

24TH NOVEMBER 2023



# THE NEWSLETTER

*The latest news and updates from Foster Primary School*



## NEWS FROM THE PRINCIPAL

*by Scott Moorhouse*

### Post Review Work

We are currently working as a collaborative unit to unpick what the vision for our Key Improvement Strategies are over the next 4 years. Our goals include:

1. To improve Numeracy growth and achievement
2. To improve student engagement in learning
3. To strengthen the connectedness, resilience and wellbeing of all students

Staff are currently synthesizing a lot of information to finish the final key improvement strategies and targets moving into the future. From there I will take those priorities and insert them into the School Strategic Plan (SSP) for the next 4 years. This will be presented back to council at the December meeting.

Leadership had a day to begin planning for 2024 and what it looks like for the team. There have been some changes based on the DET organisational design parameters and I will share this with the school community in due course. The main work of the team was to take the staff feedback and prioritize the work over the 4 years. This will be taken back to staff at the next available opportunity. During the day the leadership team also worked on the following:

- The school priorities emerging from the review.
- Class Climate and Transitions.
- Assessment and monitoring schedules.
- Extra-Curricular alignment and how it complements our school curriculum.

## IMPORTANT DATES

### November 2023

- 25th - Garden Working Bee
- 28th - 2024 Preps Morning Visit
- 29th - Junior Water Safety Program at Toora Pool



# NEWS FROM THE PRINCIPAL .....

## Stocky

Stocky has been spending sometime with my family over the past few months and with experienced handlers who work with Seeing Eye Dogs Australia. Although there have been many things that he has learned (eg. Not stealing lunches) unfortunately he has developed a distraction issue that can be genetic in this breed. This does not make him unsafe, but will make him unfit to do the learning that we require to be a therapy dog.

We are currently seeking a family that wants to take Stocky on for the school and have him attend the school once per week in a wellbeing capacity (this can be negotiated). This will be a guardianship. Soon I will email out expressions of interest that can be filled in.

## End of the Year

It's been the first full time year for a while. Lots of people at our school are getting tired and finding the whole day tricky. Its okay for students to ask for breaks, bring water (this really helps) and long-term energy food such as fruit or grains and cereals. Student need to have a good think about the impression they leave on the school before they transition to a new grade or in some cases a new school.

## Finances

Over the last few months we have been receiving many stories of increased hardship. We are only too happy to assist provided that you contact us. Please do not hesitate to reach out for anything at all. This is totally confidential and we will do our best to help or find you the help you desire. We understand that the squeeze for money is very tight at the moment and we have tightened our polices accordingly.

### Numbers 2024

Our numbers in 2024 will fall by about 20 students to 175. This is mainly due to a large cohort of students leaving and a small number coming from kindergarten. On this note the transition program has been very effective especially because we have such great teachers and facilities on our site. In 2024 there will be 8 classrooms.



Everyone can learn to learn

## December 2023

- 1st - Student Free Day
- 4th - Junior Water Safety Program at Toora Pool
- 5th - Junior Water Safety Program at Toora Pool
- 7th - 2024 Prep Morning Visit
- 12th - Statewide Transition Day
- 13th - School Council
- 14th - Volunteer Morning Tea
- 16th - SAKG Farmers Market Stall
- 18th - Prep-2 Christmas Party
- 18th - Grade 6 Graduation
- 19th - Grade 3-6 Pool Party
- 19th - Last day students attend school in Term 4
- 19th - 2.30pm Last Assembly for 2023
- NORMAL TIME FINISH OF DAY
- NORMAL TIME FOR BUSES
- 20th - Student Free Day (last day of term)

## 2024 Term Dates

- 30th January - 28th March
- 15th April - 28th June
- 15th July - 20th September
- 7th October - 20th December

## January 2024

- 29th - Book Collection Day
- 30th - Students start school

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# Junior School News

The Prep, Grade One and Grade Two students have enjoyed the past couple of weeks participating in the Junior Water Safety program at Toora Pool. Students have enjoyed the bus trip there and back from school and looking out over the local landscapes.

In the pool, students are enjoying challenging themselves to up-level their swimming strokes, water safety skills and knowledge across 10 supportive activities. Outside of the students allocated swimming times, students are enjoying a game of cricket, kicking the soccer balls or a quiet drawing activity in the shade. Mr Davis, Miss Ardley, Miss Charlton and Mrs Bell have been most impressed by the student's behaviour representing Foster Primary School out in our local community.

We could not have successfully kicked off this year's water safety program without the support of our parents and carer volunteers and the collaborative organisation by Miss Ardley. A big thank you to all.



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# Middle School News

In the 3/4 classes, some year 9's have been coming in every week on Thursday and helping us with a lot of learning. We have really enjoyed having them and will miss them coming to our school.

