



Principal's Report

2019 In Review

2019 at Fairfield PS will mean different things to different people. For me, it has been a 'springboard' year – where the excellent work and progress from previous years had led to great achievements.

The Department of Education and Training measures school effectiveness by analysing achievement data and wellbeing questionnaires, with results presented in a *School Performance Report*. Our overall performance this year was assessed as **High** with increasing outcomes. We have been categorised as a school of **Influence** – a school that can influence and improve the performance of other schools in the system. This is an outstanding achievement.

It has been a year of stability and continual improvement within the school grounds. We have enjoyed the first year of the Fairfield Rd building, students continue to be excited by the Eastern Playground, and there have been upgrades throughout the school, including a number of environmental initiatives.

The visit from Premier, Daniel Andrews, in term two was a significant event, with our *School Community Leaders* doing a first class job of taking him on a tour of our school.

I met with students this week and asked them what their most enjoyable thing this year has been:

Foundation students enjoyed:

"Art, because you get your hands messy."

"Exploration, because I get to do loads of craft."

"Reading, because I learn new words."



Year 1/2 students enjoyed:

"Performing Arts, because Rosie taught us the concert."

"School Fair, because it's exciting with lots of yummy food."

"Doing Literacy games."

Year 3 students enjoyed:

“A lot of stuff – I loved the butter experiment.”

“Inquiry, because of all the topics.”

“The school concert, because it brought us all together as a community.”



Year 4 students enjoyed:

“The Tie Dye in Art”,

“Swimming Carnival”

“Magic Club”

Year 5 students enjoyed:

“The alternative sports programs – I hadn't done most of them before.”

“Tournament of the Minds”

“Camp – learning and exploring new things.”



Year 6 students enjoyed:

“Making websites because we got lots of freedom.”

“The new building!”

“Year 6 camp, in particular Questacon.”

Farewell Year 6

Next week is a notable one for our Year 6 students as they spend their last few days at FPS. Next Wednesday they have their Graduation ceremony at Fairfield Boathouse, followed by an end of year excursion to La Trobe University with Year 5, and of course the end of year assembly on Friday. On behalf of the school, I wish them all the very best with this transition and with the next part of their schooling journey.



Graduation time means that we also say farewell to families who have been at the school for a significant amount of time. I thank these families for their contributions: classroom helpers, excursions, camps, fairs, School Council, to name but a few. We look forward to welcoming you back at future events.

2020 School leaders

Last week, many of our Year 5 students presented to Year 4 and 5 about why they should be voted as a Community Leader or Specialist Captain. They presented compelling reasons and spoke with confidence and self-belief. The votes have been counted and the following students have been selected.

Back row – Community Leaders

- Samia A
- Soleil CJ
- Jack T
- Eva F
- Romy L
- Ailsa C - absent

Front row – Specialist Leaders

- Tashi O: Performing Arts
- Will H: PE
- Levi W: Visual Arts
- Henry C: French



Our new leaders will be presented to the FPS community at the welcome assembly at the start of next year.

Office Staffing Update

Further to last Friday's update, the school has appointed Jane O'Riley as our new Business Manager. Jane will start in this role next year.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank Darcie Brown, who has been acting in this role for most of 2019, for her fantastic service to the school.

We wish Darcie well with her future studies.

2020 Term One Dates

- **Thursday 30 January:** Year 1 – 6 Students start school (9am – 3:30pm)
- **Friday 31 January:** Foundation students start school
 - Foundation A – 9:10am – 2:10pm
 - Foundation B – 9:30am – 2:30pm
 - Foundation C – 9:40am – 2:40pm
 - Foundation D – 9:20am – 2:20pm
- **Friday 27 March:** Last day of term one. Early dismissal at 2pm



Goodbye and thanks Darcie and welcome Jane

Junior Sports Carnival

Yesterday, members of Darebin, Merri, Yarra and Diamond house groups took to the playground for our annual Junior Sports Carnival. Year 6 students had the task of organising the morning activities, and they did this with aplomb. The students returned after recess for the running races where they displayed great sportsmanship from the sidelines and on the track. Of course, the event ended with the parent race/teacher race with all runners equally displaying great sportsmanship! Congratulations to all involved and a special mention to Geoff for his coordination.



School Grounds

I am pleased to announce that *Milkshake's* head has been returned. We are hoping to find someone skilled in fibreglass repair who can restore her to her former glory.

