

Ferny Creek PS Connections



Together we make a difference

Friday 8th August 2025

Hi everyone,

Student Led Learning Conversations

Thank you to all the families who attended our Student Led Learning Conversations this week. We hope you have found them to be a great opportunity for you to meet with your child's teacher, together with your child, to discuss their learning and how to support them in Semester Two. If you were unable to attend then I strongly encourage you to contact your child's teacher to make sure you have a discussion, in support of your child's learning.

Settling into Semester 2 – Building Independence

As we begin the second half of the school year, we are encouraging all students to take the next step in building their independence and confidence. One small but important way we can support this is by having children say goodbye at the classroom door or school gate in the mornings. From this week onward, we kindly ask that parents and carers **refrain from entering classrooms in the morning**. Our morning routines are an important time for students to get organised and start their day positively.

Your support helps children:

- Take responsibility for their belongings
- Settle more quickly into learning
- Build resilience and routine

We understand that for some students this may take a little time, and we'll always support those who need a helping hand. Thank you for your understanding and for helping our students grow into confident, independent learners!

Thank you to everyone who is helping their child/ren to start their day calmly and positively with a soft start thus ensuring that they are ready to learn at 9am. As a staff team, we help them to be ready to learn by opening our classroom doors from 8:50am. Our PA system is currently undergoing some updates, but we anticipate that music will now play at 8.50am as a prompt for students to enter the classroom

As part of supporting student wellbeing and a calm end to the school day, we ask families to make every effort to be **on time for pick-up** and to have a **consistent meeting spot** where your child knows to go each afternoon. Being on time helps children feel secure and confident, and a consistent routine means less confusion or worry at the end of the day.

Please support your child by:

- Arriving promptly by 3:30pm
- Reminding them each morning where you will meet
- Letting the office know if you're unexpectedly delayed or if a different familiar adult will be doing the 'pick-up'

Staff will always support students who are unsure or need help finding their adult, but your consistency really helps them feel safe and settled.

Personal contact details

It is very important the school has your most current emergency contact telephone details, email and home address. If you change telephone details, email or home address at any point, we ask that you update the school with your accurate contact details as soon as possible. This may also include your communication preferences, particularly if there is more than one family group.



This is also a reminder that schools do not provide personal accident insurance or ambulance cover for students. Parents and carers of students, who do not have student accident insurance/ambulance cover, are responsible for paying the cost of medical treatment for injured students, including the cost of ambulance attendance and any other transport costs.

Planning for 2026

We are beginning to look at our enrolment numbers and whole school structure.

If you have any intentions to unfortunately leave FCPS in the next 6 months, please let the school office know ASAP. Your decision does not need to be confirmed and does not mean your child loses their spot if you change your mind but giving us a heads up is very helpful. This information is vital for the school to budget and plan for staffing and grade organisation in 2026. We do not want any students to be stuck in classes that are too big or only have a few kids, but this relies on us knowing who will be here.

If you suspect you may be moving house, please communicate this to office as soon as possible.

And if you have a child starting school in 2026, we require your support by submitting their online enrolment form ASAP.

Mobile Phone Policy

In line with the Department of Education's Mobile Phone policy, all phones brought to school must be switched off and stored securely in the front Office, during the school day. A mobile phone is a telephone with access to a cellular (telecommunication) system, with or without a physical connection to a network.

For the purpose of this policy, "mobile phone" refers to mobile phones and any device that may connect to or have a similar functionality to a mobile phone such as a smartwatch.

Production (October 28th)

Our production is a full musical, performed at a professional venue—this year at the Rowville Performing Arts Centre—and it involves the entire school. Students from

Foundation to Grade 4 take part in class dances and songs, as well as a whole school opening and closing number.

This year our play will celebrate our school's 130th anniversary. Our Grade 5/6 students take on the main roles and help lead the storyline, guiding the rest of the school through this exciting journey.

The production is something our school community takes great pride in, and it's often a highlight of our students' primary school years. It's a chance for them to wear costumes, learn dances and songs, develop acting skills, and experience the thrill of performing on a big stage.

Soon, we'll be sending out a message asking for volunteers to help with costumes, props, advertising, and more. You don't need any special skills—just enthusiasm! But if you do have a talent or area of interest, this is the perfect opportunity to get involved.

