TERM 4
WEEK 7
21/11/25

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Smiles and laughter filled our lower oval last Friday at the Slime Splash and Colour Dash, along with a few shivers by the end! It was such a joyful event for our whole school, and I want to extend a heartfelt thank you to the organisers and our wonderful parent helpers (and ex-students) who made it all run so smoothly. I'm also very relieved the green washed out of my hair much faster than last time! Raising over $8000 for our school library works.

Over the weekend, Mrs Dowell and I attended the Sharing Best Practice conference in Ballarat. It was incredibly affirming to hear that the approaches we use at PFCS align strongly with current evidence and high-impact teaching practices. We also came away with some fresh ideas we look forward to building on over time.

School Council met last night, and I want to thank our councillors for their commitment and thoughtful contributions. One key discussion centred on how we communicate with families. As always, XUNO remains our main source of up-to-date information: events, calendars, reminders, approvals, and easy communication with teachers. Facebook continues to be a helpful extra, but not the primary platform.

At the request of families through School Council, we're exploring ways to refresh and enhance our school website. If you have skills in photography, writing, marketing, or simply an interest in contributing, I would love to hear from you. This is a great opportunity to create something truly reflective of our community and welcoming for future families.

We also reviewed our Parent/Guardian/Carer Opinion Survey results, which were very positive overall. Thank you to everyone who took the time to participate. As the survey is anonymous, if you selected 'disagree' or 'strongly disagree' to any questions, I would genuinely appreciate hearing your perspective so we can better understand and respond to any concerns.
katrina.anderson@education.vic.gov.au

NOVEMBER

Happy Birthday to :

Hamish B
Erik
Meredith
Ymai
Soli
Natasha
Arden
Layla
Lottie
Jack N

Our 2026 Foundation transition is going beautifully, with two sessions and an information night already completed. A big thank you to our families and kinders for preparing the children so well. **Please note our statewide transition day is Tuesday 9 December. We'll have a coffee van onsite (thanks to our amazing P&C!), and Dion from Directwear will be available in the hall from 8:30–10am for uniform purchases.**
Students will be sent home with their teacher's name on Friday 5th December, ready for Tuesday.

Please note: Staff put a great deal of thought and care into creating our grade compositions. However, on the rare occasion, groups that appear balanced on paper may not gel as we expect on transition day. If this occurs, we may need to make small adjustments to ensure all students are placed in an environment where they can thrive. Thank you for your understanding and trust in our processes.

You may have seen that the Department of Education has released new guidelines regarding iPads in schools, particularly around students bringing their own devices from 2027. With this in mind, we will begin phasing out our BYOD (Bring Your Own Device) program in 2026. This means that students in Year 3 in 2026 will not be bringing iPads to school. We will share further information once decisions have been finalised, but we wanted to provide families with early notice to support future planning.

Craft sand contamination update: You may be aware of a recent alert about craft sand products that may contain asbestos. For current information about the recall, including a list of products, visit the ACCC website. At our school, we are taking the steps set out by the Department of Education to collect and dispose of the products. Current advice from national and Victorian health authorities is that there is a low risk to human health from these products. If you have the product at home, however, the advice from the health authorities is that you should stop using it and follow the safety advice published here: Safe disposal and health information for consumers with recalled sand products | ACCC Product

Our Christmas Tree fundraiser is now underway. Please see the links below to order or volunteer:
- Christmas Trees & goodies: https://www.trybooking.com/DHBVI
- Volunteer to assist: volunteersignup.org/3YXAB

Upcoming events and reminders
- **Final swimming session next week:** Thank you to all who have walked with classes. We are still seeking someone for our Year 5/6 group this Tuesday from 11am–1pm.
- **Student Free Day - 26 November:** Staff Professional Practice Day (TheirCare available).
- **F–2 Camp – 27 & 28 November:** Now on XUNO for approval and payment. I'm looking forward to joining the Year 2's for their sleepover!
- **Carols by the Bluestone – 5 December:** Classroom teachers will share specific details with you.
- **Final Assembly – 12 December at 2pm:** Everyone is warmly invited.

