

NEWSLETTER

Friday the 26th of June



Important Dates

Friday 26th June

Last day of Term **2:30pm finish**

Monday 13th July

First day back for Term 3

Monday 3rd – 7th August

Dental Van

Friday 28th August

Curriculum Day – Student free day

Wednesday 2nd- 4th September

Grade 5-6 Camp

Campaspe Downs

Friday 18th September

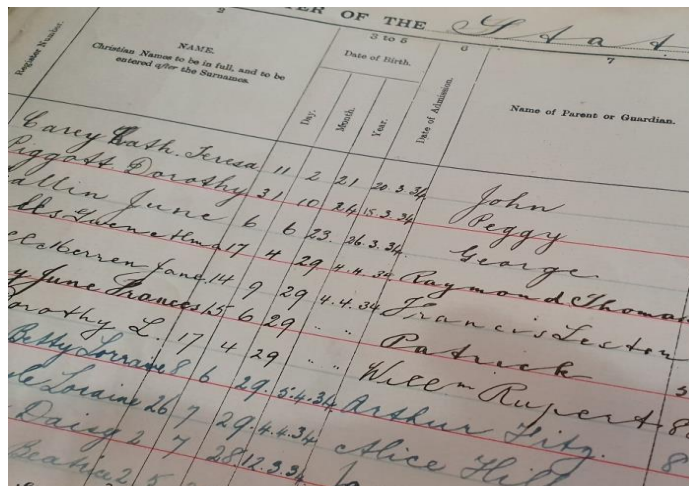
Last day of Term 3

Well, here we are at the end of a very strange and challenging term. As always, I want to share my sincere appreciation for the ongoing support of our families as we navigated a truly unfamiliar space in education. We thank you for your generosity when we needed help, your patience as we learnt new skills, your resilience in the face of many professional and personal challenges of your own, and your partnership in the learning of all of our children. We wish you all a happy and healthy break and hope you get the time to rest and recover!

Historical Artefacts

Earlier this week, we discovered boxes full of historical documents and photographs in the shipping container. One of our school community members, Meredith, has generously offered to organise them all for us. I was excited to find my Nan in the front row of one of the photos and she has spent the week reminiscing about her time at Geelong Rd School and trying to remember the names of all of her classmates. I posted this on our school FB page and many other members of our community shared that their own grandparents and parents attended FPS also. Our school holds so much history within its walls, it is just so incredible to find artefacts such as these.





Bilingual Survey

The bilingual target language survey went home this week in hard copy form for those who cannot access the online version. For ease of data analysis, we would prefer online submission where possible. We will send reminders throughout the holidays to ensure we hear as many voices as possible. The survey closes on Wednesday, July 15. Please find all the survey links, information sheets, community meeting slides and bilingual newsletters on our school website.

Vietnamese Language Planning



This week I spent time with the Vietnamese team to begin work on a shared vision and action plan for Vietnamese language learning. We brainstormed what we want our students to know, do and be when they finish their Vietnamese language journey at FPS. From there we thought about what we needed to know, do and be to be able to get our students to that point. Throughout the rest of the year, we will build on this to create a concrete action plan to move us forward. The team have so many great ideas about building partnerships with our local Vietnamese community and creating opportunities for our students to use their Vietnamese language skills in authentic experiences throughout Footscray and within the school.

Behavioural Strategies

Learning to self-regulate and make strong choices is an enormous task for children and a natural part of human development. For some children, this can be harder than it is for others. When children have difficulty learning a new skill or concept, we dedicate more time, targeted strategies and apply patience and understanding. Learning to self-regulate, socialise and manage impulses is no different. It is not a quick or easy learning path and children need a lot of support and a trusted network of adults to guide them. We have many approaches to prevent undesired behaviours, as well as teach and reinforce desired behaviours.

Some are included below:

Prevent

- Daily check-ins with trusted staff to pre-plan play times and consider what could go wrong and how to manage that. This is called a pre-correct.
- Play plans and structured use of clubs
- Structured breaks in safe spaces for sensory regulation
- The sensory room

Teach

- Small, achievable goals that are reviewed multiple times a day
- Respectful Relationships
- Reflective teaching conversations
- Behaviour management plans

Reinforce

- Natural consequences – losing privilege of being in the yard or learning space
- Positive reward charts and systems that saturate the desired behaviour with verbal or physical rewards to show children that they can succeed.

Dependent on the recruitment process, a social worker will be commencing in Term 3. Some of their time will be spent partnering with teachers to build routines, structures and strategies to ensure safe and engaging learning environments. Some of their time will be spent with individuals or small groups focussed on self-regulation strategies. Some of their time will be spent running small groups and lunch clubs for many children to join and have fun.

Thank you for partnering with us through this work to create a safe and engaging learning environment for all children. We also thank you for understanding that all children have a right to be at school and to be supported with their individual learning needs.

Generous Gift

We were contacted by Susanna, a former student of FPS and cousin of one of our staff members, Hannah. Susanna purchased a beautiful selection of culturally diverse picture story books to the value of \$200 to donate to our school library. We appreciate your generosity, Susanna.

Bunnings

T. 03 9687 1910

E. footscray.ps@education.vic.gov.au

www.footscrayps.vic.edu.au

LEARNING FOR LIVING

In the last newsletter I shared a letter that Fleur in Year 2 had written to Bunnings. This week I was thrilled to share with Fleur and her class that Bunnings has sent us the below reply. We can't wait to beautify the drab space into an inviting rest area for our students.

Hello Jen and Fleur and Students at FPS,

Thank you for your lovely letter and beautiful letter/picture created by Fleur. Having a look at the area you would like to brighten up, I also agree that it needs a beautiful makeover and love your idea of grass and succulents.

