



Principal's Report

2018 Highlights

The end of the school year is only one week away, and after four successful terms, it is important to take the opportunity to reflect upon what has been achieved during this time.

Student Outcomes

2018 has been a journey of continual improvement with staff engaged in professional development, which has resulted in improved student outcomes. This year, we have had a strong focus on developing students' writing, identifying ways for teachers to plan personalised learning programs.

Student Wellbeing

This year students have been involved in the *Resilience, Rights and Respectful Relationships* program, which has been a great success. Kate Wilde has worked with students, staff and parents around developing positive relationships and students have formed a number of lunchtime clubs to provide alternative activities at this time.

School Review

This was a robust process where all stakeholders were given the opportunity to contribute. The review process validated the excellent work of the school and provided guidance for future goals. The *Review Report*, new *Strategic Plan* and *Annual Implementation Plan* will be posted to the school website early next year.

Community Involvement

Our School Value of *Community* remains very evident across the school. We have successfully hosted our annual events – School Fair, Art4All, Mother's Day and Father's Day celebrations and the Music Trivia Night. We have had significant levels of parent volunteerism throughout all aspects of the school and we look forward to acknowledging these contributions at next Wednesday's thank you morning tea.



Buildings

The school looks quite different to the start of the year. Most notably we have our competition grade sports court, complete with an impressive new fence. We are also very excited about the new building, which is being outfitted in preparation for the start of next year. Below is an update from our building contractors:

- **Completed works:** Internal doors, insulation and external cladding has been installed
- **Work in progress:** Internal plastering, lift works and external plumbing have commenced

Other works this year include the relocation of the art room/studio and installation of the bluestone footpath next to Kaan's Winya.

Farewell to Year 6 Students

The end of a school year signals the end of primary school for our Year 6 students. Whilst starting high school is an exciting time, the last day of the school year is also tinged with sadness as students say goodbye to a place that plays a significant part in their lives.

I wish our 64 Year 6 students all the very best as they move on in their schooling journey. I hope that they look back fondly at the experiences that they have had and the friendships they have made. We look forward to celebrating with them at next week's Graduation.



2019 School Leaders

Congratulations to our newly elected 2019 school leaders. They will be introduced to the school at the first assembly of next year.

Specialist Leaders

- **Sport** – Evie Mameghan
- **Art** – Darcy Healy
- **Performing Arts** – Oliver Lee
- **French** – Oliver Gyomber

Community Leaders

- Phoebe Babidge
- Raya Barrington
- Toby Hopkins
- Jack Ison
- Pippa Kluge
- Hudson Price

Staffing Changes

It is not only our Year 6 students who we are farewelling at the end of the year, we will also be saying goodbye to three staff members: Alison Knox, Jenny Guilford and Emily Moriarty.

- Jenny is travelling overseas for six months to gain more experience in camping ministry.
- Alison will be working in pastoral care positions.
- Emily is relocating to teach in Tarneit.

We thank them all for their school contributions and wish them well for the future.



We look forward to welcoming the following new teachers in 2018: Isabella (Bella) Kelly, Zoe Jellie, Chiara Minchinton, and Apostolina (Lina) Liouas.

Isabella (Bella) Kelly



Zoe Jellie



Chiara Minchinton



Apostolina (Lina) Liouas



The new staff attended our handover meeting this week and will be part of the *Meet the Teacher* process on **Wednesday 19 December** (with the exception of Bella who is currently overseas). This is when students will find out their classroom teacher, classroom space and classmates.

Below are the teaching staff placements for 2019.

Foundation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FA: Anna Lithgow • FB: Brendan Nick • FC: Cathy Turner 	Year 3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3A: Grace Clark • 3B: Jayde Brownhill • 3C: Robyn Walker
Year 1/2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1/2A: Anne Killick • 1/2B: Lina Liouas (semester one) & Leeanne Baddeley (semester two)* • 1/2C: Nanaki Bhatti • 1/2D: Jourdan Murray • 1/2E: Prue Middleton • 1/2F: Faye Soderstrom • 1/2G: Naomi Reynolds (2 days) & Nicole Rettke (3 days) ** 	Year 4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4A: Chiara Minchinton • 4B: Jade O'Grady • 4C: Elise Dowell Year 5 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5A: Aaron Chaston • 5B: Michele Fraser • 5C: Zoe Jellie

Year 6

- 6A: Monique Crow
- 6B: Ginger Moyle
- 6C: Bella Kelly

Specialists

- Visual Arts: Marjie Tkatchenko
- PE: Geoff McShane
- Performing Arts : Rosie Wositzky-Jones (F-Y4; 4 days) & Olivia Li (Y5/6; 2 days)
- French: Emily Lindsay-Smith
- Literacy Support: Rebecca Creswick

Keri Spence will return from family leave in term three.

