

7TH NOVEMBER 2022



THE NEWSLETTER

The latest news and updates from Foster Primary School



NEWS FROM THE PRINCIPAL

by Scott Moorhouse

Kinder

The Kinder is finally complete and most of the fences are down. This means that our junior students get their space back which will be welcome as the weather gets better. The official hand over of the kinder will be Monday with an official fanfare opening to take place shortly. I thank all of our students, parents and staff for their patience. I would also like to thank the respective trades people both local and other who have respected the school as an active site and have done their best to cause as least disruption as possible. We look forward to seeing the first cohort of Early Learning Students in 2023.

Foster Primary School Transition Day

Transition Days are very important at all levels of schooling for a number of reasons. It allows students to get a 'feel' for the academic and social environment they will be placed in for 2023. It also allows us as a school to look at the dynamics of each class and make adjustments if required. Our school will be running Transition Day on Friday 9th December. This is different to the statewide transition day because of an outgoing camp. Incoming Kinder students and Outgoing grade 6 students will still have their Transition Day on Tuesday 13th December. If there are numerous adjustments we may run a second transition day across the school. This will be communicated to you should this be necessary.

IMPORTANT DATES

November 2022

15th State Basketball Finals
17th Gr 2 sleepover
25th Lunch Order Day

December 2022

2nd, 5th, 6th Gr P-2 Water Safety @ Toora Pool
12th - 14th Gr 3/4 Summit Camp
13th Statewide Transition Day
13th Grade 6 Graduation
15th Gr P-2 Christmas Party
16th Gr 3-6 Pool Party
20th Last Day Term 4 - Student Free Day

Working Bee Monday 7th November

Thank you to those parents who have already expressed a desire to assist us with gardening on Monday. People are more than welcome on the night and students are welcome as long as they are accompanied. A BBQ will follow.

The jobs are:

- Weed pulling
- Laying of Weed Mat
- Planting new native plants
- Tidying and sweeping

Students in 5/6 will also have a working bee on the following day to finish any jobs not yet completed and have a few of their own projects to complete.

Behaviour Support

Our staff and students have been working very hard on this over the last 3 weeks. Whilst not perfect we are seeing a marked improvement in behaviours and attitude. I would like to thank all parents in this space for their support at home. Staff are continuing to implement our policy as it exists and students are responding well. I am also really pleased to see the levels of kindness toward one another really be visible in our school on a number of levels. We will continue to keep working hard on this with the students.

Girls 5/6 Basketball

I had the absolute privilege of watching these 10 young ladies play at Traralgon on Thursday. After winning against 2 schools (Bairnsdale West & Drouin) fairly easily they faced Newborough East Primary School in the last game to be champions of Gippsland. After being down by 8 with only 5:30 to go every single player had a hand in showing resilience and persistence to eventually run out 12 point winners. This included students putting their physical safety on the line by competing for difficult balls and one student even coming back on the court after she had quite visible swelling on her ankle. They will now go onto represent Gippsland at the State Championships in Melbourne on the 15th November - Good Luck!

What is the process for grade placement for 2023?

Opportunities to build relationships and the sense of belonging underpin the process of allocating students to classes. The process has been developed collaboratively with staff and is reviewed annually.

The process of class placement begins with this information:

1. The first step is I invite parents to write to me with any educational concerns or needs in regard to their child/ren's class placement for 2022. This information must be in writing, addressed to the principal and received by Friday October 28th, 2022.

2. In late October, early November each child nominates three students when they are asked:

Who are three students you think you can or want to work well with and you would like us to consider being with you in your new class next year?

