



8TH DECEMBER 2023



THE NEWSLETTER

The latest news and updates from Foster Primary School



NEWS FROM THE PRINCIPAL

by Scott Moorhouse

Over the last few weeks our staff have been working hard on our response to the school review. Staff have met several times and given their opinion on the targets and timelines for the next 4 years. Similarly, the leadership team met for a Day on the 22nd November to take everyone's suggestions and form them into a systematic approach for each goal. These goals and Key Improvement Strategies (KIS) have been plotted onto a chart and mapped over the life of the School Strategic Plan. This chart and the School Strategic Plan I will share with you in the New Year. We are in a good position to drive the school forward in a Learning, Leadership and Teaching capacity over the next 4 years with the DET offering their support and expertise to assist our development.

Changes to Grades

Staff have been working very hard on developing grades for 2024. Extensive thought and consideration has gone into each and every placement and I have an oversight of each grade. I am really proud of how our staff collaborate to work out a huge puzzle and give time, consideration and thought. There will be little change to grades after transition day which is on Tuesday 12th December running from 9:00 to 1:25. We strongly encourage all students to be here on this day.

Miss Jane Power will be teaching grade 5/6 next year. Due to her role within the leadership group of the school we have decided to have her out of the classroom 2 days per week. Miss Power will share the grade with Mrs. Alison Wogan-Brown who many of you will know from our tutoring program. Mrs. Wogan-Brown is a high quality teacher having previously taught in other local schools before taking some time to raise her family.





Changes to Staffing

Unfortunately, at the end of each year we have staff movement. With the reduction in numbers due to the large grade 6 cohort leaving we have also needed to reduce a grade and staffing across the board.

As many of you already know Miss Katelyn Ardley will be leaving us to take up a position at Toora PS and we know she will be a great asset with her strengths in Aboriginal education and great organisation skills. We know the students at Toora will appreciate her as much as we do.

Mrs Brooke Little is leaving us for greener pastures closer to her family. Mrs. Little is known for teaching both Miss Power's grade, Miss Charlton's grade and Miss Bell's class on Thursday's and Friday's. Mrs Little has shared her knowledge and our teachers have learned lots from working with her as have our students.

Mrs. Narelle Buttigieg will also be leaving us but will continue to work at the school on a casual basis. Mrs. Buttigieg joined us after some sudden changes in the 3/4 area. Mrs. Buttigieg's care and consideration for all students in our school has been fantastic and we appreciate her effort and support for the students in her care. Mrs. Buttigieg has shared her extensive experience and skills with our staff and students and our community is better skilled because of her input.

Mrs Megan Vuillermin will also be leaving us at the end of the year. Megan joined us during the COVID lockdown and has demonstrated deft skill at handling some of the toughest cases in wellbeing. She has supported students and families alike with a comprehensive knowledge of support systems and assistance in the local area. Quite often Megan has gone over and above to assist students and families who were in need of immediate support. We thank Megan for her time at our school.

Wellbeing

At our school we value everyone's wellbeing and acknowledge the work that has been done in this space. Hours for wellbeing at this stage are undecided until we have definite funding streams. We will keep you informed as to what that might look like in the near future.



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IMPORTANT DATES

December 2023

- 12th - Statewide Transition Day
- 13th - School Council
- 14th - Volunteer Morning Tea
- 15th - Prep-2 Christmas Party
- 16th - SAKG Farmers Market Stall
- 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

- 29th January - 28th March
- 15th April - 28th June
- 15th July - 20th September
- 7th October - 20th December



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NEWS FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Grade 6 Graduates

Congratulations to our graduating grade 6 students. We know you are going to be great and have appreciated your efforts at our school. I had the pleasure of looking at your PAT results today and wow – many of you have some good news stories to give to your new teachers next year! Enjoy the night on Monday and we look forward to seeing you and your families there.

School Captains 2024

I had the absolute pleasure of interviewing 9 students for school captain after a total 15 applications were put in. All students who put their hand up should be very proud of their letter writing skills and what they have achieved at FPS. Miss Duggan and myself who conducted the interview were very impressed by the high standard of answers given. We were just as impressed when we gave all of the interviewees some feedback after the interviews and they gave us some feedback too. We aim to have students identified for their roles by the end of the year and presented with their badges in early 2024.

Holidays

Please be mindful over the holidays that whilst they are time for fun there is also down time that is unfamiliar for families and children. This can be a time for physical dangers such as: Drowning (unsupervised children), Snakes, fires and misadventures etc. It can also be a time when mental health for many family members can be tested. If you or someone you know is struggling please reach out to someone and get assistance. As someone said to me once 'Mental Health issues are the same a broken leg or a sore tooth – it can be fixed but it takes time, and the right professionals'.

