

Newsletter 1

Friday 8 February 2019



Fairfield
Primary School

Principal's Report

Great Start to the Year

It is fair to say that we are well and truly into the swing of things here at school. The students have had a great start to the year – there is a positive energy in all the classrooms that I visit and the students have enjoyed sharing their holiday stories.

Foundation students have hit the ground running. They are familiar with the school grounds and school routines, and are fully immersed in the exciting activities in the Foundation area. They have told me that the best thing about school is the friends that they make, the art and craft and the home readers. What a wonderful year they have ahead of them.



New Staff

This year we have welcomed a number of new staff to the school: Lina Lioukas (Year 1/2), Chiara Vaianni Minchinton (Year 4), Zoe Jellie (Year 5) and Isabella Kelly (Year 6). We also welcome Julie Rothman from Fitzroy Primary School who will be at FPS two days a week and Nima Aden who is working as an integration aide. We also have with us three Pre-Service Teachers from RMIT for the next three weeks – we welcome Jessica (in 1/2G), Joshua (in 4C) and Rachel (in 1/2F).

Well done to all of our students and staff on such a great start – I am sure that 2019 will be another great year at FPS.

School Vision

Last year the school was involved in its School Review, where we analysed our successes and achievements over the last four years. One of the improvement strategies to come out of this review was to update the school's vision. This appeared a particularly timely exercise due to my recent Principal appointment.

During term four, the school consulted with staff, students and parents on what is important at FPS and what we want the students to experience. There were many similarities between all groups, with community being a particularly strong theme throughout.

I am pleased to present the new school vision, which reflects the thoughts and hopes of the FPS community.

“All students feel part of the FPS community and are provided with opportunities to develop the knowledge, skills and resilience to enable them to thrive and learn, in and beyond school.”

Our [School Review Report](#) is now available to view on the website along with the [Annual Implementation Plan](#) and the new four-year [School Strategic Plan](#) (2018 – 2022).

Building Update

The new building continues to be a hive of activity as final works are completed. The temporary fencing will largely be removed Monday morning before school, resulting in most of the playground space being available to us once again and the gym accessible from the playground. There will be some landscaping works occurring next to the building, consequently the **Fairfield Rd entrance will be closed from Monday to Wednesday** of next week.

Wednesday is the final day of the building project and all spaces will be handed back to the school from Thursday onwards.

As part of the building works, a new path has been installed through the western playground, which will improve access to and from the gym and the Fairfield Rd gate.



Installation of the TV screens in each of the six classrooms is planned for later this month – fundraising money was used to purchase the screens.

After a term of staff using the gym foyer as a staff room, we were pleased to move into the new, refurbished staff room this week (previously Nicole’s classroom). Over the course of the works, the school has established an administration block as we now have extra classroom space. This includes a designated meeting room (previously Aaron’s classroom), resource room (previously Alison’s room), staff room and library.



The cooling system installed in the gym has been successful – Geoff has been able to conduct all his lessons in the gym this week. We are planning on using the voluntary building fund contributions to install air conditioning systems in the gym foyer and performing arts room later this term.



School Council Nominations

Next week you will receive information regarding nominations for School Council. We have councillors who finish their term on School Council this month and we will be seeking nominations from interested parents. More information regarding the role and responsibilities of the School Council is available [here](#).

Save the Date—FPS Welcome Picnic

Make a note in your diary for **Friday 22 February**, as we will be holding our welcome picnic on the school grounds from 6 – 8pm (weather permitting). This is an opportunity for new and existing families to catch up and socialise.

School Leaders

At the welcome assembly, we introduced our School Leaders. Nominated from the Year 6 cohort, we have six Community Leaders and four Specialist Leaders. We look forward to hearing about the proposals and actions that they would like to undertake to improve our school.



Back row: Community Leaders; Front row: Specialist Leaders

~ Paul Wallace, Principal

Assistant Principal's Report

Curriculum Days

The school year for teaching staff began with two curriculum days. These days are an essential time for teachers to build their professional knowledge and practice, and to work together to understand our *School Strategic Goals*.

The first curriculum day allowed teachers to analyse the school's *Annual Improvement Plan*. This plan outlines measurable goals set out in relation to our *School Strategic Plan*. Looking at these goals and

strategies, teachers worked to understand the impact on their practice and the learning aims for the year. Teachers worked together in teams to analyse student data and began to plan learning for 2019.

On the second curriculum day the school welcomed Rob Vingerhoets (Educational Consultant) to deliver a whole day of professional learning. Rob is a mathematics expert who has worked with teachers and students throughout Victoria, interstate and overseas. During the day, teachers explored a range of teaching strategies, focusing on understanding the concept of place value and applying this understanding to solve problems. Teachers examined the use of open-ended problems as a way to differentiate, with a central focus on providing engaging challenge to all students. After attending planning sessions for a number of teams this week, it was great to see teachers immediately incorporating these ideas and activities into their planning for lessons.