Movie Night

Our Movie Night, proudly organised by the Parents Club, was a fantastic success and a wonderful celebration of community. Our students gathered with blankets, snacks, lots of cushions and pillows and big smiles to enjoy a fun evening watching 'Harold and the Purple Crayon'. The event created a warm and welcoming atmosphere, with children enjoying time together beyond their school day. A huge thank you to our dedicated Parents Club volunteers for their time and effort in making this such a memorable and well-organised event!



Upcoming events

We have lots of exciting opportunities for families to come and join us for some fun and learning in the coming weeks. We are also happy to welcome volunteers to help make our Story Night and our Athletics Day great successes.

Science Open Morning Tuesday 12th August 9-11

Book Week and the opening of our new library 18th - 22nd August (PJ and Story night in the library - 19th, Activity Day and parade - 21st)

Whole School Athletics Day Wednesday 20th August - 12pm

Have a great week,

Susan

Susan Vissenjoux – A/Principal

URSTRONG Blog

Think of Yourself as a “Friendship Coach”

In late 2016, writer and author Kasey Edwards reached out to me and asked: Should parents get involved in their kids’ friendships? As she detailed in her article that [published in The Sydney Morning Herald](#), my answer was simple: No.

As I said to Kasey, the message that we want to give our children is, “You’ve got this!” not, “Don’t worry, I’ve got this for you!”

Try thinking of yourself as a **“Friendship Coach.”** Coaches don’t go out there and play the game for their players. Instead, they give them advice and send them to play. **Then, they stand back on the sidelines and watch.** When they call their team in, they point out what they saw and give the players some tips and guidance. It should work that way with parents too, coaching your children through their friendships.



Here’s how Kasey so eloquently put it:



Rather than acting as lead negotiator in our children’s relationships, we should support them and coach from the sidelines with the following Dos and Don’ts:

Reframe friendship altercations as opportunities to learn valuable skills

[Research](#) shows that children who have good social skills grow up to be more functional and successful adults. And the good news is that these skills can be taught.

“Like all skills, social skills take practice and don’t come naturally to all children,” says Kerford.

When our children are experiencing friendship problems it’s an opportunity for us to help them learn vital social skills, build resilience and strengthen their empathy.

Listen and empathise

While listening seems so simple, it’s probably often overlooked for that very reason. Just like adults, when kids talk about their problems they want to feel heard, validated and understood.

Kerford says that we need to remind ourselves that what might seem small to an adult can loom large in the eyes of a child; so large that it can seem overwhelming.

“Tune in and ask direct, specific questions,” says Kerford. “Often children have a hard time articulating what’s going on, they just ‘feel bad’. Help them put a voice to it by digging deeper.”

Encourage kids to stand up for themselves

When my daughter talks to me about her friendship problems, my default response is to say to her the things that were said to me. “Just ignore him”, “Walk away”, “She’s just jealous” are the kinds of phrases that instantly spring to mind.

But Kerford says that these responses can be too passive and minimising. She suggests taking some time to listen and empathise — and then follow up by asking “Did you stand up for yourself?”

Rather than retreating, we should encourage our kids to confront their problems and not simply put up with bad behaviour.

Kerford suggests asking kids what they could do differently next time and role-play different scenarios, so they feel practised and more confident.



Teach kids the difference between healthy and unhealthy friendships

This one is the sort of advice that will be useful right into adulthood.



It's important for our kids to know that they are in control of their lives. Kerford says that this includes the people they choose to surround themselves with. Do their friends make them feel good about themselves? If not, they should minimise the time they spend with people who make them feel bad and spend most of their time with friends who treat them well.

"Let them know that trust and respect are 'must haves' when it comes to friendship," Kerford says. "Don't say, 'This is just something all girls must go through.' This statement tells a girl she must suffer through and she is helpless. We cannot normalise the behaviours of 'mean girls'."

What about bullies?

There's a lot of talk about bullies and bullying at the moment. But Kerford's advice is to avoid the word altogether. The reason is that it's often misused and leads children — and their parents — to label kids. Instead, she suggests the term "mean-on-purpose".

"Children understand what this means and know when someone is intentionally trying to hurt them."

