

Our **MISSION** at FCPS . . .

We are future making for every child so that they **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.

We are future making for every child by learning with the **VALUES** of:

**Responsibility**  
**Kindness**  
**Community**

### **Our Mission, Vision and Values at FCPS**

After conducting forums in 2018 that secured the input of students, staff, community members and School Council, we are pleased to communicate our shared Mission, Vision and Values at FCPS. It is exciting to present values that were chosen by the students, with each class last year exploring 5 possibilities and then voting on their preferred values. We have started our school year in 2019 with the students unpacking what each of these values means for them as individuals and also how they inform our collective commitments to one another. This will culminate in each grade and Specialist Program developing Essential Agreements – the students articulating how they will approach their learning and relationships. Watch out for these in our Essential Agreements Newsletter over the coming weeks.

### **2019 – We are off and running!**

We are pleased to see our students settle so well into their new learning environments, with a sense of focus and calm pervasive throughout the school. At FCPS we believe that every child enters a learning environment wanting to know:

- Am I accepted?
- What is the work?
- Can I do it?
- Will I get help?

It is our responsibility as educators to ensure that each child has these questions answered within the first moments of their day, communicated through their interactions with teachers and peers and the practices of the educators around them. We thank our teachers and Education Support Staff for their considered approach to these first moments of the school year and the importance of every child being valued and heard.

I thank the FCPS School Council and broader school community for enabling our staff to commence the year with the Curriculum Days that saw us continue with our collaboration around student learning, engagement and wellbeing. Amongst the agenda items over these two days was understanding our school improvement priorities as outlined in our Annual Implementation Plan (AIP) 2019. This saw us engage in our first workshop for **School Wide Positive Behaviour Support (SWPBS)**, a DET initiative that will help us to develop and communicate clear expectations and processes around student engagement and wellbeing. We will keep you updated throughout the year and you can find out more by following this DET link:

<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/teachers/management/improvement/Pages/swpbs.aspx>

### **Curriculum Day – SMART Spelling - Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> March**

As communicated in a separate Compass Post, I am pleased to share with you an exciting development regarding our whole school approach to the teaching and learning of **spelling**. This is an area of the curriculum that we have identified as an improvement priority, with our data telling us that student learning growth is not matching that in other core areas such as reading and mathematics.

After extensive research and consultation with colleagues from other schools who have grappled with the same challenge, we have selected **SMART Spelling** as our approach at FCPS, commencing in 2019.

***With the support of School Council, this professional learning program will be delivered on a Curriculum Day – Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2019.***

***Please note, this means that there will be no school for students on this day. A full day care program will be offered at FCPS by Camp Australia.***

### **Leadership Team**

I am pleased to introduce our 2019 Executive Leadership Team, committed to delivering on our mission by supporting our teachers to deliver high quality learning programs that provide every child with the opportunity to make growth from their starting point.

<b><i>Assistant Principal Foundation–2</i></b>	<b><i>Assistant Principal Grades 3-6</i></b>	<b><i>Acting Assistant Principal 3-6</i></b>	<b><i>Acting Leading Teacher Student Engagement and Wellbeing</i></b>
Chrissy Purcell	Grace Speight	Juliet Taylor	Alison Handley

My vision for the dual Assistant Principal model is based on a commitment to delivering high quality learning and teaching in every classroom and specialist program across the school. To deliver high quality and low variability in the learning programs offered to your children, we must invest in the learning and development of our teachers.

Chrissy, Grace and Juliet will have primary responsibility for managing our school improvement priorities in the areas of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment. That is, supporting our Professional Learning Teams and the individual teachers within these to understand the curriculum (what our students need to learn), matching the curriculum to the needs of the students (assessment) and designing learning experiences that support and challenge students in their learning (instruction).

This will see you have direct contact with the Assistant Principals in relation to your child's/children's learning, engagement and wellbeing as we design Individual Learning Plans and monitor the growth of students towards the achievement of their learning goals.

The Assistant Principals will also partner with me as key contributors to the **Footscray Learning Precinct**. Given our involvement in the development and implementation of pedagogy for the Integrated Early Learning Centre, Chrissy as our Foundation-2 Assistant Principal will work closely with me and the key stake-holders from DET and Maribyrnong City Council. Likewise, Grace and Juliet will be involved in establishing the collaborative partnerships with our colleagues at the Junior Secondary School Campuses of the FLP. Such collaboration will contribute to high levels of learning for students and facilitate smooth transitions from the primary to secondary setting.

Alison Handley will continue to develop the scope of her role in Student Engagement and Wellbeing, which is now allocated as a Leading Teacher position. The Victorian Government Schools Agreement identifies leading teachers as highly skilled practitioners who lead initiatives to improve the teaching and learning programs in schools. This involves the coordination and professional support of colleagues through modelling, collaborating and coaching and using processes that develop knowledge, practice and professional engagement in others. A leading teacher has a direct impact and influence on the achievement of the school goals and Alison will be a key player in the development of School-Wide Positive Behaviour Support at FCPS this year.

Students, teachers and families will continue to work closely with Alison on a daily basis and/or in Student Support groups (SSGs), developing Individual Learning Plans and accompanying action plans that take into account the needs of each child and draw on research based practices that support learning, engagement and wellbeing.

### **Learning Specialists**

We also welcome *Juliet Thompson* (nee Walker) to the Acting Learning Specialist Foundation – 2 role and *Anthony Curnow* as the Acting Learning Specialist 3-6.

The Learning Specialists are highly skilled classroom practitioners who continue to spend the majority of their time in the classroom delivering high-quality teaching and learning and have a range of responsibilities related to their expertise. These include teaching demonstration lessons, observing and providing feedback to other teachers and facilitating school-based professional learning. Learning Specialists have deep knowledge and expertise in high quality teaching and learning in delivering improved achievement, engagement and wellbeing for students.

We congratulate Juliet and Anthony on this opportunity and appreciate their contributions to the collaboration and learning of our staff and thereby their contributions to the learning of our students.

### **Maternity Leave – The Baby Boom at FCPS!**

On Friday we said farewell (for now!) to our Assistant Principal Grace Speight as she commences her Maternity Leave. Grace and her husband Rohan will be welcoming their new baby in the coming weeks, a precious new addition to their family and little brother or sister for their son Frank.

Rose Girdwood will be with us for another month, with her 2<sup>nd</sup> child due later this term. Rose and her partner Stu are excited to be expanding their family, with big sister Harriet enthusiastically awaiting the arrival of her little sibling.

We wish good health and happiness to Grace, Rose and their families, and we look forward to welcoming these little people into the world and extending a warm FCPS welcome to them.



I look forward to seeing you around the school in the coming days and hope that you and your families are well.

Take care,  
Jessie