



PRIDE IN HISTORY.....CARING FOR OUR FUTURE

Principal's Blog

Dear Parents and Friends,

Parent Support

Can I thank our school community for contributing so much to the successful start of the school year. This is now my sixth year as Principal at Ferny Creek and the support you give to your school and its teachers is

wonderful. We are now at the stage where you obviously feel confidence in our professionalism to do the best possible to allow your child to achieve their best. Thank you.

Billy Cart Derby on Friday February 27th and Working Bee This Sunday 22nd February

The excitement is building for the great day! To make the evening an even better one we are holding a Working Bee this Sunday from 9.00 to tidy up our school for the big event. I hope to see lots of families here.

See the attached Working Bee notice

Agreed Practises

As mentioned in last weeks newsletter the school has agreed practices that apply to all students from Prep to six. A few more that might be of interest to you are;

- Raffle tickets are to be used for positive behaviour in the yard.
- Bikes must be walked through school grounds. Helmets must be worn.
- The bike enclosure, car parks and toilets are not play areas.
- Toilets are not to be used to enter school.
- No children are permitted to walk through the Admin area (unless it's a wet day).
- Staff are to wear coloured jackets on duty and have a bum bag for first aid and a diary for issues.
- Tree line boundary is to be consistently adhered to. Children past this boundary must be accompanied by a staff member.

School Council Elections

Nominations are open for School Council for the 2009 and 2010 years. I sent an information sheet home on Tuesday. Please see Jill if you did not get the letter. We have four parent and two staff vacancies. Nominations close next Tuesday 24th February.

Parent Information Nights

Next Tuesday is your child's Parent Information Evening. Following our Feedback sessions last week we now hold our **Parent Information Nights**. These are to give our expectations and objectives for the year. Staff will talk about a range of issues and will answer broad questions about the year. These evenings are not for feedback or questions about individual students. Please make an appointment time with the relevant teacher if you still have any thing to discuss about your child's year ahead.

Continues over page

19TH FEBRUARY 2009

Principal's Blog Continued.....

Bush Fire Free Dress Day

What a wonderful community effort with our Free Dress day last Thursday. We have raised over \$4500 and money is still coming in. I have been in contact regularly with the Principal from Marysville and she is delighted with our involvement. Unfortunately they still have nowhere to go to school yet and are looking for a suitable site to put temporary buildings up. It could still be a while before that happens. At the very least we will be hand delivering our letters, cards and the money as soon as is practicable, and we wish to deliver our toys either to the Marysville community to distribute to the children (about 80) or to the preschool and school when it is up and going. I don't want to dwell on the awful episode last Friday morning but suffice to say it was the best outcome!

Bush Fire and Your Children

As adults we all want our children to live carefree lives and keep them from the pain and even horror of tragedies such as natural disasters. In reality we can't do this. So what is a parent, teacher, or other caring adult to do when the natural disasters fills the airwaves and the consciousness of society?

Here are some ideas:

- 1. Reassure children that they are safe.** The consistency of the images can be frightening for young children who don't understand the notion of distance and have difficulty distinguishing between reality and fiction. Let them know that while this event is indeed happening it will not affect them directly.
- 2. Be available.** Let kids know that it is okay to talk about the unpleasant events. Listen to what they think and feel. By listening, you can find out if they have misunderstandings, and you can learn more about the support that they need.
You do not need to explain more than they are ready to hear, but be willing to answer their questions.
- 3. Help children process what they see and hear, particularly through television.** Children are good observers but can be poor interpreters of events that are out of their level of understanding.
- 4. Support children's concerns for others.** They may have genuine concerns for the suffering that will occur and they may need an outlet for those concerns. It is heart-warming to see this empathy in children for the concerns of others.
- 5. Let them explore feelings beyond fear.** Many children may feel sad or even angry with these events so let them express the full range of emotions. They may feel sadder for the loss of wildlife, than for loss of human life, which is impersonal for them.
- 6. Help children and young people find a legitimate course of action if they wish.** Action is a great antidote to stress and anxiety so finding simple ways to help, including donating some pocket money can assist kids to cope and teaches them to contribute.
- 7. Avoid keeping the television on all the time.** The visual nature of the media means that images are repeated over and over, which can be both distressing to some and desensitising to others.
- 8. Be aware of your own actions.** Children will take their cues from you and if they see you focusing on it in an unhealthy way then they will focus on it too. Let them know that it is happening but it should not dominate their lives.
- 9. Take action yourself.** Children who know their parents, teachers, or other significant caregivers are working to make a difference feel hope. They feel safer and more positive about the future. So do something. It will make you feel more hopeful, too. And hope is one of the most valuable gifts we can give children and ourselves.