Kids Help Line 180055 1800

Beyond Blue 1800 555 677

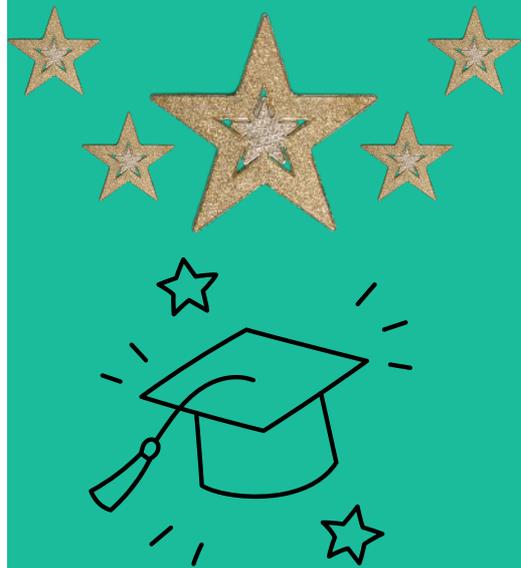
Life Line 13 11 14

Family Violence Support 1800 737 732

Have a safe and happy Festive Season and may the new year bring great things!



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January 2024

29th - Book Collection Day
(No Students at school)

30th - Student Free Day

31st - **STUDENTS START SCHOOL**
(Except Preps)

February 2024

1st - Prep Students Start School



ASKING FOR
HELP
IS OK

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Great Learning News!

At the beginning of 2023 our staff have been tracking our students in Numeracy and Reading using the PAT system of assessments. These are produced by the same company that has major input into NAPLAN and because it is so widely used is able to be bench marked again National means and standards. I am very pleased to be able to share this with you and you can see that our school has done exceptionally well. This shows that over the year some great teaching and learning has taken place. Foster Primary School ranked in the top 25% of schools nationally in a number of categories but most notably learning growth – something our teachers and students value highly. This test has been completed from grade 2 to grade 6 however some results are yet to be available. For individual achievement results please see your child’s teacher.

Year 4 Within Year Growth Analysis during 2023 Semester 1 - 2023 Semester 2 in PAT Reading

	PAT Score 1	PAT Score 2	PAT Score Difference
School Growth	109.29	116.38	7.09
National Growth	116.5	121.07	4.57
Growth Difference			2.52
Students	16	34	15
% of matched students			44.12

Year 5 Within Year Growth Analysis during 2023 Semester 1 - 2023 Semester 2 in PAT Reading

	PAT Score 1	PAT Score 2	PAT Score Difference
School Growth	121.17	125.97	4.8
National Growth	123.14	126.13	2.99
Growth Difference			1.81
Students	22	21	19
% of matched students			90.48

Year 6 Within Year Growth Analysis during 2023 Semester 1 - 2023 Semester 2 in PAT Reading

	PAT Score 1	PAT Score 2	PAT Score Difference
School Growth	121.68	122.32	0.64
National Growth	127.54	129.55	2.01
Growth Difference			-1.37
Students	28	27	26
% of matched students			96.3



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Year 3 Within Year Growth Analysis during 2023 Semester 1 - 2023 Semester 2 in PAT Maths

	PAT Score 1	PAT Score 2	PAT Score Difference
School Growth	103.84	110.66	6.82
National Growth	109.2	116.96	7.76
Growth Difference			-0.94
Students	22	30	20
% of matched students			66.67

Year 4 Within Year Growth Analysis during 2023 Semester 1 - 2023 Semester 2 in PAT Maths

	PAT Score 1	PAT Score 2	PAT Score Difference
School Growth	109.65	117.87	8.22
National Growth	119.9	125.17	5.27
Growth Difference			2.95
Students	27	34	25
% of matched students			73.53

Year 5 Within Year Growth Analysis during 2023 Semester 1 - 2023 Semester 2 in PAT Maths

	PAT Score 1	PAT Score 2	PAT Score Difference
School Growth	117.95	122.03	4.08
National Growth	127.48	130.53	3.05
Growth Difference			1.03
Students	21	20	18
% of matched students			90

Year 6 Within Year Growth Analysis during 2023 Semester 1 - 2023 Semester 2 in PAT Maths

	PAT Score 1	PAT Score 2	PAT Score Difference
School Growth	119.54	127.11	7.57
National Growth	131.7	133.34	1.64
Growth Difference			5.93
Students	27	29	27
% of matched students			93.1



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Junior School News



Our P-2 students have completed their Junior Swimming and Water Safety Program with much joy and success! The Junior team were very impressed with their terrific attitudes and effort at the pool over the past four weeks.

