

Term 2 Week 8 Wrap

Friday 5 June 2020



Fairfield
Primary School

Principal's Report

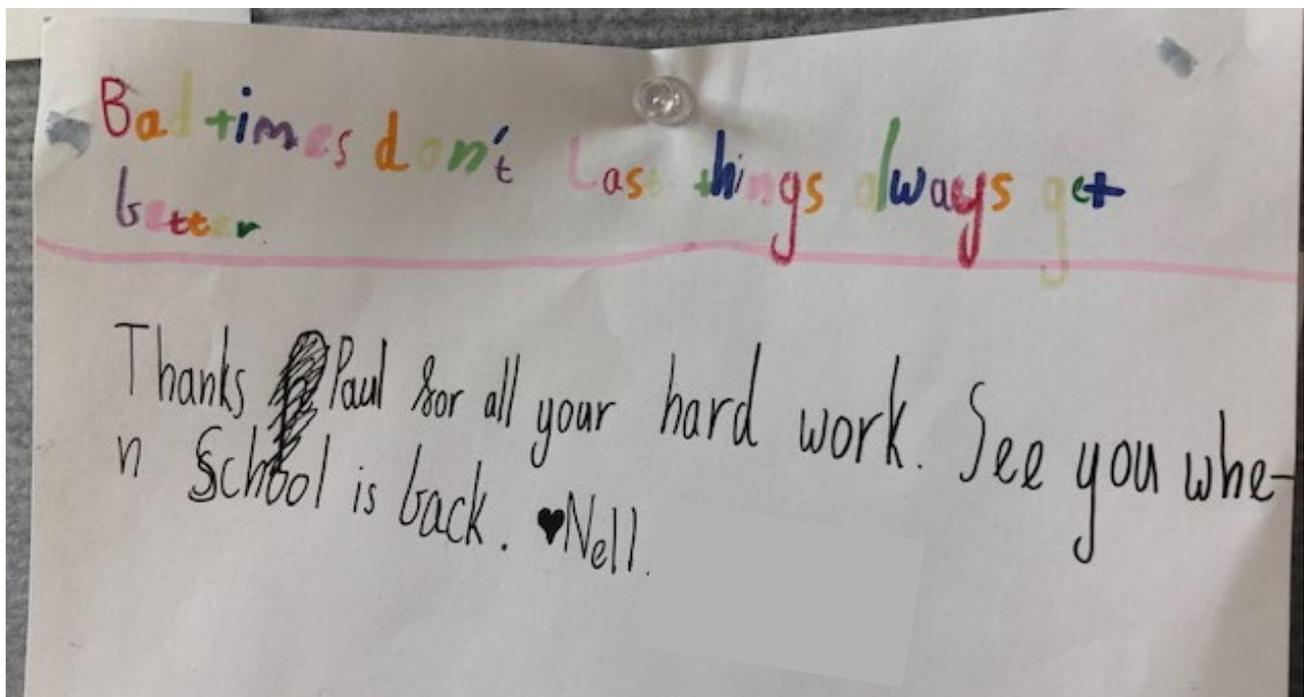
Preparing for the Return of Years 3 – 6

After two successful weeks of Foundation – Year 2 students being back at school, we are looking forward to the return of Year 3 – 6 students next week. Firstly, I would like to congratulate the Year 3 – 6 students for their efforts and achievement during remote learning. They have adapted impressively to this new learning environment, and their high levels of participation has ensured that they have remained connected to the school, their teachers and their peers.

Teachers are excited to have students back in the classroom; they are aware of the different emotions that students may be experiencing and will be implementing strategies and activities to support a smooth transition back to school. Please read Sarah's article in this wrap, where she discusses some support strategies.

Please refer to the Compass communication, sent Tuesday 2 June, for the school arrangements once everybody is back onsite.

The note below was left on the outside of my office window the day that school closed. I have had it pinned to my noticeboard to keep my spirits up. Thanks for the reminder!



Bad times don't last. Things always get better.

Farewell to Remote Learning

It is important to reflect upon what we have all experienced during remote learning. Whilst the last eight weeks have been a period of challenge, there has been lots to celebrate, learn from, and to build upon. The positive feedback that I have received about remote learning from parents has included:

- Gaining a greater insight into what and how my child is learning.
- Having greater involvement in my child's learning.
- Seeing my child develop their independence.
- My child taking responsibility for their learning.