*Leeanne is taking long service leave during semester one.

**Nicole has been appointed as a learning specialist and will be in this role for two days per week.

Classroom Allocations

The 2019 classroom allocations are as below:

Foundation	Current Foundation classrooms
Year 1/2	Current Year 1/2 classrooms plus classroom next to old French room
Year 3	Current classrooms plus current 6B (three separate teaching spaces)
Year 4	Current Year 4 classrooms (one double classroom)
Year 5	Downstairs in new building
Year 6	Upstairs in new building

BER Cooling

At this week's School Council meeting, approval was given for a cooling solution in the gym. Due to the structure and design of the building, refrigerative and evaporative cooling would not be effective or efficient in that space, and would incur long-term operational costs.

School Council approved two separate systems to reduce heat levels and therefore improve comfort in that space.

- **Infrared Heat Reflective and Waterproof Roof Membrane (IHR membrane)** – This is a procedure where the roof and western wall will be coated with an infrared heat reflective and waterproof coating. On a day of 42°C, this membrane would reduce the roof surface temperature to 30°C and it greatly increases the insulation capacity of the building.
- **Airius Fan Installation** – to enable air movement within the gym area, warm air will be removed via four fans and fresh air will be drawn in through the open louvers.

This project has a total cost of \$44,000 and is being paid for through fundraising. School Council agree that this is a great way to spend money raised as it improves a space that is used by all students.

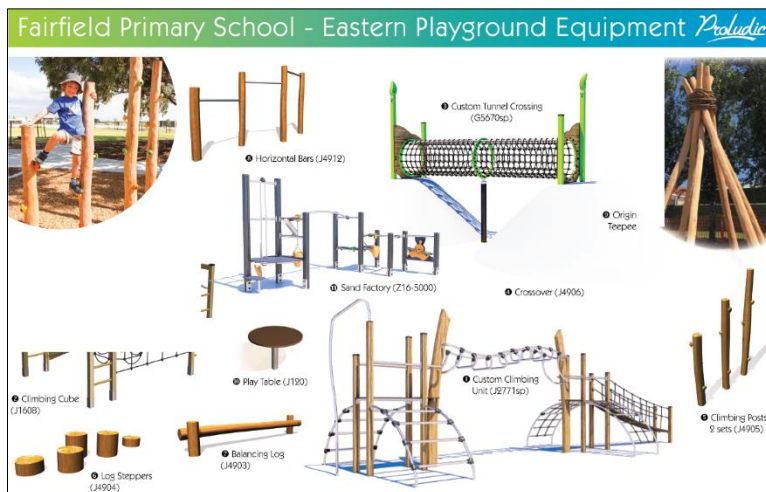
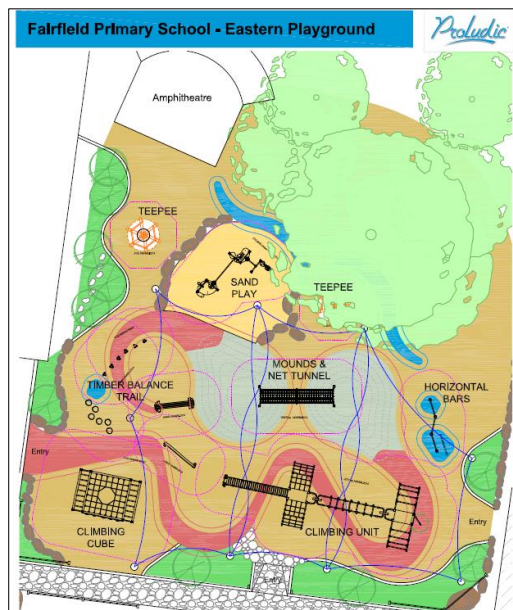
I would like to acknowledge Andrew Vance for his work on this project. Andrew is a parent at the school and a member of the Building and Grounds Committee. Andrew has spent much of the year researching how we can best address the heat issue in the gym, which can make the gym uncomfortable and, at times, inoperable.

The work is scheduled to be completed during the upcoming school holidays.

Eastern Playground

Another exciting project to look forward to is the removal of the existing equipment on the junior playground and installation of the new 'Eastern Playground'. This development was first planned four years ago and it is exciting to have ordered the play equipment with the work due to take place during the term one holidays and the first two weeks of term two.

We will keep you informed of this project via the newsletter. Below are some images of the new design, which are also on view on the shelter-shed noticeboard. Consultation on this design has taken part with staff, students and the Building and Grounds Committee. I am in no doubt that it will be a big hit with the students once it is open.



Click to see an [enlarged image of the plan](#).

Click to see an [enlarged image of the equipment](#).