Wishing you a wonderful weekend, hopefully with plenty of sunshine!
Kate

FOUNDATION HOMEROOM HAPPENINGS

What We Learned

Literacy

We have been continuing with Sounds Write Unit 11 using the digraphs -ve at the end of a word and /qu/ (finally!). The children have been asking about poor q for some time now. We are also reviewing all the digraphs and trigraphs we have learned as well as the spelling rules connected with them. I'm sure some of you may have forgotten some of these rules and are relearning through your children! In writing we have been creating our own sentences and narratives with some fantastic results!

Numeracy

We continued on with measurement this week comparing the capacity of things. We talked about full, empty and about half full and compared objects with large capacities and small capacities. We have also been reviewing our addition and subtraction strategies and we are getting so much faster at our mental maths using strategies such as counting on, doubles and tens facts. Our "Around the World" games are getting very competitive!

Extra

We are looking forward to the F-2 afternoon tea and sleepover next week!







Reminders

Monday is the last swimming day. Thank you to all my walking helpers.

Monday is also reader change day.

Wednesday is a pupil free day.

Upcoming Events

26/11 : Student Free Day
27/11 : F-2 Camp (more info to come)
5/12 : Carols by the Bluestone
9/12 : Statewide Transition
12/12: Final assembly at 2pm
19/12 : Last day of school, 2.30 finish

Specialist

Monday: Music
Tuesday: Science/Art
Thursday: PE

JOKE

Why did the golfer bring two pairs of pants?

In case he got a hole in one!!

YEAR 1/2 HOMEROOM HAPPENINGS

What We Learned

Literacy

In Literacy we have enjoyed 'Quick Writing,"which is a 3 minute writing activity where students write about a picture prompt.They have enjoyed this quick writing activity which is helping them build up their writing skills, at a sentence and word level. This daily writing improved students' end of year writing activity. We are underway with our end of year Literacy testing.

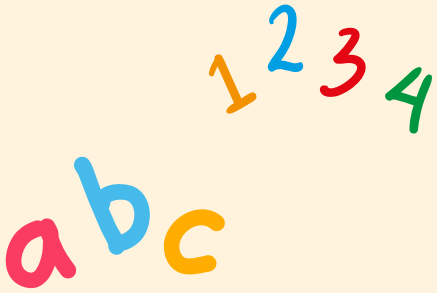
Numeracy

In Maths, we spent time outside in the sunshine (when it came out) in the sand pit, estimating, measuring, and comparing various different containers. The students explored what 'capacity' is, and how different containers can hold more, less, or the same amount.

Extra

Swimming has been great, and the students have shown great improvement over the weeks. One week to go!





Reminders

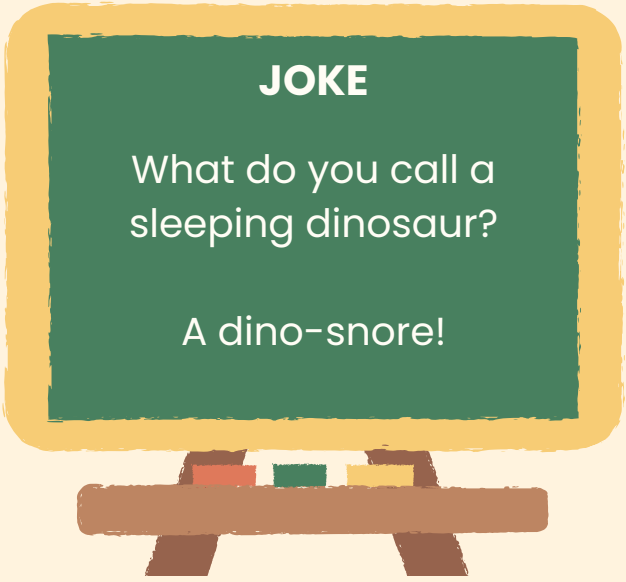
- Please remember to bring reader cases every Monday
- Please remember to label clothes and bring a plastic bag for wet bathers and towel.

Upcoming Events

26/11 : Student Free Day
27/11 : F-2 Camp
5/12 : Carols by the Bluestone
9/12 : Statewide Transition
12/12: Final assembly at 2pm
19/12 : Last day of school, 2.30 finish

Specialist

Monday: Music
Wednesday: Library/Science/Art
Thursday: PE



YEAR 3/4 HOMEROOM HAPPENINGS

What We Learned

Literacy

In Literacy we have been conditioning our term's Core Knowledge unit on Mountains and how and why they are important to us and our environment. We continue to review our understanding of a range of spelling rules, practice our fluency through choral and partner reads. We are also focusing on letter formation and handwriting throughout handwriting. We have also begun some of our end of year assessments including writing a narrative about the beach.

