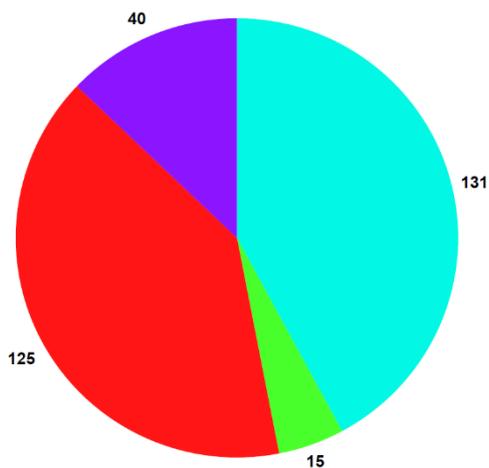
After lunch, students took part in activities about walking to school. The highlights for us on the day were:

- “I wish we could do the walking club and activities again.” ~ Will L-B, 4A
- “It was good to socialise with the other year levels and grades.” ~ Sophie C, 6C

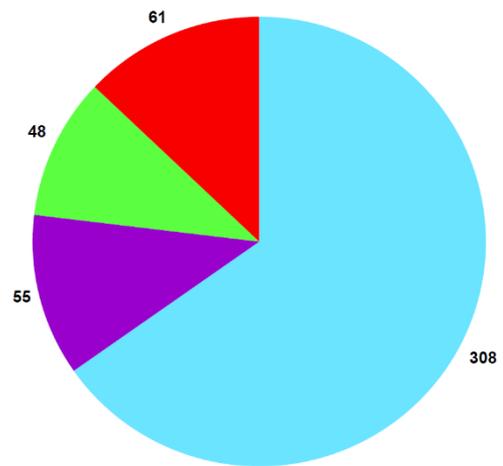
We surveyed students and staff and more people walked than drove that day – with 308 people in our school walking! The last time we did this survey on a normal day there was almost an equal amount of people who walked and drove, so we have made a big improvement.

This means that we are creating a better living environment because there is not as much pollution from cars on the road. We're also saving money on petrol, getting exercise and feeling healthier.

**Pie Chart: Start of Walk to School Month**



**Pie Chart: Day of Walk to School Celebration**



riding drive walk scoot

Thank you to everyone who participated in walking to school and the survey, thanks to the families who helped with the walking club and thanks to the teachers who supported the activities and helped in the morning. Well done everyone!



~ FPS Student Eco-Club

## A Spotlight on Year 1/2

After a busy and exciting end to Term 3, students have stepped into Term 4 well rested and ready to learn.

### Literacy

In writing, students have been enthusiastically furthering their skills and understanding of the structure and features of narrative writing. They have been practicing using features such as verbs, nouns, adjectives and similes in a purposeful manner to keep their readers interested.

In reading, students have been focusing on the comprehension strategies:

- Making Inferences – to understand what characters are feeling using evidence from the text to support their thinking
- Summarising and Asking Questions – to deepen their understanding of texts.

Inference made by a student after reading *Tough Boris* by Mem Fox:

Picture Clue	What I infer from the picture
Boris is sitting on a chair with his back facing you.	Boris is very upset because his parrot has died.

### Numeracy

In Numeracy, students are continuing to consolidate number knowledge through an array of tasks that require skip counting from any given number, building and predicting growing patterns and using place value to add and subtract numbers.

### Inquiry

In Inquiry, students are consolidating their understandings of the difference between living and non-living things. The highlight of this term has been our visit to the Werribee Zoo where students learnt about how animals have adapted to survive in their habitats.



~ Year 1/2 Teachers



## Year 5 & 6

Year 5 and 6 students have been working passionately on their "band project" for music this term.

Year 5 students are working with their group members to form cover bands. The teamwork, interest and skill displayed in this project has been very impressive. Covering hits from the 80s to today's chart toppers, their repertoire is extensive and their renditions oftentimes innovative.

Year 6 students have also proven their ability to work well with their classmates to form bands and write original songs. Ranging from rap to indie folk, they have displayed their ability to write chord progressions and melodic lines suited to their musical genres. It is never easy to perform – let alone an original piece of work to your peers and teacher – but they have displayed confidence and showmanship. Look out Australia; we have some very talented singer-songwriters in our midst at Fairfield Primary School!



## Orchestra and Choir

News of our ongoing collaborative relationship with Thornbury High School has spread, and we are pleased to share that we have been asked to perform for our region's *Principals Conference* at the MCG in coming weeks!

A group of our orchestra, brass and choir students will be joining Thornbury High School's Year 7 & 8 students to perform a selection of songs highlighting the program. A note has been sent home to choir, orchestra and brass families with information about student involvement.

~ Rosie Wositzky-Jones & Olivia Li, Performing Arts Teachers

## Celebrating Learning

### Solar Boat Challenge

A few weekends ago, four teams from the Year 5 cohort travelled to Scienceworks to compete in the *Melbourne Solar Vehicle Competition*. Arriving in the rain at 8:30am, we were all a bit concerned that nothing would work!

Thankfully, despite the weather not looking promising, the boats were still able to compete. The students all worked together to problem solve issues that came up in their boats, and we were very proud of their resilience when things did not go to plan!

One of the FPS teams even won a prize for the 'most effective use of recycled materials in their boat'.

It was a wonderful day, and the experience was a valuable one for all the students who attended.