Parents can help their kids come up with a quick comeback statement to combat mean-on-purpose behaviour. It doesn't have to be an Oscar Wildean witticism. A simple "Not cool", "Wow" or "That was really mean" will suffice.

Quick comeback statements should be delivered in a strong voice with authoritative body language, and then the child should walk away.

"If they've tried using a quick comeback and the person continues to be mean-on-purpose, that's when an adult needs to get involved," says Kerford. "It's the responsibility of the adults (parents and teachers) to ensure that children feel safe and supported."

Be a good role model

Anyone who's sworn their head off during a spot of road rage only to have their little darling repeat it the next day at Grandma's house knows our kids are watching us and modelling our behaviour. Especially, it seems, the bad bits.

"I know it's so much pressure on parents, but their children are watching them and mirror their behaviour. If we don't want our child to gossip, we don't gossip" says Kerford. "If we don't want our child to yell, we don't yell. It's as simple as this: If you want your child to be kind, show them what being kind looks like."

Tell stories

Sometimes our kids forget that we were once kids too. Providing examples from our own life experience or of other people overcoming similar difficulties can help guide kids to a solution.

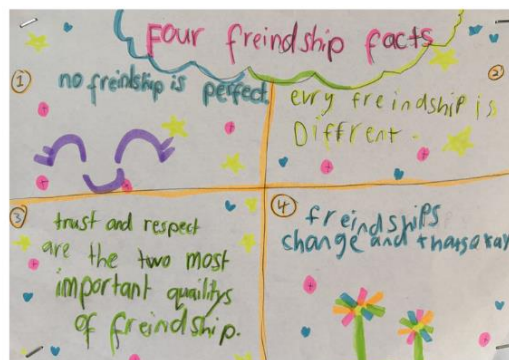
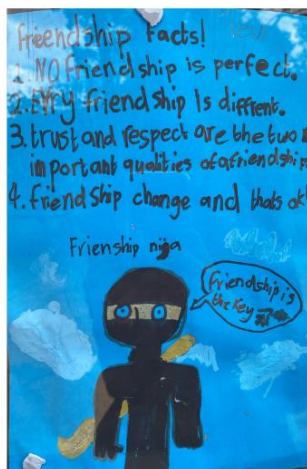
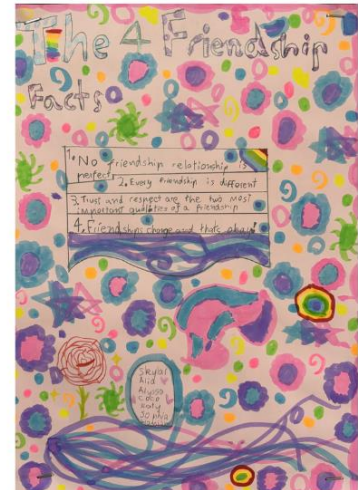
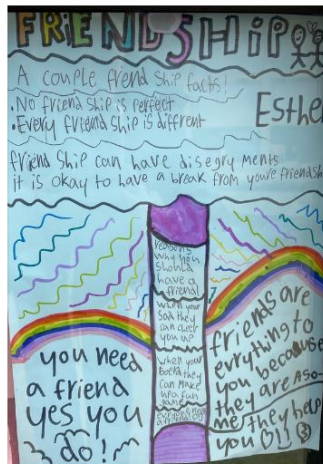
"Sharing your stories about some of the ups and downs you experienced in friendships when you were their age helps your child view you as not just mum or dad, but as someone who's been there before," Kerford says.

Kasey Edwards is a writer and best-selling author. www.kaseyedwards.com

Grade 3/4

During Friendology we have been learning about the 4 Friendship Facts to help us know what to expect in a friendship.

Here are some examples of some of the creative ways we came up to share our knowledge!