As a school, remote learning was a new concept which very quickly became the way that we taught. As I stated in my video during the term one holidays, it was a time of learning for everyone, where we would all make mistakes and all be in the 'Learning Pit'. I have appreciated the feedback the school has received along the way – we have benefitted hearing from families about how remote learning was going for them.

Overall, the feedback about how teachers used Google Classroom has been overwhelmingly positive. We will all look back on this eight week period in our way, but from my point of view I am proud and grateful for the efforts of the students, the support of the families and the commitment of the staff.

There may be aspects of Google Classroom that we will maintain, but for now, we will have a break from that space and return to the more familiar setting of the FPS classrooms.

In the Classroom

When I have visited the Foundation – Year 2 classrooms, I have been greeted by children, eager to tell me how great it is to be back at school. The 'buzz' returned to classrooms from the moment that they returned. Friendships, learning and laughter have been in abundance as we have all readjusted back to the routine of the school day.

Congratulations to everyone for their contributions towards this transition.



A buzz in the Foundation area

Building Upgrades

Wingrove St Development—Stage 2

The Wingrove St site continues to be a hive of activity as work on our Year 5/6 campus makes positive progress. This week, staff met with our project manager (from the Victorian School Building Authority) and the architect to provide updates about the works. The project team are confident that the new building will be ready for our students to occupy at the start of next year.

The school is able to publish approved images of the works occurring on the Wingrove St site.



Above: The preparation for the ground slab and excavations through the rock.

Below: The rio bar cage is where the lift will go.



Langridge St Site—Stage 3

As well as the Wingrove St development, we are fortunate to have a number of fantastic upgrades taking place on our current site. These upgrades include:

Demolition of the Foundation building

- This work is scheduled for the Christmas holidays. The demolition is occurring due to the high ongoing maintenance of the building, including a leaking roof, door and window malfunctions, guttering problems, as well as the general disrepair. This work will also include the removal of asbestos.

Landscaping around fig tree area

- We are delighted that the demolition of the Foundation building will mean that we will have more outdoor space! Landscape design for this area is fantastic and includes planting, decking and the installation of logs and boulders. This work is set to take place early next year.

Additional toilets

- As the school will be losing toilet facilities with the Foundation building demolition, the storeroom directly opposite the toilets by the Old Hall will be converted into more toilets. This work is scheduled for the second half of term three.

Administration corridor

- The rooms off the corridor that connects the office to the library are being refurbished. This includes new carpet and painting in classroom 3D, the Reading Resource Room, the Meeting Room and the Library. The staff toilets are being upgraded, with an extra toilet to be installed.
- This work will start during the last week of this term, so the library will be closed until works are completed – hopefully before the end of term three. Class 3D will temporarily relocate to the Meeting Room (across the corridor) before the end of this term, and should be back in their classroom early next term.

Asbestos removal

- Asbestos in rooms off the administration corridor will be removed during the first week of the upcoming holidays. Nobody is allowed on the school grounds during this time.

Old Hall refurbishment

- The Old Hall will be recarpeted and the leadlight windows will be repaired. The eastern and western walls will also be repainted. This maintenance will happen later in the year.

We are so excited about these upgrades and feel fortunate to be the recipients of \$7m of State Government funding. The scope of these improvements means that there will be very little disruption to the daily operations of the school. We do not require any additional portables during the works, and apart from the landscaping early next year, we will not lose any play space.

Furniture Up for Grabs

As part of this works, we have identified a number of furniture pieces that the school no longer requires. This includes plastic chairs, classroom desks, teacher desks, metal cabinets and metal shelving. If you know anyone who might be interested in having this furniture and is able to collect it, please [email the school](#).

Locked Down Trivia

FPS parents were invited to attend *Locked Down Trivia* last Friday night. This event enabled parents to meet virtually and showcase their trivia knowledge. Many thanks to families who participated, raising over \$2,400 for the school in the process. This money will be used to purchase coding and robotics equipment, to be used next term.