Happy Holidays

As we finish off the year, all our students have an opportunity to participate in an end of year celebration excursion:

- **Foundation** will be immersed in a day of exploration at Scienceworks next Thursday.
- **Year 1/2** are off to the silver screen to see 'The Grinch'.
- **Year 3/4** had a great time at Latitude last week. See the photo below!
- **Year 5/6** will have a day packed with sporting activities at La Trobe University.



Congratulations to all the students on a wonderful year. Thank you to parents for your ongoing support of the school and to staff for your continued commitment.

A reminder that we have our **final assembly** next **Friday** morning (9 – 9:30am at the amphitheatre) where we will farewell our Year 6 students. In addition, there is an early **dismissal at 1pm**. OSHClub is open for bookings.

2019 School Dates

Please note the following dates for the start of school next year.

- **Tuesday 29 January:** Curriculum Day – Teachers at school, no students
- **Wednesday 30 January:** Curriculum Day – Teachers at school, no students
- **Thursday 31 January:** Year 1 – 6 students start school (9am – 3:30pm)
- **Friday 1 February:** Foundation students start school
 - Foundation A: 9:10am – 2:10pm
 - Foundation B: 9:20am - 2:20pm
 - Foundation C: 9:30am - 2:30pm

I wish everyone a safe and happy holiday period with family and friends.

~ Paul Wallace, Principal

Assistant Principal's Report

Junior School Sport Day

On Wednesday, we held our annual Junior School Sport Day. It was wonderful to see our Foundation – Year 2 students working collaboratively to negotiate different challenges designed by our Year 6 students.



Having been on camp with the current Year 6 cohort, it was wonderful to see their development and maturity over the past 12 months. They relished their roles as leaders, stepping up to support our junior students and making the day memorable and enjoyable for all. Many teachers commented on their leadership during the day and Geoff was extremely proud of how the students were able to organise the day to be inclusive for all.

School Vision

Following our school review last term and our involvement in the *Professional Learning Community* initiative, we were asked to articulate our School Vision. What we discovered is that though our School Values are strongly articulated and we have a strong sense of the purpose of our school, we were not able to identify one shared vision statement.

A recommendation from our school review was to engage key stakeholders in developing a shared vision statement. To set about this task, we started by working with the staff. We asked teachers to individually record a vision statement they felt represented the core purpose of our school. Teachers then worked together to develop a list of shared statements and, from that list, staff highlighted the top three statements they felt were important to our vision.

After working with staff, it was time to consult the students. Nicole Rettke and I worked first with our Year 6 Community Leaders, where we designed tasks to gather information from Year 4 and 5 students. Community Leaders then worked with each of the Year 4 and 5 classes to gather information related to three different questions:

1. Why do I come to school?
2. What about school is important to me?
3. What makes me feel proud to be a student at FPS?

Finally, Paul invited parents to attend a meeting where they brainstormed what they felt were important elements to represent our school within a Vision Statement.

The next steps are for us to work together to create a vision statement, representing all of the thoughts of the stakeholders. This will be communicated early next year.

~ Katrina Lamers, Assistant Principal

School Council Update

The final school council meeting of 2019 was held on Monday night.

BER Cooling Proposal

Andrew Vance, a parent of the school and member of the Sustainability sub-committee, attended School Council and presented a proposal to improve the comfort of the BER during hotter weather. The proposal outlines two separate options, a heat reflective coating on the roof and wall and the installation of fans that will increase the comfort of the BER, particularly the gym area, during hot days. School Council approved these improvements.

Eastern Playground Development

The Eastern Playground development, previously approved by school council, is nearing its final stage of planning. Detailed drawings outlining equipment, suggested landscaping and costs were presented for school council to view. The work on this exciting project is scheduled to commence March 2019.

~ Chris Price, FPS School Council

Darebin RSL Scholarships

The Darebin RSL has granted two scholarships to FPS students in Year 6 who have displayed exemplary community or school involvement throughout the year. The scholarship is aimed to assist the students in their transition to secondary schooling through the purchase of books, materials or uniforms. We congratulate Mary and Uche on their scholarships. Below are the speeches given at the award presentation.

Mary Makhoul

During her time at FPS, Mary Makhoul has embodied Fairfield Primary School's values of *Respect, Community, Excellence, Cooperation* and *Responsibility*.

Mary is a hardworking student who always tries her best, completing her work to a high standard and helping those around her. Mary is always quick to say 'yes' when anyone (teachers and students alike) asked for help.

Mary doesn't shy away from academic challenges and persists until she has achieved her goals. She views failures as learning experiences and never gives up.



Uche Ozougwu

During his time at FPS, Uche has displayed strength and perseverance.

His self-belief has flourished and he is challenging himself in ways that he never has before. He is a hardworking student.