18th–22nd
August

19th August
PJ & Story Night

21st August
Parade & Raffle



BOOK WEEK 2025



national science week

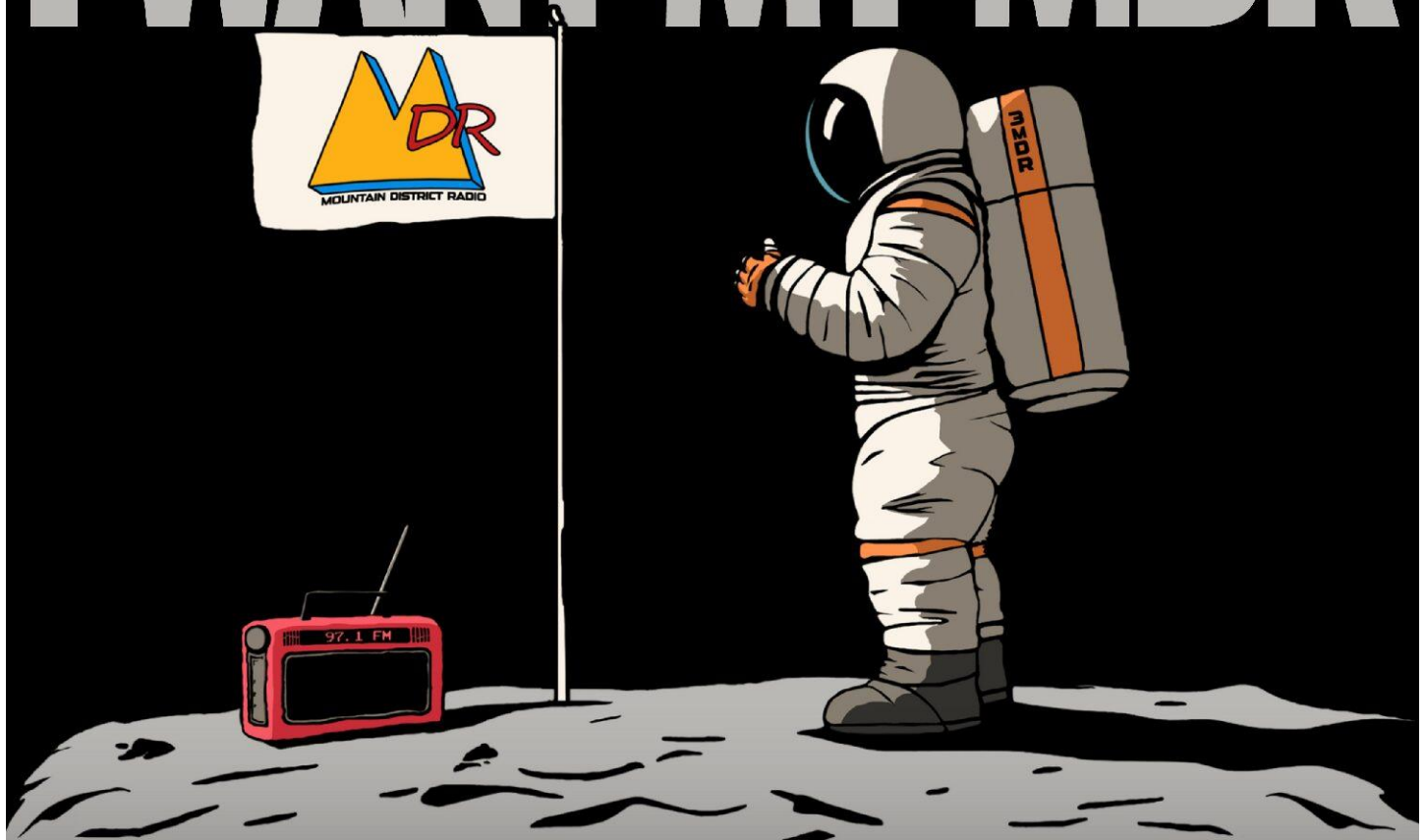


11-15 August

Open morning Tues 12th Aug 9-11am



I WANT MY MDR



RADIOTHON 2025 FUNDRAISER GIG

FRI 12 SEPT, 6PM-MIDNIGHT - SOOKI LOUNGE, BELGRAVE

**LOIN GROIN | THE DEFIBS | THE LICKSPITS
BETH SEYMOUR | HEARTS & ROCKETS**

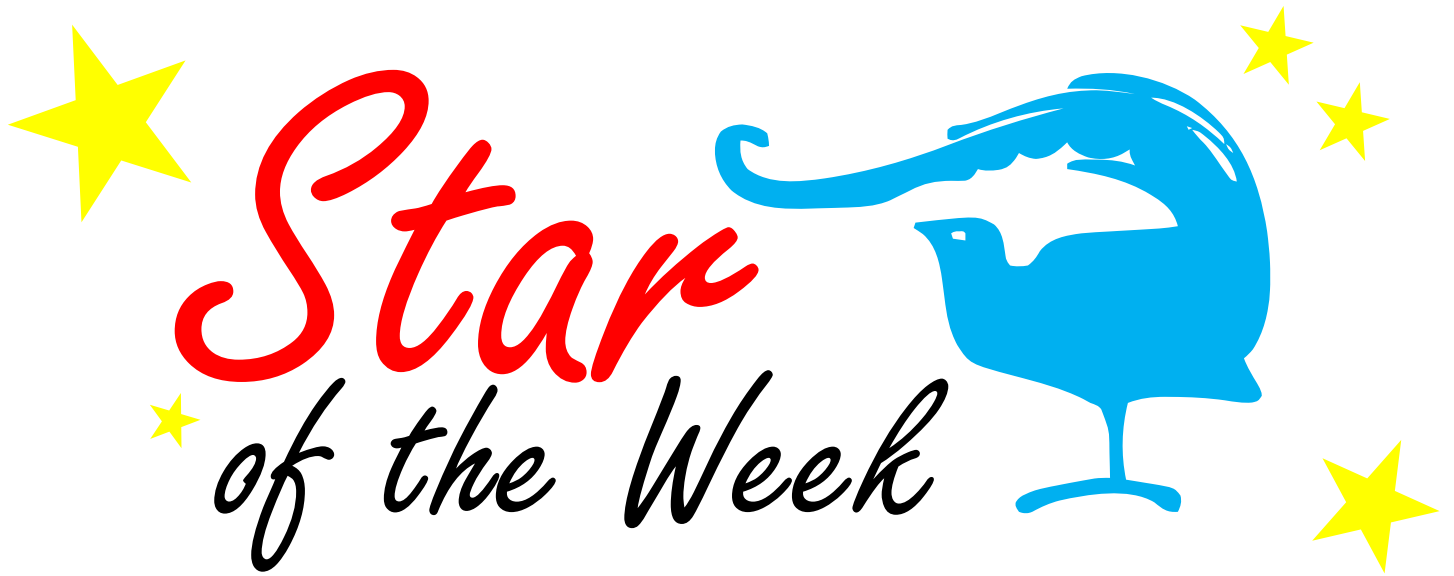
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MOONSHINE COALITION**

INFRAGHOSTS | STATHIS//DAVEY//KIM

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Foundation/Grade 1

Max D: For being a wonderful classmate who demonstrates kindness every day. You are a wonderful role model, Max. Thank you!

Thomas R: For showing persistence when completing challenging work. I love how you give everything a go, Thomas. Well done!

Grade 2S

Eleanor G-S: For working hard to improve her writing. It has been wonderful seeing you challenge yourself by using new vocabulary! Keep up the great work!

Kallan N: For consistently displaying the school values and helping others inside and outside the classroom. Keep up the brilliant work!

Grade 3/4E

Levi S: For always demonstrating a positive attitude and trying your best! I loved seeing your enthusiasm when presenting your dragon report this week.

Eddie G: For using a growth mindset when solving vertical addition problems in maths this week. Keep up the great work!

Grade 3/4KH

Sidney O: For always contributing to class discussions. Well done for thinking 'outside the box', 'inside the box' and 'around the box'! Your insights are always valued.

Mason P: For presenting his news report to the class with great enthusiasm (and in a funny 'news' reporter voice). He had great projection so the whole class could hear.

Grade 5/6A

Evan P: For your great result in our recent Literacy Pro test. You took your time, tried your best and showed great improvement from your term two test. Well done, Evan!

Grade 5/6B

Duncan H: For showing great perseverance, determination and fitness to obtain an excellent result in the recent 'beep test'.

Jessica N: For showing excellent perseverance and fitness to achieve an awesome result in the beep test.