All swimmers were super brave and excited on their last day of swimming where they got to practise water safety, rescues, swimming and treading water in their clothes.

Well done everyone!

Life Saving Victoria: Swimming in clothing is an important skill for students to experience and practice, as it replicates an unexpected fall into water. Students have the opportunity to practise falling into the water, recovering and moving to a point of safety whilst wearing clothes in the water. The aim is to experience wearing clothes in a safe and controlled environment to reduce the risk of panicking should the student experience this in real life.



Letters to Santa

Prep, One & Two students have been busy writing letters to Santa which were posted off this week. There are lots of excited students waiting eagerly for a reply from the big man himself! They put lots of effort into their handwriting and thoughtful questions for Santa Below - as well as their wish list items of course! Below are some photos of 12A's letters to Santa.

Happy Holiday Season everyone!!



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Middle School News

The weeks are flying, we are now well into Week 10. We have been working hard in class to finish off work and assessments. We have continued to focus hard on reading daily and remembering to bring in our reading diaries. It is great to see those students who are consistently returning their diaries daily to school, this shows great organisational skills.

We have all been busy writing Narratives. In 34B, we have looked at other ways we could start our narrative other than just using, 'Once Upon a Time'. Here are some of our introductions:

Pleco is a fish, not known to be evil but one Pleco about one hundred years ago was so evil and powerful that it almost took over Brooklyn.

Sam Green

He's on, Tongie, he's doing circles. We can't lose him, he's a big one.

Leo Pyke

Hi, it's me, Jarry and I will find this dragon if it's the last thing I do.

Jaycee McCormack

One day at Nobbies Beach, Jack and Luffy were watching a horror movie based on Sharks.

Sam Johnstone

"CRASH LANDING!" A crash landing doesn't sound good.

Griffin Sumaru

One cold, snowy night, a pack of wolves we having a good time when suddenly

Kenzi Garvey

Hi, I'm Mitchell Gree, also the son of Isaiah Gree. Dad had a successful career.

Oliver Buttigieg



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Middle School News.....

It was the first day of December and Ruby and Oli were writing their Christmas lists.

Mylah Angwin

It's Christmas eve, a little girl named Maya was so excited for Christmas.

Lola Storr

One day, on Roen's farm, there were 2 cows, 2 calves and 1 goat.

Mason Butinar

"Get him!" said Sargent K. "The mystery man went into the shadows" said Junior.

James Wallis

Both classes have been looking at Our Neighbouring Countries during Mappen. Some of the countries we have been learning more about are:

Solomon Islands, New Zealand, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, Vanuatu and Fiji. We have been researching things like; the countries flag, Coats of arms, population, weather, food and interesting facts.

We enjoyed garden last week; we weeded more gardens ready to plant some pumpkins. We had to move some soil from over near the senior playground to refill the gardens. The fresh fruit and vegetables from our garden are amazing. We have loved eating the raspberries, kumquats, broad beans and broccoli.

Next week on Tuesday, the whole school will be participating in State Wide Transition Day. On this day, we will all get to go to our new classrooms and meet our new teachers and friends.

In 34Y, they have been busy making Christmas trees using magazines. They were lucky enough to spray paint their trees, they look fabulous.



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Senior School News



It's been a busy few week's in the BER. Students have been busy researching, planning, practicing and presenting their public speaking speeches. Our topic has been Change. This has included looking at how different things have changed over time or how a person, event or creation has led to change in the world. There has been a range of topics chosen including Electricity, Telephones, Service Animals, The Plague, Nelson Mandela and many more. There has been an amazing amount of effort and learning go into these presentations.

Students have started their Respectful Sexuality Education Lessons last week and these are continuing this week and next week.

Our Grade 5 students have been busy writing leadership application letters and preparing for interviews for their positions. It has been pleasing to see the enthusiasm that has gone into this process and the eagerness of these students to become our 2024 leaders.