Uche has shown consistent leadership through his role on the sports committee and is always eager and willing to help.

Uche is always a friend to everyone and brings a charismatic and humorous charm to all situations.



Thank You—MacKillop Christmas Appeal

We thank our very generous school community for the abundance of lovely gifts for children in foster care. Multiple baskets were filled and taken to MacKillop Family Services where they will be given to children in need.

Facebook Support Group

A group of parents formed a private Facebook group this year to exchange resources and support for families with children with additional needs of any kind (e.g. ADHD, ASD, etc.) There has been lots of posting throughout the year and we met for an end of year coffee this week. If anyone would like to join our group, please [email Stefanie Driskell](#).

It is a completely private and confidential group and a great place to find locally relevant information as well as reach out to others who understand when things start to feel too difficult!

OSHClub – Holiday Program and News

We would like to remind families that the Alphington holiday program starts on Monday 7 January 2019 – book in now to avoid disappointment. Click to see the [holiday program offerings](#).

2019 bookings are now open for Fairfield OSHClub, including a new feature for the iparent portal – reoccurring bookings!

Those with children starting Foundation in 2019 please contact us for any questions or concerns. We will be walking the Foundation children to and from their class/OSHClub in term one until they are familiar with where to go. All you have to do is book them in online and we will do the rest.

Another reminder to keep bookings updated online. If there is a last minute cancellation please let us know as soon as possible so we do not go looking for children who have been away or picked up already.

Thank you all for a great year at OSHClub, we hope you have a happy and safe holiday.

~ Lauren Walkley, Fairfield OSHClub Coordinator

A Spotlight on Year 6

Inquiry

We have been exploring the world of coding. It is the most basic form of programming but is also an excellent problem-solving tool. We have learnt how to create games and how even the most basic of actions requires many lines of code.

We used coding to write instructions for *mBots* during a *Mad About Science* incursion. We made the robots follow tracks, stop, rotate, flash lights and make sounds.

We followed also followed instructions in a series of ‘unplugged’ activities to make different artworks including interesting drawings and dream catchers.



Writing

In writing, we have developed our editing skills in publishing our memoirs for the yearbook. We have also analysed the features of mysteries. We explored how authors include red herrings to make the reader suspicious of an innocent person and clues that lead to clever solutions. We then applied our knowledge and understanding to plan and create our own mysteries.

Sports

We started the term competing with other schools in the summer inter-schools sports program. These sports included Rounders, Softball, Bat Tennis and Cricket.

We also worked hard to organise activities for the junior schools sports carnival. This developed our teamwork skills because it involved a lot of organisation to coordinate and negotiate the use of sports equipment.



Maths

In maths, we really enjoyed planning overseas trips and used an online resource called *Banquer*. It looks like a real online bank account where money can be transferred and added to accounts. We were each given \$10,000 and asked to plan an overseas trip within a certain time frame. We learnt how to fill in purchase orders, how to book flights, researched visa information and discovered just how much money and planning goes into a holiday.

Graduation Preparation

We have been preparing for our upcoming graduation. We are very excited to celebrate and showcase all our achievements. We have had rehearsals of our class performances and our combined performance. On Monday, we will go to the Fairfield Boat House to see where we will graduate and practise the transitions for the ceremony.

~ Year 6 Students

A Focus on Physical Education

Term 4 is a busy and exciting time for PE and sport. Firstly, a quick acknowledgement to all the wonderful people who helped at the recent House Swimming Carnival it was an outstanding day and it would not have been possible without your support. Also great to see so many parents attend the Foundation – Year 2 Athletics Day. This is a great day and a wonderful opportunity for the Year 6 students to demonstrate their growing leadership skills and run activities with the junior school – see the images below.

Foundation and Year 1/2

This term in Foundation and Year 1/2 the focus has been on teamwork and being good sports. We have been exploring how a good sport is not someone who is the best player, but someone who is a good winner and does not make others feel bad when they win. A good sport is also a 'good loser' with the ability to bounce back when they lose.

Year 3 and 4

Year 3 and 4 students have been playing Mat Ball and European Handball. These are great games and I am sure it will not be long until we see a European Handball league start up in Fairfield! While playing these games we have been learning about passing, finding free space and playing a position.

Year 5 and 6

Year 5 students are looking ahead to 2019 and are busy practising the sports that they are able to choose for Inter School Summer Sports. These are Rounders, Cricket, Softball and Bat Tennis.

As mentioned earlier, the Year 6 students have been developing their teaching skills in preparation for the Junior School Sports Day. They have been busy planning and teaching each other tiggy games and skill drills. It has been incredibly fun to have taught and watched the Year 6 students over the previous six years and I would like to finish off by wishing them all the best in high school and beyond.

~ Geoff McShane, PE Teacher

