FCPS Community Bulletin

Term 4

Footscray City Primary School

November 2025

Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land on which the community of Footscray City Primary School, learn, play and collaborate - the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung and Bunurong peoples of the Kulin Nation.

We pay our respects to Elders past and present.

Aboriginal people have had a deep and continuous connection to the Maribyrnong river valley for at least 40,000 years and we acknowledge this rich history of community and of storytelling.

Our Mission at FCPS

We are future making for every child so that they are learning to ***learn***, learning to ***thrive*** and learning to ***contribute***.

Our Vision at FCPS

Our students will possess the ***skills***, ***knowledge*** and ways of ***thinking*** that enable them to ***embrace learning***, ***respond to challenges*** and thrive as ***active members*** of the community.

Our Values at FCPS

At Footscray City Primary School we are a diverse and inclusive **COMMUNITY** who value

- Taking **RESPONSIBILITY** for our learning and our impact on our selves, others and our environment.
- Thinking and acting with **KINDNESS** which means we are friendly towards others and considerate of their feelings.
- Demonstrating **RESILIENCE** by persisting and being courageous when faced with challenges in our learning and relationships.

Principal's Message

Dear FCPS staff and community,

We have enjoyed a hugely successful term 4 so far and with the three weeks of the school year to go, we have much to do and to look forward to. We share this Community Bulletin with you to celebrate recent events and program milestones, and to ensure you have key information relating to the end of term and the 2026 school year.

Please note that on Tuesday 9th December we will be holding our 'Step Up' morning which sees students meet their classmates and teachers for the 2026 school year, and visit their new classroom spaces. We are well progressed with the planning for this, and are pleased to see a high rate of staff retention across year levels and programs. We appreciate that this is an exciting time of year but also one that can cause big feelings - for children and adults alike! We have extensive supports in place, a thorough transition plan and great confidence in the adjustments being provided for our students. Thank you for your ongoing support and collaboration, and please keep in touch as you need.

Finally, it is my great privilege to share the news that our friend and colleague Eliza Kerin has welcomed a healthy baby boy to her family. She and husband Josh are the proud parents of Harvey, who is precious and much loved particularly by his big brother Hugo!

Take care and see you soon,
Jessie

Victorian School Design Awards

We were thrilled to attend the Victorian School Design Awards last month with our colleagues and friends at Perkins Architects, where our school's project was a finalist and ended up taking home the coveted Minister's Award

Partners in our school refurbishment project, the Perkins team worked tirelessly to design learning spaces that aligned with our teaching and learning pedagogy and our vision for the school.

The experience of attending the awards confirmed that receiving the Minister's Award is the architect world equivalent of winning the Brownlow or the Gold Logie! The Minister's Award is a special, non-annual prize for an outstanding and unique project that doesn't fit standard categories. It recognizes exceptional projects that have a significant impact on education and community, such as transforming existing buildings or creating innovative new learning spaces.

For our school's project and the design of the Perkins team, the judges were most impressed by:

- *The superb example of how a 1970s building design can be modernised for today's education*
- *Every part of the upgrade is a functional space*
- *Highly successful in offering maximum flexibility for a broad range of learning and welfare needs*

Victorian School Design Awards

'Sensory retreats, wet areas, flexible spaces, playful functional design - it's got everything'

'A lot of love and pedagogical understanding has gone into this. It's outstanding!'

You can visit the Victorian School Design Awards website to view all the projects that were finalists and winners in this year's awards - Victorian School Design Awards

We encourage you to follow this link to read about the project through the stages of implementation. You will also find some great videos that capture the milestones including the voices and perspectives of our students -
VSBA - Footscray City Primary School