January 2023

27th Book Collection Day
30th Students Start School

February 2023

9, 10, 13, 14, 20, 21 Gr3-6 Water Safety Program Foster Pool
8th Swim Time Trial Day
15th House Swimming Carnival
24th Division Swimming

2023 Term Dates

30th Jan - 6th Apr
24th Apr - 23rd Jun
10th Jul - 15th Sept
2nd Oct - 20th Dec



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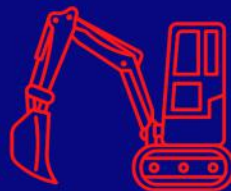


3. Students write their choices on a proforma and they are photocopied. The original is placed in the student file. Teachers check the file for student's nominations and previous parent requests.
4. Then, teachers work individually and in year levels to form classes using the following criteria:
 - each student has one student listed in his or her proforma and if that can't be done the parents are contacted and the situation is explained to them
 - there are groups of like-minded students (ie students working at the same level academically)
 - students' social and emotional needs are taken into account
 - students with special needs are placed with a supportive group
 - students with behavioural needs (ie those who require extra support to access the curriculum) are carefully placed
 - there is a balance of gender
 - there is a mix of students from previous classes.
5. Following this step, the parent letters are given to team leaders, then each letter is placed on the individual student's file.
6. Next, the specialist teachers look at class lists and identify any issues they have encountered with students or groups of students.
7. Finally, teachers review the lists a number of times to ensure all criteria are met before finalizing classes. The final class lists, along with the parent information, are passed to leadership for input and to deal with confidential issues.
8. On Transition day students will meet their classes and teachers for 2023.

Monday's Garden Working Bee

Thank you to everyone who has put their hand up to join us on Monday 7th November at 3.30pm to start works on our front garden beds. A list of jobs has been sent both on Facebook Events and Compass. Andrew Lees has kindly volunteered his time on Sunday with his machinery to move some of the dirt around so we have a good base to start on Monday. As the ground is so wet at the moment, the heavy machinery is likely to cause a mess on the front lawn. We think this is a small price to pay, considering the time it will save us on Monday afternoon. We plan to rectify this and reseed once all works have been completed.

Like anything, many hands make light work, so if you can spare an hour of your time Monday after school, it would be much appreciated. Thank you. Kylie & Sue



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Middle School News

3/4W News

Teddy Bear Picnic

It was a blast! At the Teddy Bear Picnic, we had lunch in the BER Building with family and friends. After lunch we went to the pavilion or the music room. In the music room was a disco and in the pavilion was 'frisbee-cone' and basketball. Then we went into multi-age activities. We had so much fun! -Jasmine Wallace

The Teddy Bear Picnic is where the whole school was wearing their PJs and sat down for lunch in the BER Building. We also did activities after lunch and brought toys to school. - Ziggy

On Friday 28th of October we had a Be You / Confidence day where the parents came to the BER building and had a picnic with us. We wore clothes that made us feel confident and some of us wore PJ's. When eating time was over we did activities in the Music room, PE shed and the basketball court. Everyone chose an activity and played there all lunch. When the bell went we all got to go into different classes. One building drew celtic knots, one did teddy bear making and the last building made tiny dream catchers. - Madi

Summit Camp

We're all very excited for the Summit Camp. We have seen so many photos and videos and it looks so fun. We're all excited for another camp. I think the food fight would be the best. - Maddie

RAD Rotations:

In RAD rotations I do AUSLAN and I learn how to do silent language. When I watched a video on how to do some of the silent language I had to watch very closely. In Science we were learning about how day and night happens and something I learned is that the moon gets very bright because it reflects the sun. The final group of RAD Rotations is Mindfulness. We get to do colouring and drawing and things like that. -Holly