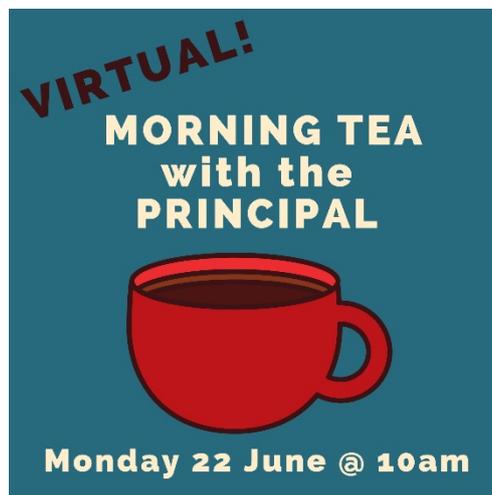
Thank you to Olivia Beaman (parent) for bringing this idea to the school, and trivia hosts Michael and Erin Nunan for running 10 weeks of trivia nights and raising funds for so many deserving community groups.

Principal Morning Tea—Join Virtually!

Normally I invite parents to join me once a term for a cup of tea in the staffroom, where I provide an update on what's been happening around the school.

This term, I will host this session remotely on **Monday 22 June at 10am**.

If you are interested in joining me for a chat, please [RSVP here](#) and we will send out a calendar appointment with details. This term, I will talk about the school's experience during COVID-19, and share further details and plans for the building works.



Boots For All – Donation Drive

James F, from 5B, has organised a donation drive for gently used sports shoes and equipment. If your old equipment is in good condition it can be donated to [Boots For All](#).

What do *Boots For All* do with the gear?

- They will make sure the gear gets to boys and girls who don't have enough money to buy it themselves.

What can you do?

- Bring your equipment and leave it in the box outside the FPS office, **from Tuesday 9 June**.

What equipment is accepted?

- Football boots (all codes); basketball shoes; sneakers/running shoes; sports balls; sports bags; cricket bats, pads, gloves, helmets; softball & baseball bats & gloves; shin guards; team uniforms; active wear; general sportswear; general fitness equipment.



Click to enlarge

Have a great long weekend.

~ Paul Wallace, Principal

Assistant Principal's Report

Preparing for the Return to School

Your child may be experiencing a variety of emotions in the build up to returning to school. We understand that some children will be feeling nervous or anxious about returning and others will be very excited! There are some things you can do at home to prepare your child for their return to school, getting into a routine will help make the transition back to school a positive experience.

Prepare

- Get back into the routine of waking up, having breakfast and going to bed at regular times.
- Discuss any issues or fears your child might have about going back to school.

- Talk to your child about what they like about school and what they have been missing.
- Talk through the routine of what it's like being at school.
- Discuss what may be different now (for example, getting to their classroom in the morning).

Before the School Day

- Involve your child in laying out their uniform so it is ready for the morning, packing their bag planning and packing their lunches and snacks.
- A visual checklist can help your child remember what they need to take.
- Try to have calm evenings and allow extra time to settle before bedtime.
- Allow extra time to get ready for school in the morning so that you are not rushing.

After School

- Talk to your child about their day, including what they enjoyed, what may have worried them, and what they found difficult.
- Include some family time. Children may miss being at home with you during the day so it is important for them to feel close and connected with the family.

Below are some links to more information about preparing your child for their return to school.

- [Helping kids with the transition back to school – ABC Life](#)
- [Returning to normal after COVID-19 – Kids Helpline](#)
- [Helping children transition back to school in the COVID-19 era – Australian Psychological Society](#)

~ Sarah Abbott, Assistant Principal

General News

Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF) – Applications Due Friday 26 June

The CSEF (\$125 for primary school students) is provided by the Victorian Government to assist eligible families to cover the costs of school trips, camps and sporting activities. As families may have experienced a change in circumstances due to COVID-19, you may be eligible for this funding.

- Click to find out more about the funding and to [see if you meet the eligibility criteria](#).
- Access the [CSEF Application Form](#) (copies are also available at the school office)
- Applications are to be submitted to the school office by **Friday 26 June**.

OSHClub: Vacation Care & Open Curriculum Day

Vacation Care

These school holidays, OSHClub will be open for vacation care. Due to the asbestos removal, the first week of care will be held at Alphington PS and the second week at Fairfield PS. Click to see the [details of the program](#) and to [make a booking](#).

Curriculum Day Care

As Monday 13 July is a curriculum day, OSHClub will be open for [booking](#).

Specialist Timetable – Tuesday 9 – Friday 12 June

Here is the [Specialist Timetable](#) for next week.

The timetable is being updated on a weekly basis to account for the short week and the return to school for all students.

Virtual School Tours and Enrolment

A reminder to families with children ready to start school next year to please [submit your enrolment form](#) by the end of this term.