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Staff Profiles

Nick Carver



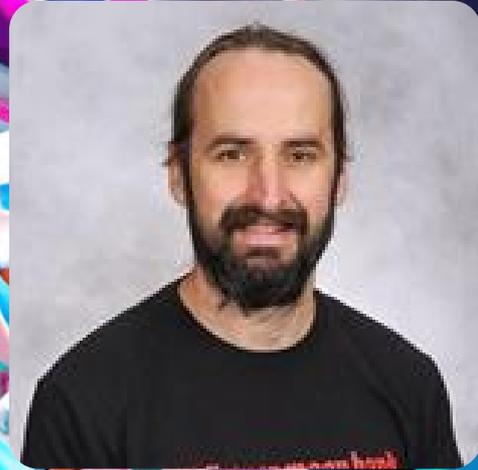
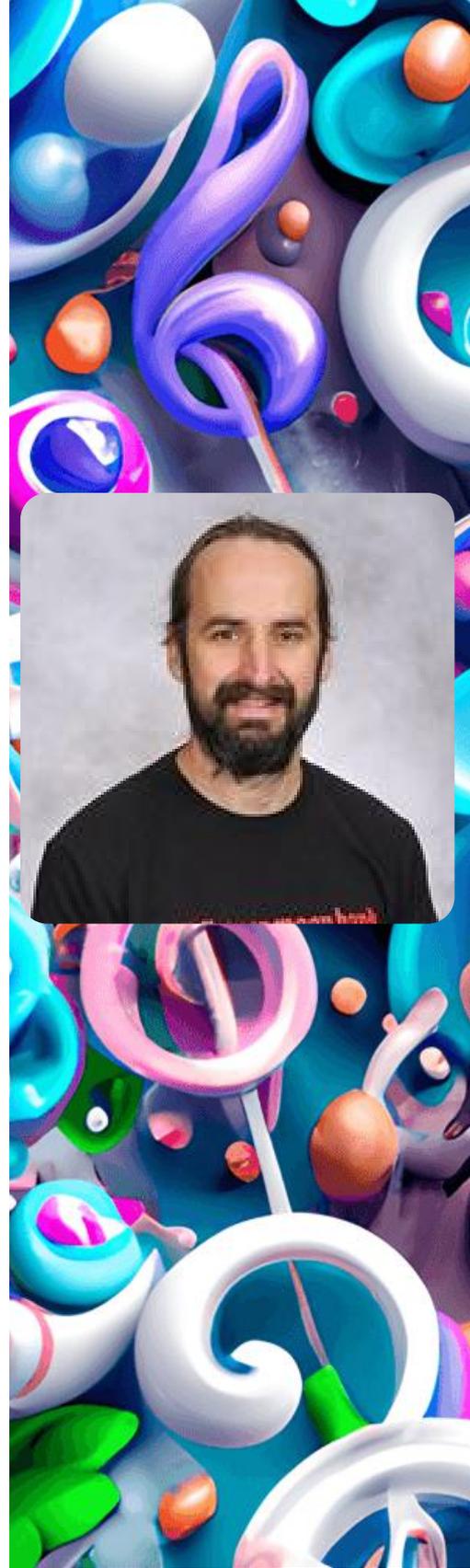
I grew up in Batemans Bay on the South Coast of NSW. As a young kid I enjoyed Rugby League, BMX and Fishing with my friends. I went to St Bernard's Primary School and loved it because it was across the road from the beach where we used to do our swimming sports and fun runs.

I've been at Foster Primary School since 2017, and began as a two day a week music teacher. In 2022 I took up the art teacher position as well and am now here four days. I love this, because I can spend a whole Friday with my son Theodore who is four years old. Most people know that I love to play in rock bands, but I spent 15 years in Melbourne performing Jazz, Brazilian, Klezmer, Reggae and Orchestral music on the double bass. I have toured Australia and Asia with the puppet show company Bunk Puppets.

Before deciding to pursue music seriously, I worked in hospitality as a pizza cook during the boom years of the woodfire pizza trend in the late 90's early 2000's. This still remains as one of my favourite jobs ever! My hobbies include fishing, gaming, reading, going to the movies, running, cooking, gardening and community theatre.

My role in the school is to teach specialist music and art to all of the grades. I love teaching art as it allows students to express themselves in their own individual way. My favourite thing about teaching music is getting a whole class motivate to play a piece of music together, although I do still love allowing the students to express themselves individually as well. I am also in charge of the school musical, which is my favourite part of the job.

I always say the best part of the job is the holidays, but I really do love working with young people. While I'm not a very immature person (cough, cough), I am quite wired in with my inner child, and find myself relating to kids quite well. I also enjoy working with the kind and intelligent people in the teaching profession.



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Upcoming Events



	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
2023 · DECEMBER	10	11	12 STATEWIDE TRANSITION DAY	13 SCHOOL COUNCIL	14 VOLUNTEER MORNING TEA 	15 PRE-2 XMAS PARTY 	16 FARMERS MARKET
	17	18 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						

