



## Principal's Report

### Playground Preparations

Just when you may thought that the building projects were complete for 2019, we have construction of our wonderful new Eastern Playground taking place during the school holidays. The 'junior playground' will be demolished and replaced by a playground that has something for everyone, and which will fit into the nature theme that currently exists in that area next to *Kaan's Winya*.

This construction is planned to continue into the first two weeks of next term, which means that the playground and *Kaan's Winya* will be fenced off at this time.

### Current Playground



### Future Playground



## **Home Learning Policy**

Nearly two years ago the school embarked on a journey of establishing a process and policy for homework. This included questionnaires distributed to the community for which we had a very high response rate. I have also discussed this with many parents, including at Principal Morning Teas.

I am pleased to announce that School Council approved the Home Learning Policy, which now provides clarity to current and prospective families about our approach. We have also added [Home Learning Statements](#) to the school's website.

## **Website Updates**

In my opinion, FPS has one of the best primary school websites in the state. Sarah Moody, our communications coordinator, works hard to ensure that its content is current and relevant. If you visit our website you will see:

- **Learning and Teaching:** Updates that reflect where the school is currently at, in particular with the recent Principal appointment and School Review. Updated sections include '[Our Curriculum](#)' and '[Wellbeing](#)' and new sections include '[Foundation](#)' and '[Sustainability](#)'.
- **Annual Report:** The [2018 Annual Report](#) is now available to view on the website. This was presented at last week's Annual General Meeting.
- **School Tours:** Families of prospective families are now able to book into one of five [school tours](#) that we are offering.

As always, the [homepage](#) informs you of events taking place around the school, ranging from Year 4 camp to the Mother's Day/Special Person's Day Stall.

## **Fair and Fundraising**

### **Music Trivia Night**

You will have seen pre-sale information regarding the 2019 Music Trivia Night, which will take place next term on Saturday 22 June.

We used the funds raised from last year's event to purchase 10 brass instruments (five trumpets and five trombones).

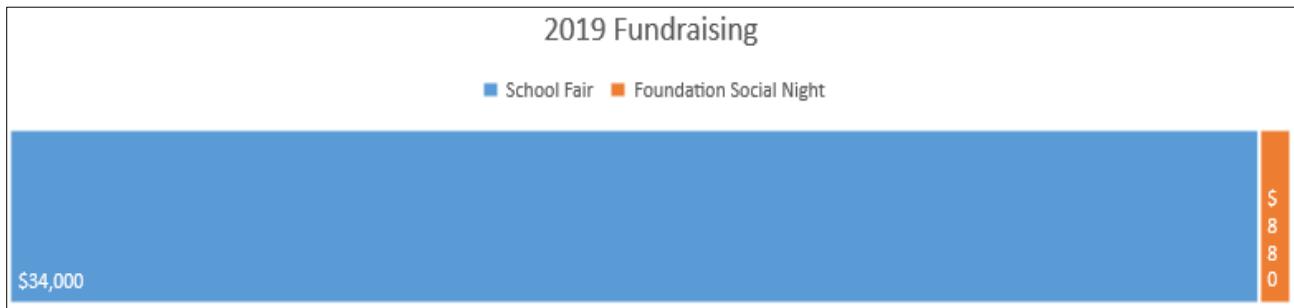
These instruments will support students who take part in the brass lessons at FPS, taught by Thornbury High School staff.



*Brass students in action*

## School Fair

I am pleased to announce that approximately **\$34K** was raised at this year's School Fair. This is a fantastic effort and there will be discussions next term at School Council about how this money will be spent. The graphic below displays the amount raised this term.



## Happy Holidays

The last ten weeks have flown by and what a wonderful term it has been. A special mention to our Foundation students who have completed their first week of school.

The first week back is short due to two public holidays. During this week, our Year 4 students will be attending camp at Mount Evelyn on 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> April.

I wish all our families a safe and enjoyable holiday period.

~ Paul Wallace, Principal

## Assistant Principal's Report

### Planning Week

Last week the teaching staff commenced their planning week. Across the week, teachers were released from the classroom to plan with their year level for the day. During planning time, teams looked closely at student learning data, analysing student needs and using that information to plan overviews for their teaching across the next term.