At last week's School Council meeting, it was agreed that the open gate policy for weekends and evenings had been a success. It has been great to see families enjoying the school's facilities out of hours. I remind everyone about the importance of looking after our grounds so that everyone benefits. In particular, bicycles are not to be ridden on the new sports court; unfortunately, there are tyre marks that have started appearing on this surface, which cannot be removed.

On the theme of school grounds, it has been reported that students are climbing great heights on the fig tree after school. We ask all parents to monitor this and prevent their children from doing so, for their safety.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

I would like to thank students, staff and parents for your ongoing support of the school. The school continues to go from strength to strength, and for this, I am grateful to everyone.

A reminder that everyone is invited to our end of year assembly, next Friday at 9am.

I wish you all a safe and enjoyable Christmas and New Year, and if the rain demons stay away, I will see you at this evening's picnic.

~ Paul Wallace, Principal

Assistant Principal's Report

End of Year Concert

Last night I attended the Choir and Orchestra concert. Rosie and Olivia put their heart and soul into all the performances they organise, and this performance was no different. Once again, the talent our students displayed blew me away. You could tell the students, staff and parents involved put in so much of their time and effort enabling the students to be able to perform at such a great level. I particularly enjoyed watching the proud, smiling faces of families as their children performed on stage!





Reflection

I feel very lucky to be the Assistant Principal at Fairfield Primary School. Since starting in June, I have met so many wonderful people – students, staff and parents alike. I have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know everyone and becoming part of the FPS community. Some of the many highlights for me over the past six months have been attending the Year 1/2, Year 3/4 and Year 5/6 concerts, the Book Week Parade, Art4All, Athletics Day (Junior and Senior) and of course the Choir and Orchestra Concert, which was held last night.

A few of the things I love about my job are interacting with students across all levels of the school every day, getting to know the families and supporting staff to deliver engaging and rigorous learning programs. I have loved working in the classrooms, assisting students when they need extra support and am constantly impressed with how professional, dedicated and caring our staff are.

As we approach the summer holidays, it is easy to get caught up in the business of life. Over the holidays I will be taking time to reflect on all the things I feel grateful for and will be spending lots of time with family and friends – I hope you get the chance to do the same! Thank you everyone for making me feel so welcome at Fairfield Primary School – I truly feel very lucky to be working at such a wonderful school with such a supportive community. Until next year, Merry Christmas!

School Reports

Reports will be available in Compass on Wednesday 18 December. Watch for a notification communicating when reports will be online. If your child/children are leaving FPS at the end of this year, please download all their reports for your records. In mid-January, Compass will be deactivated for departing students.

~ Sarah Abbott, Assistant Principal

School Council Update

Fairfield Traffic and Pedestrian Safety Update

School Council has written to Darebin Council requesting updates on the traffic improvement works planned around the school. Specifically, our school council is most interested in:

- Safe crossings (Station Street, north and south of the railway line)
- Conversion of roundabout into a T-intersection (at the end of Arthur Street)
- One way and cycle/walking path (Fairfield Road – North of the train lines)
- New park Wingrove Street (at the end of Arthur Street)

More information will be shared with the school community as we receive it. Thanks to Kate Symons for her work as part of the *Fairfield Village Community Reference Group*.

Enrichment Programs Hub

Council started discussions about a program that would better harness parent interest and contributions in non-curriculum and learning support areas. The program, to be explored further in 2020, would provide a way for parents and interested community members – with specialist skills or specific interests – to propose and contribute to programs to enrich the school experience.

OSHClub Cleaning

Professional cleaners will be engaged to do a bi-annual deep clean of the OSH/BER kitchen area in January and prior to Art4All each year.

School Uniform Update

Discussions and negotiations continue with a commitment to move uniform suppliers from *Primary School Wear (PSW)* to *A PLUS Schoolwear*. Negotiations revolve around the termination of the current contract and the cost of buying existing stock. More information will be provided in 2020.

Wingrove Street Site – Project Update

The *Victorian School Building Authority* has informed council that a 6-metre clearance is required between the train line and the building due to power cables. This information does not affect the size or layout of our proposed Wingrove Street campus. Instead, the building will be moved forward and the rear section will become a landscaped area, including native trees and add to the attractiveness of the site.

Librarian

Council discussed the positive changes to the FPS library. Council President, Bronwyn Wolfgang, announced that Paula Stafford will be our librarian for 15 hours per week. Paula is a school parent and a member of the *Friends of Fairfield Library* working group. She will commence the role at the start of the 2020 school year. This position is funded by parent donations, in the same way the school nurse is funded.

After Hours Open Gate Policy

Council discussed the benefits of the open gate policy in 2019. Concerns over the bicycle skid marks appearing on the netball court were raised and we ask that community members be mindful of the impact on school facilities. Please remember that no scooters or bicycles are permitted on the court.

