



Newsletter 1, 6th February 2020

Foster Primary School Newsletter



Excellence in Teaching and Learning

Welcome back! I hope this finds everyone well and refreshed after a great Christmas break.

A warm welcome to all new families and new students, especially our 2020 Preps.

Shane Wainwright (Senior Education Improvement Leader) visited this week along with Karen Lanyon, (Student Achievement Manager/Education Improvement Leader) to go over our new Annual Implementation Plan. Staff will be finalising our Key Improvement Strategies over the next two weeks and developing a plan for their implementation.

Our new school leaders have made a positive start to the year with many of them approaching staff to plan their actions and goals for the year. I have been impressed with the initiative of these students and their desire to make Foster PS an even better place for learning. Our first two assemblies have been run very smoothly and efficiently by our new leaders. We have assembly every Wednesday from 2:30pm onwards. All parents are welcome to attend and watch students receive awards and certificates, give reports and perform. It would be lovely to see you there!

Positive Climate for Learning

We have started upgrades on the Pavillion over the Christmas break. The roof and doors have been sprayed with acoustic lagging, which Mr Couper says has much improved the noise reduction during classes.

We have a new Student Welfare officer, Emily Ali. She comes to us all the way from Queensland. Emily will be working 3 days a week on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. We are extremely excited to have her and she has been working hard to get to know our students over the past week.

We also welcome Sarah Thurgood into 3/4 D for 3 weeks while Ms Duggan is away.

We have been successful in our application for *Speech Pathology in Schools* and have had our first meeting with the team. This initiative gives us a fortnightly visit by Speech Pathologists and/or Occupational Therapists to complete classroom observations, teacher training, coaching and Professional Development. We are excited to have this extra support in the school. More information on this will follow in the coming weeks.

Community Engagement in Learning

Already we have had numerous offers of extra support, volunteering of time and opportunities for our students from individuals and organisations. I would like to thank everyone who has offered their time and look forward to updating

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Principal:

Mrs Lorraine Gurnett

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

6th – 12th Gr 3-6 Water Safety Program
14th Swim Carnival
19th District Swimming Korumburra
20th School Photos
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

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

you about all the amazing work and opportunities that will be generated from this.

The start of the year brings around our annual call for School Council nominations. The School Council team are a fantastic bunch who have definitely made me feel welcome. This year we have four vacancies. Nomination forms and the full fact sheet for parents on school council elections can be picked up at the General Office and are due back on the 28th February, 2020.

WHAT IS A SCHOOL COUNCIL AND WHAT DOES IT DO?

All government schools in Victoria have a school council. They are legally constituted bodies that are given powers to set the broad direction of a school in accordance with their constituting Order and the *Education and Training Reform Act 2006*. In doing this, a school council is able to directly influence the quality of education that the school provides for its students.

WHO IS ON THE SCHOOL COUNCIL?

For most primary school councils, there are several possible categories of membership:

- A mandated elected Parent member category – more than one-third of the total members must be from this category. DET employees can be Parent members at their child's school as long as they are not engaged in work at the school
- A mandated elected DET employee member category – members of this category may make up no more than one-third of the total membership of school council. The principal of the school is automatically one of these members
- An optional Community member category – members are co-opted by a decision of the council because of their special skills, interests or experiences. DET employees are not eligible to be Community members.

Generally, the term of office for all members is two years. The term of office of half the members expires each year, creating vacancies for the annual school council elections.

DO I NEED SPECIAL EXPERIENCE TO BE ON SCHOOL COUNCIL?

Each member brings their own valuable life skills and knowledge to the role. However, councillors may need to develop skills and acquire knowledge in areas that are unfamiliar to them. It is important to have an interest in your child's school and the desire to work in partnership with others to help shape the school's future.

MARKET STALL COORDINATOR

We are also putting a call out for anyone interested in being our market stall coordinator.

Foster Primary School is seeking a well organised, self motivated individual to coordinate volunteers with the set up, running of and pack up of the Kitchen Garden Market stall each month at the Foster Farmers Market. Please contact Nat Whitcher for further information, Phone 56822370.

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 3 weeks in Term 1.

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

Mrs Dunlop will be away on 19th & 20th February.

We will have a casual relief teacher to take French on these days.