



Principal's Report

Halfway Point

Many of my conversations with parents and staff at the moment begin with the comment, "I can't believe it is halfway through term four." The year certainly has gone quickly with so much achieved and lots to look forward to. My walks around the school continually remind me of how vibrant school life is at FPS. Earlier this week I saw our Foundation students proudly displaying the diamond kites they had made as part of their incursion with 2005 kite flying world champion Jo Baker.



Kate Wilde has completed her resilience sessions with the Year 4 students and once again, it has proved to be a big hit. During these sessions, students recognised different behaviours and considered how to respond to these behaviours. There were opportunities for students to take risks by engaging in tasks outside of their comfort zone and they also examined the need for and importance of resilience. Feedback from parents and students in regards to this program has been excellent.

Kate followed up the student sessions by presenting to parents on Tuesday evening. Areas that Kate covered included developing resilience in children, how families can safely navigate the digital world – in particular social media, and preparation for transitioning into a new grade.



Morning Tea with the Principal—Friday 23 November

One of my goals since becoming principal of FPS in an ongoing capacity is to continue to find ways to improve communication between the school and families. As part of this process I will hold termly morning teas, which will be an informal opportunity for me to share what is happening around the school and where parents can ask any questions they might have. I will hold the first of these morning teas on **Friday 23rd November** at **9am** in the **BER foyer**. All are welcome.

Choir and Orchestra Performance at the MCG

There are not many people who can say they have performed live at the MCG, however 32 of our choir and orchestra members did exactly that! Our school was selected to perform alongside Thornbury High School at yesterday's Principal Forum in front of an audience of 350 Principals and school leaders.

Our music program and relationship with Thornbury High School is highly regarded throughout the region, and it was wonderful to have the opportunity to showcase this in a wider setting.

Congratulations to all of the students and to Rosie and Olivia for their coordination. Performing to a room full of principals is not an easy thing to do!



Teacher Learning

It is not only the students who have been engaged in new learning; staff have been involved in various Department learning programs and have then shared their learning in presentations to other schools. Elise Dowell and Nicole Rettke recently completed a *Leading Literacy* course and this week presented to schools about our reading program. Anna Lithgow, Monique Crowe, Aaron Chaston, Katrina Lamers and I have been involved in the *Professional Learning Communities* initiative where we also presented to schools to share our inquiry approach to improving students' use of punctuation at school.

Transition

We have had the first three transition visits from our 2019 Foundation students and it has been great to see how much they have gained from this experience. During the first session, there were lots of nerves as the students followed Cathy and Anna into the classroom, whereas now they already feel part of the school and have made friendships that will follow them throughout their school life.

Organisation is underway for all of our 2019 grades and we will communicate our grade structures in the next newsletter. Please note the following dates, which will support the transition process for all students.

Date	Activity
Monday 10 December Thursday 13 December	Current Foundation and Year1 students will have a session in a Year 1/2 grade to find out about the learning they will experience next year.
Tuesday 11 December	Year 7 Orientation Day for students attending government schools.
Friday 14 December	Current Foundation – Year 5 students will have a session in the following year group to find out about the learning they will experience next year.
Friday 14 December	2019 Foundation students will meet their teacher and classmates.
Wednesday 19 December	Current Foundation – Year 5 students will meet their 2019 class teacher and classmates.

Building Update

Earlier this week I was informed that the extension of the building works area has been pushed back to Friday 23 November. Please read the [earlier communication](#) for more information.

Our new building is now in transit from Newcastle to Somerton. Here is the anticipated installation timeline:

- Friday 23 November: Extension of current fenced off playground area.
- Monday 26 November: Lift shaft delivery and installation.
- Thursday 29 – Friday 30 November: Delivery and installation of the building.

~ Paul Wallace, Principal

Assistant Principal's Report

Student Reports

It is a very busy time for our teachers as they begin to complete their end of year reports. On Wednesday 19 December, student reports will be available for download on your Compass portal. No reports will be printed or handed to students at school. The school will send a notification to families when reports are ready to view.

The Department of Education and Training provide a number of requirements and guidelines for schools when entering into reporting periods. These include:

- Schools are required to provide a written student report at least twice a year to the parents/carers of each child enrolled at the school.
- Schools are required to report against the Victorian Curriculum F – 10 Achievement Standards.
- Reports must include both achievement and progress against the achievement standards. This means the school must:
 - Provide a report that locates the student on a continuum of learning.
 - Represent the growth in learning that has occurred by referencing the last time achievement standards were reported against for that student in the school.
- A five-point scale must be included in every student report.
- For students in Foundation to Year 2, schools must report achievement standards in five focus areas: *English, Mathematics, Health and Physical Education, The Arts and Personal and Social Capability*.
 - All three modes of English, all three strands of Mathematics and Physical Education must be reported on twice a year.
 - Health, The Arts and the Personal and Social Capability are reported on as they are taught over the two-year band of school, in line with the school's learning program. At FPS, we report on Personal and Social Capability and Visual Arts twice a year, as these subject areas are explicitly taught to all students during that time.
- For students in Years 3 – 6, schools must report against the achievement standard in English, Mathematics and Physical Education twice a year.
 - We must report against the achievement standard in Science at least once a year (we report against Science twice a year).
 - All other learning areas and capabilities are reported against as they are taught over the two-year band of school (3/4 and 5/6).

Schools are permitted to customise other elements of reporting but are advised to comment about student achievement in relation to the teacher judgements and the corresponding five-point scale. Schools are also advised to comment on what was learned, how well it was learned and where improvement is needed. FPS use the following five-point scale to support our reporting:

- *Well Above* – Indicating the student is achieving 18 months or more above standard.
- *Above* – Indicating the student is achieving 6 to 12 months above standard.
- *At* – Indicating the student is achieving at standard.
- *Below* – Indicating the student is achieving 6 to 12 months below standard.
- *Well Below* – Indicating the student is achieving 18 months or more below standard.