Children's worlds can be affected in ways that we can't even conceive so adults need to be both sensitive to children's needs and mindful of what they say and how they act in front of children.

In difficult times, it is worth remembering what adults and children need most are each other.

Have a great week everybody,
Matthew

Ferny Creek Primary School

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fernycreek.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au

Principal: Matthew Coyle

Assistant Principal: Warren Barry

Business Manager: Jill Heathcote

School Council President: Richard Laidler

Before & After School Care Coordinator:

Alison Conduit Ph 9755 2102

7am-8.45am & 3.30pm-6.30pm

Library: Beth Byrne

Parent's Club: Ann-Maree Baker & Lisa Keep

Uniform Shop: Tracey Wain & Fiona Jones

Newsletter: Chrissie Bosua

Email - chrissiebosua@gmail.com

School Crossing: Diane Garsed

Promotion & PR: Jenny Hayley

Education, Policy & Planning: Warren Barry

Buildings & Grounds: Jacinta Flynn &

Suzanne Diprose

FCPS 2010: Brian Bateman

WEBSITE Construction: Mal Leishman

Newsletter Info

Please forward all newsletter ads or info to the office by Wednesday 3.30pm to make the next newsletter edition or email chrissiebosua@gmail.com

If you don't receive a newsletter home with your child every Thursday, you can either go to the Website to check it out or there are a few copies available at the office. Thanks, Chrissie Bosua
Newsletter Editor

First Aid Message

Dear Parents, There has been **more** reports of Head Lice throughout the school (particularly in 1/2 and 3/4) we would appreciate everyones help in checking your children for any signs of head lice and carrying out the appropriate treatment if required. Please ensure that you check your child's scalp carefully and treat any infestation thoroughly, including removal of all eggs so that we can prevent a further outbreak. Consultation with a pharmacist may be useful in determining which treatments are the most effective. Please ensure long hair is tied back and perhaps even plaited if possible while at school. Thank you, Beth
First Aid

STARS OF WEEK

PREP J

Lauchlin J: For being very conscientious and showing a great attitude towards school.

Liam AR: For being able to stay focused in the class and completing great work.

PREP N

Alex BB: For working very hard in learning our letters from Letterland and producing beautiful work.

Amelie P: For being an excellent reporter in Discovery Learning and a happy member of the class.

1/2 B

Ted B: For always giving his best efforts at everything we do in class.

Patrick S: For being able to quickly settle into the work and routines of being in grade 1 - well done!

1/2 C

Sidonie C: For settling into her classroom routines.

Elizabeth B: For being a wonderful class member and making new friends.

1/2 L

Georgia B: For being an excellent role model to others through her excellent work.

Ewan D: For trying so hard with his writing tasks.

ART

Kiriya H: For being a responsible and mature class mate and for always having a positive attitude towards her art work.

5/6 HB

Tiana W: for always taking pride in her work and making good decisions. Well done!

Brodie W: For always being responsible and a really great listener. Fantastic effort!

3/4 D & 3/4 W

Abbie G: For her outstanding help in the classroom and her exceptional listening skills.

Tom M: For his outstanding help in the classroom and his exceptional listening efforts.

Tom M: For fantastic artwork and great working habits on his bushfire project.

Ben G: For fantastic artwork and great working habits on his bushfire project.

5/6 HP

Katie B: For quietly and conscientiously completing her work.

Ben M: For his excellent concentration skills, and always completing work to the best of his ability.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT SCHOOL?

Dates for the Diary

Tue 24th FEB > Parent Info Night
Times 6.30pm 1/2 & 7.30pm 3/4 & 5/6
Fri 27th FEB > Billy Cart Derby from 5pm
Fri 6th MAR > James Merlino presenting Leadership Badges @Assembly
Mon 9th MAR > Labour Day Holiday
Tue 10th MAR > Parents Club AGM (All welcome)
Fri 13th MAR > Assembly @ 2.30pm
Citizen of the Year Award presented by Jim Asimakopoulis
Thu 2nd APR > School Photos
Fri 3rd APR > End of Term 1
Term 2
20th-22nd MAY > Grade 5/6 Camp

Bushfire Toy Drive

A huge thank you to all of the FCPS families, staff and friends who have donated to our Toy Drive so far, for Maryville PS.