Teachers also have the opportunity to carefully dissect the *Victorian Curriculum*, to develop a shared understanding of the teaching content and how it relates to the needs of their students. They review student gains and discuss how to translate the curriculum into the necessary skills, knowledge and understandings for their students.

A core focus on the teaching of literacy and numeracy will remain consistent and during term two with teams also focussing on the following curriculum areas:

- Foundation: Exploration (Personal and Social Capability Development)
- Year 1/2: Science (Chemical Science)
- Year 3: Science (Biological Sciences)
- Year 4: Science (Earth and Space Sciences)
- Year 5: The Humanities (History)
- Year 6: The Humanities (Geography)

## **Term One Highlights**

Term one is always filled with excitement and this year has been no different. It has been great to see the Foundation students complete an extremely successful first term of schooling. All of our students are well settled and enjoying their days at school.

Term one has also been filled with excursions and camps. Every student in Years 1 – 6 attended the Heide Museum of Modern Art excursions. It was an amazing experience for the students and I received a lot of positive feedback from students about their experiences on the excursions. Thank you to Marjie for all of her hard work in coordinating these excursions – it is not easy to organise whole school events. Year 3 students also loved their Taskworks excursion and our Year 6 students proudly represented the school on their Canberra Camp.

### **Parliament & Civics Education**

Year 6 students experienced an education tour of the national capital. Students participated in a variety of educational programs with a focus on Australia's history, culture, heritage and democracy.

The Australian Government recognises the importance of all young Australians being able to visit the national capital as part of their Civics and Citizenship education. To assist families in meeting the cost of the excursion the Australian Government is contributing funding of \$30 per student under the *Parliament and Civics Education Rebate* program towards those costs. The rebate is paid directly to the school upon completion of the Canberra camp.

### **Community Events**

As always, term one featured one of our big community events in our School Fair. The event was very well attended by the community and was a pleasurable day. Well done to everyone involved in the organisation of this outstanding event.

Early next term, the Community Committee will run focus groups to gain more information from community members about school events. These focus groups will provide further insight following the survey sent out last year. Keep an eye out in Compass for details.

### **Professional Learning Communities**

A highlight for staff has been the establishment of *Professional Learning Communities* (PLCs). The PLCs have given a structure to staff to be able to analyse student learning needs and design their own professional learning based on the learning needs of the students. PLCs promote collective responsibility and a collaborative approach to continuous improvement.

~ Katrina Lamers, Assistant Principal

## School Council Update

### Message from the New School Council President

We are at the end of term one and ready to head off into the Easter Holidays! I wanted to take this opportunity to introduce myself and the work of the School Council.

### About Me

I have two children at the school, one in Grade 5 and the other in Grade 2. I am in my second year of School Council and recently took on the role of President. Last year was a very busy year for the school and the council, which gave me a good experience in the many responsibilities the council has. The school underwent major capital works, including the addition of the netball court and the new building that replaced the art block. The school undertook a school review, which happens every four years and helps to set strategic goals. Last year also, the school also was able to confirm Paul Wallace as the ongoing Principal.

FPS hosted its two large fundraising events: Art4All and the Fair, as well as a successful Music Trivia Night. It was a pleasure to be a part of all of these events as a council member.

### Thank Yous, Welcomes and Appointments

On 25 March, the new 2019 School Council met and farewelled our outgoing members, welcomed new members and appointed office bearers and Committee representatives.

Thank you to the outgoing school councillors, Kate Symons, Quimby Mills, Jourdan Murray, Nick Schijf and Alexa Every. The dedication and hard work of these five people has had a lasting positive impact on the life and wellbeing of Fairfield Primary. We all benefit enormously from the hours of work and creative thinking they have put in. They will be missed.

Welcome to our new councillors, Daniel Emeny, Sarah Glass (Secretary), Andrew Vance (Vice President) and Nathan Smeaton (Treasurer). Continuing parent members are Anita Galli, Paul Hunt, Chris Price and Bronwyn Wolfgang (President). Continuing Department of Education members are Katrina Lamers, Anna Lithgow, and Paul Wallace (Executive Officer).