At FPS, our specialist team provide a general comment each semester about the learning covered over that period of time. They then select three essential learning skills and individually report each child's progress as; *at, above or below* level for the selected skills. They determine this judgement based around their individual assessment of each child and reference the *Achievement Standards* within the Victorian Curriculum.

When reading reports, please keep in mind all students progress along the learning continuum at their own rate and from their own starting point. Students are taught at the level that suits their needs, rather than being taught to the year level and age group they are in. Teachers provide learning opportunities to support the learning for all students. If you have questions about school reports please contact the school or speak directly to your child's teacher.

~ Katrina Lamers, Assistant Principal

Road Safety

FPS has received reports of students on bike and scooters not being road safe. If your children travel to school independently, please remind them to watch for traffic, look before pulling out onto the road and be aware of their surroundings.

Working Bee— Sunday 18 November

A reminder that our last Working Bee of the year is scheduled for this weekend – Sunday 18 November, 10am – 2pm.

All parents and children are most welcome and a BBQ lunch will be offered to those who come to weed, mulch, prune, maintain and paint!



Fair Coordinator Required

Saturday 16 March 2019 is the day for our wonderfully fun and entertaining school fair, *A Fair to Remember*.

We are on the hunt for a Fair Coordinator (or a pair of Coordinators) to bring this awesome event to life! If you, or you and a friend, are interested in running the 2019 Fair, we would love to hear from you. Please Contact Anita (0422 935 683) or Quimby (0429 051 880).

Important Dates

This time of year becomes increasingly hectic, so here are a few dates to add to your calendar if you are yet to do so:

- **Tuesday 4 December:** Year 3 – 6 House Swimming Carnival, 9am – 12:30pm at Northcote Pool.
- **Friday 7 December:** Year 5 - final instalment for Canberra Camp is due today.
- **Monday 10 December:** Foundation & Year 1 students: Year 1 & Year 2 transition session at 9:30 – 10:30am.
- **Tuesday 11 December:** Year 7 Orientation Day for Year 6 students attending government schools.
- **Tuesday 11 December:** Orchestra, Choir & Brass: End of Year Celebration, 5 – 6pm in the Old Hall.
- **Wednesday 12 December:** Foundation – Year 2 School Sports Day: 9am – 1pm on the school grounds.
- **Thursday 13 December:** Foundation & Year 1 students: Year 1 & Year 2 transition session from 9:30 – 10:30am.
- **Friday 14 December:** 2019 Foundation students meet their teacher from 9:30 – 10:30am
- **Friday 14 December:** Foundation – Year 5: Year 1 – Year 6 transition session from 12 – 1pm.
- **Friday 14 December:** End of Year School Picnic: 6 – 8pm on the school grounds.
- **Wednesday 19 December:** School Reports available in Compass.
- **Wednesday 19th December:** Foundation – Year 5 Meet your Teacher session, at 9:30 – 10am.
- **Wednesday 19 December:** Foundation: Celebration of Learning, from 2:15 – 3:15pm on the school grounds.
- **Wednesday 19 December:** Year 6 Graduation Ceremony, 5:45 – 9pm at Fairfield Boathouse.
- **Friday 21 December:** Last day of term. Assembly at 9 – 9:30am, early dismissal at 1pm.

A Spotlight on Year 5

Build a Business Project—Economics and Business Inquiry

This term, Year 5 students have begun learning about *Economics and Business* through a team product-building project.

Thus far, students have:

- Explored needs versus wants.
- Identified current problems and possible product solutions.
- Created surveys to conduct market research about the best product idea.
- Developed collaborative groups with assigned roles (team leader, financial officer, designer, marketing, etc.)
- Teams drafted mission statements, which they shared with classmates.
- Designed a company logo.
- Drew up blue prints of the product and researched the cost to create the product and run a business.
- Teams have created an online finance account to record spending.



From here, students will further build their product and develop an understanding of enterprising behaviours, explore consumer choices through their own experiences, and pitch their product idea to a panel who will consider investing in the project.

- “My business project has been really interesting because we are learning how to manage our finances and be creative with producing a new product.” ~ Oliver G, 5B
- “Working with my business team and inventing a new product that everyone could use, has so far been a really good experience. My role is to design a logo and the main design of the product.” ~ Chloe M, 5B
- “The inquiry has been interesting and it’s good to collaborate with other students. I am the leader of the group. I get to help my teammates with their roles by sharing ideas and encouraging them. Making a product has me thinking about problems and solutions.” ~ Lulu O, 5A
- “I like the project because I get to do more maths and work with money. It’s a fun experience and very interesting because we’re learning about inventing something to help real problems. It’s good working with different kids who have different strengths to my own.” ~ Amelie R, Eliza S, Brooklyn R, Liam M, 5A



A Focus on Visual Arts

Teachers as Students!

Yes, our teachers this week became students in the Art Studio and allowed their creativity to be unleashed!

Nikki Fletcher, our 2018 Artist in Residence, guided our staff through a wet felting activity where a poly ball was used as a mould to support fleece to create a bowl.

The workshop allowed our teachers to become acquainted with our new Art Studio; to appreciate how refreshing and soothing feeling and working with natural materials can be and to reflect on how colour and the circular shape generates joy.

The resulting bowls were indeed round and diverse in every colour combination. There was also laughter, a sense of accomplishment and of course, JOY... everything I hope all students who work in our Art Studio would share.

~ Marjie Tkatchenko, Visual Arts Teacher