~ Andrew Vance, FPS School Council Vice President

Community News

OSHClub

OSH is running their Holiday Program Monday 6 – Tuesday 28 January. Details of the program, including incursions, excursions and booking details are [available here](#).

OSHClub will also be open for our curriculum/student-free day on Wednesday 29 January.

Art Room Tiling

One of the traditions of our Visual Arts program is for Year 6 students to create a piece of art that remains at the school. With the completion of the first year in the art studio, it is fitting that the project this year was for students to add to the décor in the studio by creating colourful splashback tiles. We encourage you to visit this space, where you will be greeted by a delightful profusion of colours and shades.

Thank you to Marjie and our parent volunteers (Bronwyn, Christina and Sharon) for giving up their weekend and becoming tiling experts so that the art is available for all to see.



Crazy Sock Day

Monday 16 December is crazy sock day – remember to find your craziest socks and wear them to school.

General News

Literacy Excursion to Fairfield Library

On Tuesday, a group of Year 1 students participated in a story time session at Fairfield Library.

We had a great time sharing Christmas books, singing songs and familiarising ourselves with the library. This was wonderful experience as we celebrated our year together.



After School Instrumental Music Lessons—Enrolment Now Open

Do Well Music is again offering after school music tuition for 2020. The instruments on offer are recorder, guitar, violin, flute, saxophone and piano. Click here for an [enrolment form](#).

Recorder Group Lessons

3.30 on Tuesdays & Thursdays

A popular class for younger students who wish to begin learning a musical instrument without the difficulties of dexterity associated with other instruments. Children can play and enjoy fun tunes in a very short timeframe whilst learning many musical aspects along the way. Recorder is an excellent prerequisite for other instruments.

Violin Lessons

Semi-private lessons with two students

Our teacher Sariah is an exceptional violinist with an excellent approach to teaching primary school aged students. Her students enjoy her classes and their progress is very impressive. This is an excellent opportunity for your child to get a head start and gain experience for secondary school orchestras and bands.

Guitar Group Lessons

From 4pm on Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Thursdays

Children are placed together with similar abilities, (beginners, advanced, etc.) We cover many facets of the guitar from written note orientation, guitar chording, tab, whilst covering a variety of styles. I teach in a fun way and encourage students to relax and enjoy learning their musical instrument.

Saxophone Lessons

A 20-minute private lesson

Our teacher Max does very well leading his students to control their breathing and finger placement across the alto saxophone. We encourage students to be at least middle primary school aged before undertaking the Saxophone.

Flute and Piano Lessons: Private 20-minute lessons

Beginning piano students under 7 year of age may need to be a shared lesson of two students. Our teacher Emilia has been at Fairfield for some time now. She has tremendous rapport and patience and her students enjoy her lessons very much. Many of her students perform with our schools orchestra and have benefitted from her excellent guidance.

Please download the [enrolment form](#) (or collect a hard copy from the office) and hand it in to the school office by **Thursday 19 December**. Classes fill quickly so please ensure that you have enrolled by the return date. Alternatively [email your form](#) to Steve.

~ Steve Dowell, Director Do Well Music

A Spotlight on Year 4

Year 4 Spotlight

Term four has been busy and full of excitement for Year 4. Here are some of the learning experiences we have been doing in the classroom.

In maths, we have been learning about capacity. We created a magic potion recording how much of an ingredient we had in the potion e.g. 250 mL of toad warts. It all needed to add up to 1L.

We also did a water relay (pictured) where we had to move the water from one container to another container, using a sponge.



We had to work out how much water we started with, and how much we had at the end. We revised addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. We learnt about decimals, and revised our knowledge of tenths, hundredths and thousandths on the computer game, *Wishball*.

We have been revising fractions, and learning about equivalent fractions, and played the game *Fraction Matcher*. We also learnt about money and budgeting, and played a game on the computer, where we planned a fundraiser to get as much money possible, as well as planning a trip to the cinema with \$150.