In 3/4Y & 3/4B we have been working on world climate and neighbouring countries in Mappen. It was really fun.

Grade 3/4 & 5/6 have been playing lots of basketball games at lunch. It has been fabulous having some of the grade 6 students helping us.

## Jokes Written by Jase 3/4Y

What kind of tea is too hard to swallow?

Reality 😊

Why do cows wear bells?

Their horns don't work

In 3/4 Y and 3/4B we have been doing information reports.

These information reports are about all different things, like animals, countries and topics that were of interest to us. Information reports are very helpful if you want to learn and know facts about different topics.

We have enjoyed researching and learning about things of interest.

It has been very fun learning new facts and ways to write an information report and have put in the very hardest to complete them. They have taken a lot of work from editing to adding pictures and borders to make them look their very best.

We started these information reports a couple of weeks ago and have just finished.

Ms Young and Ms Buttigieg then print it out in color and we stick it on colored paper. We are very proud and they look very cool.

## Jokes Written by Elle & Matilda 3/4Y

Why do chickens not like the internet?

They prefer book, book, books

What do you call two ducks and a cow?

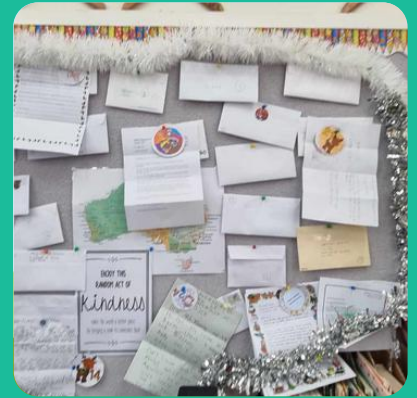
Quackers and milk

In 3\4, we wrote some letters to different schools, and they wrote back.

We are still receiving letters from all the schools. Today (24/11/2023) we will open letter number 15. Everyone will open a letter each. The letters are displayed like an advent calendar and in each letter, we get a little decoration which has a random act of kindness on it that we get to do.

We enjoy it and it is lots of fun and interesting reading other letters from the different schools.

By Violet, Stella and Neave 3/4Y



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# Senior School News

Senior grades have been busy over the past fortnight with a variety of learning experiences.

Here are some thoughts from the students:

## Maths

During the past two weeks in Maths we have been learning about angles and how to measure them using a protractor. Most of the people in our class know how to measure a right angle and others. We have learnt that an acute angle is less than 90 degrees; a straight angle is exactly 180 degrees; a square angle is exactly 90 degrees; an obtuse angle is more than 90 but less than 180 degrees and a reflex angle is more than 180 degrees.

We have also been doing problem solving. In one session we had to figure out how much some gems weighed and there had to be equal amounts on each side of the bar they were hanging on because the bar was straight and if the weights were unequal it would be tilted.

Amelia, Rakeb and Tully

## Talks

Lately in 4/5PW we have been researching different topics to do a talk about. Some of these were: sports, animals, history or items. We had to try and make our talks to be 2 minutes long and make it interesting. The grade 5/6s are preparing for Public Speaking. The topic this year is 'Changes'. This means things that changed from the past.

Luca, Levi and James



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# Senior School News.....

## Kitchen

On Fridays, every fortnight, our class has Kitchen with Katrina. The main purpose of Kitchen is to try new foods and we make new meals each time. Last week our class cooked tortillas, chicken thighs, brownies (for the market, so we couldn't eat them) and a salad. Our class combined the tortillas, salad and chicken. It was delicious! The group who were making the brownies forgot to make a double batch so they had to make a whole new batch. Luckily they still made the brownies in time!

Molly, Madi and Aysha

## Electives

On Fridays we have been doing an activity called Electives! The options for electives are Games, Directed Drawing, Computer Games and Construction. The grade  $\frac{3}{4}$  students are doing Electives and the grade 5/6s are doing CCC which stands for Collaborate, Create and Continue.

Dylan, Colt and Hudson

## Mappen

This term we are learning about Data and Decisions. We are making a product. Everyone is making a different plan. We can work with a partner or a small group and everyone has to create a business with a small model, a slogan, a logo and a catchy business name. You can choose topics like arts and crafts, food or fidgets and many more. We're hoping to invite the younger students to come and see our products.

Holly, Harriet and Casey



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# Senior School News.....

## Music Concert

On the 21st of November we went to Foster Secondary College for a music concert. We played a clapping game. Four groups had to clap 16 times, 8 times, 4 times, 2 times and once, in order, at different times, then go "Woooooooooaaah" while we were looking up at the roof with our hands up. The songs that a lot of people knew were 'I'm Still Standing' and 'Coffin Dance'. There were so many interesting instruments! The concert was so good the audience started to go crazy! As well as our school, students from Toora and Welshpool Primary Schools also attended.