Numeracy

This week in Numeracy we have revisited capacity and built on our existing knowledge. We continue to work on our number fluency through our Facts on Fire program. We have also completed our moderated whole school Numeracy tasks on multiplication and division.







Reminders

Our final swimming lesson of the year is Monday 24/11. Please pack labelled bathers, goggles, and a towel in a bag that your child can carry to and from the pool.

Upcoming Events

126/11 : Student Free Day
2/12 : Try-athalon
5/12 : Carols by the Bluestone
9/12 : Statewide Transition
12/12: Final assembly at 2pm
19/12 : Last day of school, 2.30 finish

Specialist

Tuesday: Science, Art, Music
Wednesday: P.E.
Thursday: ODD cooking, EVEN garden



YEAR 5/6
HOMEROOM HAPPENINGS

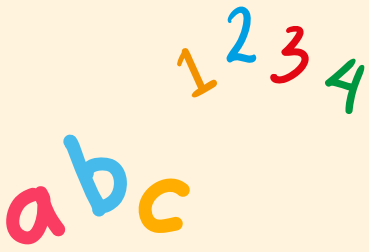
What We Learned

Literacy
As we continue our Novel Study of Boy Overboard, we have been sharing our thinking about the experiences of Refugees and the themes of family, bravery and friendship. We have recorded the main ideas from each chapter in paragraph summaries.

Numeracy
We have been exploring the concept of probability by ordering terms of likeliness and recognising that probabilities lie on numerical scales consisting of fractions, decimals and percentages.

Extra
Assessment has begun!





Reminders

Please keep an eye on XUNO and the newsletter for a number of upcoming events.

Next week is the final swimming lesson.

Upcoming Events

26/11 : Student Free Day
2/12 : Try-athalon
5/12 : Carols by the Bluestone
8/12 : Yr 6-7 Transition Day
9/12 : Statewide Transition
11/12: Yr 6 Graduation
12/12: Final Assembly
17/12: Yr 6 Talking Sticks &Luncheon(Yr 5s cooking)
19/12 : Last day of school, 2.30 finish

Specialist

Tuesday - Music
Wednesday - Art, Science, PE
Thursday - Cooking (27/11)

JOKE

What happens to a frog's car when it breaks down?

It gets toad away.

WELLBEING & INCLUSION NEWS

TERM 4, WEEK 7

TIPS FOR NAVIGATING THE SOCIAL MEDIA BAN

Find out the facts

- The e-Safety Commissioner's website has the official Social media age restriction pages and FAQs, which are updated regularly
- Headspace has also published resources for young people with FAQ's on the social media ban

Parental controls

Parental controls can be used to support your family's online safety when using devices that connect to the internet, such as phones, laptops, tablets, gaming consoles and smart TVs. But it's important to understand their limitations and use them in combination with other protective strategies.

In short:

- Parental controls can help keep children and young people safer online by preventing access to harmful content, managing time spent online and limiting who they communicate with.
- To be most effective, parental controls need to be set up on all devices your child accesses. They should be reviewed and updated regularly. It's also important controls are set on devices your child may access while in the care of others (such as other family members and friends).
- Parental controls are most effective when used alongside supervision and other online safety strategies.

The eSafety Guide

Find out how to protect your personal information and report harmful content on common social media, games, apps and sites. Entries are for information only and are not reviews or endorsements by eSafety.

eSafety KIDS

GARDEN



REPAIR WORK



REMEMBRANCE DAY



LIBRARY WITH ATHENA



PE
HOMEROOM HAPPENINGS

What We Learned

We have had a fun few weeks in PE, practising our golfing skills. Look out Mark Leishman, we have quite a few awesome golfers at PFCS! The weather was against us this week so we moved into the hall and students designed their own Put-Put courses. The creativity was amazing and some of the holes were very complex!

Keep your eyes peeled for info on xuno about our “Try-athlon”, for Years 3-6 on the 2nd December.

