



Principal's Report

Let the Good Times Roll

During the last three weeks, our Year 5 students have been fortunate enough to take part in roller skating lessons. This forms part of their alternative sports program with sessions lead by Victorian Roller Derby League. Students greatly enjoyed swapping their runners for roller skates and having a go at something different. Other alternative sports this year include taekwondo (term 1), wheelchair basketball (term 2) and table tennis (term 3). These sessions have enabled students to take risks outside of their comfort zone, try new activities and have a whole heap of fun along the way.



Above: Round the rink Below: Learning to fall safely...looks like carnage, however everything is under control!



Foundation Transition Program

We have held the first three transition visits and hosted an open afternoon for our 2020 Foundation students (see the images below) – it has been great to see how much they have gained from this experience. I am continually impressed by the students' confidence, eagerness and readiness for starting school. They already see Fairfield PS as their school.

I have enjoyed the opportunity to meet and welcome new families to the school, who have been complimentary about the transition process.



A lot of organisation goes into this process behind the scenes to ensure that our new students have such positive experiences. This includes accommodating an extra 85 students and reshuffling timetables and staffing accordingly. Thank you to the staff who have supported this process. I would also like to acknowledge the work of our office staff; Elena Paladino for her management of enrolment applications and Sarah Moody for her timely communications keeping families updated of events.

Step-Up & Meet Your Teacher Sessions

All current FPS students are about to prepare to step up to their next year level. To support this, we organise 'Step-Up' and 'Meet Your Teacher' sessions for everyone. The table below shows these transition activities.

Date	Activity
Tuesday 3 December & Friday 6 December	<i>Step-Up Session</i> Current Foundation and Year 1 students will have a session in a Year 1/2 classroom to find out about the learning they will experience next year.
Tuesday 10 December	<i>Step-Up Session & High School Orientation</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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.• Year 7 Orientation Day for students attending government schools.
Friday 13 December	<i>Meet Your Teacher Session</i> 2020 Foundation students will meet their teacher and classmates.
Wednesday 18 December	<i>Meet Your Teacher Session</i> Current Foundation – Year 5 students will meet their 2020 class teacher and classmates.

Winner! Victorian School Design Awards

Fairfield PS was a proud winner at this year's *Victoria School Design Awards*. We won '**Best Primary School Project**' for our Year 5/6 modular building. We have almost completed our first year in this new building, and the school is thrilled by how well it has functioned, with students and staff equally delighted by this wonderful addition.

Congratulations to *Fleetwood* and to *NBRS* who were behind the design and construction of this building.

Click to [find out more about our award and other projects](#).



Playground Teepees

You may have noticed the addition of two new teepees in the Eastern Playground this week.

These were part of the original plan but were not in stock during the initial installation.

They are proving to be a big hit and are providing students with another space to hang, climb or simply relax.

~ Paul Wallace, Principal



Assistant Principal's Report

Talking about School

'How was school?' is a big question.

To answer, your child has to sum up a whole day, and that is hard for children (and even adults!) to do. A child might really want to say, *'My day was so jam-packed with ideas and classes and social stuff that I don't know where to start'*. Therefore, it is easier just to say, *'Okay'*. Some children feel their school experiences are private, so they might not want to share them. This is a normal part of school-age development as children start to shape their own identities and social worlds. Nevertheless, your child still needs to know you are there when they are ready to talk.

Why Talking about School is Important

Talking with your child about the school day shows you are interested in what is going on in their life. This interest boosts mental health, happiness and wellbeing. It can also have a very positive effect on your child's behaviour and achievement. It shows your child that you value school and education, which encourages them to value it too.

Strategies for Talking about School with your Child

Your child will probably be tired and hungry or thinking about other things when they first get home. Easing the transition from school or after-school activities to home can help your child feel more like talking. It is best to avoid asking many questions straight away. You can just let your child know that you are glad to see them, and talk about non-school topics for a while.

Simple, positive and specific questions about parts of the day can get your child talking. For example:

- What's the news from school today?
- What was fun?
- What did you like best at school today?
- What does your classroom look like at the moment?
- Who did you hang out with today?
- What subjects did you do today?
- What projects are you working on at the moment?

When you ask your child about their day, try to use open-ended questions. For example, you could ask questions like, *'What did you do in class after recess?'* or *'What topics are you working on in science at the moment?'* Questions like these invite answers that are longer than just *'yes'*, *'no'* or *'okay'*.

Tips for talking about school with primary school children

- Make time to talk. This can often be when you are doing something with your child. For example, your child might like to talk when you are walking the dog or preparing dinner together.
- Give your full attention if your child wants to talk with you about their day.
- Take seriously whatever your child tells you. For example, you can say things like, 'That's really interesting. Then what happened?' or 'How do you feel about that?'

For further information, [see the Raising Children website](#).

