



Principal's Report

Officially Open

There were cheers, high fives and the occasional fist pump as we saw the fences around our new building come down last week. Less than 24 hours after the removal of the fences, Kat Theophanous, MP for Northcote, opened the building with our Year 5 students assisting with the ceremony.



It is two years since the announcement that FPS would receive \$2.5m from the State Government for capital building works. After much consideration, consultation and discussion, it was agreed that demolition of the old art block and construction of a modern double storey learning space was the best way to use this money. This enabled us to increase capacity without losing any playground space. As part of this project, the art room was relocated to the staffroom and the staffroom to the old Year 5/6 area.

It is important to take a step back and reflect on the significant change and improvement of our grounds during this project. We have said farewell to an ageing building that we were fond of but was in a constant state of disrepair and required ongoing maintenance. We now have an amazing new space in terms of appearance and functionality. The students are so happy to be in this space and it is evident in their body language and interactions when I visit. This can only have a positive impact on their learning, wellbeing and social development. See the Year 5 Spotlight further in this newsletter to find out what they are saying about it.

I would like to acknowledge the following for their contributions towards this project:

- Allana Bryant and School Council for their ability to bring the needs of our school to the attention of the State Government.

- State Government of Victoria for identifying the need that existed at our school and providing us with considerable funds to make our hopes a reality.
- The Victorian School Building Authority for their support and expertise in ensuring that the \$2.5m was spent in a way to most benefit the school.
- Fleetwood – the architects and builders who have provided us with a first-class building.
- Staff and students of FPS for their adaptability – being next to a building site for five months presents challenges.

As mentioned, we were pleased to welcome Kat Theophanous to our opening and tree-planting ceremony last Thursday. Last Friday, the building was packed with visitors walking through. Adults and children alike were excited about the new building. Installation of the digital screens in every room is now complete, thanks to School Council approving \$10,000 of fundraising towards this project.



School Fundraising & Fees

A fortnight ago, we hosted our Foundation Parent Social Evening, which is an excellent way for all our Foundation families to meet and get to know each other in an informal setting.

It was a lovely evening and we thank Sarah Glass for her coordination – and choice of music!

As with all of our community events, the focus is on building community spirit and fostering relationships and friendships. In addition to this, the school raises funds to improve the school with the Foundation Parent Social Evening raising \$882.



Foundation Social Night festivities!

Upon my appointment, I shared my commitment to communicate the spending of fundraising; this year has already seen money used for the cooling in the BER, installation of the digital screens in the new building and we have the Eastern Playgroud development to look forward to.

Last year \$8,000 was raised at the Music Trivia Night and these funds have been earmarked for our Performing Arts program – I will provide further details of how these funds will be spent in the next newsletter.

As well as queries about monies raised, I have had parents ask about our rate of payment of the Essential Fees. To date, the school has received 29% of Essential Fees and 30% of Year 5/6 Sport Levy.

It is important that all families commit to paying their fees. These funds support student learning as FPS receives minimal equity funding from the Department of Education and Training.

A reminder that we request for these fees be paid by Friday 29 March. Contact the office if you would like to discuss payment options. For further information please refer to the communication from School Council, sent at the end of last year, outlining the [2019 school fees](#).

Dogs on School Grounds

A reminder that dogs are not permitted on school grounds. This is for the health and safety of students and visitors.

Furniture

You may have noticed a collection of classroom furniture in the Old Hall. Part of the new building work included a grant for new furniture, which leaves us with a surplus. Please [email the office](#) by next Wednesday if you are interested in the acquisition of these used chairs and tables.

Year 6 Canberra Camp

In eight days, our Year 6 students will be heading off (at 6.15am) to Canberra for a week. This is always a highlight of the year and a week, which provides lifetime memories. The students will look a well-dressed group as they explore the capital in their customised FPS t-shirts and hoodies! We wish the Year 6 students a

wonderful time along with the staff (Ginger, Bella, Jayde B and Katrina) and parent volunteers (Hillary Schwantzer, Liza Grage-Perry and Jeffery Stewart).

Principal's Morning Tea – Friday 1 March

I invite you to a Morning Tea on Friday 1 March, from 9 – 10am. This is an opportunity to meet informally, chat, and ask any questions you may have about FPS.