Brooke Green - Physical Education Coordinator

Upcoming Events

02/12 - Yr’s 3-6 Try-athlon, Belfast Aquatic
04/12- State Junior Hoop Time State Basketball Centre Wantirna South
05/12 - School Marathon

Reminders

Last week of swimming





ART HOMEROOM HAPPENINGS

What We Learned



This week the whole school was treated to a visit and presentation by Maiya and Chelsea from One Day Studios, an educational and digital media space housed in the historical Fletcher Jones Factory in Warrnambool. They help to build pathways for young people into creative industries. Maiya was very excited to be back here at her old primary school!

They treated us all to the Pilot episode of 'Mabel and Switch', a webseries made by their team of industry professionals paired with enthusiastic creative young people working together. We then got close up with some props and had lots and lots of questions about it all.

Years Five and Six have also had the opportunity to learn character design with them last week and digital illustration using Procreate and Apple Pencils this week.



Foundation and years One and Two have been learning more about the art elements Shape and Tone while making creative artwork. Years Three and Four have completed colour Zines (mini-magazines), had them photocopied and folded them to prepare them for the Belfast Lions Club Art Show at the end of the year. Extra copies will be shared through reading, swapping and being given away as gifts.

SCIENCE
HOMEROOM HAPPENINGS

What We Learned

We have focused on learning about the Great Southern Reef that surrounds our shores, learning about the living creatures and ocean features.

Our sessions have involved learning all about sustainable seas, with a focus on fish, seadragons, sea shells and seaweeds. How we can be great ocean guardians! How size limits are used to protect species, contribute to sustainable seas and how marine protected areas help our coast.

We look forward to celebrating our learning with mini projects, on FAD (fish attracting devices), sea horse hotels (for conservation) and a gallery of fantastic fish featured on our coast.

Reminders

Last chance to order your Bent-wing bat bag $10 final day next Tuesday!!





GREEN TEAM HOMEROOM HAPPENINGS

Actions to help

Green team bat day!
The green team ran a series of activities last Wednesday, finding a bat, making a bat and showing a bat documentary. The students help others to create and grow their knowledge about southern bent wing bats in our region.







Reminders

LAST chance to purchase bags!!

We are one of two schools in Victoria chosen to be a Totes for wildlife school!

The focus creature is the Southern Bent-wing bat! A local critically endangered species.

You can help by purchasing a tote bag for $10!

We have a target to sell 50 bags and raise $500 to help the bats. Bags are on sale soon ($10 - cash only)!

SAKGP
HOMEROOM HAPPENINGS

Donations

Potatoes & pumpkins

What we've cooked

Risotto with leeks and snow peas (fresh from our garden). Fluffy focaccia with rosemary (for remembrance day), banana smoothies and bread!

Our focus was on rising yeast, chopping and absorbing rice to make risotto with vegetable stock.

We look forward to our last few sessions in the kitchen this year! Celebrating with our own Christmas kitchen garden lunch



Stephanie Alexander KITCHEN GARDEN FOUNDATION.
Growing Harvesting Preparing Sharing

Fried Rice Lettuce Cups

Season: All

Serves: 30 tastes or 6 at home

Fresh from the garden: lettuce, carrot, eggs, red onion, silverbeet, spring onions

Equipment:

- metric measuring cup and spoons
- clean tea towel
- chopping board
- cook's knife
- vegetable peeler
- small bowl
- whisk or fork
- wok
- wok sang
- serving platters

Ingredients:

- 6 eggs
- 3 tbsp light soy sauce
- 2 cm knob of ginger, peeled and finely chopped
- 2 tbsp sunflower oil
- 4 cups cooked rice
- 8 spring onions, finely chopped
- 2 silverbeet leaves, finely chopped
- 1 small red onion, peeled and finely chopped
- 1 small carrot, julienned or grated
- 2 tsp sesame oil
- 30 small whole lettuce leaves

What to do:

1. Prepare all of the ingredients based on the instructions in the ingredients list.
2. Beat the eggs in the small bowl with 1 tbsp soy and the ginger.
3. Heat the wok with 1 tbsp sunflower oil.
4. Pour in the egg mixture and leave to cook for 20 seconds, before folding onto itself and cooking through.
5. Remove the egg from the wok and allow it to cool on the chopping board, then slice it.
6. Heat the remaining sunflower oil and the sesame oil in the wok.
7. Add onion, carrot and spring onions and cook for 2 minutes, then add rice and remaining soy sauce.
8. Reduce the heat and add the silverbeet and cooked egg slices. Combine ingredients, then remove the wok from the heat.
9. Divide between serving platters for each table.
10. Provide each table with a platter of washed lettuce leaves. Diners place the rice in the leaves, roll and eat.