~ Sarah Abbott, Assistant Principal

Community News

Family Movie Night: Hosted by *The Hive*

The Hive Fairfield invites FPS families to a movie night this Friday 15 November, from 6:30 – 9pm. A \$5/child donation is asked, will all monies going to the [Starlight Children's Foundation](#).

The movie night is a great way for families to get to know each other in a relaxed setting, as well as raising funds for worthy charity.

- Friday 15 November, from 6:30 – 9pm
- *The Hive Fairfield*, 260 – 264 Arthur St, Fairfield
- A \$5/child donation is requested
- Please [click for further information](#)



You're Invited! Local Community Events

The FPS community is invited to participate in the following local community activities. These are both fun things for young families to enjoy together!

Christmas Carols

- Sunday 22 December, 7pm
- Alphington Bowls Club, Parkview Rd, Alphington
- Gold coin donation requested
- Please [click for further information](#)



Christmas Maker's Market

- Saturday 30 November, from 10am – 1pm
- Alphington Community Centre, 2 Kelvin Rd, Alphington
- To book a stall, call 9499 7227
- Please [click for further information](#)



Classroom Cuisine Goes Green!

The FPS Environmental Sustainability Working Group would like to thank Geraldine and the team at *Classroom Cuisine* (our lunch order provider) for being on the front foot in the war against lunch order waste. It was noted that the volume of litter in bins and across the playground increased on Wednesdays—lunch order days—which prompted the FPS-ESWG to workshop ideas around reducing waste in general, and especially on lunch order days.

We wrote to *Classroom Cuisine* and were pleasantly surprised that they had already implemented a range of sustainable measures – including biodegradable wooden cutlery, bioplastic lids and cardboard bottoms on dip containers and even a home-compostable sushi box!

If any lunch order packaging makes its way to your home, we are sure you will notice the improvements. Of course, the best way to manage waste is to avoid it altogether, which many Fairfield families achieve with regular lunches. The next item we are looking at tackling are those slippery sushi soy sauce fish that keep creeping into drains, then the final straw will be, well... you can guess.



Biodegradable packaging



It's time to reduce the sushi fish in our waterways

If you have any suggestions relating to better waste management or any other sustainability issue that has got your goat at FPS, then please drop me a line at andrewnvance@me.com or feel free to join the Sustainability working group. We meet once or twice a term on Thursday afternoons, from 3.30pm – 4.30pm and are always happy to have more members or visitors. If this time is inconvenient for you, the Buildings and Grounds Committee (also focusing on sustainability) meet once a term on Tuesdays 7 - 8pm. All community group meetings are publicised on Compass.

~ Andrew Vance, FPS School Council Vice-president and member of the FPSESWG... *Yes, we do need a catchier acronym.*

A Spotlight on Year 5

Year 5 Alternative Sports Program

The Year 5 students have reflected on the Alternative Sports Program. Here are some of their insights.

In Year 5 it was amazing to be able to experience fun alternative sports. Every Friday for four weeks a term we would do an alternative sport such as wheelchair basketball that we don't learn in P.E. For the first four weeks in term one we did taekwondo. It was hot in the gym and taekwondo was tiring but we pushed through and had a great time.

For the second four weeks in term two we did wheelchair basketball and were taught and inspired by people who rely on wheelchairs.

For the third four weeks in term three, we did table tennis. Although some of us already knew how to play, we learnt how to hold the bat properly and how to hit the ball well.

In term four we did roller skating. In my opinion it was the best by far and a lot of people already had roller skates or rollerblades. It was excellent learning how to squat and how to roll on one leg. All of the alternative sports were exciting and all year five classes had an amazing time.

~ Written by Isla C, 5B

In grade 5 we got to do alternative sports; which means every term we did exhilarating sports activities like taekwondo, table tennis, wheelchair basketball and roller skating.

For the first activity we did taekwondo, which is a sort of self-defence sport. We learnt some punches and blocks such as hammer, upper punch, lower punch, knife arm, lower block, upper block and the white belt pattern.

We also did wheelchair basketball. We did races and we did matches like five-on-five. We learnt how to turn, move and glide. We had four different teachers and I liked them all. They all had experience in wheelchair basketball.

Table tennis was our next activity. We learned how to serve and to apologise when it hit the corner of the table, even though you got the point from it. We had an excellent teacher and he was very funny.

Last was roller skating. We had multiple instructors. They were really friendly, and taught us all these different skills – for example sticky skating, jumping and rotating. We had to put on safety gear on all our limbs, as well as our head.

~ Written by Will LB, 5B

During 2019 in Grade 5 we were fortunate to get to do alternative sports for the year.

First we did taekwondo. It was really enjoyable and we got to learn new skills every week, such as how to do defensive moves.

We then did wheelchair basketball. It was an amazing experience as you were challenged out of your comfort zone because you were restricted as to what body parts you could use.