### School Council Committees

I would like to draw your attention to the role of School Council Committees and the opportunity for all members of the school community to get involved. The Standing Orders of School Council stipulate that we have four committees, each reporting to School Council and each chaired by a councillor. They are:

- Buildings and Grounds Committee
- Community Committee
- Finance Committee
- Policy Committee

Each committee meets approximately twice a school term. Dates for committee meetings are available on Compass and the school website. These committees operate at their best when enthusiastic members of the school community join and participate. I invite you to consider whether you would be interested in doing so.

<b>Buildings and Grounds Committee</b>	<b>Community Committee</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assists School Council with any issues relating to the buildings and grounds of the school, specifically working closely with the principal and school administration to ensure that the school buildings and grounds are in good condition, and meet the needs of the school.</li> <li>Assists the school in the development and implementation of an annual program of works under the Masterplan and Grounds Action Plan.</li> <li>Arranges Working Bees throughout the year. School Council representatives for 2019 are Anna Lithgow, Chris Price and Andrew Vance.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assists School Council with fundraising and community building, specifically working closely with the principal and school administration to ensure fundraising and community building activities are initiated and on track.</li> <li>Oversees the two major fundraising events on the school calendar (School Fair and Art4All).</li> <li>Ensures delivery of a calendar of community building events (Mother's Day and Father's Day activities, trivia quiz). School Council representatives for 2019 are Anita Galli, Paul Hunt and Katrina Lamers.</li> </ul>
<b>Finance Committee</b>	<b>Policy Committee</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assists School Council and the principal in managing the school's financial resources.</li> <li>Provides advice to School Council on any matter that financially affects operational and capital programs. School Council representatives for 2019 are Nathan Smeaton and Paul Wallace.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assists School Council with the creation and upgrade of school policies.</li> <li>Engages with the parent community through consultation on policy development.</li> <li>School Council representatives for 2019 are Daniel Emeny, Bronwyn Wolfgang and Paul Wallace.</li> </ul>

## Our Agenda for 2019

While the month-to-month work of the council continues in 2019, significant works include:

### Capital Works

As a result of the acquisition of the Wingrove Street land, we have created a new Masterplan for the school to handle escalating enrolments and fit for purpose teaching spaces. The addition of the new building that replaced the art block was part of the first phase of the plan. The second phase will include building a new senior campus on the Wingrove Street site. It is important to note that, although the Wingrove Street land has been acquired, funding for facilities on that site is yet to be secured. This is a priority for the year ahead.

We are looking forward to the installation of a new playground that will replace the existing one between the oval and the netball court. Construction is expected to commence during the Easter School Holidays.

### Fundraising

The FPS community is tremendously successful at fundraising. A challenge for School Council is to ensure that the funds are spent with the best possible outcomes for our students – this is always at the centre of our decision-making.

An important agenda item for School Council this year is not just the expenditure of fundraising monies, but how we can continue to improve our communications to the school community around that expenditure. I am committed to a robust and transparent approach to the spending of fundraising monies.

You can follow the work and decisions of School Council via the [minutes](#), which are posted each month on the school website.

## In Closing

I look forward to continuing to work with those of you I know and to getting to know new members of our Fairfield PS community. A local primary school is a precious resource and I know, with shared effort, we can continue to help ours be the best it can be.

~ Bronwyn Wolfgang, FPS School Council President

## Community News

### FPS Trivia Night—Saturday 22 June

Pull out your best 80s and 90s party gear and dancing shoes—the FPS Music Trivia Night is on **Saturday 22 June**, from **6:30 – 11pm** at the **Regal Ballroom** in Northcote.

This event is always a hit and this year the venue will accommodate approximately 300 participants—twice the size, twice the fun!

Further details, including prices and tickets, will be available in early term two – watch Compass for details!

### Got Talent? Keep to Help?

If you have performance talent that could fit into the night's entertainment, or if you are keen to assist with coordination and logistics, we would love to hear from you. Please send an [email to Sally and Daniel](#) with your details.