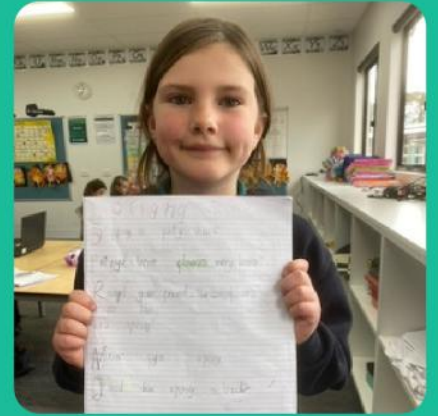
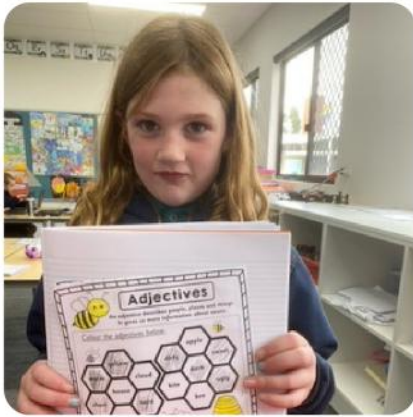
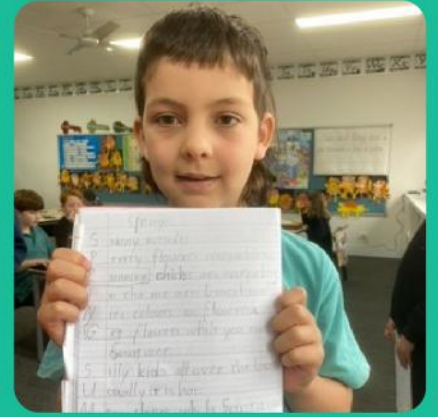
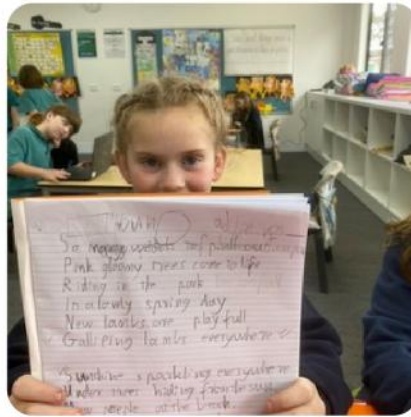


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Junior School News

In grade 12D this week we have been learning about acrostic poems and using adjectives to make our writing more interesting.

We've learned that a poem is a piece of writing that expresses a feeling.



Everyone can learn to learn

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School Wide Positive Behaviours

Our SWPBS team and whole school staff have been working hard throughout this semester to update our whole school expectations that link in with our school values.

We regularly collect data and use this data to plan our focus for the following weeks. Recently, we have been focusing on Being Kind to others and using our Thumbs Up Cards to acknowledge students who demonstrate our school values, and who are Being Kind to others. We are getting very close to filling up our Thumbs Up wall which is very exciting. The students are looking forward to a fun afternoon when the board is full.

Well done to everyone.



Child Safe Standards

Child safety and wellbeing at Foster Primary School: information for families and the school community.

The Victorian Government has announced new Child Safe Standards to further strengthen child safety across organisations, including schools.

The new standards recognise the critical importance of families and the broader school community in maintaining and promoting child safety and wellbeing.

Foster Primary School has reviewed and updated our child safety policies and procedures to ensure they meet the requirements of the new standards. These are available to view on our [website](#) or a copy from the office is available upon request.

We are committed to continuous improvement in our approach to child safety and wellbeing and welcome feedback from families and members of our school community on ways we can further strengthen our child safety policies, procedures and practices. If you have any suggestions, comments or questions, please contact Scott Moorhouse or Sue Duggan.



Be Respectful

- I look after my own, others and the school's belongings and equipment.
- I speak to everyone respectfully.
- I use good manners by saying please, thank you and excuse me.
- I listen to the person who is speaking.
- I am patient and wait politely for my turn to speak.
- I have a good attitude, speak politely and show positive body language.
- I follow an adult's instructions.

Be Safe

- I keep my hands and feet to myself.
- I walk when I am inside and in undercover areas.
- I care about the safety of myself and others before I act.
- I make safe choices online.
- I ask permission or let an adult know before I leave my learning area.
- I return to my classroom and line up.
- I listen and follow an adult's instructions.