Welcome Picnic

The forecast is good for this evening's picnic. The Community Committee will provide a sausage sizzle and we invite all of our school community to this event.

~ Paul Wallace, Principal

Assistant Principal's Report

Teaching Mathematics

Following our highly successful professional learning day with Rob Vingerhoets, all teams have started teaching the concept of place value at the beginning of term one. Broadly, place value refers to examining the written form of the number, where the value of any digit in a number (whole or decimal) is determined by its position in that number. When teaching the larger concept however, place value is far more than just the skill of reading, recording and ordering numbers.

Place value also encompasses flexibly thinking about numbers and their relationships, understanding that '*ten of one*' makes '*one of the next*' (for example 10 tens makes one hundred). Teachers are working at various levels on building student understandings of how numbers are related to each other in a variety of ways. The number 78, for example, is more than 60 and 2 less than 80. It is made of 7 tens and 8 ones but also made of 60 and 18. Understanding the number in a variety of ways will assist students in a variety of situations, from estimation, to comparison to computation.

To assist with this, some learning tasks students at various levels have engaged in include what staff are referring to as renaming numbers. Students are working with numbers comprising of different amounts of digits and practising naming and renaming the numbers in many ways. The number 348, for example, can be named as 3 hundreds, 4 tens and 8 ones and as 34 tens and 8 ones and a variety of other ways. This idea of thinking flexibly about numbers and explicitly teaching this concept of place value is different to traditional rote learning of number facts that I experienced when learning mathematics in school.

Understanding numbers also involves having a grasp of the size of numbers (as they get larger or smaller this can become increasingly difficult for students to understand as numbers become difficult to physically model). The relative magnitude of numbers refers to the size relationship one number has with another (is the number much larger, close to, or about the same). Understanding and interpreting number lines is a great way for students to develop this essential understanding and visually see how numbers are related. Placing numbers along number lines or trying to identify which number may belong to a space on a blank number line are great ways to practise this at home. Open number lines are also a great tool for students as they attempt calculations.

~ Katrina Lamers, Assistant Principal

Community News

Thornbury High School – Open Night

Thornbury High School invites prospective students and families to their [2019 Open Night](#), scheduled on Thursday 14th of March, at 6:30pm. Families with students in Years 4 – 6 are encouraged to attend and learn about the offerings at THS.

FPS Selected for Donation Program at Grill'd Fairfield!

A reminder that anyone who visits **Grill'd Fairfield** during **February** is encouraged to pop your *Local Matters* token in our jar. We are hoping to accrue enough tokens to receive a \$300 donation!



Bendigo Bank Sponsorship

Fairfield PS and the Bendigo Bank have developed a supportive relationship over the past few years. We would like to recognise and thank the [East Ivanhoe and Heidelberg Community Bank® branches](#), as they are a major sponsor of our 2019 school fair—with a donation of \$3,500. This brings the Bendigo Bank's overall contribution to FPS to \$48,240 – since the partnership began in 2012. Thank you for your generous support!



Arty Party Festival Parade--Sunday 17 March, at 9:45am

Each year the Bendigo Bank is the major sponsor of the [Arty Party Festival](#) in Heidelberg and to celebrate this, they walk in the Festival Parade with all of the community groups that they support.

We are seeking students (and their families) to represent Fairfield PS and carry the school placard in the parade. This event is held on Sunday 17 March from 9:45 – 11am. If you are a keen walker and want to represent FPS, [please let us know!](#)



General News

Learn to Swim Program

We are pleased to announce the return of our successful *Learn to Swim Program* for students in Foundation, Year 1 and 2. Each year, we offer students the opportunity to participate in swimming lessons at the Ivanhoe Aquatic Centre, scheduled for Fridays in term three (26 July – 13 September). The program consists of eight 45-minute lessons with an instructor/student ratio of approximately 1:6.

As this is an **optional program** with an associated cost, we start our planning for it during term one by collecting Expressions of Interest. Expressions of Interest are submitted via a Compass event. This event will be open on **Tuesday 26 February** and will close at the end of the term – Friday 5 April. Keep an eye out for an email regarding this.

