



## Principal's Report

### All Systems Go!

We have been back for just 14 days, and I couldn't be prouder of the way that students have returned to school, and of how teachers have created welcoming and engaging classrooms. Every classroom that I visit is bursting with energy, focus and friendship. The students have enjoyed telling me about what they are learning and why it is important, and the teachers' high expectations are clear for all to see.

Our **Foundation** students are now truly part of the school, displaying a wealth of confidence along the way. They have met with their buddies, participated in all specialist classes, and spent time seeing what lies in the fairy gardens.



*Buddies in action – shared reading*

**Year 1/2** can be a complex transition due to the large number of classes, however the students have established new routines and new friendships with older and younger students. It has been impressive to see how they have taken so smoothly to their new classroom environment.

**Year 3 and 4** have settled into the new year beautifully. Staff have commented on their high level of independence and thirst for learning.

Last week Year 3 had a terrific day at *Taskworks* (pictured) to support their teambuilding skills.



The Fairfield Rd building is buzzing, with our **Year 5 and 6** students making great use of the collaborative learning spaces, and leading by example. It was great to see the Year 6 tops arrive before the students were even here!

### Foundation Social Evening

The gym foyer was packed to the rafters last Friday, as parents of our Foundation students celebrated the start of the weekend in each other’s company. The start of school is not only an important time for the students, but it is also an opportunity for the school to support families in becoming part of our great community.

Many thanks to Sarah Glass for her coordination of the event, and to Edwina Ryan, Erin Giles, Sally Bond, Rachael Hough and Fiona Smeaton for their assistance on the evening – these wonderful parents all volunteered to make the night possible.



### Next Week

A couple of dates for your diary next week:

- **Thursday 20 February** is **Photo Day**. Your child will have brought home a pack with information.
- **Friday 21 February** is our **Welcome Picnic**. All families are invited to bring a blanket and a picnic, and catch up with people on the school oval, from **6 – 8pm**.

### School Council Nominations

Per the Compass communication, FPS is seeking four parents to join the school council for 2020 – 2022. Both Self-Nomination (form 5A) and Parent Nomination (form 5B) forms are available and can be lodged at the school office. Nominations close **Tuesday 25 February 2020** at **4pm**.

### Library Timetable—Term One

Here is the Library timetable for this term.

	9.30 - 10	10 - 10.30		11.10 - 11.40	11.40 - 12.10	12.10 - 12.40		1.50- 2.20	2.20- 2.50	2.50- 3.20
<b>Monday</b>		1/2F	<b>Recess</b>	FA	FA	3C	<b>Lunch</b>	4C	3B	6C
<b>Tuesday</b>				FD	FD	1/2A		3D	4B	4A
<b>Wednesday</b>				1/2E		6A		1/2B		6B
<b>Thursday</b>	5C			3A	5B	5A				
<b>Friday</b>		1/2C		FC	FC	1/2D		FB	FB	

~ Paul Wallace, Principal

### Lunchtime Clubs

We are very fortunate at FPS to have a variety of wonderful activities held indoors during lunchtimes, which our staff volunteer their time to supervise. This term the Lunchtime Clubs running are:

Day	Lunchtime Club
<b>Monday</b>	Catch Up French. Run by Emily in the French room.
<b>Tuesday</b>	Knitting Club. Run by Grace in classroom 3A. Catch Up Art. Run by Marjie in the Visual Art Studio. Activity Club. Run by Chiara in classroom 4A.
<b>Wednesday</b>	Library. Run by Rebecca in the Library.
<b>Thursday</b>	Fun Club. Run by Zoe in classroom 3A.
<b>Friday</b>	Mindfulness. Run by Aaron in classroom 5A. Student Voice Team. Run by Sarah in the meeting room.

*Click on the poster to enlarge*



### Student Voice Team

We have introduced a **Student Voice Team** to FPS this year. The Student Voice Team consists of one student from every classroom (from Years 1 – 6 initially) and the team meets with me on Fridays during lunch.

The Student Voice Team will focus on giving students the opportunity to discuss how best we can improve student health, wellbeing and engagement – whilst providing student voice, agency and leadership at FPS.



By introducing the Student Voice Team, we are empowering students across the school in an authentic way, by involving them in rich conversations about their learning and creating a positive climate for learning. Research suggests that empowering students to become partners in school decision-making is recognition that students are knowledgeable experts in their lives. It acknowledges that they can contribute to improving their schools and communities. Student voice, agency and leadership have a positive impact on self-worth, engagement, purpose and academic motivation (Quaglia, 2016), which contributes to improved student learning outcomes (Hattie, 2009).

Members of the Student Voice Team will pass on any relevant information to their classmates and their work will be shared at Staff Meetings and the Wellbeing School Improvement Team, where appropriate. I envision that over time, it will become a forum for the Student Voice Team members to bring areas of concern/ideas/suggestions/queries relating to creating a positive climate for learning – from students in their classroom – to the Student Voice Team, who will discuss and feedback to their classmates.