Stephanie Alexander KITCHEN GARDEN FOUNDATION.
Growing Harvesting Preparing Sharing

Leek & Mixed Pea Risotto

Season: Winter/Spring

Serves: 30 tastes in the classroom or 6 at home

Fresh from the garden: leeks, parsley, peas (snow or sugar snap), soft-leaved herbs

For risotto, you add stock a little at a time to the pan of rice, stir and wait for the rice to absorb it. Adding the stock warm ensures the rice keeps cooking, rather than going cold and heating up again. You'll need to keep a pot of warm stock close to your risotto pot. The arborio rice variety is traditionally used in risotto as it is short and fat and can absorb a lot of liquid without going gluggy. In risotto, you want the rice to be soft but with a tiny bit of nuttiness at the centre – it's all about *texture*.

Equipment:

- medium saucepan with lid
- metric measuring scales, jug and spoon
- clean tea towel
- chopping board
- cook's knife
- grater
- large heavy-based pot
- wooden spoon
- ladle

Ingredients:

- 1.5 L of chicken or vegetable stock
- 3 tbsp extra-virgin olive oil
- 3 small leeks, trimmed and finely sliced
- 400 g risotto rice
- 1 large handful of snow or sugar snap peas
- ½ tsp salt
- ½ tsp black pepper
- 1 tsp of butter
- 1 handful of soft-leaved herbs, washed and torn
- 50 g parmesan, grated



What to do:

1. Heat the stock in the medium saucepan.
2. Prepare all of the ingredients based on the instructions in the ingredients list.
3. Heat the olive oil in the large pot, add the leek and stir for 4–5 minutes or until the leek is soft.
4. Add the rice and turn up the heat, keep stirring it. After a minute it will look slightly translucent.
5. Add your first ladle of hot stock and stir.
6. Lower the heat and continue adding stock, stirring and allowing each ladle to be fully absorbed.
7. Add peas and cook until tender.
8. Test the rice; is should be soft but with a slight bite.
9. Remove from the heat and add the salt, pepper, butter, herbs and parmesan.
10. Taste and adjust seasoning as necessary.
11. Cover and rest for 2 minutes before serving.

Stephanie Alexander KITCHEN GARDEN FOUNDATION.
Growing Harvesting Preparing Sharing

Mexican Beans with Roasted Sweet Potato or Pumpkin, Fennel & Silverbeet

Season: Winter/Spring

Serves: 30 tastes in the classroom or 6 at home

Fresh from the garden: capsicum, chilli, coriander, garlic, onion, parsley, sweet potato or pumpkin

Equipment:

- metric measuring scales and spoons
- clean tea towel
- cook's knife
- chopping board
- small frying pan
- wooden spoon
- mortar and pestle
- vegetable peeler
- large bowl
- mixing spoon
- large baking tray
- large saucepan with lid
- colander

Ingredients:

- 2 medium sweet potatoes or pumpkin (approx. 500 g), chopped into 2 cm cubes
- 1½ tsp cumin seeds, dry roasted and ground
- 1½ tsp cinnamon
- 1 tbsp olive oil, plus extra for drizzling
- sea salt, to taste
- freshly ground black pepper, to taste
- 2 onions, peeled and roughly chopped
- 1 red chilli, de-seeded and finely sliced
- 1 green chilli, de-seeded and finely sliced
- 1 fennel bulb, roughly chopped
- 1 handful of silverbeet, shredded
- 3 garlic cloves, peeled and finely chopped
- 10 tomatoes, roughly chopped, or 2 × 400 g tins chopped tomatoes
- 2 × 400 g tins beans or 200 g dried beans soaked and cooked (such as cannellini, kidney, black eyed, chickpeas)
- 1 small handful of parsley, roughly chopped
- 1 large handful of coriander, roughly chopped