Kaedan, Spencer and Cody

## Year 9 students

On Thursdays some year 9 students have been coming to help us. Thank you to Aiden, Chase, Chloe and Mia for helping us with Maths and other learning groups. They are always helpful and supportive. We all hope that you liked coming to help us at the primary school.

Patrick, Lilah and Rica



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# Staff Profiles

## Katrina Need

My family and I moved to Toora when I was 7 years old, I've stayed in this area since then.

Growing up all I wanted to be was a chef. My dad was a chef and I wanted to be just like him. I started working at the Toora pub when I was 15 years old, and have found myself working there again after many years of working elsewhere, so have been in the industry for 17 years now!

I started at the Primary School in the second term of 2022 as the Kitchen Teacher and as of this year I am also part of the ES team. I absolutely love both my roles at the primary school.

I have 3 beautiful children that attend Foster Primary school and I love that I get to work with them.

I had never thought about doing this sort of work, or even thought I would be capable of teaching kids how to cook, but I'm so glad I stepped out of my comfort zone because I love it!



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# Kitchen/Garden News

Over the course of the year the Kitchen Garden has undergone a transformation. In conjunction with Katrina (Kitchen) the focus of the garden has been on how to best supply the kitchen program with a regular supply of produce. We have re-established the garden beds, which has and will allow us to rotate stock seasonally and supply product in bulk.

Spring has been a fruitful season and we were able to supply great amounts of broccoli, broad beans, cabbage, celery, spring onions, mixed lettuces and Asian greens.

The students have just planted tomatoes, pumpkins and sunflower. Fruit is also coming into season with figs, plums, guava and apricots ripening.

For the remainder of the year we will be finishing off the hard work of transforming the garden and priming it for 2024.

Please contact the school if you are interested in volunteering some time to assist in the garden, it would be greatly appreciated.



## Position vacant!

We are looking for a volunteer to coordinate our monthly KG Farmers Market Stall. Could this be you??

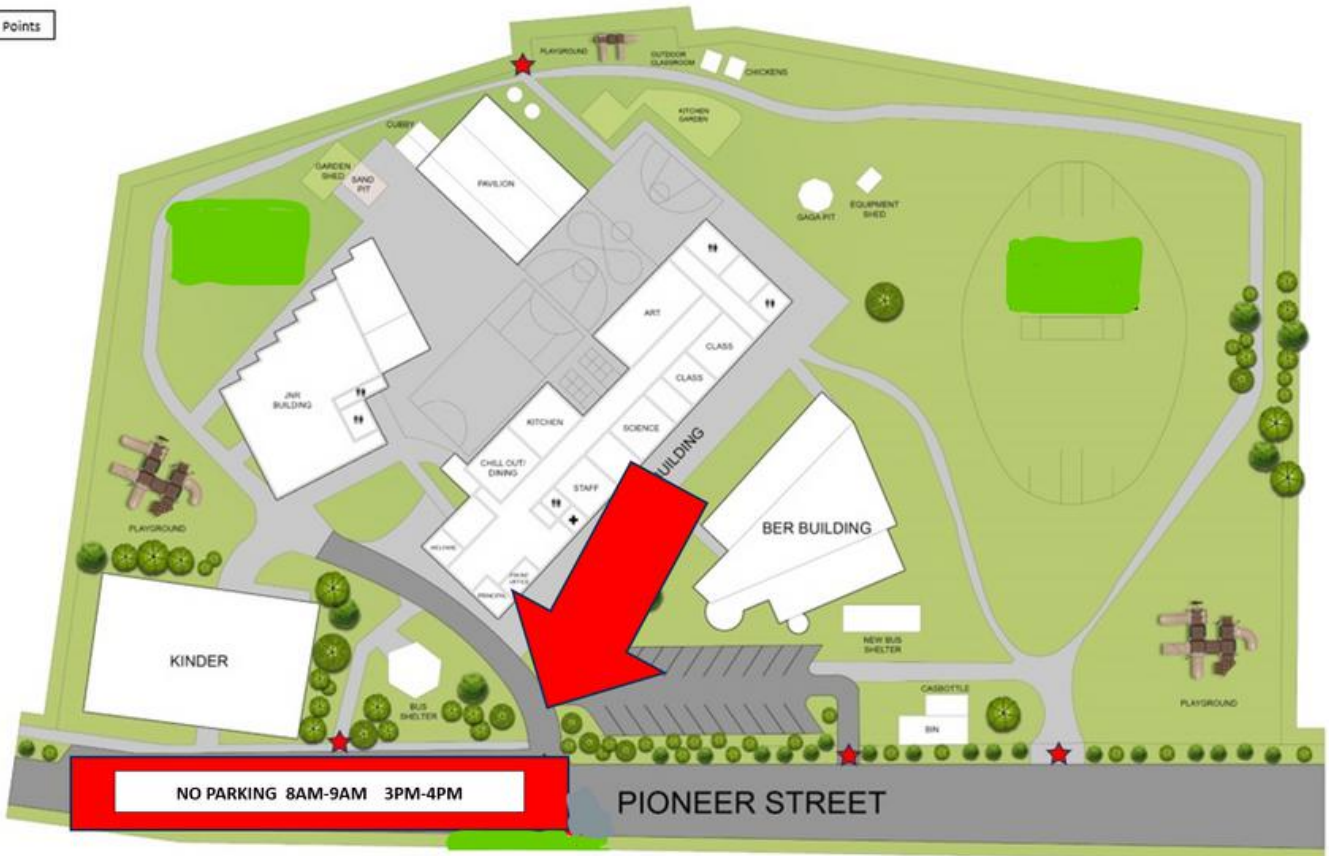
The stall runs every 3rd Saturday of the month from 8am-12pm. All the funds raised from the stall go towards staffing our KG program - it is very important for the delivery of this much-loved and valuable program! Full handover provided plus room to innovate and make the role your own :)