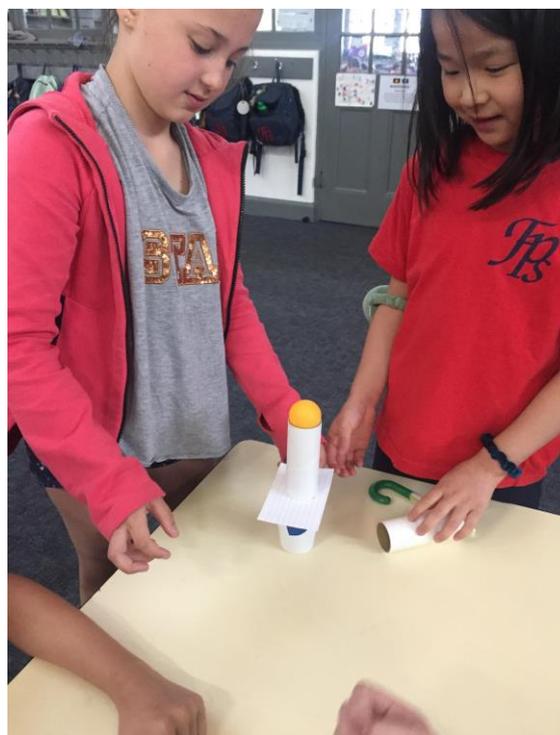
~ Maths reflection written by Austin S, Eloise B and Roark S, 4C

In writing, we have been focussing on writing fantasy texts. We have been learning about motifs and incorporating them into our stories. Motifs are a recurring theme throughout the text. For example, hero's quest, magical object or struggle between good and evil. We have been adding extra description by using similes, adjectives, adverbs, different words for 'said', and including lots of action. Here are some descriptive sentences from our stories.

- 'The sunlight danced through the chocolate trees and into the gummy meadow, it was such green grass you would think you were in a dream.' – Gaia B, 4A
- 'She was to scream as loud as the highest note on a grand piano.' – Milly H, 4A
- 'I looked up there is a man with piercing red eyes, black hair, and a red scalp. In one hand is a metallic glowing sword and in the other a dark purple shield.' – Nikhil J, 4A
- 'Then suddenly, a tall dark, gloomy figure walked slowly towards him.' – Neon H, 4B

For inquiry, we had two 'Mad About Science' incursions this term – 'Forces in Action' and 'Material World'.

In *Forces in Action*, we learned about the different forces. We learned about magnetic forces, and how they work, and that some forces can make electricity. We learned more about the pull of gravity and that a solid object can stop it. We also learned how an object needs two or more forces to keep it in balance and stop it from moving.



In *Material World*, we learned about natural and man-made materials.

We sorted them into whether they were made from plants, animals, and rocks and minerals. We also searched the room for materials that were magnetic.

~ Incursion reflection written by Abi S, Spencer F and Leo D, 4B

~ Year 4 Students and Teachers



A Focus on Physical Education

As the year comes to an end, physical activity has not slowed down. Term four is a very exciting time for the sport and PE at Fairfield Primary School. Year 6 concluded their Summer Sports competition, Year 5 students participated in roller skating, some Year 3 – 6 students had the chance to compete in a Triathlon as well as the Year 3 – 6 House Swimming Carnival and the Foundation – Year 2 had their Junior School Sports Day (images on the next page). Along with these amazing events, children are still engaged in regular PE lessons.

As a warm up activity for each lesson this term, the Foundation to Year 4 students have been skipping. Skipping is a great way to be active and the students have been excited to learn new tricks such as run skipping, hop skipping, cross overs or cowgirl. They have also enjoyed the added challenge of group skipping – either playing games such as *Helicopter* and *Cross the River* or doing run throughs and *Teddy Bear*. It is great to see so many students embrace skipping and practising outside of PE, either at school or at home.

In addition to learning how to skip, **Foundation** have been practising teamwork skills while using the parachute. Playing parachute games are great fun and help to develop cooperation and sharing skills.

Year 1/2 students have also focussed on teamwork games and have been playing a number of modified games. Students explored and discussed how to support others during these games.

Year 3 students have been also been playing modified games with a focus on being a good sport.

Year 4 students have been playing invasion games and thinking about attacking strategies. While playing games, students reflected on how to make space and how people used sideways and backwards passes to open up more space.

Year 5 students have been playing rounders and softball in preparation for 2020. Softball and rounders share many commonalities and students have looked at both the skills involved to play these games as well as the fielding strategies.

Finally, the **Year 6 students** have been playing major games with some rule changes. Students discussed why the rules had been modified and then had a chance to play and umpire the games. They have also explored inclusion and ways they can help to include people in sport.

Thank you to everyone for an outstanding year of learning and carnivals, have a good holiday break and I look forward to another exciting year in 2020.

~ Geoff McShane, Physical Education Teacher



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.

Respect • Creativity • Excellence • Community • Since 1885

We respectfully acknowledge the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nation, the traditional custodians of the land on which Fairfield PS stands, and pay our respects to the Elders both past and present.