What to do:

1. Preheat the oven to 200°C.
2. Prepare all of the ingredients based on the instructions in the ingredients list.
3. Place the sweet potato or pumpkin in the bowl and sprinkle with 1 tsp of cumin and 1 tsp of cinnamon, then drizzle with ½ tbsp olive oil and a pinch of salt and pepper.
4. Toss to coat, layer on the baking tray and bake for 20 minutes until soft and golden.
5. Heat the large saucepan on medium heat and add the remaining olive oil.
6. Add the onion, chilli, fennel, silverbeet and garlic and cook for 5 minutes.
7. Add the remaining spices and cook for another 5 minutes, stirring. Add the tomatoes and beans.
8. Stir well and bring to the boil, reduce heat and simmer with the lid on for 20 minutes.
9. Add some water if the sauce looks too thick.
10. Stir the sweet potato/pumpkin and herbs through the bean mixture.
11. Taste and season with salt and pepper.

Weekly Award Winners

This weeks awards will be presented at assembly on Friday 28/11/25 in the school hall at 2:55pm.

FV – Eden
For the narrative you created about your family's day at the beach. Your ability to stay focused and write a story that had all the elements we had discussed was beyond my expectations.
Well done, Superstar! I can't wait to see how your writing progresses.

1/2D – Chloe
For your wonderful Writing in 'Quick Writing." You have written exciting, amazing pieces each day with great ideas and vocabulary. Keep up the great work Chloe!

1/2M – Angus
For the effort and dedication you have shown towards improving your handwriting. You have made such a huge improvement by slowing down and trying your hardest, and now your writing looks like it has been printed! Well done, Angus!

3/4R – Sybil
You have been an absolute delight to have in our classroom Sybil. Each day, you come to school with kindness, enthusiasm and a willingness to help wherever it's needed. You show remarkable confidence in yourself, and your positive energy brightens our class. Thank you!

3/4R – Lachie
For consistently demonstrating the qualities of an excellent learner. You approach every task with effort and determination, show perseverance when faced with challenges, and treat your peers with kindness and respect. Thank you for helping create such a supportive and productive classroom environment.

3/4W – Charlotte T
For the hard work you have been putting into your fluency reading. You have shown great improvement this term and your confidence has grown so much. Well done, Charlotte!

3/4W – Sam
For your drive and dedication during Runners Walkers. Your determination to push yourself each session is truly inspiring. Keep up the fantastic running, well done Sam!

5/6A – Jane
For approaching everything with a positive attitude and a smile. You always give 100% and put your best effort into learning new things. Your enthusiasm and determination brighten our classroom and inspire others.
Well done, Jane!

5/6H – Harrison
Your commitment and dedication to school shone brightly during the leadership speeches. It is clear that you put lots of time and effort into it. I look forward to seeing you maintain this level of effort to finish off the year.

5/6H – Axel
It was really impressive seeing you represent PFCS as the Cultural Leader and making a new friend from it. It demonstrated outstanding bravery and will set you up for Year 7 next year. Great job, Axel!







Please join us for our Annual

STRAWBERRY FETE





Celebrating over 100 years of Strawberry Fetes

ST. JOHN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH
21 REGENT ST, PORT FAIRY

Sunday 23 November

10.00am - 2.00pm





Strawberries, Devonshire Tea, BBQ, Raffles,
SES & Fire Brigade Display, Plants,
Classic & Historical Cars, Engine Display,
Childrens activities, Face Painting,
Pet Parade, Music & More.....

Port Fairy Theatre Group Presents



CHILDREN'S SHORT PLAYS

Performed by Port Fairy St Pats and Consolidated primary schools

- 2PM SAT 29TH AND SUN 30TH NOV
- PORT FAIRY LECTURE HALL, SACKVILLE ST
- ADULTS $15, TEENS $5
- FAMILY OF 4 $25
- UNDER 12S FREE!



https://events.humanitix.com/childrens-short-plays-2025

Summer Holiday Surf Programs



Cancer Council

RELAY FOR LIFE

Celebrate. Remember. Fight Back.

Relay for Life - Warrnambool

Let's come together to support our loved ones affected by cancer



Sat 21st Feb 2026

12pm-10.30pm

For more details, to register OR donate use the QR code