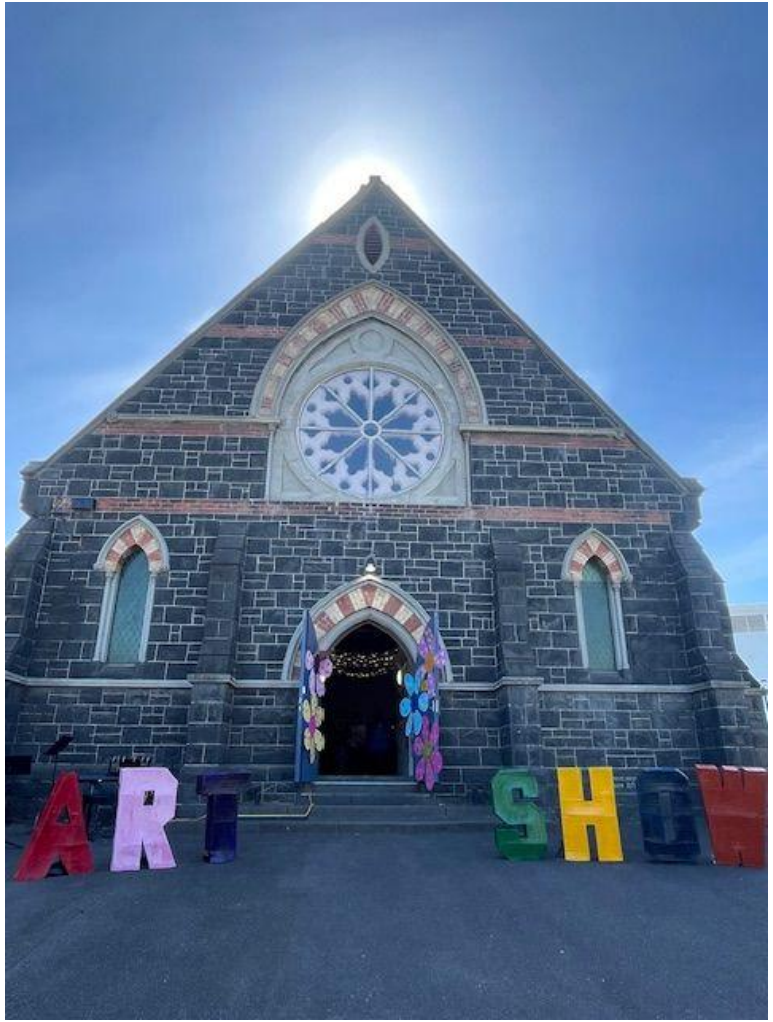
Celebrating School Milestones

Art Show 2025 - The FCPS Portrait Gallery
Bridget Henkel and Anna Robenn

It was with great excitement and anticipation that students had been preparing for the biennial Art Show, led this year by our Visual Arts team of Bridget Henkel and Anna Robenn. Held at the beautiful Bluestone Church, community members were immersed in a study of famous artists over time with the faces of students shining through in a range of art forms including but not limited to sculpture, drawing, painting, photography and digital imagery.

The feedback from students, staff, parents/carers, family members and visitors was unanimous - this was a wonderful display of artistic vision, creativity, identity and artistic skill. The incredible commitment and effort of Bridget, Anna and our students was evident and our community is grateful for the engaging learning opportunities that our young people are provided through the Art Program.

As always, it was a team effort to make this memorable event happen. Our thanks also to the administration team of Sue, Elizabeth and Brianna, the maintenance team of Rob and Michael, and the staff who offered their support throughout. We appreciate the involvement of our FACE Committee with refreshments on offer to add to the experience for visitors, and the ongoing support of LunchBox and Kelly Club through their participation in community events.


ART SHOW

FOOTSCRAY CITY PRIMARY SCHOOL
WELCOME TO THE
F.C.P.S PORTRAIT GALLERY
This year, we've been exploring portraits.
But what exactly is a portrait?
A portrait isn't just a picture of someone's face, it's a way of showing who they are. Portraits can tell a person's story, and invite us to see them through the eyes of the artist.
In our gallery, you'll discover portraits of famous artists, alongside self-portraits created by our very own amazing artists, the students of FCPS.
As you journey through the gallery, we hope you feel connected, curious, and inspired by the amazing people and personalities shining through these artworks.
Enjoy exploring our world of portraits!

Frida
Kahlo

Hi I'm
SUPA STARS!

Celebrating School Milestones

MCPS - The Musical

Sarah Ward and Bec Matthews

What was this project?

