



Principal's Report

Up and Running!

Welcome to our first newsletter of 2020. This year we are trying something new with newsletters now published on a Tuesday.

I would like to officially welcome families who are new to our school community – I look forward to getting to know you throughout the years and I am sure that you will develop many friendships within our great community.

The new year has started incredibly well, particularly given the extreme heat of the first two days. The students have been sharing with me the adventures that they got up to during the holidays and many have explained how pleased they are to be back at school. All of the students have settled into their new routines seamlessly and have enjoyed catching up with new and old friends.



Foundation

A special mention to our Foundation students who have had their very first day of school – a significant moment for anyone. It was delightful to see our new students, dressed proudly in their uniform, taking photos with family before heading into class to start their schooling journey.

You would think that this was their final term at school, given the confidence and independence that the students showed! They have taken great delight in making, creating, talking and constructing throughout their first few days.



Somers Camp

Today a group of Year 5 and 6 students have headed off on a nine-day camp at Somers Camp on the Morning Peninsula. This camp is run by the Department of Education and Training and provides recreational opportunities to students in State Government schools across Victoria. We wish our students a wonderful time.

School Grounds Upgrades

The quietness of the school holidays makes it the perfect time for works to be carried out.

You may have noticed the upgrade to the school entrance on Fairfield Rd. This is our most congested entrance and exit point, and this upgrade eases the traffic at pick-up and drop-off times. Thank you to Kate Symons (parent) for her vision, patience and persistence with this project.

Air conditioning units have been installed in 1/2A and B (Anne and Nicole/Naomi's classrooms), which was much appreciated last week.

A new fence has been installed on the western side of Kaan's Winya; this is to preserve the sports court as students often jump off the bench, which brings gravel onto the court.

All of the above works have been paid for through parent contributions to the Building Fund and significantly enhance the environment for all.

Welcome to Paula Stafford

I am pleased to announce that Paula Stafford is our new librarian at the school. Paula is a parent at the school and also a member of the Friends of Fairfield Library Committee. School Council recognises the importance of the school library, and the need to employ someone to maintain and improve how this space operates.



Lost Library Books

It was disappointing to hear that we have over \$1,200 worth of unreturned books from last year. What makes this particularly disheartening is that many of these books are new titles that other students have not had the opportunity to borrow. These books are paid for through parent contributions, and it is unsustainable for the school to have so many go missing. From next year, the school will charge families \$15 for any unreturned books at the end of each term.

Please have a look around at home to see if there are any of our library books playing hide and seek!

Coronavirus Update

The Department of Health and Human Services has updated their advice regarding cases of coronavirus, now referred to as 2019-nCoV.

- All people who have visited mainland China, returning to Australia from 1 February 2020 to stay at home and avoid public settings, including early learning centres, schools and universities, until 14 days after leaving mainland China.
- For updated advice, [view the coronavirus webpage](#).

~ Paul Wallace, Principal

Assistant Principal's Report

Curriculum Days

I would like to extend a warm welcome to all our families as we begin the school year at Fairfield PS. I hope you all had a lovely break and got to spend some valuable time with family and friends.

Staff returned to work officially on Tuesday 28 January and hit the ground running with two Professional Development days before the students began on Thursday.

On Tuesday, staff spent time reflecting on their teaching practice with a focus on the use of High Impact Teaching Strategies (10 instructional practices that reliably increase student learning when applied). While this is not new to our staff, it was helpful to discuss what we are doing well and what areas we may like to improve on – as individual teachers and as teams. We also had Narelle Wood, a consultant at Deakin University and expert on Gifted and Talented students. Narelle's presentation was insightful and gave staff a chance to consider how they may best accommodate for students who may be working at a much higher level in particular areas of the curriculum. Narelle will continue to work with staff throughout the year.

On Wednesday, we listened to Matt Di Domenico from The Austin School present about anxiety and school refusal. Matt passed on some great strategies that could be applied straight away in the classroom such as information about the Zones of Regulation. Many staff have used this in their classrooms to support student wellbeing and emotional literacy – you can find out more if you follow the link below. Staff feedback on both presentations was very positive and we are excited to reflect on this new learning more in the next few weeks and put our new knowledge into practice over the next 12 months and beyond.

Click to see [information on the Zones of Regulation](#).

Specialist Timetable

Here is the [Specialist Timetable](#) for term one.

This timetable indicates when the specialist subjects of Visual Arts, Performing Arts, Physical Education and French are taught across the week.

~ Sarah Abbott, Assistant Principal



Self-portraits created in Visual Arts

Community News

Welcome Assembly—Join Us on 7 February

This Friday (7 February), we will hold our welcome assembly at 9am on the sports court (weather permitting). All families are invited to join us.

Save the Date: FPS Welcome Picnic—21 February

Make a note in your diary for Friday 21 February, 6 – 8pm for our welcome picnic on the school grounds (weather permitting).

This is an opportunity for new and existing families to catch up and socialise.

Class Liaison Program

As communicated through Compass last week, we are looking for a volunteer (or two) per class to become the Class Liaison for their child's class.

A Class Liaison helps to support class-level communications – typically via email. This role is not time consuming and is a good fit for parents who would like to help around the school and work fulltime... emails can be sent at any time!

If you are interested, [please sign up](#).



General News

Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund—Applications Open for 2020

The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF) of \$125 is provided by the Victorian Government to assist eligible families to cover the costs of school excursions, camps and sporting activities.

Applications for 2020 are now open and will close on **26 June 2020** (end of term two).

Click for [more information](#) and to [download the form](#). Forms are also available at the school office.

Bell Times

- **9 – 10:40am:** Class
- **10:40 – 11:10am:** Recess in playground
- **11:10am – 12:50pm:** Class
- **12:50 – 1pm:** Eat lunch in classroom
- **1 – 1:50pm:** Outside playtime in playground
- **1:50 – 3:30pm:** Class

Important Dates

Save the following dates to your calendar!

Date	Activity
Friday 7 February	Welcome Assembly: 9 – 9:30am Foundation Social Evening: 7 - 10pm
Tuesday 11 February	Foundation Parent Information Night: 6 – 7pm
Thursday 20 February	School Photo Day
Friday 21 February	School Welcome Picnic: 6 – 8pm
Friday 28 February	Morning Tea with the Principal: 9 – 10am
Monday 2 – Friday 6 March	Year 6 Canberra Camp
Wednesday 4 March	Foundation: First Wednesday in class
Monday 9 March	Labour Day Public Holiday
Sunday 15 March	Working Bee: 10am – 2pm
Thursday 19 March	Early dismissal: 1pm for Years 1 – 6 Year 1 – 6 Parent Teacher Interviews: 1:40 – 7pm
Friday 27 March	End of Term Assembly: 1:30pm Early dismissal: 2pm
Saturday 28 March – Monday 13 April	School Holidays
Tuesday 14 April	First day of term two Year 4: Depart for Mt Evelyn Camp
Wednesday 15 April	Year 4: Return from Mt Evelyn Camp

Annual Privacy Policy Reminder

Our school collects, uses, discloses and stores student and parent personal information for standard school functions or where permitted by law, as stated in our [Privacy Policy](#).

Please take time to remind yourself of the [school's collection statement](#). For more information about privacy, see: [Schools' Privacy Policy – information for parents](#).

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 13 February**.

A Spotlight on Year Foundation

Welcome to School!

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 home corner has been particularly interesting to many students already with it being transformed into a restaurant on the first day of school. Also, several children noticed Bunjil's nest in *Kaan's Winya* and decided that they wanted to build their own – see below.



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