Teaching and Learning

While we are in the very early stages of our teaching and learning program for 2019, it has been great to see how quickly all students have settled into the school routine and the positive cultures being created in the classrooms across the school. The learning program for the first two weeks has focused on building structures and class routines, as well as setting up expectations with a focus on our *School Values of Respect, Creativity, Excellence and Community* to ensure a positive learning environment for the whole year. It has been great to see students using the language of our values to describe and praise the behaviours of others.

Specialist Timetable

Attached is the [Specialist Timetable](#) for term one. This timetable indicates when each class will be taught the specialist subjects of Visual Arts, Performing Arts, Physical Education and French across the week.

~ Katrina Lamers, Assistant Principal

Community News

FPS selected for Donation Program at Grill'd Fairfield!

Fairfield Primary School has been selected to participate in *Local Matters* at Grill'd Fairfield this February!

Local Matters is the Grill'd community donation program where Grill'd restaurants donates \$500 back to the community every month. The donation is split between three local community groups \$300 / \$100 / \$100.

We would love your support in receiving the highest \$300 donation! Anyone who visits **Grill'd Fairfield** during **February** is encouraged to pop your *Local Matters* token in our jar. The group with the most tokens at the end of the month receives the largest donation. It's a simple way to show your support!



Class Liaison Program

A big thank you to the parents who have volunteered to be a Class Liaison for their child's class – much appreciated. We are finalising details and will be in touch shortly with further information.

We do require more volunteers across the year levels and classes, particularly Year 3. If you are interested, [please sign up](#). As a reminder, a Class Liaison helps to support communication between parents, teachers and the FPS Community Committee within their child's classroom, typically via email.

General News

Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund—Applications Open

The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF) provides payments for eligible students to attend activities like school camps, swimming and school-organised sport programs, excursions and incursions.

Applications for 2019 are now open and will close on **28 June 2019** (end of term two).

[Click for more information](#). Download the [application form](#).

Tennis Lessons at FPS

Are your children interested in learning tennis at FPS? Classes are offered Thursdays from either 8 – 8:30am or 8:30 – 9am. [Click for more information](#) and for an application form. Complete the form and return with payment to the school office by Thursday 14 February.

A Spotlight on Foundation

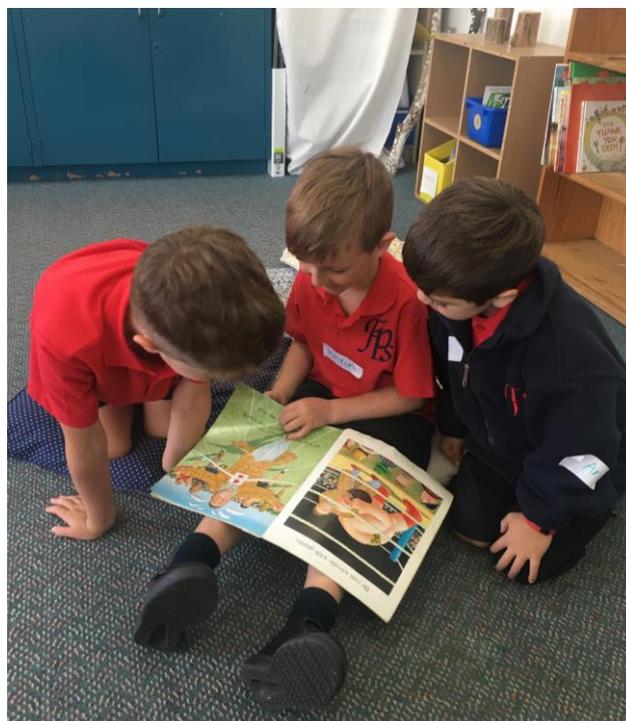
Last Friday we said goodbye to long lazy days and ice creams on the beach and said hello to our first day of school!

With full lunchboxes, fresh uniforms and wide smiles the children took each moment of their first day in their stride.

Much of our wonderings about school so far have been centred on learning about how school works: where to put our bags, how to get to the toilets and of course, when we will meet our buddies!

Our days have been filled with meeting plenty of new friends, exploring the playground and the Foundation rooms and all they have to offer and learning new games.

The Foundation children are now equipped with their own reading folder and diary and are eager to share their books with their families, taking their first steps toward learning to read.



Thank you again to our parent community for preparing your children so wonderfully for their first experience of school. We are looking forward to a cracking term one with this fantastic group of children.