Sarah Ward is our incredible singing teacher who wrote the musical with FCPS students - Beatrix Gulliver, Gus Fleming, Ada Charleson, Nadia Chapman, Elsa McKerrow and Orla Eve with contributions by Rose Cole-Creed, Penny Lutton, Niamh McAuley and Georgina Hanley. Beatrix came up with the idea for the musical and everyone then contributed to the development of their characters and the script.

The dance moves were choreographed by Harriet Cook and Stevie Pearce and music was composed by Bec Mathews with current and former FCPS musicians making up the band.

What was the MCPS Musical about?

A girl called Melody goes to a new school and when she arrives, she discovers that the school is a musical. Everybody sings everything! Lessons, conversations, arguments, every lunch time is a song. But Melody doesn't fit in because she can't sing. Eventually, after making a friend and standing up for herself against the schools mean kids Gale and Crystal, she finds her voice and her place at the school.

Celebrating School Milestones

MCPS - The Musical

Sarah Ward and Bec Matthews

Some of the themes that the musical explored and encouraged us to think about were:

- ★ Finding friendship and connection makes you feel included
- ★ Everybody can use their voice and singing is something you can learn. Singing together is good for creating connection
- ★ Standing up for others and speaking out against bullying makes everyone safer

We have been inundated with positive feedback regarding the show and its impact on the both the performers and musicians, and audience members. On behalf of the FCPS School Council we send the following message of thanks and appreciation to Sarah and Bec . . .

It was moving to see how the performance showcased the talent, personality and joy of our students. We are incredibly grateful for the care, patience and encouragement you show when working with our young performers.

The impact you have on our FCPS community reaches far beyond the stage, and we appreciate the dedication and commitment that goes into making opportunities like the musical possible.

Thank you for the magic you created when giving our students the opportunity to create, collaborate and shine on stage.

Photo credit Bentley Dean

Photo credit Bentley Dean

Photo credit Bentley Dean

Celebrating School Milestones

School Fun Run and Sports Day - Kelly Club and Kelly Sports

It was indeed a ‘fun’ afternoon for us all as students (and some staff!) participated in the 2025 School Fun Run and Sports Day.

We wanted to try a different approach this year, organising it ourselves and focusing on the engagement and sense of connection that comes from shared school activities.

We heard community feedback from 2025 that whilst the concept of a Fun Run is popular and well supported, developing a model that has less focus on extrinsic motivation (prizes) and competition for the most funds raised aligns more closely with our school values. We’ll use the success of the last two years, with two different models trialled, to land on our preferred approach for this event in 2026.

Special thanks to our friends at Kelly Club and Kelly Sports who organised the sports activities for students and the very popular icy-poles for children and adults alike! To see the Kelly Club staff out there running with our students and participating in the activities really symbolises their commitment to our school and community. Thanks to Carson, Shelby and the Kelly Club team!

Upcoming Dates - Term 4

Term 4	• ***Bunnings Sausage Sizzle - Saturday 29th November*** • ***FCPS Community Picnic - Friday 5th December*** • Step Up Morning (meeting 2026 class and teachers) - Tuesday 9th December • Year 6 Farewell - Thursday 18th December • Last Day of Term 4 - Friday 19th December • Christmas Hamper Raffle drawn - Assembly on Friday 19th December

everyone is welcome at our

FCPS COMMUNITY PICNIC

Join us to celebrate this year's achievements at an evening of music, fun, and community spirit.

FRIDAY DECEMBER 5TH

GATES OPEN AT 5:30PM

There'll be sporting activities, instrumental music performances & laughter.
BYO picnic food and rug, and enjoy a great range of refreshments available for purchase, including drinks at bar prices, soft drinks, choc tops & a sausage sizzle

Scan here to volunteer

FCPS Christmas Hamper Raffle

Get your tickets now for a chance to win a Christmas hamper

Join us in supporting our Christmas fundraiser as we work towards resurfacing the soccer pitch.
Purchase your tickets online by scanning the QR code.

We kindly ask each family, if possible, to contribute an item for the hampers. Suggested items include gourmet foods, preserves, chocolates, pampering products, wine, children's toys and activities, books and vouchers. Donations can be dropped off at the office anytime before December 18.