We had our first meeting last Friday and all members were enthusiastic participants and contributed their ideas to the team. I am really looking forward to facilitating this team and will keep you updated on our discussions throughout the year.

~ Sarah Abbott, Assistant Principal

## Community News

### Martial Arts at FPS

Did you know *Tae Kwon Do* and *Hapkido* are offered as an after-school activity, held in the FPS gym? Anna Crompton and Bryce Howie, of *Walsh Martial Arts Australia*, have been training Fairfield families under the guidance of Master Rodney Walsh since 2005.

Open to all ages and abilities, why not train with your child, get fit, have some fun and learn a lifelong skill?

- **When:** Mondays, from 6:30 – 7:30pm
- **Where:** FPS Gym
- **More information:** [www.walshtkd.com](http://www.walshtkd.com)
- **Contact:** Anna Crompton (0404 821 353) or Bryce Howie (0404 462 489)



## Netball Coach Needed

Parkside Netball Club is seeking an experienced coach for our under-17 netball team for 2020. This is a paid position, with additional benefits including training and support. All coaches over the age of 18 will require a current WWCC.

Commitments required are:

- One hour of training per week at our club court in Fairfield from 5.45 – 6.45pm on Thursdays during school term; and
- Attendance at games on Saturday mornings at Darebin Netball Association (Reservoir High School, Plenty Road). Game time is 11.50am.

Please email expressions of interest to [info@parksidenetballclub.org.au](mailto:info@parksidenetballclub.org.au) or contact Liza Grage-Perry (0437 352 436) to discuss further.



~ Parkside Netball Club

## Alphington Football (Soccer) Club—Family Open Day

The Alphington Football Club, home of the *Alphington Blue Tongues*, is hosting an Open Day and recruiting new players!

The local community are invited to take part and enjoy refreshments, a sausage sizzle, inflatable pitches, a boot drive and more. Come along to find out more about the club.

- **When:** Sunday 23 February, 10am – 12pm
- **Where:** Alphington Park Oval
- **What:** New players welcome! Junior players (boys and girls) right through to senior players can register their interest for the 2020 season and go into the draw to win a lucky door prize.
- **More details and to register for the season:** <https://www.alphingtonfc.com>
- Click to [view the poster](#)

~ Alphington Soccer Club



## A Spotlight on Year 1/2

It has been a busy start to term one for Years 1 & 2. Everyone had many stories to share about their holiday break and returned to school ready for a brand new year of learning and friendship!

In our start up program (pictured), we have been thinking and talking about our classroom communities.

Students have worked hard to establish their roles and responsibilities in their new learning spaces and have enjoyed getting to know their new peers and teachers.



### Mathematics

Learning in maths has begun with collecting data about each other and displaying this information on graphs. We have learnt that we have a lot in common! We are also developing and refining our counting skills. Students are busy using their counting skills in a variety of meaningful situations and extending their abilities by counting forwards and backwards from any given number using any given counting pattern.





In the Art Studio at the moment, we have been ensuring our art folios are as arty as possible... by embellishing them with the word "art".

Our Art Captain, Levi Warburton, with the Art Committee have designed a lower-case font for the Year 1/2 folios and an upper-case font for the Year 3 and 4 students. These letters of ART have been drawn on the complex patterns of creatures tessellated by the artist and printmaker M.C. Escher. Our student artists are using the elements of colour, pattern, line and shape to fill the letters with vibrancy and detail.



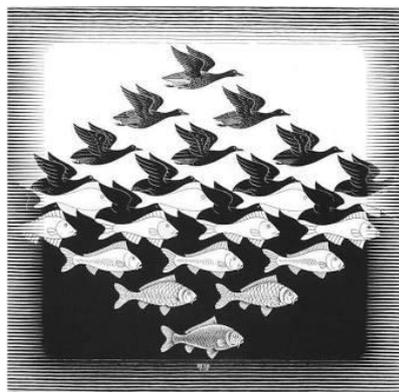
Above: Lower case font for the Foundation, Year 1 & 2

Left: Capital Letter font for the Year 3 & 4

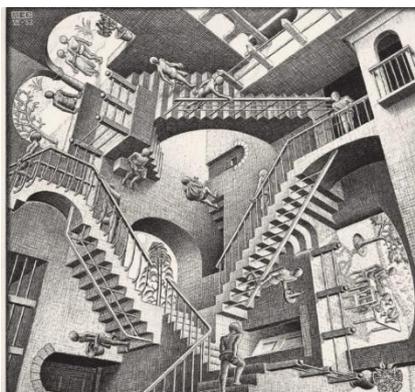
Our Year 5 and 6 artists are designing individual A, R, Ts and have discovered the way you can represent the letters are endless.