~ Foundation Teachers

A Focus on Orchestra and Choir

Following a very exciting year of performance for our orchestra and choir, we are eager to get the programs up and running again. Please read on for some information about how orchestra and choir are run, and whom they will best suit.

Choir

Choir is open to all students from Years 4 – 6. Depending on numbers, Year 3 students may be invited to join. In choir, students learn technical skills and voice safety through vocal warm ups, a range of repertoire, part singing and performance skills. Students also develop great camaraderie and pride through their performances. Performances planned for this year will include the school fair, art show and end of year celebration.

Choir will rehearse in class time on **Tuesdays** from **1:50 – 2:40pm**.

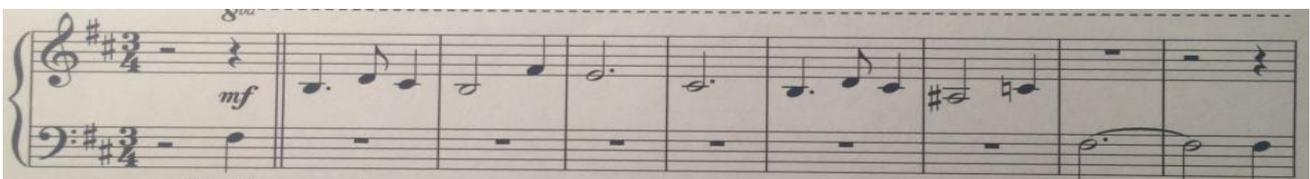
Students will have two weeks to trial choir to see if it is for them before committing for the year.



Orchestra

Orchestra provides an opportunity for students (Years 3 – 6) who learn orchestral instruments outside of school to come together and experience the joy of playing as a group. Our sessions focus on rehearsing pieces and learning techniques for creating a cohesive sound. Some things to note if you are wondering whether orchestra is a good fit for your child this year:

- Students are expected to read, learn and practise the repertoire independently. As such, we ask that they have had two years of lessons on their instrument, have some sight-reading ability and are continuing to have regular lessons with a teacher.
- Below is an example of the type of music that we will be playing in orchestra, feel free to share this with your child to see if it is something that is at their level.
- Orchestra rehearses twice per week, on **Tuesdays** during class time from **2:40 – 3:30pm** and **Wednesday** lunchtimes **from 1 – 1:25pm**, students are expected to attend all rehearsals with their music folders and instruments.
- If you are not sure whether orchestra is for your child, we would love to have a chat with them, so please encourage your child to come and make a visit to the Performing Arts room.



Brass

The brass program will be running in 2019, we are currently waiting on dates, times and numbers and will communicate this information as soon as possible.

If you have any questions please feel free to come and chat with us about orchestra or choir.

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



A Fair to Remember... en Français

Get excited Francophiles! On **Saturday 16 March** from **2 – 7pm**, Fairfield Primary School presents... ***La Fête du Village***.

Think crepes, charcuterie platters, French music, beret decorating and French-related prizes, as we embrace a French theme for this year's fair!

Mark the date in your diary, tell all of your friends, and get involved!

Some easy ways you can help make this a most memorable fair:

1. Join the Friendly Planning Committee!

Some of the exciting jobs waiting to be filled:

- Rides & wristbands
- Accessories boutique stall management
- Ground entertainment (roving performers, etc.)
- Help keep all adult fair goers suitably (& responsibly) refreshed by helping out on the bar.

2. Donate Prizes for the Raffle

- In lieu of a silent auction, we are planning a bumper raffle this year with your generous donations.

3. Donate Quality Items

- We are looking for accessories (jewellery, scarves, bags, hats) as well as toys and books.
- Please make sure all items are clean and not ripped or broken.

4. Help the Providore Stall

- Donate clean, label-free jars (under 375ml), sugar, lemons, salt or white wine vinegar. Please leave these items on the table in the school foyer.
- Make and donate your own jams/chutneys/pickles/kasundi/cordial. If you are stuck for inspiration, there are some simple jam recipes available on the school foyer table along with instructions on how to sterilise jars. Please do not label your donation and remember to give us the ingredient list for labelling purposes.
- Join a Preserve-Making workshop. Workshops will be held on **Sunday 17 February** (sauces) and **Sunday 24 February** (chutneys/pickles). Please come along, they are lots of fun! No experience necessary.
 - Please text Anna Crompton (0404 821 353) or Julie Wise (0458 481 468) for more information.

All Other Enquiries:

Please contact Quimby (0429 051 880) or Anita (0422 935 683) or Kelly (chislett.kelly.e@edumail.vic.gov.au).

Merci Beaucoup!

~ The Fair Committee