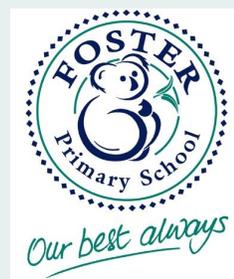




Newsletter 2, 21st February 2020

Foster Primary School Newsletter



Excellence in Teaching and Learning

It has been lovely seeing the Preps settle into the routine at Foster Primary. On my visits to the classrooms I have been delighted by pictures made from specific shapes, hearing about animals and seeing letters made from playdough. I love the enthusiasm and joy that the students show during these activities that may seem basic, but are laying the foundation for each student's educational journey.

Other work I have noticed on my school wanders is the work teachers are putting into setting up goals and expectations with their students. It has been interesting watching students help develop the way their classroom operates. It is wonderful seeing students being given opportunity voice their ideas and taking an interest in shaping their work environment.

Kay Frost, who is the Professional Learning Communities Manager for the South Eastern Region, visited last week to review our PLC work. All teachers attend PLC meetings each week to identify areas of practice that need improvement, review student data and develop action plans to address the needs they are seeing in their classes. Kay will be working with us this Term to further refine the processes used in PLCs and continue work on our instructional model.

Last year, we were successful in securing a CSIRO STEM partnership where schools are teamed up with someone who works in a STEM related field. We have been appointed Daniel Salzmann from DELWP. He will be working with teachers to develop STEM curriculum that relates to his work so that students can make connections between their learning and the real world. I am excited to see where this partnership takes us with our STEM program.

Positive Climate for Learning

I was pleased to announce, in the last newsletter, that we have been selected to participate in the Speech Pathology in Schools initiative for 2020.

In addition to the support which already occurs in our school, we will have a speech pathologist working with educators in the early years.

They will share specialist knowledge and skills with educators to support them to develop strategies and skills to work with children who have speech, language and communication needs. The speech pathologists will also support us to identify appropriate referral pathways to address individual children's needs if required.

Throughout the year we will continue to provide updates to you regarding the initiative and our school's involvement. Below are some commonly asked questions about this program.

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Acting Principal:

Mrs Melissa Phillips

School no. 6221

Hours of supervision:

8.30am—3.30pm

SCHOOL TERM DATES

Term 1, 2020

Wednesday January
29th—Friday 27th
March

Term 2, 2020

Tuesday 14th April—
Friday 26th June

Term 3, 2020

Monday 13th July—
Friday 18th September

Term 4, 2020

Monday 5th October—
Friday 18th December

Assembly is on

Wednesdays at 2.30pm

School Vision: Everyone Can Learn to Learn.

School Values: Be a Learner, Be Respectful, Be Safe, Be Caring.

IMPORTANT DATES

February

28th Division Swimming at Korumburra

March

11th Prom Coast Cluster Athletics Carnival Grade 3-6
25th Corner Inlet Cluster District Athletics Carnival Grade 3-6

26th Student Parent Teacher Interviews (after school)

27th Student Parent Teacher Interviews (morning)

27th last Day Term 1

April

10th Good Friday

14th Term 2 begins

20th Touring Performance CEP

May

Gr 5/6 Winter Sports dates to be confirmed

25th House Cross Country Foster Golf Course

June

5th Division Cross Country at Stony Creek

11th Regional Cross Country Lardner Park

Gr 5/6 Winter Sports dates to be confirmed

26th Last day Term 2

July

16th State Cross Country

17th CEP Incursion Steve Schulz

Please check the school [webpage](#) for a list of important dates for 2020.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS: PARENTS AND CARERS

WHAT IS THE SPEECH PATHOLOGY IN SCHOOLS INITIATIVE?

The Speech Pathology in Schools initiative involves speech pathologists working with teachers to increase their skills in working with children who have speech, language and communication needs. These speech pathologists are employed by local community health providers.

WHERE IS THE INITIATIVE OCCURRING?

The Speech Pathology in Schools initiative will be implemented in the DET areas of the Mallee, Wimmera South West, Inner Gippsland and Outer Gippsland.

Implementation of the initiative commenced at the start of the 2019 school year and will continue through to June 2022.

WHAT WILL BE PROVIDED?

Through the implementation period, over 35,000 hours of face to face support will be provided to primary schools.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS?

It is proposed that this initiative will lead to an increase in the skills and knowledge of teachers working with children who have speech, language and communication needs.

DO I NEED TO PROVIDE CONSENT FOR MY CHILD TO PARTICIPATE?

As speech pathologists will not be undertaking direct student assessment or intervention as part of this initiative, explicit consent will not need to be obtained. There may be instances where the speech pathologist is modelling strategies in the classroom, and a student may be asked to be involved in a demonstration.

WHO DO I CONTACT IF I HAVE A CONCERN OR QUESTION?

If you have any queries or concerns regarding the initiative, you are encouraged to discuss these concerns with your school principal.

Community Engagement in Learning

Our school leaders were treated to a visit from Tristan White who has offered to work with the leaders this year on the public speaking and leadership skills. Students were taken through microphone skills and how to capture an audience's attention. It was fantastic to see leaders putting his tips and advice to use in our assembly and also at the swimming sports. This work will continue with the leaders and will form part of their leadership training. A huge thank you to Tristan for his generous offer of time to do this.

Another huge thank you must go out to all the parents who helped out at our recent swimming sports. As always, I am amazed by the time and effort that parents consistently invest into, not just their own children, but all the children at Foster PS. The swimming sports were highly successful and smoothly run this is due to our helpers that are always on hand. Obviously a BIG thank you has to go to Kylie Mitchell for her organisation of the day and to Craig Couper who did an amazing job on the PA and getting competitors ready. It really must be mentioned that he did all of this on his day off-his dedication is amazing.

TEACHERS ON LEAVE

Mrs Gurnett will be away for Term 1. Mrs Phillips will be Acting Principal during this time.

Miss Duggan will be away for a few weeks in Term 1.

Ms Thurgood will be teaching Grade 3/4D during this time.