### Mother's Day/Special Person Stall—Wed 8 May

With Mother's Day early next term, FPS traditionally hosts a stall with a range of wonderful items available for purchase.

Each class will have the opportunity to 'go shopping' in the Old Hall for a gift for their mum/special person.

It is always lovely to see the thought and care that goes in to selecting just the right item!

- Wednesday 8 May, 9:15 - 12:45pm
- Stall will be in the Old Hall
- Items cost from \$2, \$3 or \$5

## School Tours and 2020 Enrolments

You may have noticed on the school [website](#) and [FPS Facebook](#) page that we have started the planning process for 2020 school enrolments. We are running tours from 9.30 – 10.30am on Thursday 16, 23 & 30 May and Wednesday 5 June. An evening tour is offered on 5 June from 7 – 8pm.

Please pass this information on to friends and families who live locally and who are interested in enrolling their child at FPS next year. School tours can be [booked here](#).

If you have a child starting at FPS next year, we request that enrolment forms (available at the office and [online](#)) are handed into the office by the end of term two – **Friday 28 June**.

Many thanks to **Tricia Phelan** of [Skylark Photography](#) and one of our school parents, who donated her fabulous photography skills and captured some beautiful images that will be featured on billboards, posters and the school website.



Fairfield Primary School  
**2019 SCHOOL TOURS**

Tour Dates: 16, 23 & 30 May | 5 June  
Time: 9:30 – 10:30am  
Evening Tour: Wednesday 5 June, 7 – 8pm  
Tour Bookings: [www.fairfieldps.vic.edu.au](http://www.fairfieldps.vic.edu.au)

NOW ACCEPTING 2020 ENROLMENTS  
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## Sustainability News

### Landcare Grant Recipients

Congratulations FPS Environmental Sustainability Working Group (ESWG)! Last year, the ESWG applied for a Woolworths and Landcare Grant to expand our composting capabilities. FPS was one of the 538 centres to be awarded a grant, out of over 1200 applications.

Our grant has been used to fund four Solar Cones that are capable of composting a far wider range of organic materials than traditional composting methods, including the ends of sandwiches and animal products (meat and dairy).

This is great news for our school and our world! Food waste that goes to landfill produces methane, which is a greenhouse gas 30 times more potent than carbon dioxide. By composting scraps at our school, we are:

- Helping to improve soil quality
- Working to keep our air clean
- Teaching our kids about responsibly managing food waste

It is also good news for parents at home who will no longer need to handle half-eaten sandwiches coming home in lunchboxes!

Check out our new Solar Cones, which will be located behind the Year 1/2 double-storey portable.

Thankyou Woolworths and Landcare Australia!

~ ESWG

## A Spotlight on Year 4

### Year 4 Reflections on the Term

Below are some students reflections on term one.

This term, the Year 4 students have been writing memoirs. A memoir is a memory that is important or significant. It is true and is written in the first person and past tense. Some of our topics have been about a water slide, an accident with fireworks, and a first day at school. This is a quote about a memoir, '*A memoir is a window that looks into a piece of life*' by William Zinsser.

~ Luca P, 4C

Last week in Maths, we all made a paper plane. We all tried to make it as aerodynamic as we could. There were flaps, cuts and folds everywhere. We had to do a diagram of our plane and write steps to describe how to make it. We went out to fly and measure our planes. When it was time to fly them, we all threw our planes. The results varied greatly, some travelled far and some only travelled one metre. Mason's plane even turned around mid-flight and flew back the way it had come. After they had landed, we measured our results with rulers and tape measures and recorded in our maths books.

~ Leo D, 4B



In Maths, we were learning how to solve addition problems. We were selecting our favourite addition strategy to solve them. We could use split strategy, vertical addition or jump and hop. My favourite strategy was vertical addition. I like to use this strategy because you can add up each part of the number. I first add the ones, then the tens and then the hundreds. This challenges my thinking because if it adds past the next ten, I have to also use my bridging strategy to solve it.