In term three we did table tennis. This activity was all about the movement in your wrist and about concentration on bat to ball.

The last sport was roller skating. It was very exciting learning the new techniques and skills every week.

I found the alternative sports a fantastic learning experience.

~ Written by Ava H, 5B



We are so privileged at Fairfield Primary School to do alternative sports in the Grade 5 area.

- Taekwondo was about skill, technique and discipline.
- Wheelchair Basketball was exciting and challenging but we all rose to the challenge.
- Table tennis was a fun experience by having to learn to hold the bat properly and serve correctly.
- Roller skating was the last alternative sport. You needed to hold your body weight with your legs. There was some falling but no one gave up; they all just got back up and kept trying.

I really enjoyed these experiences and hope that someday I get to have this opportunity again.

~ Written by Ruby O, 5B



A Focus on Performing Arts

Foundation

Foundation students have been exploring improvised dance and shape-making with their bodies. At the beginning of term, we established strategies for keeping safe when dancing around other dancers. Students tested their concentration by moving limbs in isolation from each other. They also have been doing '*dance maths*', adding different types of movement together to create weird and wonderful improvisations. We are currently preparing for two performances – the *Foundation Celebration of Learning* on Thursday 19 December and a special song farewell for the assembly on the last day of term (9am, on Friday 20 December).

Year 1/2 Students

Year 1/2 students have been looking at rhythms from all angles – writing, reading, drawing, listening, eliminating, recognising, matching and playing! After learning how to use *Ta/Ti-Ti* language, students wrote their own rhythms and posted them to other students in the school. This led to great discussions on the purpose of music notation – to share a song with others. We enjoyed testing our beat-keeping skills using the iPads. We have also been playing along with "*In the Hall of the Mountain King*", with many more pieces to come!

Year 3/4 Students

It was an absolute pleasure to see the Year 3 circus performers and Year 4 clowns rise to the challenge of our recent concert '*Cirque Du Fairfield – Encore*'. This concert presented a unique challenge to our students; to find confidence and assurance in a format that is partially improvised. Our Year 4 students learned to play off the audience, adapt to the choices of fellow actors, and still keep the story moving. Our Year 3 students developed their resilience in staying positive when tricks did not go according to plan. I would like to thank staff for their support of the concert; especially those who volunteered on the night and the specialists for incorporating this project into their programs.



Year 5 Students

Year 5 students have started this term's music program by exploring body percussion and singing in acapella. This continues in our program's belief and mission that everyone is able to make music even without access

to instruments. We learnt how contemporary musical groups like 'STOMP' use everyday household items to create spectacular performances. With mime, students created thoroughly entertaining performances using things we found in the classroom. Our module on acapella saw our students exploring with combining their vocals to sing in harmony. We discussed how we can combine our voices to create tonal chords and practised singing, 'Dynamite' by Taio Cruz and 'Cheap Thrills' by Sia in acapella. We also had the opportunity to arrange acapella versions popular songs and recorded ourselves having fun at it.



Year 6 Students

We have been very busy in Year 6 preparing our graduation items. Our Year 6 performance will showcase our skills in playing instruments and our strong singing voices. We look forward to presenting this to the school community during our end of year assembly (9am, on Friday 20 December). It is bittersweet preparing for this as it signals the end of a journey at Fairfield Primary School, but also a bright start to our future in respective high schools.

Songwriting Competition—Australian Children Music Foundation

Last term, our Year 5/6 students took part in the *Australian Children Music Foundation's National Songwriting Competition*. Reflecting on their progress, many students remarked how each week they looked forward to making music with their friends during the lead up to the competition, and how they now feel more confident in their music skills because of the competition. A few students have also mentioned that they had seen billboards of the competition around Melbourne, including at Chadstone Shopping Centre and the airport, acknowledging that it was a very challenging and recognised competition in which to participate.

One of our Year 6 groups, 'Fish is Wat' whose song 'Death' was in the top 7 percent of all the entries in Australia to be shortlisted for the grand final prize. This is a significant achievement and we are very excited for these students and have been informed that the winners for the Grand Final prize would be announced soon, so watch this space.

'Fish is Wat' consists of students, Azra W, Luka TF, Oliver L and Tom T from 6A. When asked how they felt about being shortlisted, they said, "We are very proud of our achievement as a team and it was very fun working as a team. We hope to collaborate again next year to write more music." We wish them all the best in the Grand Finals.



We would also like to acknowledge all our students who took part in this competition. We could not be prouder of them for creating their beautiful masterpieces. It takes courage, perseverance and diligence to join such a prestigious competition and whatever the outcome, we know that you are all stars in your own right.

Choir, Orchestra and Brass

Choir, Orchestra and Brass are preparing for their end of year celebration concert, to be held in the **Old Hall** at **5pm** on **Thursday 12th December**. All the FPS community are invited.

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