Be a Learner

- I have a go at all learning opportunities and allow others to do the same.
- I use metacognition strategies to better understand myself as a learner.
- I view my mistakes as a learning opportunity.
- I challenge myself to improve by being in the learning zone.
- I make my best effort to manage my distractions.
- I use technology for the intended purpose.
- I am resilient when something does not go my way.

I am friendly and kind.



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Parents & Friends Group

Planning meeting for 2023 - Friday 18th November 9am

All our parents and friends community are invited to an end-of-year meeting to celebrate what we have achieved this year as well as look ahead to 2023. We have some exciting plans for next years fundraising focus and your input is valuable!

Our Junior playground is in need of a refresh/replacement/rework and that will be our focus for at least 2023. The new kinder play area has really set a standard for the look of that part of our school and we want to bring our junior playground up to speed! This will be a great cause to get involved in :)

In terms of fundraising, we want to know what worked, what didn't work, what ideas do you have to contribute to our fundraising efforts?! We want to hear it all!

Yes! There will be morning tea provided :)

Yes! You're welcome to bring along your little people :)

The parents and friends group is a great way to get involved in some of the behind the scenes stuff at our school. There are opportunities to get to know our incredible teachers and students better and make a difference to the experience our kids have at school. You can contribute as little or as much as you want to - it is also a fantastic way to get to know other parents, we do tend to have quite a bit of fun with the work we do! I look forward to seeing you on the 18th :)

NB - if you can't make the meeting but still have ideas or would like to be involved, please email me at white.kimberleyj@gmail.com or leave a note/message with Kylie at the office.

Kitchen Garden Farmers Market Stall

Still on the look-out for some helpers for our January market on the 21st. Let me know if this is you!!

Thank you to:

**November
Farmer's Market
Stall Sponsor**

INSIDE OUT
CLOTHING & FOOTWEAR

Parents & Friends Events

November

18th 2023 planning meeting
19th KG Farmers Market Stall
25th Lunch order day

December

17th KG Farmers Market Stall
Lunch order day - date TBC

January 2023

21st KG Farmers Market Stall

DID YOU KNOW: The funds raised from our Kitchen Garden Farmers Market Stall go straight back to help pay for the cost of providing the amazing kitchen & garden classes for our students in years 3-6.



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Student & school wellbeing news

What if we just trusted that everything that happened was meant to happen?

This doesn't mean we have to be happy about it at all, sometimes things happen that are downright awful and we don't like it at all. Sometimes life events are unfair, scary, sad and horrible. Sometimes great things happen too and maybe we don't tend to question them so much nor wonder why they happened.

When students, for that matter anyone, have a challenge I wonder if we could look at these situations with curiosity rather than distress, fear, anxiety or sadness. I wonder if we could ask, 'what if this event or situation was meant to happen?' How could we look at it differently? How could we find the learning, the growth or the good in it for us. I'm going to use an example that has been a real challenge for many, not all, students and that is the change in teaching staff that has happened over the course of the year and as we recently heard from Mr Moorhouse this week, there are more changes afoot for next year. There is actually nothing good nor bad about a change in staff, it is just change. What if we looked at this with curiosity and started with questions such as:

What could be good about having a different teacher?

What will I learn from having a change in teachers?

How would I look at this differently if I had chosen this exact situation?

Will I burst in to flames if I have a different teacher?

If I looked really hard, could I find the good in this or am I choosing to look for the bad?

Could I TRUST that this is all happening for the very best outcome for me in this situation?

What if this is all unfolding as it is meant to?

I truly appreciate sometimes change can be tough and I also appreciate some kids just seem to be fine and resilient with any change. That is also neither good or bad, we don't have to use labels at all. It is just as it is.

Some however need a bit more time and support to adjust. I am putting it out there to sit down with your kids and go through the questions above and see where you arrive.

Happy chatting 😊



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