### Fencing

Thanks to Physical Education Specialist Geoff McShane, Year 5 students have once again begun exploring the age-old sport of fencing. Classes have been learning fun games to get their feet moving and interesting ways to get their opponent off balance. Once warmed up, students don protective clothing and masks and pick up their foils. The instructor, Peter, commands the classes to salute and they begin parrying methods to make contact with their opponent.

- "It's been interesting to learn about the footwork." ~ Darcy H
- "The outfits are really hot!" ~ Reuben L
- "The foil doesn't hurt that much." ~ Eliza S
- "I love these sports programs." ~ Ally



## Art Studio update

### From Art Room to Art Studio!

When I first heard of the move of the art room to the staffroom, I was immersed in wool and felt making, working with Nikki Fletcher, our artist-in-residence.

The process of packing up was just a fleeting brushstroke! Art4All arrived and I became absorbed in all the wonders of our art show.

Then, no more distractions.....the challenge was on – to pack, discard, and recycle 23 years of my accumulated possible art materials, as well as what was already lurking in storage... so many corners, countless boxes, so much great stuff!



Goodbye Art Room

No longer our Art Room



Gone!



It seemed like endless packing, boxes upon boxes, travelling out of the art room. Once the move was completed, the removalist commented, "Well, you certainly have kept the best, but if you want to fit the students in you now have to keep the best of the best!" With another sort, materials, furniture and equipment were reconsidered.

It has been a creative challenge to establish an Art Studio from the staff room. The staff room presence already has disappeared... the kitchen has an art sink with painting shelves, a wall has been installed to form a storage area, a four metre bench with cupboards has been fitted, and the photocopy room now houses the kiln.

The space may be compact, but it is efficient, refreshing, filled with light and energy.

I have been so fortunate to be supported by Paul and Katrina, my colleagues and students – who offered physical and emotional assistance from time, as well as muscle, design ideas and intervention... when needed!

As one of Foundation students commented, "*I love it! It just smells different!*"

So the creative magic that happened in the Art Room will only continue in our new Art Studio!

~ Marjie Tkatchenko, Visual Arts Teacher

## Halloween Scream a Howling Success

The *Halloween Scream Music Quiz*, held on 27 October, was a full dress rehearsal for the actual Halloween night, with the FPS community putting on a spectacular display of fancy dress. Witches, zombie brides, vampires, Voldemort and many other assorted ghouls assembled in the school hall for a battle of horror-themed music, wits and terrifying live music.

Congratulations to the FPS teachers table *Witches and the Warlock* for taking out first place.

Many thanks to the following people for making this night such a success:

- Sarah Moody for her scary messaging, ticketing and printing.
- Gail Divincenzo for overseeing the trick or treating.
- Hannah Galbraith, Kyara Emeny, Hunter Emeny, Sharon Parkinson, Rachel and Penny for their magical help in setting up the Old Hall Friday night.
- Tamlin Staples for her alarming logistics on the night.
- Marty & Kate Lourey for casting a spell on the projector and helping levitate sound equipment.
- Anita Galli, Jodie Palmer & Nick Grage-Perry for their chilling (but excellent) bar service.
- Alister Robbie for not only setting up, packing up and running the fearsome bar, but also for the generous donation of drinks.
- **Parental as Anything** (Ashley Naylor, Ricky Swaney, Andrew Maj, Ruth Kateleros and Cameron Watson) for their frightening renditions of some Halloween favourites.
- **Bin Night Romeos** (Peter Kennedy, Craig Ritts, Billy O'Brien and Ian) for their disturbing musical ritual, keeping the assembled ghouls jumping and dancing long after the quiz.
- Rosie Wositzky-Jones and Kerri Simpson for their petrifying singing performances (and in Rosie's case, scary costume change).
- Stephen Livickis for his soaring multi-lingual and spine chilling vocalising.
- *The Mean Average* (Jim Antonopoulos, Rick Swaney, Scott Shaw and Doug Galbraith) – the bloodcurdling backing band.

- Tony Moclair for his truly fear provoking performance as MC and Quizmaster.
- Special thanks to Ashley Naylor who scared the wits out of everyone with his horrifying guitar and vocal antics, officially declaring *School's Out* after many years of consecutive musical service to Fairfield Primary School.
- Sally Blight's petrifying decorations and donation coordination were disconcertingly extraordinary and set the scene perfectly.
- Like the Devil himself, Daniel Emeny took charge of the nights menacing proceedings and was not exorcised from the school until every detail had been taken care of the next day.
- Particular thanks to the horde or zombie like volunteers who returned the school to its pre-quiz glory, including (but not limited to so thanks to everyone who turned up) Jenny Baker, Sarah Charlton, Tash Scott, Lizzy Peeler, Sarah Glass, Linda Reed, Julie Wise, Nao Davidson, Lian Huddle, Corrin McNamara, Nathan Smeaton, Natalie Henderson and Traci Lourey.
- A special thanks to Doug Galbraith who has overseen the extravaganza the music quiz has been over the past four years, not only overseeing the event but also being the beat savvy drummer in *The Mean Average* and at times taking the vocals to insight fear into all.
- The whole grisly event was overseen by Daniel Emeny, Sally Blight, Sharon Parkinson and Doug Galbraith.

Profit raised by the quiz was \$7,800 which will be used to support our Performing Arts program.

~ Doug Galbraith & Daniel Emeny