Please note the following:

- No payments will be accepted during the expression of interest period.
- Once expressions of interest close, we calculate costs. A second event will be opened on Compass for consent and payment. Payment confirms your place in the program.
- No students will be added to the program beyond 11 June.

Program Timeline

- Tuesday 26/2: Compass “Expression of Interest” opens.
- Friday 5/4: Compass “Expression of Interest” closes.
- Tuesday 23/4: Enrolments and payments open to all families who expressed interest.
- Friday 17/5: Enrolments close and payments to be finalised.
- Tuesday 21/5: Confirmation sent to all families who have enrolled.
- Friday 24/5: Further enrolments open to all Foundation and Year 1/2 families if places are still available, and will close once the cap has been reached.
- Tuesday 11/6: Final enrolments close, if not already closed.
- Friday 14/6: Confirmation sent to any final families.
- Friday 21/6: Swimming groups confirmed and sent home. Parent helpers requested.
- Friday 26/7: Program commences.

If you would like any more information about the program, please ask your classroom teacher or see Geoff McShane.

~ Geoff McShane, Physical Education Teacher

A Spotlight on Year 5

An Exciting Start!

Year 5 students have had an especially exciting start to the school year... moving into the new building! Many classes, parents, brothers, sisters, Grandmas and Grandpas have visited to explore the latest addition to FPS.

It has been a real hit with the students:

- “The rooms are bright and airy.” ~ Lachlan, 5A
- “I think it’s modern and creative.” ~ Clody, 5A
- “They feel very spacious and well thought-out.” ~ Hannah, 5B
- “It’s really comfortable and spacious.” ~ Sidney, 5B
- “The buildings a really good touch to our school.” ~ Ruby, 5B
- “It feels like a fresh new environment.” ~ Louis, 5C
- “I like how there’s lots of space to learn.” ~ Tashi, 5C

One of the great features of the building are the break out spaces, where teachers and students can creatively learn.

Furthermore, start-up programs have helped students develop their own vision statements as to how they would like their classes to feel, sound and look like. They have stated their expectations of themselves, each

other and the teachers. The school values of *Excellence, Creativity, Community and Respect* were prevalent throughout the conversations.



~ Year 5 Students and Teachers

A Focus on Specialist Area

2019 has Begun with Mirka Mora Merriment!

For Terms 1 and 2, Melbourne artist Mirka Mora's distinctive and recognisable style will motivate our own drawings and paintings. Her work is bright and bold with a repertoire of recurring motifs – wide-eyed children, angels and animals.

To be able to immerse themselves in Mirka's private imaginary universe, all students from Years 1 - 6 will travel to [Heide Museum of Modern Art](#) to view her Exhibition "Pas De Deux – Drawings and Dolls."



Respect • Creativity • Excellence • Community • Since 1885

This exhibition commemorates her life (1928 – 2018) and brings together her drawings and her soft sculptures. For Mirka, these art forms went hand in hand; “*My dolls are my drawings in three dimensions.*”



Fairfield Primary is indeed very fortunate to be able to form a partnership with Heide MOMA. We have been invited to be a part of their *Education Advisory Committee* as well as partake in their *Education Week* activities. Relationships with cultural institutions are a valuable and meaningful way of learning and we are excited to be part of this local, iconic gallery.

If you would like to view, or even perhaps buy some of Mirka Mora’s artworks or personal items, there is an auction on 3 March at Leonard Joel Auctions, South Yarra. Viewing before is from February 27 – 2 March.

As Mirka floats around us, we are personalising ***our Art Folios*** with the word ART, the letters decorated, designed and arranged in individualised ways. We included the elements of colour, line and shape.

Our Visual Art Journals are also ready for the year, complete with a title page and the annual portrait of ourselves!

For Terms 3 and 4 we will be focussing on ***M.C. Escher***. Check out his artwork at the NGV until 7 April!



Year 6 outside Heide 1, John and Sunday Reid’s original home. Mirka Mora hand painted the images on the windows.



Hayley, Danny and Liam morphing into “The Running Man” – a sculpture in the grounds of Heide Museum of Modern Art.

~ Marjie Tkatchenko, Visual Arts Teacher