The response has been fantastic and we are starting to sort through the huge pile of toys, games and books, for the children who lost so much on Saturday 7th Feb.

If you would still like to contribute, we have a bit of a wish list

- large plastic clip handle boxes with lids
- large stripy storage bags
- new toys for school aged children (we'd like to donate a new toy to each child at Maryville PS)
- large zip lock plastic bags

If you would like to help, please see Fiona Jones or Di Harbour.

2020 COMMITTEE

HEY KIDS – HAVE YOU NOTICED THE NATIVE PLANTING AROUND THE SCHOOL GROUNDS? AND THE NEW WATER TANKS? DID YOU KNOW THE SCHOOL HAS RECEIVED A GRANT TO DEVELOP SOLAR POWER? AND THAT LAST YEAR WE INTRODUCED A PAPERLESS NEWSLETTER?

THE PARENTS AND TEACHERS ON THE 2020 SCHOOL COUNCIL SUB-COMMITTEE HELPED TO MAKE THESE THINGS HAPPEN. AND WE HAVE GREAT PLANS FOR THIS YEAR.

• ISSUES WE ARE WORKING ON IN 2009 ARE:

• DEVELOPMENT OF A NATURE TRAIL/ ENVIRONMENT EDUCATION AREA ALONG FERNY CREEK, A GREAT RESOURCE FOR OUR SCHOOL TO HAVE

• ARTIST IN RESIDENCE PROPOSAL

• WALKING BUS AND LOCAL DROP OFF AREA FOR STUDENTS TO COME TO SCHOOL

• DEVELOP A LONG TERM PLAN FOR OUR BEAUTIFUL TREES ON SCHOOL GROUNDS.

• MORE NATIVE PLANTINGS

• PLANS TO INCREASE OUR SCHOOL INVOLVEMENT IN THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

WE WOULD LIKE TO INVITE ANY PARENTS INTERESTED IN MAKING A CONTRIBUTION TO THE SCHOOL FOR OUR PRESENT AND FUTURE STUDENTS TO COME ALONG TO OUR FIRST MEETING OF THE NEW YEAR.

TUESDAY 24TH FEBRUARY 8.00pm
SCHOOL STAFF ROOM REFRESHMENTS
ALWAYS SERVED

AFTER SCHOOL CARE

As we are getting a new system, we require new enrolment forms to be filled out. These can be collected from either Alison or Brione in the multi purpose room. We require that these be filled out and returned to us ASAP!

Please remember that all children must have their hat in After School Care as it is a school requirement, if you would like to leave a spare hat at After School Care we have arranged a hat box.

Accounts will be sent out every 2 weeks and we ask that regular payments are made, either in cash at ASC or if you need to, by eftpos at the office. If you are unable to make it to the school during school hours to make payments, you can leave your account details with Jill in the office.

If you have any questions regarding ASC feel free to speak to Alison and Brione.

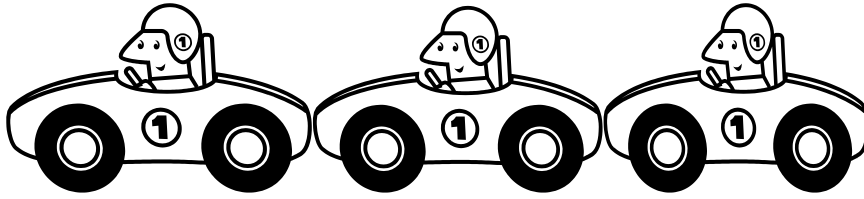
We are having some small technical difficulties with our email address, if you need to contact us this is an alternate address alison_conduit@hotmail.com

PLAY GROUP...

Hey guys,
Just a quick note from the after school care room, don't forget that we do a playgroup session on a Thursday morning at 9am – 11am, the cost for this is \$20 for the whole term or \$2 a session, so bring the little ones in for a play, and sit down and have a cuppa and a chat with other Ferny Creek parents (if you have any friends with kids not at Ferny Creek feel free to bring them along).

Hope to see you all there! Alison

Billy Cart Derby



Friday 27th February

Stop the engines and throw away the keys, the 16th Annual Billy Cart Derby is only a hammer and nail away!

Build, borrow or resurrect a Billy Cart for an evening of FAMILY FUN

Who: Families past and present

Where: On the slope at the back of the School

Program: 5.00pm Registration & Food and drinks available

5.30pm Billy Cart Grand Parade (Junior School)

6.00pm Derby begins

Food and drinks will be available for purchase from Parents Club from 5.00pm or BYO picnic.