So I hope you can purchase everything you need with the \$200 worth of Bunnings vouchers I shall give you for brightening up...my day.

Hope it looks fantastic when all is done...all my wishes

Susan from Bunnings.

A Message from our School Council President

Hello to all of our School Community,

Wow, Term 2 – what a whirlwind of experiences, emotions, learnings, struggles and triumphs.

Firstly I would like to acknowledge the incredible work EVERYBODY put in during our learning from home period in Term 2. The teaching staff did an outstanding job creating meaningful lessons, keeping our children engaged during Lockdown. Parents and Carers did an incredible job maintaining life from home and supporting our students during the same period. I must say even I learnt a thing or two working through the classroom lessons. And here we are about to begin school holidays. Does anybody else feel they are not yet ready for the kids to be home again ☐?

School Council has continued on during Term 2 and I would like to provide the following updates:-

Languages Subcommittee:

The Languages Subcommittee has been working incredibly hard, meeting weekly for the last 4 weeks completing their research on the 5 languages being reviewed for selection as our Target Language for 2021. You will have seen a Compass update go out last Friday which provided access to information on all the 5 languages for you to review. A survey was shared on Compass today which the subcommittee has created and we urge you to complete, so that we can hear our community voice on your preferences. Subcommittee has then been tasked to collate their research and data analysis of the survey and present a recommendation paper to Council regarding the Target Language. Under our current timeline we should be communicating this announcement in August. Thank you to the effort and collaboration of our Languages Subcommittee.

Building and Grounds Subcommittee:

The Buildings and Grounds Subcommittee are currently working through a grant application, which if successful will see the entire middle of the school resurfaced to greatly improve the quality of the space for enjoyment by all, so fingers crossed we win this application. The Subcommittee is also seeking quotes and initial plans for a "nature/outdoors/log play" type playground along the fence-line at the rear of the Oval. We're hoping negotiations are speedy and we can get a recommendation to School Council for approval next term.

Subcommittee member opportunity:

Currently the Building and Grounds Subcommittee is made up of School Council members and Teachers only. We really do need the help and contribution of our Parents and Carers on Subcommittees so that we don't have burn out of our School Council Members. If you are interested

in joining the Building and Grounds subcommittee we'd love to welcome you and your contribution. Please let the school office know of your nomination by phone on 9687 1910 or email footscray.ps@education.vic.gov.au. We need our community to help lead us forward and your nomination to subcommittee makes a huge difference.

We would also like to thank all Parents and Carers for helping to keep us all safe by following the School's request to not enter the school grounds unless attending the Office or for a pre-approved reason. It takes all of us doing the right thing to keep all of us safe. School Council wishes everyone a safe and fun school holidays and we will keep you updated on our progress moving into Term 3.

Thank you
Raylene Varone
School Council President



Supporting Children's Behaviour

A free online seminar for parents and carers of children 2-10 years

Topics covered:

- how to use positive parent strategies
- why challenging behaviours might exist
- what stops children listening
- how to see more desirable behaviour and less challenging behaviour

Presented by teacher and social worker Abigail Hoy from Mackillop Family Services.

There will be an opportunity to ask questions as part of the seminar.

Wednesday 29 July, 7.00pm-8.30pm

Bookings: supportingchildrensbehaviour.eventbrite.com.au

You will receive a reminder email the day before the seminar with the link to access the session.

For more information, contact Early Years on 9688 0138,
or via infoearlyyears@marlbyrnong.vic.gov.au





TheirCare
Where Kids love to be!

The
place to be
these winter
holidays!

Space Explorers



See the Stars



Solution Squad



It's Elemental



Cosmic Creations



Earth Warriors

Holiday Program
Bookings Now Open!

1300 072 410 www.TheirCare.com.au

Save up to 85% with the Child Care Subsidy



Chess Coaching At Footscray Primary School 2020 Term 3

Dear Parent,

As you know, chess masters at Chess Australia Pty Ltd have been coaching students at chess lessons around Australia

The feedback from students, teachers and parents has been fantastic.

Chess Australia Pty Ltd is proud to announce that we will be running chess club lessons starting from Monday July 13, the chess club will operate under the supervision of the International Master and FIDE (International Chess Federation) accredited and registered trainer Leonid Sandler, who was also the captain of the Australian Women's Chess Olympic Team.

(For more information on Leonid Sandler, visit the web side www.chesscoaching.com.au)

Chess is a mind game that stimulates the brain development. The question that every parent will ask is:

What can chess do for my child?

Our role as educators is to prepare students with skills for life. In order for our students to become independent thinkers and self-starters, they must be equipped with the ability to analyse and reason, be quick problem solvers, strategists and good planners.

The following skills will become part of the students' way of thinking: Problem Solving, Abstract Analysis, Spatial Aptitude, Verbal Reasoning, Logical and Critical Thinking, Intellectual Maturity, Originality, Cognitive Skill Enhancement, Concentration, Increased Memory Capacity, Organisational Skills, Decision making under pressure and much more.

When: Commencing Monday July 13
Last Lesson Monday September 14

Times: 3-35 pm -4-30 pm (after school).

Please pick up your child on time to avoid additional fees.

Cost: \$150 Payment by cash

Or electronic funds transfer (EFT)

BSB 013440 account number 496191321

Please apply before July 13 payments not later than July 20

Name: **Grade:** **Address:**
.....

Email:

Phone Numbers:

www.chesscoaching.com.au

PO Box 9054, South Yarra, Vic 3141, Leonid Sandler: 0412 201 891 leonidsandlerchess@gmail.com