Yes! M.C. Escher (that is Maurits Cornelis – Mauk for short) is the artist we are focussing on for 2020.

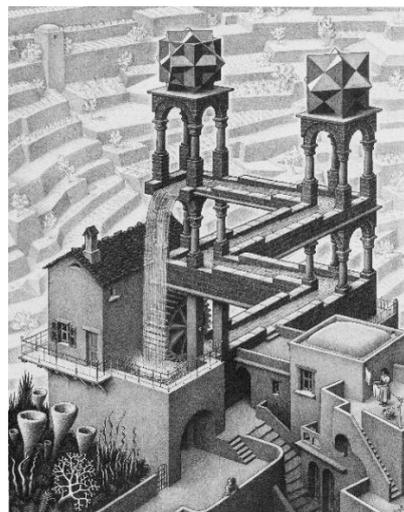
We are excited to enter his impossible worlds – where staircases climb forever, fish morph into birds and water can run uphill. He is the master of illusion and we cannot wait to explore his universe of strange perspectives and distorted visions.



*Sky and Water*



*Relativity 1953*



*Waterfall*

~ Marjie Tkatchenko, Visual Arts Teacher

## A Focus on Performing Arts

We have had a wonderful start to 2020 in our Performing Arts classes. Fairfield Primary School students never ceases to amaze us with their talent and their enthusiasm, so we cannot wait for all the wonderful learning, performances and exploration that comes with Performing Arts.

With Choir and Orchestra also kicking off, there is certainly a buzz of activity in our room and at the beautiful outdoor learning space adjoining our classroom. The latter space being the vision of the Environmental Sustainability Working Group (ESWG) and funded by a grant from the *Leader Newspaper*.

### Concerts

As per tradition, we will continue to have three concerts in 2020, so please save the following dates:

Term Two	Year 5/6 Concert	<b>Tuesday 5 May, 7 – 8:30pm</b> Xavier College Performing Arts Centre
Term Three	Year 1/2 Concert	<b>Wednesday 16 September</b> Xavier College Performing Arts Centre
Term Four	Year 3/4 Concert	<b>Thursday 29 October</b> Ivanhoe Girls Grammar School

### Foundation

In Foundation, we are using our singing voice in Music, learning to move safely around our peers whilst dancing and pretending to be someone else in Drama. Performing Arts in Foundation is a great way for students to build their aural skills, their gross motor skills and reap the benefits of singing or grooving to the beat with their classmates.

As parents to young children ourselves, many people have asked us questions like,

- “Is Prep a good year to start learning and instrument?” or
- “Which instrument would be a good first instrument for our child?”

Our response is often to gauge a child’s interest, and to think about whether they have settled in with the rigours of school life. Piano and keyboards are always a great first instrument and provides a good base for learning music theory. Recorders (whilst annoying for parents if not used properly) are also a versatile instrument with skills, which translate to most woodwind instruments in future.

Encourage a child to explore different instruments and help them to explore their interests.

Learning about music does not necessarily involve learning an instrument at all. You can make music a part of your everyday life in many ways. Children love singing and singing helps to hone their skills in learning about pitch and rhythm. Listening to a song and trying to identify the beat of the song and clapping to the beat of the song is great way to introduce percussion to a little one’s musical journey.

### Year 1/2

We are learning to play the ukulele this term. As the Year 2 students have had some experience with the ukulele, we hope this will foster co-operation and peer teaching amongst the grades. We have already

explored the history of the ukulele, its parts and how to hold it. The following weeks will involve us learning to play chords, strum and eventually change chords. Our aim is to learn to play all the songs in our special *Fairfield Primary School Ukulele Song Book*. Learning an instrument is also a perfect medium to learn pitch, and improve sight-reading.

A simple exercise students can do at home is to pretend to hold a ukulele and start strumming down whilst keeping the beat to their favourite song.



### Year 3/4

We are bringing out the inner hip-hop artistes amongst our Year 3/4 students. Starting with body percussion, we are exploring how we can create a beat through clapping and moving various parts of our body (pictured).

We will follow this by notating the beat we have created on *Garage Band* and *Groove Pizza*. This will be further extended by writing a rap on top of this beat.

This unit focusses on rhythm and beat, which are essential elements of music. It also emphasises to students that music should be accessible to all and that there are alternative methods to notate and record music.



### Year 5/6

It's concert time! Our senior students have already begun preparations for our musical production of *'Alice in Wonderland'*. All students have been given the opportunity to audition for speaking roles with the cast being announced next week. Everyone also has the opportunity to participate in a small group-singing item if they choose to.

As the term progresses, we will be asking if there are any community members who are interested in helping with set design and construction.

During class time, we will be exploring different dance styles and looking at ways to work collaboratively to choreograph a class dance to perform at the concert. Furthermore, we will be exploring space, tension and timing in drama and dance exercises.

~ Keri Spence and Olivia Li, Performing Arts Teachers