Billy Cart essentials:

1. All riders must register on the night with a registration fee of \$5
2. All riders to have consent form signed by their parent
3. Suitable attire must be worn, covered shoes, pants etc
4. HELMETS MUST BE WORN
5. Registration forms available at the Office or on the night.

Billy Cart Derby Roster

Thank you to the people that have already volunteered to help out on the BBQ or Bar, but we still need lots more help!!

If you are able to help out please fill in the form below and return to the Office or see Lisa Seymour at Assembly on Friday

Thank you

Time	BBQ	Bar
Set up 4-5pm		
5-6pm		
6-7pm		XXXXXX
7-8pm		
Clean up		

I'd like to help at the time indicated above.

Name: _____

Contact number: _____

WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND THE HILLS?

BOXING CIRCUIT TRAINING

50 MINUTE SESSIONS
SUITABLE FOR ALL FITNESS LEVELS
MALE OR FEMALE

GREAT FOR WEIGHTLOSS, TONING UP • OR GENERAL FITNESS

\$15 PER SESSION OR \$100 for 11 sessions

WE PROVIDE ALL EQUIPMENT, YOU PROVIDE THE SWEAT

WHEN

6am MONDAY TO FRIDAY
9.30am MON, TUES, WED and FRI
6pm MONDAY TO FRIDAY
7pm MONDAY TO THURSDAY
7.30 & 8.30 SATURDAY MORNING

LOCATION

1150 BURWOOD HWY, FERNTREE GULLY
CNR ACACIA RD & BURWOOD HWY.
previously FRAWLEY SIGNS, opposite Autobarn.

CONTACT TOMMY

0400 957 070 or 1300 794 990

Email: info@fit-life.com.au web: www.fit-life.com.au

NO MEMBERSHIP, NO JOINING FEE.

BLOOD BANK DONATION

The Red Cross have booked us in on 24/03, 03/03 and 10/03 and will pick us up at school at 9am to take us to Ringwood for the donations. There are 7 spots available each day. There is a whiteboard in the foyer to register your name.

People need to: have 4-5 glasses of drink, eat a healthy snack/meal beforehand, bring photo ID and a happy face!

To be eligible: must be between 16 - 70 years old, over 45kg. fit and healthy, no more than 6 months continuously living in the UK between 01/01/1980 and 31/12/1996, no surgical procedures in the last 12 months

Thanks

Deborah Andrich

spice it up! WORKSHOPS & EVENTS with Herbie

in conjunction with The Olinda Golf House & Herbicious Delicious

\$5.00 from each place booked will be donated to FIRE RELIEF.

We have decided that our annual Herbies Dinner & Workshop with Ian Hemphill is a good opportunity to make a difference.

We are hoping to raise in excess of \$1000 to donate to fire relief.

So come along and have some fun and support the Fire Relief at the same time!

This year we have planned four events including "hands on" spice workshops

Nibbles & Chat with Ian Hemphill

Thursday 5th March \$24.50

7.30pm – 9.30pm

Spice Workshop

Friday 6th March \$50.00

10:00am – 12:00MD — BYO mortar & pestle

Dinner with Ian Hemphill

Friday 6th March \$55.00

7.30pm – 10.30pm

Spice Workshop

Saturday 7th March \$50.00

10:00am – 12:00MD - BYO mortar & pestle

Details and booking form for the events, please feel free to call either the Golf House Cafe on 9751-1399 or Herbicious Delicious on 9751 0026.

At the Olinda Golf Course we are donating all green fees to the Fire Relief efforts and we have noticed that there are a lot of people paying double & triple green fees to make an extra donation - the first two days Wednesday & Thursday raised \$180.00.

At Herbicious Delicious we are selling produce from locals where all the proceeds will also go to the Fire Relief.

Looking forward to seeing you soon! Tricia, Sue, Sylvana, & Cathy

House Wanted

Brione is currently looking for a house to rent from the middle of March, if anyone knows of anything for under \$300 a week please let her know at After School Care.



Yoga at FCPS-Undo the knots!

Thanks to Beth and Matthew for having us in 2008.

Back on again in 2009.

Join us for an hour of Hatha Yoga and relaxation.

No previous experience needed.

Friday mornings 9 – 10 am in the library.

\$14/session (casual)

For further details phone

Fleur on 9755 1883.