Sign up for volunteering at the Picnic.

We can't wait to celebrate with you all!

Bring in those hamper donations and get your tickets now!

Key Dates - 2026

Term 1	• Tuesday 27th January - ***Curriculum Day #1*** *- pupil free day* • Wednesday 28th January - ***Curriculum Day #2*** *- pupil free day* • Thursday 29th January - Students in Years 1-6 return • Wednesday 4th February - Foundation students commence • ***Monday 9th March - Labour Day Public Holiday*** • ***Friday 27th March - Community Disco*** • Thursday 2nd April - End of Term 1
Term 2	• Monday 20th April - Term 2 commences • ***Friday 29th May - Community Movie Night*** • ***Monday 8th June - King's Birthday Public Holiday*** • Friday 26th June - End of Term 2

Key Dates - 2026

Term 3	• Monday 13th July - Term 3 commences - ***Curriculum Day #3*** *- pupil free day* • Tuesday 14th July - students return • Friday 18th September - End of Term 3
Term 4	• Monday 5th October - Term 4 commences • Monday 2nd November - ***Curriculum Day #4*** *- pupil free day* • ***Tuesday 3rd November - Melbourne Cup Public Holiday*** • ***Friday 4th December - Community Picnic*** • Friday 18th December - End of Term 4

Curriculum Days 2026 - Summary

Term 1 27th January - 2nd April	• Monday 27th January - Curriculum Day #1 • Tuesday 28th January - Curriculum Day #2
Term 2 20th April - 26th June	• NO Curriculum Day scheduled
Term 3 13th July - 18th September	• Monday 13th July - Curriculum Day #3
Term 4 5th October - 18th December	• Monday 2nd November - Curriculum Day #4

*Please note there will be an additional **Pupil Free Day** run in 2026 as staff are entitled to a Professional Practice Day under the VGSA. We are in the process of determining this date as it requires input from the teaching staff (a requirement under the VGSA). This will be approved by School Council for and communicated to parents/carers as a matter of priority.*

Please note that **Kelly Club** will offer full-day care programs on these Curriculum/Pupil Free Days to support our students and families.

Years 3-6 Camp Program

Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
YMCA Wyuna **2 nights** ***THEME:* Resilience** *Personal & Social Capabilities* *Term 2 Week 9* *Wednesday 17th – Friday 19th June*	**YMCA Lady Northcote** **2 nights** **THEME: Resilience** *Personal & Social Capabilities* *Term 3 Week 8* *Wednesday 2nd – Friday 4th September*	**YMCA Anglesea** **2 nights** **THEME: Kindness** *Personal & Social Capability / Geography* *Term 3 Week 7* *Wednesday 26th - Friday 28th August*	**Camp Jungai** **2 nights** **THEME: Indigenous Culture & Perspectives** *Intercultural Capability / History* *Term 2 Week 8* *Wednesday 10th - Friday 12th June*

At FCPS we are a community of safe, respectful learners. We demonstrate this through our values of Kindness, Responsibility and Resilience

At **FCPS** we are a community of **safe, respectful learners.**
We demonstrate this through our values of:

	RESPONSIBILITY	KINDNESS	RESILIENCE
Myself	• I put effort into my learning. • I organise my resources so that I am ready to learn. • I know the things that help me to learn and I use them.	• I feel proud of my strengths and achievements • I am kind to myself when I make mistakes. • I seek support when I need it.	• I keep trying when things are hard. • I am willing to try new things. • I share my problems and challenges with my trusted people.
Others	• We respect how others learn and we are cooperative. • We listen and acknowledge the ideas of others. • We speak up to support others.	• We treat others (peers/ teachers) with respect. • We celebrate that everyone is different. • We notice the success and efforts of others.	• We are open to new friendships. • We act on feedback from others.
Environment	• We follow classroom routines. • We use school resources respectfully. • We consider the learning of others as we move around the school.	• We care for our plants and gardens. • We pick up rubbish when we see it. • We use our bin system correctly.	• We are flexible to changes within our physical environment. • We share ideas and find solutions when faced with challenges.