IMPORTANT DETAILS

CURRICULUM DAYS

The last day of Term 3 is
19th September with an early
finish time of 2.30pm



COMMUNICATION

Ferny Creek Primary School recognises the importance of the partnership between schools and families to support student learning, engagement and wellbeing.

Your child's teacher will offer you a range of opportunities to communicate with them including:

- ✓ Compass
- ✓ Email
- ✓ Formal meetings
- ✓ Before/After school chats

If you do not have Compass, please contact our school Office and find out how you can obtain the app. Compass will be used several times each week, so we want everyone to have access.

FACEBOOK

Please like our Facebook page. This will be used by the school to inform families and the public of events and updates at the school. Feedback and discussion with parents/carers are welcome, but the school will not use Facebook for this purpose.

Please contact the school directly if you wish to discuss matters, as per our communication process. Only this Facebook page is endorsed by the Principal. Any other Facebook pages are not officially authorised representatives of the school.

CONTACT DETAILS

It is very important the school has your most current emergency contact telephone details, home and e-mail address.

If you change telephone details or home e-mail address at any point, we ask that you update the school with your accurate contact details as soon as possible.

STUDENT SUPERVISION

Please note that our school grounds are supervised by school staff at the following times:

- ✓ Before school from 8.45am
- ✓ Throughout recess and lunch
- ✓ After school from 3.30pm to 3.45pm

The school grounds are not supervised outside the above times.

While some families use the front playground as a meeting place, please know children must be supervised by an adult outside of these times.



MORE IMPORTANT DETAILS

OUT OF HOURS CARE



TheirCare provides adventurous and stimulating Before & After School Care Programs in a safe environment for all children. During sessions children develop life skills, friendships, confidence and creativity through play.

Ferny Creek Primary School has partnered with TheirCare to provide this service to our school which includes quality care, booking flexibility, amazing programming for your children and commitment to deliver on our promise to our school community.

Operation Times:

Before School	7am-8.45am
After School	3.30pm-6.00pm

Service Phone Number:
0419 958 268

How to Enrol:
Visit TheirCare website
www.theircare.com.au

And click 'Book Now' in the top right-hand corner to register your child's details.

All families are strongly encouraged to register their child/ren for TheirCare as it is free to enrol, and while you are under no obligation to use this service, it does provide support for you in the event of an emergency. Plus, our students love attending this service! For further information about this program please contact TheirCare directly.

LUNCH ORDERS

Lunch orders are available each Wednesday. There is an ordering system via the QKR app and orders must be placed by 8pm each Tuesday for Wednesdays lunch.

Late orders cannot be accepted.



STUDENT SUPERVISION

All bike and scooter riders are required to wear a bike helmet in Victoria.

Approved helmets have the Australian Standards Mark TM (AS/NZS) 2063) and will be marked as suitable for cycling.

Children under the age of 12 may ride on footpaths as can a supervising adult. They are required to give way to pedestrians and to wheel their bicycles over pedestrian and children's crossings.

Bikes/scooters can be stored in our bike shed during school hours.

Also, by law everyone must wear a seat belt when travelling in a car in Australia.

SUNSMART

For Term 1 and Term 4 we wear our named broadbrimmed hat at all times when outside.



Term 3 2025



Keep this handy calendar on your fridge for upcoming events at school. Check Compass, visit our website <http://www.fernycreekps.vic.edu.au/> or follow our Facebook page as this calendar is subject to changes.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
July	21 STUDENT FREE DAY	22 First Day of Term 3 Kids ROAR Program	23 School Nurse - Foundation	24	25 Schools Tree Day 
	28 Kids ROAR Online Parent Information Session	29 School Council	30 International Day of Friendship 	31	01 Assembly 100 DAYS CLOSER TO MY DREAMS GRADE 5!
August	04	05 130 years since FCPS opened	06 Learning Conversations	07	08
	11	12 	13	14	15 Assembly
	18 Book Week Opening of our new library 	19 PJ and Story Night 	20 Athletics Day 	21 Book Week Parade and Raffle 	22
	25	26	27	28	29 Assembly
September	01	02	03	04	05 Father's Day Celebration 
	08	09	10	11 	12  Working Bee Sunday 14 th 
	15	16	17 Division Athletics 	18	19



9755 1522

fernycreekps@education.vic.gov.au