We have wrapped up the live Q&A sessions of school tours for now, and our virtual tours are still available online.

We were excited to have our real estate boards installed this week – as were the students who featured on the boards!



Community News

Yarralea Children's Centre – Virtual Open Day

Yarralea Children's Centre invites people who are interested in kindergarten, bush kinder and childcare to watch the 'Virtual Tour of Yarralea'. The centre is also hosting an online Q&A session with the Yarralea Education Team. Session details are listed below:

- Google Meet meet.google.com/aqn-xurw-hzq
 - Saturday 13th June, 10 – 10.30am
 - Monday 15th June, 10 – 10.30am
 - Tuesday 16th June, 7 – 7.30pm
- Click for [further information](#)



YARRALEA
CHILDREN'S
CENTRE

VIRTUAL
OPEN
DAY



In the Classroom

National Reconciliation Week Activities

Foundation Students

In honour of *National Reconciliation Week*, Foundation students explored aspects of Indigenous culture in a range of different ways.

During exploration, some children were inspired by the Aboriginal artist Sally Gabori. They used colours and lines in order to create abstract designs. Other children moulded playdough in order to represent Australian Indigenous shelters.



Foundation children practised an *Acknowledgement to Country* and then listened to a story about the stolen generation and Sorry Day. In response to the text, they created their own 'sorry stones' out of paper, and then drew and wrote ideas which depicted their understanding of Reconciliation Week.



Modeling Indigenous shelters



*Painting inspired by Aboriginal artist Sally Gabori
Creating 'sorry stones' out of paper*



Year 1/2 Students

This week was *National Reconciliation Week* so the 1/2 students spent some time learning about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures. We looked at the map of Indigenous language groups and discussed the way Indigenous Australians take care of their country. We talked about the changes that have occurred since colonisation and the students began to realise how these changes disrupted and displaced the Indigenous people of Australia.

We decided to create a display (see below) to pay our respects to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and acknowledge the wrongdoings in our history.



M.C. ESCHER in Isolation Challenge

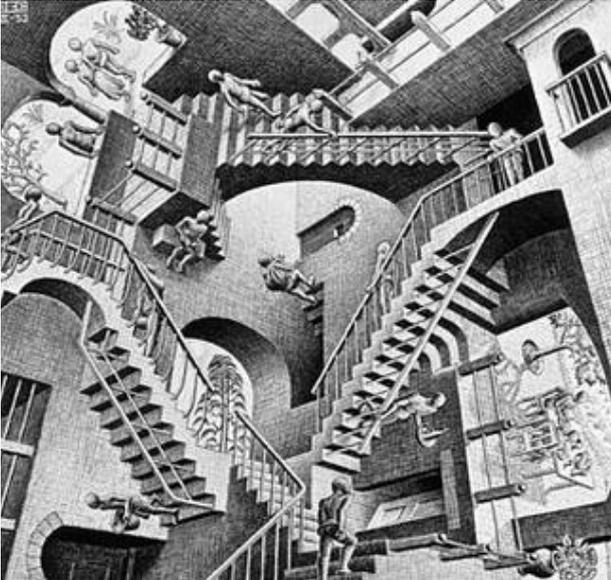
Contrast (Order and Chaos) – M.C. Escher



Interpreted by Amy C (5A) and Heidi C (1/2G)



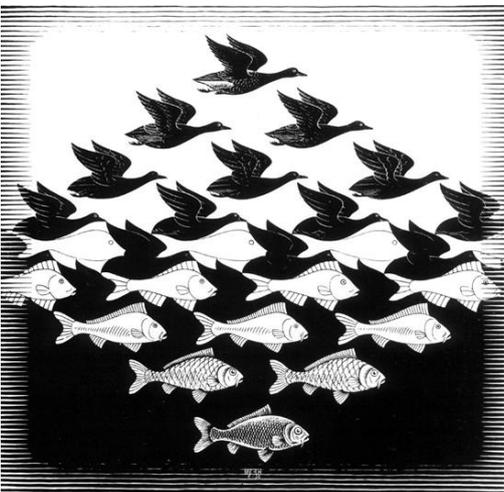
Relativity – M.C. Escher



Interpreted by Asha B, 5C



Sky and Water 1 – M.C. Escher



Interpreted by Samia A (6A) and Kirin A (3D)