Please contact Alison at the office to organise express your interest.

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# No Parking Zones

★ Exit Points



For the safety of all of our students, during drop off and pick up of your children, please observe the No Parking signs along Pioneer Street, during the hours of 8am - 9am and 3pm - 4pm.

The No Parking zone is on both sides of Pioneer Street and it is there for the safety of all of our students.

Please obey the street signs and refer to the above map if you are unsure.

Thank you.

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# WELLBEING NEWS

So you know the end of the year is coming when we missed an article in the last newsletter and dear old Alison (apologies, drop the old part), has been at us for an article for today and I'm writing one this morning!

It must be challenging when we want everyone to stop, breathe, slow down, when sometimes we just don't do it ourselves. At the moment, especially at this time of the year, we get so busy, don't we?

Over the past 3 weeks I've been doing a PD with Berry Street learning the education model around trauma and it has been absolutely fantastic. I love learning, even if its just picking up a book, but when you're around mentors, peers, and teachers, wow the learning can be exciting.

One of the simplest things I learnt is the power of hello. And, as aside, did you know that last Tuesday was National Hello Day, just a fun fact. Anyway, some children do not hear their name, they don't receive eye contact, and don't feel connection, and when someone looks them in the eye, uses their name and says hello, that can make a world of difference.

When I walk around the school and do this, I really notice the kids engage more. They feel noticed and how great is it when it happens. We know how good it feels when people make an effort with us.

So a shorter article, but here's your little challenge, slow down, notice the little people around you and engage with them, say hello, use their name and notice how much more connection you can make.

Enjoy your weekend.

Megan 😊

## WELLBEING TEAM:



Megan Vuillermin



Jo Moloney

Wellbeing ph number:  
0492 098 367

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# Saturday 25th November



## GARDEN WORKING BEE

This Saturday 25th November 9am - 12pm

PLEASE WEAR STURDY SHOES, HAT, GLOVES AND SUN SCREEN.  
ALL ARE MOST WELCOME.  
WE WILL BE WORKING ON THE PLAYGROUNDS AND IF YOU HAVE A METAL RAKE, PLEASE BRING IT ALONG.  
THERE IS ALSO WEEDING AND CLEARING TO BE DONE.

HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE !



Last Friday afternoon we had a visit from a group of students and teachers from Cockatoo Primary School. They rode from Buffalo, along the rail trail and stopped overnight at our school and headed back the next day. Well done to our School Captains Milla, Mackinlee and Will, who welcomed them and showed them around our school.



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# Upcoming Events








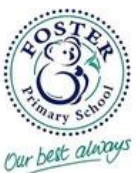
Foster Primary School

2023 · NOVEMBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						25  GARDEN WORKING BEE 9am - 12pm
26	27	28 2024 PREP VISIT	29 JUNIOR WATER SAFETY PROGRAM 2.30PM ASSEMBLY	30		25

2023 · DECEMBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1 STUDENT FREE DAY	2
3	4 JUNIOR WATER SAFETY PROGRAM 	5 JUNIOR WATER SAFETY PROGRAM 	6 2.30PM ASSEMBLY	7 2024 PREP VISIT	8 NEWSLETTER DAY 	9
10	11	12 STATEWIDE TRANSITION DAY	13 SCHOOL COUNCIL	14 VOLUNTEER MORNING TEA 		16 FARMERS MARKET
17	18 PREP-XMAS PARTY GRADE 6 GRADUATION 	19 GRADE 3- 6 POOL PARTY 2.30-ASSEMBLY STUDENTS LAST DAY FINAL 2023 NEWSLETTER 	20 TERM 4 ENDS STUDENT FREE DAY	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						



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