~ Milly H, 4A

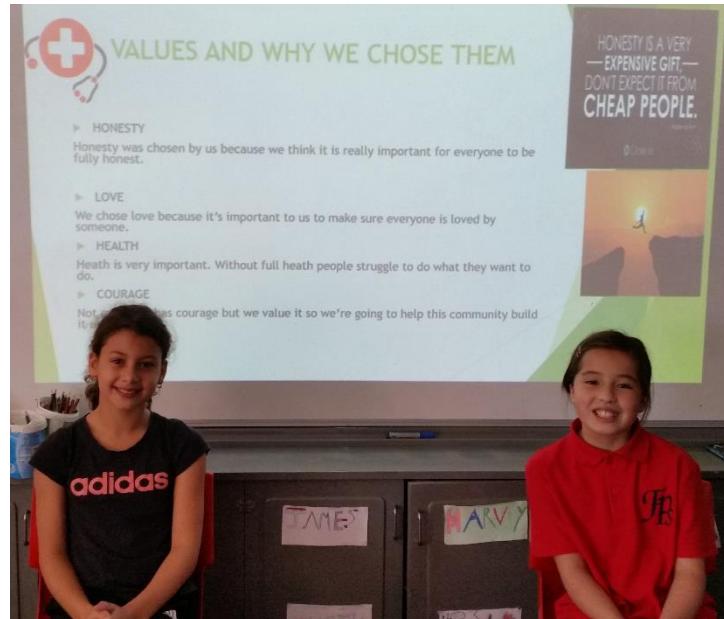
In Inquiry, Year 4 students have been working in small groups to create a council for a made up community. Students had to include services, values, rules and laws. We had to think of the consequences if you did not follow our laws.

We were allowed to present it as a poster, PowerPoint or a movie. We had a certain amount of time to complete our project.

We have been working very hard and been working very well together.

~ *Mathilda L & Juliet M, 4C*

~ *Year 4 Teachers and Students*



## A Focus on Physical Education

### Foundation

Foundation students have started their schooling and PE with such enthusiasm and energy. The focus for the Foundation students in term one was an introduction to simple games, these included a wide variety of piggy games, musical statues and *Geoff Says*. While playing the games, students were required to take turns, follow basic rules and instruction. I am very impressed by the cohort's ability to share and wait for their turn – they have made an excellent start in their PE journey.

### Year 1/2

Year 1/2 students have also played a number of tiggy games and have spoken about the wide range of emotions people feel during PE lessons. Many discussions have taken place around some of the more common emotions and how as a class we can help others, and be role models and leaders. It has been great to see so many Year 1/2 students responding to this and taking on the challenge of being a role model and leading the class.

### Year 3/4

Year 3/4 students have started the year with a focus on one of the main fundamental movement skills – throwing. This skill is used in many sports and it takes hundreds of hours of practise to become efficient. Sadly, in PE we do not have the number of hours it takes to practise and master the skill, so a focus is on some of the key elements of the skill that, if practised correctly, will help improve throwing.

### Year 5

Year 5 have also been focussing on one of the fundamental movement skills – striking. Striking is used in sports such as cricket, softball, rounder and tennis. The focus has been on some of the key parts of the skill for improvement. Students discussed the skill transferability – if you can strike a ball in tennis, the skill is transferable and applies to striking in other sports such as badminton.

## **Year 6**

Year 6 have been focusing on building a positive sporting culture. This issue is consistently being highlighted in the media, and as a cohort we have looked at how we can create a positive environment within not just PE, but also at sports competitions, such as interschool sports. Students were asked to look at ways of creating a positive environment. By creating a positive environment in sport everyone feels confident to participate and make mistakes, this allows people to learn and improve. Many examples of these are coming through especially in interschool sports. I am proud to take our Year 6 students out for Interschool Sports and see the way they create such a positive environment for everyone.

## **Cross Country News**

Plenty of excitement as the first of our school carnivals will take place next term. All the Year 3 – 6 students have completed their orientation by learning and running some laps of the school cross country course. This course snakes its way around the school and is approximately 500m long. A map of the course is posted outside the gym along with some challenge times that students can use to help set a goal for themselves. Each lap students complete is worth two points for their House.

Children will run the cross country course officially in week 2 or 3 of next term, dependent on the weather.

~ Geoff McShane, Physical Education Teacher